We hope you enjoy our bi-annual CCNet News, where conservation practitioners from around the world share their stories. You will also find announcements of events and resources to support the practice of nature conservation.

Greetings, everyone.
As we enter 2017, this first edition of the CCNet News for the new year brings a rich diversity of success stories.
At this challenging historical moment, it's heartening to share these great stories of conservationists working together across borders toward the same critical goals.

In the articles that follow, you'll learn how our Open Standards framework is being used to evaluate U.S. Fish and Wildlife projects across Central Africa, how Healthy Country Planning is helping plan fire management from indigenous people's perspectives, and how CCNet Europe coaches are helping to establish joint priorities for the European Green Belt Initiative. You'll learn about "mustering" to build coaching skills in Australia, planning workshops in Chile for government agencies and protected area professionals, and other work around the world. You'll also read about the winners of our "Adaptive Management Case Study Competition," who demonstrate the flexibility within the Open Standards and exemplify the power of adapting management information for solutions to real-life conservation challenges.

Finally, I want to recognize the many accomplishments of our partners, franchises, coaches, and core team members throughout 2016. All told, you have trained more than 100 coaches from 18 new organizations and built our total roster to 585 active coaches representing 179 organizations across 61 countries.

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter—and that (in the spirit of CCNet's mission of knowledge sharing) you forward it to conservation colleagues who would value knowing more about CCNet's vibrant and successful network. Thanks and best wishes to you for a peaceful and fulfilling 2017.

—Brad Northrup, CCNet Chair

Welcome to CCNet *News* January 2017

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Conservation Coaches Network
Overview of 2015 – 2016 Accomplishments

The following is a summary of CCNet's accomplishment's this past year. The full overview can be [downloaded here](#). These accomplishments were made possible by the considerable in-kind support provided by our members, partner organizations and donors. Thank you!

Recruiting & Training Coaches

In the past year, CCNet hosted seven workshops in Canada, Mongolia, Australia, Malaysia, United States of America (Colorado) and Kenya, 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. Fifteen percent represent independent consultancies, and another 15% represent government agencies. Approximately 5% work with academic institutions and community-based and indigenous organizations. Less than 3% represent networks, foundations, and land trusts.

Connecting & Supporting Coaches

Our Global Rally--We held our sixth CCNet Rally in October 2015 in Barcelona, Spain. Over 130 participants representing government agencies, indigenous land management agencies, foundations, non-profits, academic institutions, and independent consultants from 35 countries across six continents mingled to learn, connect, and celebrate.

Coach Refresher Course--Prior to the global CCNet Rally in Spain, an international group of seasoned coaches led a "Coach Refresher Course" for 19 coaches who had not coached in a while and wanted to "get back in the saddle."

Our Franchises--This year, we expanded our reach with a new franchise in Malaysia/Indonesia and are welcomed new leadership in North America, Mesoamerica, and South America. CCNet Europe has been formalizing its organizational structure to strengthen financial sustainability, and CCNet Australia held a *muster*, where colleagues met to sharpen skills and plan for the future of their regional network.

Our Website--We added updated content, reviewed training materials, and improved search capacities on our [CCNet website](#) to enable colleagues from around the world to access resources for free.

Our Listserv--The listserv currently connects 480 subscribers from around the world who ask questions and share experiences and opportunities about the application of the *Open Standards* and related topics.

Our Newsletter--This year we moved our CCNet *News* to an online platform to enable readers to browse stories on a phone, tablet, or computer.

What lies ahead next year for CCNet in 2017 and 2018?

- 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.

Coaches in Action

Healthy Country Planning Workshop in Australia

Story from Daniel Sprod, Conservation Management

In November 27, 2016 students came together for a Healthy Country Planning workshop in Australia's Northern Territory to understand how Traditional Owners' cultural knowledge and needs form essential parts of management and monitoring responses.

This was the first Healthy Country Planning workshop hosted by the Protected Area Learning and Research Collaboration. Participants came from across Australia and beyond and from a wide range of backgrounds and management contexts, including:

- Aboriginal communities developing their own plans for looking after country
- Marine conservation planning in Indonesia
- Working with First Nations on fire management in the U.S.
- Regional resource management in Papua New Guinea
- Agencies supporting Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory, South Australia, Victoria, and Western Australia
- Managers of national parks in Australia

During the workshop, participants enjoyed...Click here to continue reading

"Mustering" Open Standards Coaches and Practitioners in Australia

Story from Natalie Holland, TNC-Australia

This past summer, a "muster" brought together coaches from around Australia to integrate the *Open Standards* further into the heart of the country's long-term conservation planning. Hosted by CCNet-Australia, 21 coaches and practitioners converged on Adelaide Zoo to build skills and share innovations in applying the *OS*. Sessions covered topics nominated by coaches, including the use of the *OS* for business planning, incorporating climate change vulnerability assessments and strategies, and incorporating mapping, GIS, and spatial prioritisation. Other sessions built on *OS* basics with special focus on results chains, monitoring plans, and the Implement-Adapt-Learn steps of the process. The muster helped participants feel more confident using various *OS* applications and innovations, and every participant reported having fun and leaving re-energized and inspired!
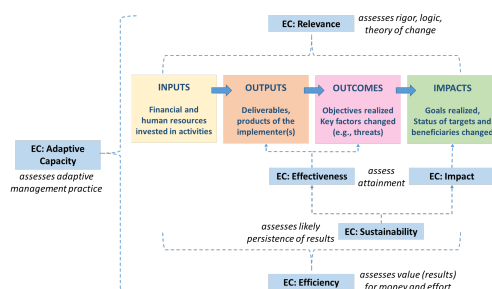
Using *Open Standards* for Forest Landscape Restoration

Story from Gustavo Gatti and Anita Diederichsen, Conserve Brazil

Conservation is a dynamic endeavor. Many times, our strategies need to include multiple approaches in order to reduce threats. That is the case when we use large scale forest restoration as way to avoid further deforestation and mitigate climate change.

At Conserve Brazil, we are working with IMAZON (a non-governmental group promoting sustainable development in the Brazilian Amazon) on a Forest Landscape Restoration program in a part of the eastern Amazon in the Paragominas municipality of Brazil. To diagnose the current scenario and potential opportunities, we are experimenting with integrating basic concepts of the *Open Standards* with the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (a method being developed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and and World Resources Institute). Using this integrated approach, we were able to put key success factors in place and outline a conceptual model and results chains. With these planning tools, we were able to develop a strategic policy document that will support local governments and define forest restoration goals for this part of Amazon.

Our first attempt at synergy between these two methodologies showed good

Incorporating Industry Standard Criteria to Evaluate Projects in Central Africa

Story from Elizabeth O'Neill or Matt Muir, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Over the past 18 months, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Wildlife Africa Regional Program has been applying the *Open Standards* to evaluate USFWS-funded projects and programs across Central Africa, including its support of Cross River Gorilla conservation in Cameroon and Nigeria and use of SMART law enforcement monitoring in Republic of Congo, Cameroon, and Gabon.

Our approach is integrating the *OS* with six "industry-standard" evaluation criteria. For example, when evaluating a project's "Relevance," we look at whether the project follows the best practices laid out in the Define/Design steps of the *OS*. When evaluating "Effectiveness," we look at attainment of planned outcomes/objectives. When considering a project's "Impact," we look at extent of attainment of planned Goals (i.e., statements of desired future changes in targeted biodiversity and, if relevant, human wellbeing).

This evaluation has been a partnership with Elizabeth O'Neill evaluation consulting and builds upon measures guidance that USFWS developed with Nick Salafsky and Caroline Stem of Foundations of Success for conservation projects applying for USFWS funds in Central Africa. In some cases, we look

potential for further integration. That is good news, especially considering the contribution that the *OS* and CCNet coaches could provide to the restoration agenda in many parts of the world.

for CCNet coaches, particularly those from Africa, to join our evaluation teams. For more information on our approach or if you're interested in joining an evaluation team, please contact Elizabeth O'Neill or Matt Muir.

Planning for Community Conservation Areas in Mexico

Story from Dave Kramer, EcoLogic Development Fund

The Chinantla region in Northern Oaxaca, Mexico, forms part of the Sierra Norte mountain range. The region is a national conservation priority in Mexico as a major reservoir for water and as habitat for over 530 bird species and a wide array of plants and animals. In 2013, EcoLogic began collaborating with the Regional Environmental Collaborative for the Chinantla Region of Oaxaca, Mexico (FARCO) to develop plans to add 11,500 hectares to the land already certified as Community Conservation Areas in the region. The *Open Standards* and Miradi—along with guidance from coach Yven Echeverria—have been crucial tools in this process, especially in developing multi-year project plans that incorporate the logic of results chains and related milestones and indicators...Click here to continue reading this story and see how the *OS* have helped secure funding for these plans.

Greening the Iron Curtain

Story from Anne Katrin Heinrichs, EuroNatur, and Felix Cybulla, CCNet Europe coach

The European Green Belt Initiative hopes to ensure that the former border between eastern and western European countries remains a green corridor for wildlife to thrive and migrate. Stretching 12,500 kilometers from north to south, the Green Belt passes through a wide variety of landscapes, giving it high potential to be the backbone of a pan-European ecological network.

CCNet Europe coach Anne Katrin Heinrichs works for EuroNatur, the organization currently chairing the European Green Belt Association. While Katrin was on maternity leave, Felix Cybulla used the *Open Standards* to facilitate two regional conferences for sections of the Green Belt as well as the 2016 pan-European conference. Through this facilitation, the association was able to achieve coherent planning and align joint priorities for the next two years.

Katrin is now back at the desk, and we are looking forward to an exciting 2017. More information about the work along the European Green Belt can be found at http://www.europeangreenbelt.org/.

Training for Latin American WWF Staff

Story from Irina Montenegro, WWF-Chile

During November 2016, WWF-Chile hosted a basic training on Program and Project Management Standards (a WWF adaptation of the *Open Standards*) for 14 representatives from seven WWF offices in Latin America and an associated NGO, Fundación Vida Silvestre-Argentina. This workshop strengthened the capacity of new and established staff from Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Guatemala, Chile, and Paraguay. Training participants got familiar with the conservation project cycle and identified the key strengths and opportunities of adaptive management and its use on daily work.

This workshop was developed as part of the LAC Secretariat Initiative to promote a strategic planning approach for the region and the CCNet plan to strengthen adaptive management in Latin America.

Open Standards for Public Protected Areas in Chile

Story from Irina Montenegro, WWF-Chile

In November 2016, an introductory *Open Standards* workshop was held during the National Congress on Protected Public Areas in Chile. During the workshop, 30 park rangers and professional conservationists from the Chilean Ministry of Environment, the U.S. Forest Service, and CONAF (a government environmental agency responsible for Public Protected Areas in Chile) strengthened their ability to use planning tools to make better management decisions for protected areas. Building *OS* capacity will help protected area staff and partner organizations use a common language for planning and management...
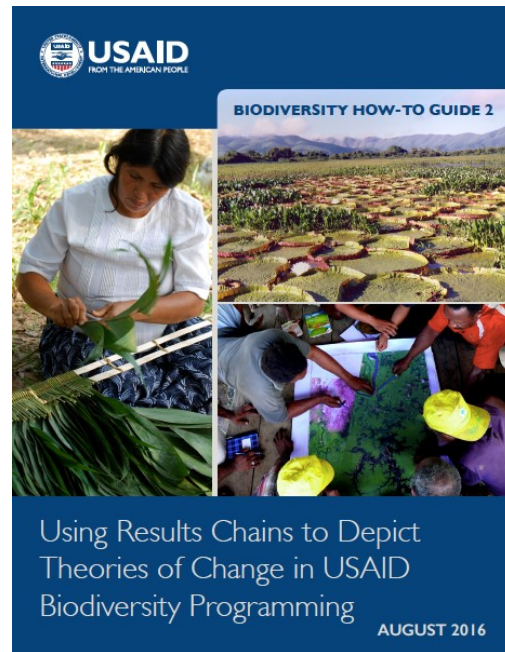Click here to continue reading about how CONAF has been using the *OS*.

Open Standards Training in the U.S.

Story from *Quinn Shurtliff, Wastren Advantage, Inc.*

This past July 2016, a two-day *Open Standards* workshop was delivered as part of the North American Congress for Conservation Biology in Madison, Wisconsin, USA. Arlyne Johnson (Foundations of Success), Jim Goetz (Cornell University), and Quinn Shurtliff (Wastren Advantage, Inc.) facilitated the workshop for 18 participants representing a wide range of organizations, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wildlife Conservation Society, International Crane Foundation, International Union for Conservation of Nature, San Diego Zoo, The Nature Conservancy, and several universities.

Besides providing core *OS* training, the workshop emphasized the value of using the *OS* framework to improve communication. We intend to practice what we preach by contacting participants every few months over the next two years to gather feedback on how participants' practices have been affected by knowledge gained at the workshop. So far, participants have reported high levels of satisfaction with the workshop.

How-To Guides for Applying Open Standards to USAID Biodiversity Projects

Story from *Marco Flores Santiago* **and** *Amy Gambrill*

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Office of Forestry and Biodiversity's Measuring Impact initiative is helping its missions use *Open Standards* tools and practices. Three newly developed how-to guides provide a common resource for USAID program designers, managers, and implementing partners. Translating the *OS* into USAID context and language and providing in-depth, step-by-step guidance on *OS* resources will help USAID meet policy criteria and achieve more effective conservation work. Check out the three recently published how-to guides here.

Teaching Adaptive Management to MENTOR Fellows in Africa

Story from *Anne Ntongho*

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's MENTOR Fellowship programs play an important role in capacity development by providing high-level training and field experience to teams of young African professionals who are committed to becoming conservation leaders.

In 2016, the USFWS financed *Open Standards* workshops for three MENTOR programs. These workshops trained the MENTOR fellows to use the *OS* for adaptive management. Training will help the fellows develop research and funding proposals that follow the *OS*. These workshops also gave CCNet Africa coaches the opportunity to test and improve their coaching skills.

MENTOR-POP Program

MENTOR-POP (Progress on Pangolins) fellows are focused on addressing pangolin bushmeat trade and international pangolin trafficking. Pangolins are unique, scale-covered mammals that are heavily hunted in Africa and Asia for their meat and scales, which are used in traditional medicine.

In 2016, the nine MENTOR-POP fellows received two *OS* training workshops on adaptive management. The workshops have helped the MENTOR-POP fellows ensure that their work continues to have a positive impact on pangolins. The *OS* workshops were facilitated by

Announcing the CCNet Europe Association!

Story from *Felix Cybulla****, CCNet Europe coach and*** *Nico Boenisch****, Foundations of Success-Europe***

The CCNet Europe Franchise has grown constantly over the last few years. We started with a group of just around 10 people and are close to 60 members today. After years of intensive dialogue at different rallies, workshops, and meetings, the core CCNet Europe team has responded to requests to found an association to help support our conservation coaches and their work.

On December 1, 2016, we founded the CCNet Europe Association. We hope that establishing an association will help us with three main needs of our growing Franchise:

- maintaining CCNet Europe's core principles and the way we function
- sharing the responsibility for our activities among all members
- creating a stronger basis for financial sustainability in the implementation of our core functions

One of CCNet's most important principles is that it is a true community of practice built, operated, and maintained by its members. Our CCNet Europe Association helps us achieve this principle by giving decision-making power to all of our members.

CCNet Africa coach Andimile Martin, a past MENTOR-BEAN (Bushmeat-free Eastern Africa Network) fellow from Tanzania...Click here to continue reading about the MENTOR programs.

The CCNet Europe Association will be officially registered as a not-for-profit organisation in early 2017. We are eagerly awaiting registration and looking forward to continuing our great work in 2017.

Reflections

Fire Management from Indigenous Peoples' Perspectives

Story from Mary Huffman, The Nature Conservancy and The Fire Learning Network, and Margo Robbins, Yurok Tribe

Native American people walk in two worlds: their ancestral tribal world and the contemporary world, which is led by other people. When we first started creating a network centered on fire management from indigenous peoples' perspectives, we laid out some principles for how this would be different from other fire-related partnerships. Some principles, like self-determination, are universal to indigenous peoples around the world; others, like preparing the next generation of cultural fire practitioners, are specific to the local landscape.

In June of 2016, Blane Heumann, The Nature Conservancy's Director of Fire Management, introduced us (the Indigenous Peoples Burning Network) to an indigenous conservation plan from Balanggarra, Australia. The plan was developed using Healthy Country Planning, a conservation planning approach adapted from the *Open Standards* by Aboriginal peoples in Australia. In October, Margo Robbins of the Yurok Tribe and Mary Huffman of the Fire Learning Network traveled to Darwin, Australia, for 10 days of training to learn more about the Healthy Country Planning process.

"Two things really hit us," said Margo, "Aboriginal people there have rights to use fire that aren't recognized here and their plans talk a lot about sustaining culture into the future." Healthy Country Plans put the culture of Native people and their homelands as a top priority.

"In Healthy Country Planning," Mary observed, "nobody has to ignore important spiritual relationships and nobody has to put on somebody else's planning jacket that doesn't fit their way of being." To maximize local thought patterns, the plans can even be written in the local indigenous language(s), then translated for a broader readership.

After the Healthy Country Planning workshop, Margo and Mary spent time in the field with David Hinchley and Luke Preece of TNC, meeting with indigenous ranger groups and partners who showed how planning is being put into action. Margo and Mary learned that elders in the Cape York area are teaching younger generations to light cool fires before the hot, dry season or immediately before the arrival of rain storms. These cool, patchy fires remove "rubbish," while still maintaining native species, leaving enough unburnt plants for food and cover for animals, and keeping tree canopies intact to provide much-needed shade. Mary and Margo also saw how Cape York Natural Resource Management, Ltd. is using videos and websites to help local

people tell their stories of fire recovery and connect with others doing similar work across Australia.

Margo and Mary's visit to Australia provided inspiration and guidance for the expansion of the Indigenous Peoples Burning Network and Indigenous Peoples' Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges back in the U.S. Already, Healthy Country Planning is increasing local emphasis on and training for family-based burning. In the ancestral territories of the Yurok, Hoopa, and Karuk Tribes, controlled burning was traditionally done according to family lines. Workshop participants hope to reach their goal of building capacity for 40 families to do cool-fire controlled burns in the next three years. The Yurok-Hoopa-Karuk Healthy Country Plan will inform other land management plans with indigenous perspectives. Such plans include the fire portions of plans for adjacent federal lands, and the Community and Cultural Fire Management Plan of the Yurok Tribe.

The second Healthy Country Planning session in the Yurok-Hoopa-Karuk landscape will take place in March 2017. After the second session, the draft plan will be reviewed in a large workshop with participation from community members from all three tribes.

Bulletin Board

Getting Cultured: Updates to Human Wellbeing Guidance

Story from Caroline Stem, Foundations of Success

In July 2016, the Conservation Measurement Partnership (CMP) released an update to the human wellbeing guidance (a companion to the *Open Standards*). This update is based on feedback from conservationists who worked with the previous version across dozens of projects spanning a wide range of countries and cultures. The update also reflects the CMP Human Wellbeing Working Group's diverse backgrounds and expertise.

In addition to edits that clarify and refine text, Version 2.0 includes improvements

Miradi User Group Webinars Provide Valuable Insights

Story from Annette Stewart, Bush Heritage Australia

If you're just starting to use Miradi, or have some insights to share, then jump on board the Miradi User Group. We hold webinars every 3 to 4 months to learn from each other about topics of interest. We record the webinars so that they are available for participants to use as training material or for those who miss the meeting. The recordings are split into 5 to 15 minute chapters on each topic.

You can access the Miradi webinar recordings from the Miradi Community page or on our YouTube channel. The most recent webinar in October focused on monitoring. We have several recordings available on this topic from

that add flexibility to the approach, more explicit guidance on addressing cultural elements, and examples of how to display human wellbeing targets...Click here to continue reading about specific improvements to the Human Wellbeing Guidance.

Assessing Project Management Skills among Conservationists

Story from Jane Hooper, WildTeam UK

WildTeam UK had an article published in the *Journal for Nature Conservation* entitled "A rapid assessment of the current status of project management skills in the conservation sector." This research identified that a lack of project management skills in the conservation sector may be contributing, in part, to the gap between conservation research and implementation. Researchers used an online survey to assess the need for project management skills, the demand for and supply of project management training, and the barriers to training in the conservation sector...Click here to read about the survey results.

Miradi Work Planning Just Got Better— Version 4.4 Available!

Story from Caroline Stem, Foundations of Success

With Miradi 4.4 it is now easier than ever to take all the great strategic planning work you do in Miradi and turn it into a logical, easy-to-follow work plan that you can share with your colleagues. Drawing on feedback from Miradi users, the Miradi Design Team made work planning more intuitive and user-friendly in version 4.4. Some key features and improvements include:

- The work plan table is now easier to read, navigate, understand, and

the perspective of different organisations.

If you would like to see certain topics covered in a future webinar, deliver a 5-minute "How We Use Miradi" presentation to the group, or be added to the invitation list, please get in touch with Kari Stiles and Annette Stewart.

And the Winner Is...

We received 10 excellent entries for the CMP-CCNet Open Standards Case Study Competition. Our judges narrowed these entries down to the top five, which were then voted on via crowd sourcing.

Congratulations to the winner, *Twenty years and counting: adaptive management of Chimpanzee habitat in Tanzania,* by the Jane Goodall Institute, who have won a $2,000 travel gift and a one-year subscription to Miradi.

Check out the second and third place projects and read the full announcement here.

New Leadership in CCNet Mesoamerica

We are happy to announce that CCNet Mesoamerica has two new franchise leaders: Dave Kramer, Senior Manager for Impact, Learning & Innovation at EcoLogic Development Fund, and Yven Echeverría, an Independent Consultant for Conservation Planning/Climate Change Adaptation/Management Metrics Systems for Conservation Projects and Programs.

This franchise is being sponsored by Foundations of Success, through Marcia Brown. Dave, Yven, and Marcia are already busy developing a work plan and scouting out opportunities for a new coach training in Spanish in 2017. If you

edit
- Progress reports can now be added to results chains (in addition to strategies, activities, objectives, and goals) so that users can reflect on the overall progress across a results chain
- Users can assign monitoring activities and associated time and expenses directly to indicators
- Users can share data with Miradi Share for program-based work planning

You can learn more about these features in the Miradi Guide to Work Planning in Miradi 4.4.

want to be considered for such a training, please contact Dave or Yven. Also, stay tuned for the release of our joint Spanish language CCNet Mesoamerica and CCNet South America website.

We extend our gratitude to Bernal Herrera, Co-Director, "Kenton Miller" Latin American Chair of Protected Areas & Biological Corridors, CATIE, who previously served as the CCNet Mesoamerica franchise leader.

Franchise Information

Africa

- Anne Ntongho (West, Central and North Africa)
- Nancy Chege (East and Southern Africa)

Australia

- Natalie Holland
- Paul Koch

China

- Jin Tong

Europe

- Ilke Tilders
- Nicolas Boenisch

Malaysia/Indonesia

- Hui Shim Tan

Mesoamerica

- Dave Kramer
- Yven Echeverría

Mongolia

- Munkhchuluun Basan
- Tuguldur Enkthsetseg

North America

- Doug Pearsall & John Paskus (Central)
- Sara Gottlieb (Eastern)
- Terri Schulz (Rocky Mt/NW/Canada)

Pacific Islands:

- Trina Leberer (Micronesia)
- Emily Fielding (Hawaii)

South America:

- Irina Montenegro

South Asia:

- Adam Barlow
- Lucy Boddam-Whetham

Teaching Adaptive Management

- Vinaya Swaminathan

- Xavier Escuté
- Sandi Matsumoto (Sierra/CA)

Looking for conservation coaching resources?

Check out the CCNet website.

Need help or want to share something cool related to the application of the *Open Standards*?

Tap into our CCNet Listserv! To sign up, e-mail Marjorie Bennett or Cristina Lasch.

CCNet is a community of practitioners who support the application of the *Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation*. Our mission is to train, connect and support conservation practitioners to do better, smarter conservation that achieves tangible results, benefiting people and nature all around the world.

For more information about CCNet, visit our website, or contact:

- John Morrison (CCNet Global Coordinator)
- Cristina Lasch (CCNet Technical Coordinator)

CCNet *News* editor:

- Sara Delheimer

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