

## Brief Overview of the *Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation*

This overview provides a brief description of the *Open Standards*. For more information, please visit the [Open Standards](#) and [Conservation Measures Partnership](#) websites.

**What Are the *Open Standards*?** The [Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation](#) are a product of the collaborative work of the [Conservation Measures Partnership](#) (CMP). CMP members span a broad range of leading conservation actors, including NGOs, government agencies, and donors. The *Open Standards* were initially based on the results of the Measuring Conservation Impact (MCI) Initiative, a 2002 study that reviewed experiences in seven fields – conservation, public health, family planning, international development, social services, education, and business – to determine common concepts of and approaches to good project design, management, and monitoring. Building on these results, individual CMP member organizations contributed their experience in project implementation to refine the *Open Standards* and focus them more specifically on biodiversity conservation. Version 1.0 was released in 2004, with subsequent updates in 2007 and 2013.



The *Open Standards* are oriented around the project cycle to the left. Implementing the cycle itself involves using a series of tools that help teams focus, prioritize, and make key decisions. The steps themselves are iterative and part of an adaptive management approach in which teams regularly revisit prior steps as they go along, adapting and improving their planning, implementation, and monitoring based on new information and learning.

**Who Is Using the *Open Standards*?** Several CMP members have adopted the *Open Standards* (or a close derivative of it) as their principle planning process – for example, The Nature Conservancy, World Wildlife Fund, some branches within the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Bush Heritage Australia, and

the Puget Sound Partnership. The [Conservation Coaches Network](#) (representing more than 500 individuals across the globe) promotes and supports *Open Standards* with a wide variety of organizations. Those using the *Open Standards* range well beyond CMP and CCNet. While we don't know exactly how many organizations use the *Open Standards*, it is useful to look at [Miradi Adaptive Management Software](#) statistics to get a sense – Miradi is a CMP-developed software that helps facilitate implementation of the *Open Standards*. Currently, there are over 10,000 users across 180 countries, and volunteers have translated Miradi into 12 different languages.

**How Often Are the *Open Standards* Updated?** The *Open Standards* are intended to be a set of principles and steps that are updated collaboratively over time, as the *Open Standards* community gains new experience and insights. Releases to date include: 1.0 (2004), 2.0 (2007), 3.0 (2013), and 4.0 (scheduled for mid-2019).