

PART III: Conservation Strategies and Recommendations

Introduction

The strategies and recommendations presented in this section are intended to provide a long-term direction for the conservation of biological diversity in the Hudson River Estuary corridor. This section outlines general conservation program areas (biological inventories and ecological research, land management and environmental quality, and education) and strategies. Program areas and specific strategies are designed to address the primary threats to biodiversity in the Hudson River Estuary corridor.

The Hudson River Estuary Biodiversity Program recommends an approach that utilizes a broad range of conservation tools. No new regulatory programs are recommended in this report. Instead, partnerships and outreach to landowners, local governments, and public land managers are the basis of the conservation strategy.

As conservation strategies are implemented, continued ecological research and biological inventories will help to support science-based land management and improvements in environmental quality. Efforts to prevent future degradation are a particular emphasis of the program. Biodiversity outreach programs can utilize biodiversity data and information to provide educational and training opportunities for citizens, local communities, land trusts, and other conservation organizations.

This report provides a foundation for coordinating actions and developing partnerships, a critical element influencing the future success of conservation efforts in the Hudson River Estuary corridor. It creates a mechanism for individual, community, organization, and government involvement and identifies and directs attention to biodiversity, and threats to biodiversity. In this respect, recommended conservation strategies and actions encompass multiple scales from local to regional.

Addressing Threats to Biodiversity

Addressing threats to biodiversity is considered a critical priority when developing conservation strategies. Threats to biodiversity in the Hudson River Estuary corridor were identified through a series of meetings involving the program's steering committee. From this process, key conservation program areas and specific strategies and actions were developed to address these threats (Table 3).

Identifying conservation strategies that target primary threats to biodiversity ensures that conservation effort is directed where it is most needed and where it will have the greatest benefit. Many actions can be developed to address conservation priorities, and organizations are encouraged to work cooperatively to develop and implement specific actions. Importantly, most strategies can be applied to the significant habitats and biodiversity areas identified in this report, and to both public and private lands.

Table 3. Threats to biodiversity in the Hudson River Estuary corridor and program areas designed to address each threat.

Threat	Program Area
Lack of Scientific Knowledge of Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biological Inventories & Ecological Research
Pollution (Air, Water, Soil Quality)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biological Inventories & Ecological Research • Land Management & Environmental Quality • Education
Invasive and Overabundant Species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biological Inventories & Ecological Research • Land Management & Environmental Quality
Management Conflicts on Public Lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land Management & Environmental Quality • Education
Habitat Change and Fragmentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biological Inventories & Ecological Research • Land Management & Environmental Quality • Education
Lack of Public Awareness and Understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education

Conservation Program Areas & Strategies

The section below is organized from general to specific. Broad conservation program areas (biological inventories and ecological research, land management and environmental quality, and education) are described, followed by specific activities within those program areas that address threats to biodiversity. Recommended strategies are provided at the end of each section.

Program Area: Biological Inventories & Ecological Research

In a broad sense, strategies addressing the need to increase our overall knowledge about biodiversity and how to manage for it include identifying key areas where information is lacking, promoting research opportunities, and seeking new sources of