



Conservation Coaches Network e-newsletter

Summer 2011

Table of Contents

Network News

Events

Coaches Around the World:

[Northern Australia](#) | [WWF Coaches](#) | [Europe](#) | [Peru](#) | [Senegal](#) | [Latin America](#) | [USA](#)

Bulletin Board

Network News

From the Chair:

Meeting the challenge of adapting to a changing world (to borrow a phrase from one of the interesting and inspiring articles in this newsletter) is what makes the work of the Conservation Coaches Network such an important and vibrant force for improving the practice of conservation. Below you will find examples of how network coaches are tackling strategy development for an array of emerging issues including indigenous peoples, climate change, securing water for people and nature, and “whole systems” conservation. In every case, the coaches approach these new challenges using a systematic, field-tested, priority-setting framework in a facilitated peer review environment that is the hallmark of our work together. It is the proven success of this approach and its wide adaptation by multi-institutional partners that led to the creation of CCNet and its mission of catalyzing action planning, training, knowledge-sharing and innovation around the world. My thanks to the contributors for sharing this rich set of solutions and tools to improve conservation - and for their continuing work supporting conservation in a changing world.



Brad Northrup, CCNet Board Chair ©TNC

-Brad Northrup, Chair, Conservation Coaches Network

Some Upcoming Events: Sample of Coaches' Activities Around the World

June 20-21: Strategy development workshop coming up for the Southern York Peninsula, South Australia. Contact [Todd Berkinshaw](#).

June 20 – 23: Peer review workshop for six priority conservation project teams in The Nature Conservancy. Contact [Steffen Reichle](#) for more information.

June 20 – 24: Kawaihae-Keāhole Region Conservation Action Plan development

workshop, Hawaii Island. Contact [James Byrne](#) for more information.

July 11 -15: The third and final Open Standards workshop with four landscape planning teams from the Democratic Republic of Congo. Contact [John Morrison](#) for more information.

July 12-16, 2011: Fangaalu Watershed conservation planning event, American Samoa. Contact [Steven Victor](#) for more information.

July 11- 14: Peer review workshop for five priority conservation projects in The Nature Conservancy focused on working with Indigenous people. Contact [Mauricio Castro](#) or [Paulina Arroyo](#) for more information.

August 30 – September 1: Multi-site peer review workshop for Community-based Maui Marine Projects (Kahekili Fishery Management Area, Molokini Marine Life Conservation District, Kahoolawe Island Reserve). Contact [Emily Fielding](#) or [Greg Low](#) for more information.

September 8, 2011: "Knowing when to go deep or shallow: Tools for customizing CAP/Open standards to our team's real situations." Please plan on joining this WebEx session to provide tough love peer review of some products and ideas that came from a Rally working group session. Details will be provided via the list serve or Contact [David Ray](#) for more information.

September 2011 (days not confirmed): Climate adaptation planning workshop in Indonesia (Papua and Borneo.) Contact [John Morrison](#).

September 2011 (days not confirmed): Peer review workshop – projects from Northern Marianna Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and Kosrae. Contact [Steven Victor](#).

November 2011 (days not confirmed): Five teams from across Northern Australia meet for second workshop. Contact [Natalie Holland](#) or [Stuart Cowell](#).

November 4: Open Standards introductory workshop. Natural Areas Association meetings. For more information or especially if you are going to the NAA meetings, please contact [Jora Young](#), [Marcia Brown](#) or [Karl Didier](#).

November 13 – 15: Great Lakes Programs Measures Summit. Eight Great Lakes conservation teams gather to evaluate strategies and measures. Contact [Tina Hall](#) for more information.

November 15-17: Multi-site peer review workshop for Community-based Maui Marine Projects (Kahekili Fishery Management Area, Molokini Marine Life Conservation District, Kahoolawe Island Reserve). Contact [Emily Fielding](#) or [Greg Low](#) for more information.

November 21 – 25: Open Standards workshop with 70 European conservation practitioners followed by a European Coaches gathering and training event. Contact [Ilike Tilders](#) for more information.

December 12, 2011: Strategy workshops for Lake Michigan and Lake Erie EPA sponsored Blueprint projects. Contact: Coaches [Doug Pearsall](#) or [John Paskus](#)

Coaches Fellow Spotlight

If you missed “*Tipping the Scale: Measures that work for management in the Eastern New York Chapter and Caribbean Challenge*” you would be well served to check out the [recorded presentation](#). In this one hour WebEx, **coach George Schuler** (Director of Conservation Science and Practice for The Nature Conservancy’s Eastern New York Chapter and Coda Global Fellow with TNC’s Caribbean Challenge) shares his experience working in Eastern New York to create an innovative framework that



George Schuler.
© Kemit-Amon Lewis TNC-USVI

harnesses information already gathered in the field into measures that answer the questions managers, leadership, program, project, operations, fundraising and communications staff are asking. He also gives a look into his Coda Global Fellowship which focuses on developing a systematic measures framework for TNC’s “Caribbean Challenge”. The Caribbean Challenge aims to ensure the needs of marine systems, like coral reefs, and the people that depend on the sustainability of these system’s resources can be met. George is working to develop a robust monitoring, adaptive management, and realistic implementation framework for the Caribbean Challenge. His work will inform progress on the protected area and sustainable finance strategies for the Caribbean Challenge with a specific, initial focus on the Dominican Republic. The framework will eventually be used to help guide TNC’s approach in all Caribbean Challenge countries and beyond. **Contact [George](#) for more information.**

Coaches Around the World

Northern Australia: Growing and Learning Together

Northern Australia’s tropical and subtropical savannas - vast areas of high conservation value, stretching from the Kimberley on the northwest coast of Australia to Cape York in the east – are as much the result of millennia of management by Aboriginal people as they are biophysical processes. Ongoing management by Indigenous people is integral to the north’s ongoing conservation and management.



Savanna in northern Australia.
© Mark Godfrey

From across this vast landscape, The Nature Conservancy’s Australia Program recently brought together six indigenous project teams, each managing millions of acres of their “country” (traditional lands and waters), for a CAP training workshop. The workshop was held to provide training on the Open Standards approach and tools, and how the process

can be used and adapted to support planning for “healthy country” in an indigenous cultural context. Not only did the workshop provide guidance on adaptations of the process that have occurred elsewhere, but we also saw further adaptations occurring during the workshop including doing threat assessments in traditional language, and conceptual models through pictures.

When asked the best thing about the workshop, John Albert, a Bardi Jawi man from the Dampier Peninsula in the Kimberley region of northwest Australia said “It’s given me a lot of stuff – I mean, the best part is that it has given me the knowledge of how to plan and that was the very good part for me.”

Over time and through a series of follow-up workshops we are aiming to help build a cohort of coaches across northern Australia who will become part of the Conservation Coaches Network in Australia, and continue to support planning for indigenous lands and projects. **Contact [Natalie Holland](#) for more information.**

WWF Coaches Adapting to a Changing World

WWF coaches have been providing climate adaptation training to staff and partners in priority regions. The format of the trainings (held so far in Madagascar, Vietnam, Argentina, Malaysia and Europe) are generally a mix of introduction-to-climate-change-and-adaptation concepts and hands on vulnerability assessment and planning for real teams. The heart of WWF’s approach to climate adaptation is a basic vulnerability



John looking over team’s work. © WWF

assessment that makes use of simple cartoons of conservation targets, human activities, climate exposures, and expected vulnerabilities, with an emphasis on vulnerability to current climate variability and extreme. (The method is a variation that grew from the approach piloted in The Nature Conservancy sponsored Climate Clinic held September 2009.) This method is documented and supported by a [60-page guideline](#) developed with extensive WWF Network review. A [shorter version of the guideline](#) can also be downloaded.

In March 2011, as a follow-on to the European training, fifteen Open Standards coaches gathered to review and be trained in applying this approach to retrofit existing conservation plans. Retrofitting is currently emphasized as this is the most common situation faced by coaches and teams. The two-day session yielded a number of suggested tweaks and clarifications for the guidance, and a cadre of coaches who are ready to assist project teams with adaptation.

Stay tuned, as guidance for integration of climate adaptation into project design from the beginning is the next task. **Contact [John Morrison](#) or [Al Lombana](#) for more information or to help with this effort.**

Europe: Working Across Boundaries

In Sweden, 5 European coaches and 40 participants (mainly from government agencies) successfully joined forces in a strategic conservation planning workshop. The programme

“Where Land Meets Sea” aims to improve coastal zone management of shared areas between Sweden, Norway and Denmark. For more information, please contact [Lena Tingstrom](#).

Meanwhile, some of our Mediterranean coaches are working hard to develop a funding proposal for transboundary conservation planning of areas shared between Greece and Bulgaria. For more information, please **contact [Stella Vareltzidou](#)**.

Peru: About CAP and Water Funds

TNC coaches and planners from Chile, Ecuador, Mexico and Peru joined forces to design a Conservation Action Planning (CAP) process aimed at developing strategies and a monitoring plan for the Lima and Callao Water Fund (AQUAFONDO). The AQUAFONDO represents a financial tool for watershed conservation, designed to contribute to improvements in the quality and quantity of water resources in the region. It also seeks to promote more efficient use of water resources. The efficient use of water is increasingly important worldwide, but in desert cities such as Lima (the World's second largest city surrounded by desert) water efficiency is crucial if the needs of nearly 9 million people are to be met.



© JJ Rodriguez/TNC

The CAP process is designed to help scientists, experts, government representatives and resource users agree upon what needs to be conserved with the funds generated by the AQUAFONDO to ensure that water resources are available to sustain both the needs of people and nature. In addition, the process will identify: specific actions to undertake; research questions that must be addressed; priority sites for investments; and effectiveness indicators. These will be used by the water fund's administrators to ensure that funding is granted to organizations that focus on strategic issues, in critical places, where changes can be measured. Ignacio Cancino, Technical Director of the AQUAFONDO had this to say about the work, *“CAP is an extremely useful methodological instrument for understanding how ecosystems function and also for getting to know and valuing the work of the population that lives in those ecosystems”*. **Contact [Juan Jose Rodriguez](#) for more information on this project.**

Senegal: Training in the Open Standards for the UN COMPACT Program

An Open Standards workshop for the United Nations Small Grants Programme's (SGP) [COMPACT \(Community Managed Protected Areas for Conservation\) Program](#) was led by Foundations of Success (FOS) coaches in Saint Louis, Senegal in February 2011. COMPACT seeks to demonstrate how community-based initiatives can increase the effectiveness of biodiversity conservation in the co-management of globally significant protected areas by working to improve the livelihoods of local populations. This workshop brought together local and national program coordinators from 11 different countries around the globe. It focused on training participants in Steps 1 & 2 of the Open Standards and Miradi by applying the method to their program sites.

The methodology and software resonated very well with entire COMPACT team, and workshop evaluations revealed positive results including this quote from one participant:

“Open Standards and Miradi should be used immediately to streamline COMPACT’s approach and methodology and to ensure that the conservation goals and objectives are achieved.”

After the workshop, COMPACT country teams were linked with CCNet coaches in their respective regions who agreed to provide back-up support. FOS will continue to support COMPACT leadership to use the Open Standards to demonstrate the effectiveness and impact of its work on biodiversity conservation. **Contact [Vinaya Swaminathan](#) for more information.**



COMPACT coordinators Julio Moure and Leonel Requena visit a coastal project site in Senegal.
© Vinaya Swaminathan

United States: "Whole Systems" Peer Review Workshops

The Nature Conservancy held two “whole system” strategy peer review workshops this spring. Eight CCNet coaches worked with Lise Hanners, the workshops’ sponsor and TNC’s Eastern US Director of Conservation, in the design and facilitation of these events. In addition, a coach worked with each of the eight participating teams to prepare their strategies prior to the workshops. The first workshop focused on large coastal estuaries: Everglades, Albemarle Sound,



Wood storks, an endangered species, in the Everglades.
© Kevin Barry

Chesapeake Bay, and Delaware River and Bay. The second brought together marine systems which included the Gulf of Maine, Southern New England, Mid-Atlantic, and Carolinian projects. A series of four web based peer review sessions were held in the months preceding the individual workshops for the teams to learn about each other’s projects and provide some feedback in advance of the in-person events.

The objectives of the workshops were twofold. First, that each team would have two thoughtful, peer reviewed strategies “ready to go” with some identified measures of success. And second, project leaders, teams and their managers would have a shared understanding of the theory of change behind each strategy, next steps for implementation and key “go/no-go” decision points.

The teams largely achieved these objectives. An added benefit was that the teams moved towards better coordination on major coastal and marine strategies for eastern North America. Also, participants identified shared issues and some potential approaches to several over-arching challenges, i.e. how to design for and achieve “intentional leverage” and how to plan in the face of high uncertainty.

The coaches will continue to work with Lise and build on what they learned from this experience as they design similar peer review processes for other large system projects in North America. All materials for these workshops will soon be available on ConserveOnline. **For further inquires or permission to access the ConserveOnline workspace, please contact [Gwynn Crichton](#).**

Latin America: USFWS Partners Work Virtually to Build Critical Skills

Foundations of Success (FOS) coaches recently conducted a distance learning course to train nine Latin American teams in the Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation. USFWS Wildlife Without Borders Program, who sponsored the training for their key partners, initially doubted whether there would be sufficient interest in this type of training. They were amazed – and a bit overwhelmed – when they received 120 applications from all across Latin America! FOS used webinar (GoToMeeting) technology to give presentations and facilitate “tough love” small group discussions of each team's weekly assignments.



Teams applied the Open Standards to their own projects, which focused on a diversity of conservation issues, including manatee conservation in Costa Rica, sustainable management of non-timber forest products in an extractive reserve in Brazil, development of biological corridors in a fragmented highland landscape in Colombia, and migratory grassland bird conservation in the Southern Cone.

Participants responded well to the format and to the Open Standards. One participant summarized her experience in this way:

“The course was very good. I liked the fact that the course was highly participatory and focused on learning by doing and I believe that the methodology is very useful for conservation projects.” **For more information, contact [Marcia Brown](#).**

Bulletin Board



Hey! Heard the Buzz on our CCNet Listserve?

We invite you to join our community's virtual discussion forum where coaches have been actively exchanging ideas, tips, announcements and examples about loads of cool things like training events, coach support needs, climate change adaptation, facilitating interactive exercises, how to better incorporate human welfare aspects into our conservation work, tourism strategies, or how to turn our monitoring data into interesting visual materials. Click here to learn more about the Listserve, or join by sending an e-mail to [Marjorie Bennett](#), asking her to sign you up. Please tell coaches in your part of the world about our CCNet Listserve!



Test Drivers Wanted for New Monitoring Tutorial

“Monitoring our Conservation Work,” The Nature Conservancy's self-paced online

monitoring course is now free and open to the public!

Are your conservation strategies working? How will you convince managers and funders? This free self-paced online course from The Nature Conservancy addresses:

- How much to invest in monitoring strategy effectiveness,
- The fundamentals of developing a monitoring program, and
- Basic concepts in monitoring design

These conceptually-oriented modules are geared for conservation managers, program directors, and scientists looking to design cost-effective monitoring that answers management questions. The course is illustrated with real conservation case studies, first-person video commentary and opportunities to apply the concepts to your own work. A library of resources in the virtual course room offers opportunities to explore course topics more deeply, as well as more technical monitoring-related topics not covered in the course.

Go to www.conservationtraining.org, complete the free registration and click on the "Conservation Planning & Measures" tab to enroll in the course. "Tough love" feedback, questions or comments welcome. Please contact [Jensen Montambault](mailto:jensen@conservationtraining.org).



ConPro

Frustrated with having to look through multiple sites to find good information on conservation projects? ConPro has a new [search tool that crawls multiple similar sites](#) (National Geographic's Action Atlas, Defenders of Wildlife's Conservation Registry, the Conservation Gateway, and ConPro)! This option ("search public ConPro projects and Partner sites" from the ConPro search page) is an addition to the existing [ConPro search options](#). You can view results from all 4 websites or click on tabs to see results for each website separately. Try out search terms like: condor or grazing or whatever else you're looking for! **Contact [Jon Fisher](#) with any questions or comments.**

A new [ConPro brochure](#) (2-sided, single page) is available for download and distribution at meetings and workshops. The colorful, nicely-formatted brochure describes the knowledge sharing and networking benefits associated with using ConPro.



Miradi 3.3: New Features for Beginners and Experts Alike

Hey Coaches, the Miradi software team is listening. And they are responding. Check out all the new features that have come in response to your suggestions and do, please, keep your comments coming.

- **New CCNET Coach Checkbox on Team Tab** – This will facilitate searching for CCNET coached projects within the ConPro database and enable new types of summary reports.
- **New Project Dashboard** - enables quick and easy navigation to any step in the project process with summary status content and full guidance displayed.
- **More Powerful and Easier to Use Strategic Plan View** - Viewing and displaying your content is now easier and you have many options for customizing reports.
- **Keep Feedback Coming! Please!**

Miradi 3.3 contains other improvements to user interface and speed. The readme

file calls these out. Visit the Miradi Feedback Forum to let programmers know if you have any suggestions on how to make these and any other features work even better.



Help Wanted!

Any writers out there? We have a volunteer opportunity for you. This Conservation Coaches Network Newsletter needs a new copy editor. Please [contact Jora Young](#) if you would like to try your hand at the task.

CCNet Newsletter Team - Megan Sheehan, Jora Young

For more information about the Conservation Coaches Network (CCNet) contact:
Jora Young at jyoung@tnc.org.