

INTERGOVERNMENTAL
AUTHORITY ON DEVELOPMENT
(IGAD)



CONSERVATION COACHES
NETWORK (CCNet)



EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT
FUND (EDF)



“OPEN STANDARDS FOR THE PRACTICE OF CONSERVATION”

TRAINING WORKSHOP

Nairobi, March 16th – 20th 2016



Figure 1: Participants and trainers of the Open Standards Training in Nairobi, Kenya, March 2016

From March 16th to 20th, 2016, an Adaptive Management training and workshop in the *CMP-Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation* was held in Nairobi. The training was hosted by the Biodiversity Management Programme (BMP) of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). This programme is funded by the European Union in support of conservation and sustainable management of ecosystems in the Horn of Africa to contribute to lasting ecosystem goods and services and the management of transboundary landscapes in the IGAD region.

IGAD Biodiversity Management Programme

Socio-economic development in the Horn of Africa and the sustainable management of its natural resources are inextricably linked. Yet a number of challenges threaten the future of the communities that depend on these habitats, as well as the region's unique biodiversity. These challenges include:

- Over exploitation/depletion/poaching
- Unsustainable changes in land tenure systems
- Inadequate policies and regional planning
- Inadequate capacity
- Inadequate information/coordination
- Insufficient livelihood opportunities
- Inadequate policies and regional planning

The IGAD Biodiversity Management Programme in the Horn of Africa (BMP) is a four-year programme financed by the European Union's 10th European Development Fund. It supports IGAD in its efforts to protect the diverse wildlife, habitats and flora in the Horn of Africa. By building the capacity of local people to manage their natural resources sustainably, the BMP aims to reduce poverty in some of the most marginalised places in the IGAD region. The Programme also works to promote better cooperation between the environmental sectors of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda. By supporting the coordination of biodiversity policies in these countries, as well as working with partners at key cross-border sites, the IGAD BMP aims to empower local communities to manage some of their most valuable assets.

The Biodiversity Management Programme has three expected result areas:

1. Conservation of cross-border land and seascapes strengthened and institutional capacities for management improved
2. Policies for sustainable ecosystem management and biodiversity conservation at both the national and regional level improved
3. Information generation, experience exchange and capitalisation.

The BMP supports three implementing partners at three transboundary landscape (TBLS) demonstration sites, operated by different Implementation Partners (IPs):

1. **Boma / Gambella Transboundary Landscape** on the South Sudanese - Ethiopian border, managed by the Horn of Africa Regional Environment Centre & Network (HoARECN) and African Parks;
2. **Lac Abbé / Lower Awash Transboundary Landscape and Gulf of Tadjourah Seascape** on the Djibouti - Ethiopian border and the Gulf of Tadjoura Seascape, managed by The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN);
3. **Tana Kipini Lag Badana Bush Bushle Transboundary Landscape and Seascape** on the Kenyan - Somali border managed by the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF).

CMP-Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation

The *Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation* (or *Open Standards*) are a set of adaptive management standards that are reflected in the work of all of the large conservation organizations around the globe. These principles to designing, managing, monitoring and learning from conservation projects are fundamental to effective conservation.

Created by the Conservation Measures Partnership (CMP), an international partnership of many of the world's leading conservation organisations (African Wildlife Foundation, WWF, The Nature Conservancy, Conservation International, International

Fund for Animal Welfare, and many more), the *Open Standards* are putting in place the building blocks to improve the practice of conservation. Its goal is to enable conservation organisations to tackle projects efficiently and achieve effective impacts. The supporting software *Miradi* guides practitioners through the process and captures information to support project planning and implementation, as well as reporting on the results being achieved. The *Open Standards* are complementary to the *Logical Framework* approach (or *Logframe*) and its process and tools are now widely used by conservation organizations around the world. The *Open Standards* approach can be applied at project level, for the management of single protected areas or species action plans, or they can be applied at program level, for the management of multiple projects. Conservation plans designed using the *Open Standards* support the inclusion of biodiversity value chains (or ecosystem services).

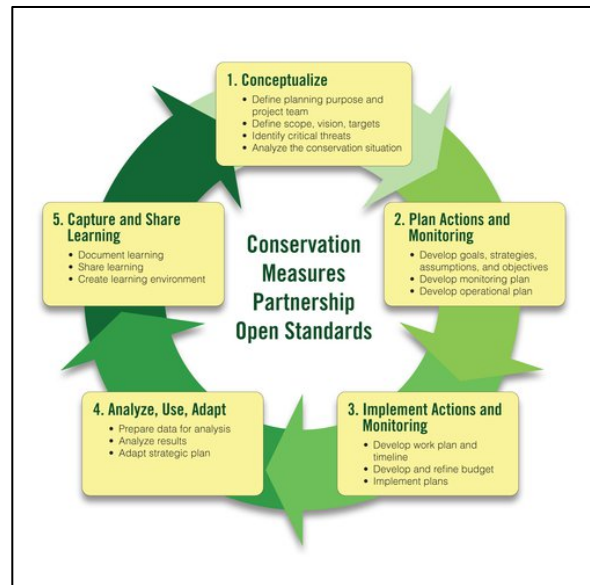


Figure 2: Open Standards adaptive management cycle

Training results and evaluation

During the five-day training, participants from Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and South-Sudan were trained in the *Open Standards* approach through applying them on the two demo site projects, the Lac Abbé / Lower Awash Transboundary Landscape (Djibouti and Ethiopia), and the Boma Gambella Transboundary Landscape (Ethiopia and South-Sudan). By doing so, a draft situation analysis for the demo site projects was conducted, including the identification of conservation targets, threats and contributing factors to threats. Discussions on current viability of ecological features as well as a threat analysis lead to more insights on some of the pressing issues in the respective landscapes. The relationship between conservation efforts and human wellbeing of the communities in the regions was highlighted

by defining multiple biodiversity value chains. By brainstorming on possible solutions, participants designed results chains that lead to an enhanced understanding and draft strategies to mitigate the identified challenges. Exchanges with experts from other countries or projects allowed very positive dynamics in the application of the *Open Standards* approach.



Figure 3: Participants presenting session results in peer review

All participants followed the training with great interest and enthusiasm and perceived the joint work on shared issues as a great opportunity for their respective work areas, either at national coordination level, field operation planning and implementation or monitoring and evaluation. The identification of targets allows for a close tuning of the approach to specific approaches (Global conservation policy and programmes coordination, management of a protected area, large-scale species conservation, etc.).

The evaluation of this five-day training demonstrates that all participants identified opportunities in applying the gained knowledge, skills and resources in their respective organizations and projects. The benefits of sharing the same planning and management approach amongst all parties in a transboundary partnership was recognized by all participants and perceived as highly valuable.

Participants concluded that this approach can be applied on various levels: as a tool to facilitate stakeholder discussions, in the field collecting data on conservation targets, identifying and ranking threats to conservation targets, designing potential strategies including 'theories of change', and designing monitoring and work plans to implement these strategies. A few of the many results are presented hereafter (please note, that this short training was focused on *Open Standards* capacity building and did not aim directly at producing finalized outputs directly suitable for implementation). Some examples of the preliminary outputs are presented in annex 2 (transferred in the Miradi software).

A list of all participants, trainers and coaches as well as the agenda of the workshop can be found in annexes 1 and 3.

A series of links to websites and resources related to the *Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation* are added to annex 4 for further use and information.



Figure 4: Participants presenting session results in peer review

Quotes from participants

"This training helped to build very important capacity and skills for me and my future work"

"This training has given me the opportunity to learn about the conservation challenges of our neighbouring and partnering countries"

"Thank you all for this eye-opening training. I hope we will make use of your support in the future"

"I hope we will receive an additional Open Standards training for our whole team in the Gambella landscape"



Figure 5: Drafting solutions for the Transboundary Landscape

"I will lobby for future Open Standards trainings in my country in order to build up capacity and help tackle the many conservation challenges we face."

Annex 1 – Participants and trainers

Participants:

- Abdallah Loita Houmed, Cadre, Point focal Project HANLE, MHUE, Djibouti
- Houssein Rayaleh, Lac Abhe Lower Awash Transboundary Land and Seascape Project manager, IUCN, Djibouti
- Abiy Getahun Atnafu, Community Services Officer, Ethiopia Wildlife Conservation Authority, Ethiopia
- Degu Tadie, HoAREC, Boma Gambella Transboundary Landscape Project manager, Ethiopia
- Fedlu Abdella Shafi, Coordinator for South-East Nation Parks, EWCA, Ethiopia
- Gatluak Gatkoth Rolkier, Director Gambella National Parks, Ethiopia Wildlife Conservation Authority, Ethiopia
- Kumara Wakjira Gameda, Director of National Parks, Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Ethiopia
- Okoth Odol Oman, Community Manager, African Parks, Ethiopia
- Denis Milewa, GIS Analyst, National Museums of Kenya, Kenya
- Malik Doka, Director of Training, Coordinator of Programs, Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism, South Sudan
- Edema Maurice Madra, Environmental Monitoring Officer, National Environment Management Authority, Uganda
- Samuel Amany, Senior Research and Monitoring Warden, Uganda Wildlife Authority, Uganda

Trainers and coaches:

- Felix Cybulla, Lead Trainer, CCNet, Germany
- Jens Odinga, Assistant Coach, CCNet, The Netherlands
- Serge Darroze, IGAD-BMP Technical Assistance Team Leader, Djibouti

Annex 2 – Exemplary results from the training

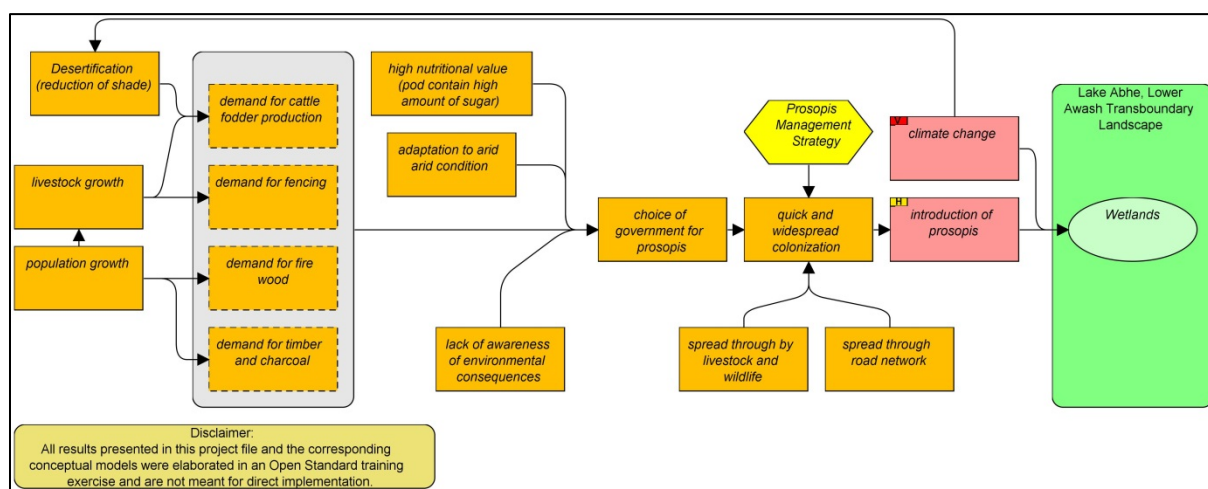


Figure 6: Situation analysis concerning the threat of the invasive species *Prosopis juliflora*

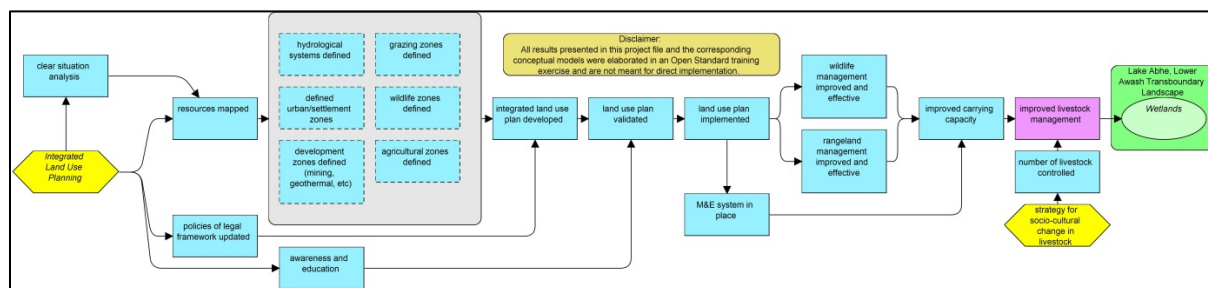


Figure 7: Results Chain of the strategy "Integrated Land Use Planning"

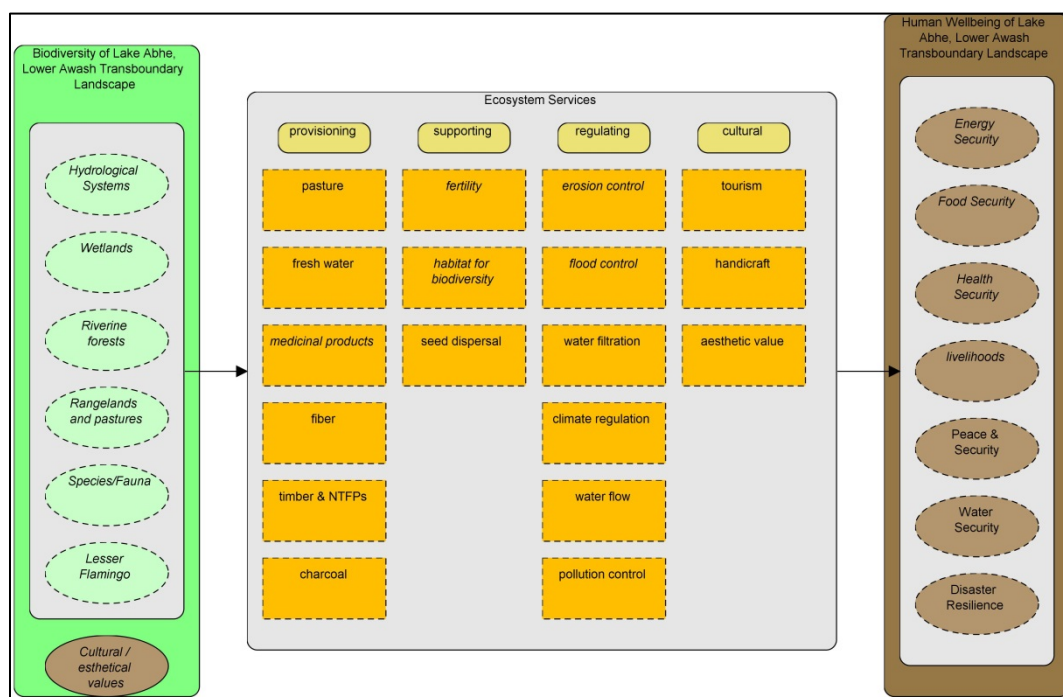


Figure 8: Simplified Biodiversity Value Chain for the Lake Abhe Transboundary Landscape

Annex 3 – Agenda of the five-day training workshop in the Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation

Day 1 – Wednesday, 16 March 2016	
0830-1000	Opening of workshop (Welcome, Introduction, IGAD BMP, Open Standards)
1000-1030	Break (coffee and tea)
1030-1200	Presentation of transboundary demo site projects, involved parties and partners
1200-1330	Lunch
1330-1500	Scope & Vision
1500-1520	Break (coffee and tea)
1520-1700	Targets & Priority areas
1700-1730	Plus/Delta (Feedback)
Day 2 – Thursday, 17 March 2016	
0800-0830	Recap & Agenda of the day + Introduction to Viability, Ecosystem Services, Human Wellbeing Targets, Threats and Threat Ranking
0830-1000	Viability Architecture / Analysis & draft Goals
1000-1030	Break (coffee and tea)
1030-1200	Ecosystem Services & Human Wellbeing Targets (Biodiversity Value Chains)
1200-1330	Lunch
1330-1500	Threats & Threat Ranking
1500-1520	Break (coffee and tea)
1520-1620	Threats & Threat Ranking (continued)
1620-1730	Peer reviews
Day 3 – Friday, 18 March 2016	
0800-0830	Recap & Agenda of the day + Introduction to Conceptual Models
0830-1100	Conceptual Modelling (Situation Analysis)
1000-1020	Break (coffee and tea)
1020-1100	Conceptual Modelling (Situation Analysis) (continued)

1100-1230	Stakeholder analysis
1230-1400	Lunch
1400-1545	Strategy identification
1545-1615	Break (coffee and tea)
1615-1730	Draft TORs for priority research and governance agenda
1730-1815	Peer reviews
Day 4 – Saturday, 19 March 2016	
0800-0830	Recap & Agenda of the day + introduction to Result Chains
0830-1000	Strategy 1: Results Chain + Objectives + Indicators + Activities
1000-1020	Break (coffee and tea)
1020-1100	Continued: Results Chain for Strategy 1
1100-1200	Strategy 2: Results Chain + Objectives
1200-1330	Lunch
1330-1500	Strategy 2: Indicators + Activities
1500-1520	Break (coffee and tea)
1520-1645	Strategy 3: Results Chain + Objectives
1645-1730	Peer reviews
Day 5 – Sunday, 20 March 2016	
0800-0830	Recap & Agenda of the day
0830-1000	Strategy 3: Indicators + Activities
1000-1020	Break (coffee and tea)
1020-1200	Dealing with Climate Change in the OS framework
1200-1300	Lunch
1300 -1430	Stakeholders and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) – empowering others for Conservation
1430-1630	Closing the Cycle

Annex 4 – Websites and resources

Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation – <http://cmp-openstandards.org/>

“The Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation 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.”

Conservation Coaches Network (CCNet) – <http://www.ccnetglobal.com/>

“The Conservation Coaches Network aims to improve conservation by empowering people to develop, implement, evaluate, adapt and share effective strategies that achieve tangible conservation results benefitting both people and nature all over the world.”

Conservation Coaches Network Africa (CCNet Africa) – <https://sites.google.com/site/ccnetafrika/>

“African Franchise of CCNet.”

Teaching Adaptive Management – <http://www.ccnetglobal.com/franchises/teaching-adaptive-management-network/>

“The TAM network serves faculty, staff, students, and coaches who are involved or interested in adaptive management courses at universities or other academic institutions. Through TAM, members share tried-and-tested resources, experiences, and insights for bringing the Open Standards to the classroom and integrating adaptive management training into applied conservation curricula.”

Conservation Measures Partnership (CMP) – <http://www.conservationmeasures.org/>

“The Conservation Measures Partnership (CMP) is a partnership of conservation organizations that seek better ways to design, manage, and measure the impacts of their conservation actions. CMP members work together on issues related to impact assessment and accountability because collectively we have a greater chance of designing and implementing effective monitoring and evaluation systems and ultimately, enhancing program and project design and implementation. CMP strives to promote innovation in monitoring and evaluation of conservation efforts, serving as a catalyst within the conservation community.”

Miradi Software – <https://miradi.org/>

“Miradi - a Swahili word meaning "project" or "goal" - is a user-friendly program that allows nature conservation practitioners to design, manage, monitor, and learn from their projects to more effectively meet their conservation goals. The program guides users through a series of step-by-step interview wizards, based on the Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation.”

Miradi Share – <https://www.miradishare.org/>

“Miradi Share is a new cloud-based software system that enables conservation practitioners, managers, and funders to design, manage, monitor, and learn from collections of related projects that make up a program.”