

# Linking Knowledge with Action



- **Maria Carmen Lemos**, University of Michigan Scaling up user engagement: increasing participation, actionable knowledge, and impact
- **Esther Turnhout**, Wageningen University Transforming global environmental science to become more responsive to diverse user needs
- **Meaghan Daly**, University of New England The role of power in producing actionable knowledge: examining the case of climate services
- **Sarah Burch**, University of Waterloo Deepening community-based sustainability transformations: the case for capacity-building in small business ecosystems
- Discussant: **Lorae Van Kerkhoff**, The Australian National

# Reflections - 1

What have we learned about linking knowledge with action for sustainability?

- That the loading dock delivery of science to users rarely works
- Research has been both descriptive and normative (success stories, critique, recommendation)
- Listening and co-production provide better alternatives but take time and deliberation
- There are a wide variety of knowledge producers and users but research tends to focus on a subset
- Challenges of scaling up and down
- That collaboration between scientists and users can lead to a backlash



# Reflections - 2



## Challenges of decolonizing sustainability knowledge and the processes of linking with action

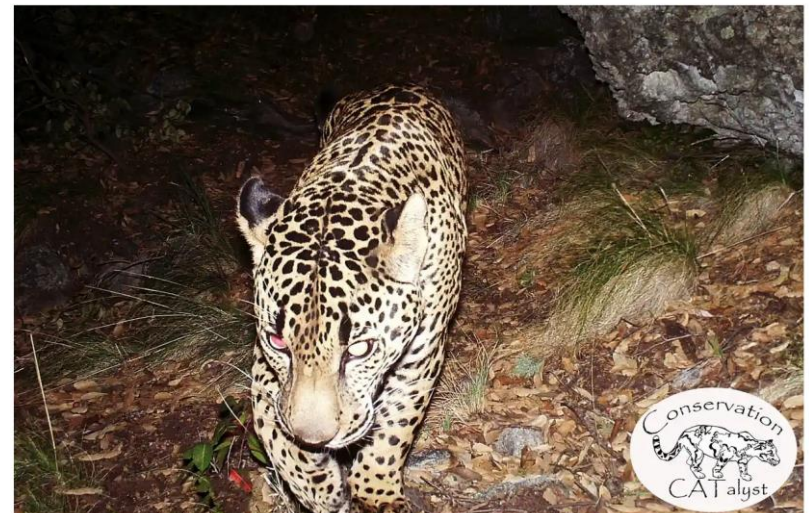
- Defining and studying sustainability from different perspectives (is a universal definition and global approaches desirable?)
- Power and authority in linking K-A
- How do we decolonize international assessments, whose knowledge is used, whose voices are dominant?
- What are the implications of decolonization and disempowerment for our teaching and research methods?



# Sustainability and racism/white supremacy: The Border Wall



Wall is going up in four sections in Arizona's mountain ranges spanning the US-Mexico border where the cats had reappeared



# Reflections - 3



- How can linking knowledge with action lead to concentration of power vs equity and how does this connect to whether knowledge is used?
- How do we evaluate K-A across the full range of knowledge producers and users (e.g. media, consultants, NGOs, business)?
- How do we balance the need for slow, deliberative research and processes for K-A links with the urgency of action? What is the role of (fast) social media and how do/should knowledge producers/consumers use it?
- How do we measure success/failure of K-A?
- What K-A links, methods, practices and cases show the greatest potential for transformation?