



Conservation Coaches Network

Overview of 2015 – 2016 Accomplishments

The mission of Conservation Coaches Network is to train, connect and support conservation practitioners to do better, smarter conservation all around the world. We are a network of peers – partner organizations and field based practitioners - who help teams be systematic about planning, implementing, and monitoring their conservation initiatives so they can learn what works, what does not work, and why — and ultimately adapt and improve their efforts to benefit people and nature.

We are pleased to present this summary of our accomplishments during the past year.

Recruit and Train Coaches

In just the past year, CCNet hosted seven workshops, training 152 conservation coaches. We currently have almost 600 active coaches, representing 179 institutions and helping projects in over 60 countries on all continents. Approximately half of our members work with non-profit organizations, followed by independent consultancies and government agencies representing close to 15% each, approximately 5% work with academic institutions and community-based and indigenous organizations, and less than 3% represent networks, foundations and land trusts.

Canada, March 2015, - The cold weather didn't get in the way of learning in Yellowknife, Canada, at a training co-sponsored by the Government of Northwest Territories and TNC Canada. Twenty participants from various backgrounds including fisheries scientists, aboriginal community members, government biologists and NGO staff learned about coaching projects using the Open Standards. New skills and knowledge were applied to case studies including Blue Nosed Caribou, Dall Sheep, and a proposed protected area. In addition to the course, the group enjoyed the amazing colours of the aurora borealis, pulled fish nets, ate bison stew, and had a conversation with two elders from the neighbouring community of Behchoko.



Mongolia May 2015 - Twenty-seven new coaches participated in a training at Mongolia's Khustai National Park. Mongolian park managers and local staff members from WWF, TNC and the United Nation's Development Programme practiced applying the Open Standards process and skills on conservation issues in the park, thinking about issues such as the reintroduction of Przewalski's wild horses. Some of these coaches have been busy sharing the Open Standards at local universities and also with conservation colleagues from Russia, who are very interested in getting further training.



Australia, July 2015 – Twenty-five eager Australian conservationists met in the beautiful surroundings of the Yarra Valley near Melbourne to deepen their knowledge in the application of the Open Standards and become trained conservation coaches. Participants came from diverse backgrounds, ranging from national environmental NGOs like Bush Heritage Australia and The Nature Conservancy-Australia to state-wide organisations like Trust for Nature and Parks Victoria to local Landcare groups.



Malaysia, November 2015 - Twenty new coaches were trained at an event co-sponsored by WWF-Malaysia near Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. These coaches will be helping projects in Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, China, Fiji, and the USA.



Colorado, January 2016 - Twenty new coaches participated in a coach training workshop in Colorado, USA. These new coaches are all from the United States, except one colleague who joined from Nepal.



Kenya, May 2016 – Twenty-one participants who were keen to acquire the skills they need to coach teams through the Open Standards process met along the Athi River in Kenya at an event co-sponsored with WWF. These coaches will support projects in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Madagascar, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe as well as in Chile, United Kingdom and the United States.



Promote Coach Development

Spain, September 2015 - Prior to the global Rally, a “Coach Refresher Course” was offered by an international group of seasoned coaches for nineteen coaches who had not coached for a while and wanted to “get back in the saddle.” Although the training was meant for rusty coaches, it also served as a first introduction to coaching for many participants. Both experienced and less-experienced coaches reported they learned a lot and all found the chance to “cross-pollinate” mutually enriching.



Connect and Support Coaches

Conservation Coaches Rally, Barcelona - We held our sixth CCNet Rally from September 29 to October 1, 2015 at Món Sant Benet, Barcelona, Spain. Our group filled the quiet medieval Benedictine monastery with a joyful multi-lingual buzz, as 136 participants from government agencies, indigenous land management agencies, foundations, non-profits, academic institutions, and several independent consultants mingled to learn, connect, and celebrate. In total we represented 35 countries and 39 different institutions across six continents.



Thanks to input from our coaches and a hard-working, enthusiastic planning team, the Rally included diverse activities, such as plenary events; workshops to hone existing and new skills; working group sessions for sharing approaches, exploring specific problems, and developing products; and unstructured time for networking.

Each session was hosted by experienced coaches from around the world who joined forces to prepare relevant and engaging sessions. Coaches often bridge organizational, geographic, cultural, linguistic, and time-zone boundaries for months before they actually meet in person at a Rally! This spirit of “learn it and pass it on” is the heart of our network.

To celebrate CCNet’s 10th anniversary, we shared what we have accomplished and received feedback about where we can go. For example, our colleagues in Australia shared an inspiring talk on work that is impacting conservation while also empowering local communities.

Our Franchises – Franchises are localized groups or network hubs, who link and strengthen coaches within each region. This year we expanded our reach with a new franchise in Malaysia/Indonesia, and are strengthening existing franchises with new leadership in North America, Mesoamerica and South America. In addition, CCNet Europe has been working on formalizing its organizational structure to strengthen financial sustainability and CCNet Australia held a *muster*, where colleagues met to sharpen specific skills and to plan for the future of their regional network.

Our Website - We have added updated content, reviewed and rated training materials with an inter-institutional vetting team, linked our CCNet News to stories on our website and improved search capacities on our CCNet web site: <http://www.ccnetglobal.com/>, to enable colleagues from around the world to access resources for free to help conservation and sustainable development projects and train colleagues in multiple languages.

Our Listserv – Through a simple e-mail exchange service we currently connect 480 subscribers from around the world who ask questions, share experiences and tell each other about interesting opportunities about the application of the Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation, and topics related to the practice of conservation and sustainable development.

Our Newsletter – This year we moved our CCNet News to an online platform, to improve the technology and enable readers to browse stories on a phone, tablet or computer. Our newsletter is a unique forum where conservation practitioners tell stories about their work around the world in their own words. We invite you to look at past editions and [sign up for the CCNet News here](#).

How does CCNet work?

Currently CCNet is represented in formal franchises lead by local partners in Africa, Australia, Europe, Mesoamerica, North America, Pacific Islands, South America, South Asia, China, Mongolia, Malaysia/Indonesia, and a non-placed-based network on Teaching Adaptive Management (TAM) in universities. Franchises are the operational arms of CCNet who link and strengthen **practitioners** within each region.

Franchise leaders, together with partner representatives from The Nature Conservancy, Greening Australia, World Wide Fund for Nature and Foundations of Success, make up the CCNet Global Board which is presided by a CCNet Global Chair. This group provides direction and input to the global coordination team and contributes to collective results.

We also have a small global coordination team with six members, including the CCNet Chair, with time only being covered for two coordinators from the central CCNet budget, adding up to a total of 70% of a full time paid position. Members of the coordination team work for partner organizations and volunteer their time. This group is responsible for ensuring a timely completion of Network activities.

Our global work is made possible by the considerable in-kind support provided by members, partner organizations and donors.

What lies ahead next year for CCNet?

- Establish a professional certification process for conservation coaches.
- Expand professional growth opportunities for CCNet members.
- Investigate new funding models to contribute to a self-sustaining network.
- Holding our bi-annual gathering, the **CCNet Rally**, slated for April 2018, most likely in Australia, to foster international participation.

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