

Onsite visit to the Melbourne Wildlife Sanctuary

Associate Professor Mike Clarke, Professor Tim New, and Rangers George Paras and Anthony Theunissen led 32 delegates in a workshop aimed at determining the common impediments to transforming management plan objectives into effective on-ground actions for conservation.

Using a hypothetical scenario approach, based in La Trobe University's Melbourne Wildlife Sanctuary the group identified numerous factors that led to the failure of management plans for conservation.

These included:

- a lack of consultation between consultants writing the plan and those who would be expected to implement the plan
- vague objectives lacking a time-frame for completion
- shortage of skills for the implementation of the plan
- absence of a champion or zealot to enthuse and motivate participants
- lack of continuity and positive feedback on achievements made during implementation
- unrealistic objectives given resources available

Several strategies for avoiding these impediments were discussed.