



WILDTEAM®

Workshop report

**Introducing the Open
Standards for the Practice of
Conservation in World
Natural Heritage Sites**

12/2015

Acknowledgements

This workshop was carried out in collaboration with:



भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान
Wildlife Institute of India



This work would not have been possible without the support, dedication, and amazing hospitality of the Wildlife Institute of India team, lead by Director Vinod Mathur. In particular we would like to thank the tireless efforts of the WII staff Dr. Malvika Onial and Dr. Sonali Ghosh. The full list of staff that helped to conduct the workshop is documented in Table 1. We would also like to give a huge thanks to all the workshop participants, whose enthusiasm, friendliness, and hard work ensured a fun and productive experience. This report was compiled by WildTeam's Adam Barlow and Stuart McBride, with the assistance of the Wildlife of India's Dr. Malvika Onial.

Suggested citation

WildTeam. 2015. Introducing the Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation in World Natural Heritage Sites. WildTeam report. UK.

Photo credits

Front cover: Forest Guard in Rajaji National Park, WildTeam

Page 1: Workshop participants, Wildlife Institute of India.

Page 4: Participants creating conceptual models, WildTeam.

Page 5: Workshop in progress, WildTeam.

Page 6. Workshop participants in Rajaji National Park.



Workshop participants

Executive summary

The Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation (OS) has been developed as best practice for adaptively managing conservation projects of any size. This report documents the outputs of a workshop, carried out at the Wildlife Institute of India, to raise awareness of the OS and build demand for the OS by World Heritage Natural Site managers. To assist achieving similar objectives in the future, WildTeam also had the additional sub-objective to improve WildTeam staffs' ability to provide OS support to partners.

The 4 day Open Standards workshop was carried out between the 1st and 4th of December, and used the OS framework to help create an illustrative conservation plan for the Rajaji National Park. Training was also provided to build participants' skills in MIRADI software. A follow up online survey was carried out to help assess the effectiveness of the workshop.

A total of 26 participants attended the full workshop from 5 different South Asian countries, including Bhutan, India, Nepal, Maldives, and Sri Lanka. A total of 20 responded to the online survey.

Online survey results suggested that 90% of respondents were previously either not aware of OS at all, or were aware of the OS but not familiar with its content. After the workshop, however, 100% of respondents agreed that (a) the OS represents best practice for adaptively managing conservation projects and programmes of any size, (b) they would like to apply the OS to the project that they are working on, and (c) would recommend using the OS to others. The overall value and demand for using the OS was also reflected in one of the respondent's quotes "It gave a platform to understand the logic of applying measurable project outputs for achieving long term objectives."

In terms of OS support services, 90% of respondents wanted to receive coach support for their project, and over 80% would like to take part in classroom-based or online courses.

All respondents said that they would recommend the workshop to others, with the overall positive participant experience reflected in one of the respondent's quotes "As it was a new concept for many of the participants we understood very much of all the concepts."

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1 Introduction

The Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation (OS) has been developed by the Conservation Measures Partnership as best practice for adaptively managing conservation projects of any size. Applying the OS is thought to increase an organisation's chances of achieving measurable conservation impact by improving organisational capacity to plan, design, implement, monitor, assess, and communicate their conservation projects. The Conservation Coaches Network (CCNet) has been set up to spread the use of the Open Standards across the globe, with WildTeam coordinators for CCNet work in South Asia.

This report documents the outputs of a World Heritage Natural Site managers workshop carried out at the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), with the objectives to:

- **Raise awareness of the OS**
- **Build demand for the OS**

To assist achieving similar objectives in the future, WildTeam also has the additional sub-objective to:

- **Improve WildTeam staffs' ability to provide OS support to partners**



Workshop participants in Rajaji National Park



Workshop in progress

2 Methods

2.1 Activities

A 4 day Open Standards workshop was carried out on the 1st to the 4th of December, 2015, at the WII offices in Dehra Dun, India.



Day 1 of the workshop was comprised of a series of presentations by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization Category 2 Centre (UNESCO C2C) staff on UNESCO processes, and the World Natural Heritage site managers, who gave an overview of the challenges they are facing at their respective sites.

Day 2 of the workshop was used to visit Rajaji National Park and local Gujar communities, to gather information on biodiversity features, threats, and drivers of threats (for use in Day 3 and 4 of the workshop). The trip to Rajaji National Park included a talk on the park's biodiversity by WII scientist Dr. Suresh Kumar, and a talk on the management issues facing the park by Conservator of Forests Mr. S.S. Rasaily.

On day 3, an introductory presentation provided an overview of the OS as best conservation practice highlighted the benefits of the OS, and provided information on OS resources such as websites and supporting organisations. For the rest of day 3 and 4 of the workshop, version 3.0 of the OS (CMP 2013) was used as an approach to help create an illustrative conservation plan for the Rajaji National Park (Box 1).

Box 1: Rajaji National Park

Rajaji National Park is 820 km² and is noted for its important populations of tiger, elephant, mahseer, and Yellow-headed Tortoise.

The specific OS components covered in the

workshop were defining scope and targets, assessing threats, creating a conceptual diagram of contributing factors, developing a results chain, and creating a monitoring plan (CMP 2013). We also incorporated a behaviour change approach to support the conceptual diagram and results chain components. Workshop sessions were made up of an initial presentation on theory, followed by group work. The workshop also included a practical introduction to use of MIRADI software.

2.2 Assessing the effectiveness of activities

The effectiveness of the workshop to raise awareness of the OS, and build demand for the OS, was assessed through a follow up online survey. We also used the online survey to assess WildTeam staffs' ability to provide OS support to partners. The mapping of online survey questions used to assess each objective is detailed in Table 2.

3 Results

A total of 26 participants attended the full workshop from 5 different countries, including Bhutan, India, Nepal, Maldives, and Sri Lanka (Table 3). A total of 20 participants responded to the online survey.

3.1 Raising awareness of the OS

Results of the online survey suggested that 90% of respondents were previously either not aware of OS at all, or were aware of the OS but not familiar with its content. Only 10% were previously aware of the OS and familiar with its contents (Fig. 1).

Box 2: What did respondents most like about the OS?

"Ease of planning, monitoring and creating reports."

"It gave a platform to understand the logic of applying measurable project outputs for achieving long term objectives"

As a result of the workshop, 100% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that "I am now more aware of the OS existence" (Fig. 2), 100% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that "I am now more aware of the OS benefits" (Fig. 3), and 100% of

respondents agreed or strongly agreed that "I am now more aware of the OS resources" (Fig. 4).

Also as a result of the workshop, 100% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that "The OS represents best practice for adaptively managing conservation projects and programmes of any size" (Fig. 5) and that "Using the OS will increase the chances of a project/ programme achieving measurable conservation impact" (Fig. 6).

Box 3: What did respondents think could be improved about the OS?

"Different case studies for better understanding"

"Area description through Map or GIS platform"

Qualitative responses with respect to what was most liked about the OS are detailed in Table 4 and highlighted in Box 2. Qualitative responses with respect to what could be improved about the OS are detailed in Table 5 and highlighted in Box 3.

3.2 Building demand for applying the OS

In terms of OS application, 85% had previously never applied the OS, 5% had applied the OS in theory, 5% had applied the OS as part of a team to help manage a project, and 5% had taught the OS theory to others (Fig. 7).

After the workshop, 100% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed to the statement “I would like to apply the OS to the project/programme I am working on” (Fig. 8), and 100% of respondents would recommend using the OS to others (Fig. 9).

Of the proposed OS support services, 90% of respondents would like to receive coach support to help their project team through the OS process (Fig. 10), 85% would like to take part in classroom-based OS courses (Fig. 11), and 90% would like to take part in OS online courses (Fig. 12). In addition, 65% of respondents would like to be trained as a CCNet coach (Fig. 13). Participant suggestions on other types of OS support that they would like to receive are documented in Table 6.

3.3 Improving WildTeam staffs’ ability to provide OS support to partners

Box 4: What did respondents think could be improved about the workshop?

“More time may be allotted for the more important sections”

“ Participants could bring their own site examples and incorporate in Miradi ”

Overall, 100% of respondents would recommend the workshop to others (Fig. 14). Qualitative information on what respondents thought could be improved about the workshop, and any additional comments are detailed in Table 7 and 8 respectively, and highlighted in Box 4.

Qualitative information on what respondents thought the workshop coaches did well at, and what was most liked about the workshop are detailed in Table 9 and 10 respectively.

Qualitative information on what respondents thought the workshop coaches could do better at is listed in Table 11.

4 Discussion

The results suggest that the workshop was able to meet the objectives of helping to build awareness and demand for the OS. Likewise the results suggest that the participants thought that the WildTeam staff are capable of providing OS support to partners.

4.1 Raising awareness of the OS

In support of findings from the previous OS workshop carried out at the WII, of note was the low initial awareness of the OS which, although based on a very small sample size, may be indicative of the South Asia region.

4.2 Building demand for applying the OS

All respondents would recommend using the OS to others and there was a strong demand for all of the proposed OS support services. WII are now considering additional ways to work with WildTeam in the future, to build OS training capacity and project use of OS in South Asia.

4.3 Improving WildTeam staffs' ability to provide OS support to partners

The overall indicator of success in relation to WildTeam staffs' ability to provide OS support was that 100% of respondents would recommend the workshop to others. Likewise the feedback about the workshop, and WildTeam coaches was very positive e.g. "It gave a platform to understand the logic of applying measurable project outputs for achieving long term objectives". Many respondents suggested that more time was needed to better cover the different OS components.

5 Tables

Table 1. List of staff conducting the workshop.

Name	Title	Org	Country
Chief guest/guest of honour			
Dr. Anmol Kumar	Director General	Forest Survey of India (Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change),	India
Dr Rajendra Dobhal	Director General	Uttarakhand Council for Science and Technology (UCOST)	India
Open standards workshop facilitators/coaches			
Dr. Adam Barlow	Director	WildTeam	UK
Mr. Stuart McBride	Consultant	WildTeam	UK
WII resource persons			
Dr. V.B. Mathur	Director, WII	Wildlife Institute of India	India
Dr. Sonali Ghosh, IFS	Scientist-F	UNESCO C2C, Wildlife Institute of India	India
Mr. Manoj Nair, IFS	Scientist-F	UNESCO C2C, Wildlife Institute of India	India
Dr. Malvika Onial	Scientist-E	UNESCO C2C, Wildlife Institute of India	India
Dr. Gopi G.V.	Scientist-D	Wildlife Institute of India	India
Mr. Niraj Kakati	Technical Officer	UNESCO C2C, Wildlife Institute of India	India
Dr. Bhumesh Singh	Technical Officer	UNESCO C2C, Wildlife Institute of India	India
Mr. Anukul Nath	Assistant Technical Officer	UNESCO C2C, Wildlife Institute of India	Nepal
Mr. Chitiz joshi	Assistant Technical Officer	UNESCO C2C, Wildlife Institute of India	Maldives
Mr. Dhruv Verma	World Heritage Assistant	UNESCO C2C, Wildlife Institute of India	Maldives
Ms. Jyoti Negi	World Heritage Assistant	UNESCO C2C, Wildlife Institute of India	Maldives
Ms. Rupa	World Heritage Assistant	UNESCO C2C, Wildlife Institute of India	Maldives
Ms. Persis Farooqy	World Heritage Assistant	UNESCO C2C, Wildlife Institute of India	Sri Lanka
Ms. Poonam Sati	Office Assistant	UNESCO C2C, Wildlife Institute of India	India
Mr. Vivek Sarkar	Project Biologist	UNESCO C2C, Wildlife Institute of India	India
Dr. R. Suresh Kumar	Scientist	Wildlife Institute of India	India

Note: UNESCO C2C = United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization Category 2 Centre.

Table 2. Online survey questions used to assess workshop objectives.

Assessment	Online survey question to assess objective	Answer type	Answer options
Awareness of the OS.	Which of the following options best describes your awareness?	Multiple choice	I was aware of the OS and familiar with its contents, I was aware of the OS but I was not familiar with its contents, I was not aware of the OS
	The OS represents best practice for adaptively managing conservation projects and programmes of any size	Multiple choice	Likert scale: Strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree, strongly disagree
	Using the OS will increase the chances of a project/programme achieving measurable conservation impact	Multiple choice	Likert scale: Strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree, strongly disagree
	What do you like most about the Open Standards?	Text	Open answer
	Is there anything you think could be improved about the Open Standards?	Text	Open answer
	I am now more aware of the OS existence	Multiple choice	Likert scale: Strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree, strongly disagree
	I am now more aware of the OS benefits	Multiple choice	Likert scale: Strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree, strongly disagree
	I am now more aware of the OS resources	Multiple choice	Likert scale: Strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree, strongly disagree
Demand for applying the OS.	Which of the following options best describes your application of the Open Standards before the workshop?	Multiple choice	I have never applied the OS before, I have practiced the theory of using the OS, I have applied the OS as part of a team to help manage a project, I have taught the OS theory to others, I have coached a team to apply the OS to their project
	I would like to apply the OS to the project/programme I am working on	Multiple choice	Yes, no, other
	Would you recommend using the Open Standards to others?	Multiple choice	Yes, no, other
Demand for OS support services.	Would you like to receive coach support to help your project/programme team through the Open Standards process?	Multiple choice	Yes, no, other
	Would you like to take part in classroom-based Open Standards courses?	Multiple choice	Yes, no, other
	Would you like to take part in Open Standards online	Multiple choice	Yes, no, other

Assessment	Online survey question to assess objective	Answer type	Answer options
	courses?		
	Would you like to be trained as a CCNet coach?	Multiple choice	Yes, no, other
	Is there any other type of Open Standards support that you would like to have?	Text	Open answer
WildTeam staff ability to deliver the OS support services.	What do you think your workshop coaches did well at?	Text	Open answer
	What do you think your workshop coaches could do better at?	Text	Open answer
	What were the things you most liked about the workshop?	Text	Open answer
	How do you think we could improve this workshop?	Text	Open answer
	Would you recommend this workshop to others?	Text	Open answer
	Please tell us anything else you want to add	Text	Open answer

Note: The Likert scale is a standardised approach to assess people's opinions (Likert 1932).

Table 3. List of and workshop participants.

Name	Title	Org	Country
Government staff			
Mr. Karma Tempa	Chief Forest Officer	Dept of Forest & Park Services	Bhutan
Dr. B. S. Rana	Conservator of Forests	India Forest Department	India
Ms. Sonam Norden Bhutia	Assistant Conservator of Forest	India Forest Department	India
Ms. Reney R. Pillai	Senior Wildlife Assistant	India Forest Department - Kerala	India
Mr. A.M Anjankar	Deputy .Conservator of Forest, Satara Forest Division	India Forest Department - Maharashtra State, India	India
Mr. Bijo Joy	director, Keoladeo National Park	India Forest Department - Rajasthan	India
Mr. A. Venkatesh	Chief Conservator of Forests and Field Director	India Forest Department - Tamil Nadu	India
Mr . SS Rasaily	Conservator of Forests/Director NDBR	India Forest Department - Uttarakhand	India
Dr. Sonali Ghosh	UNESCO C2C staff	Wildlife Institute of India,	India
Mr. Vivek Sarkar	UNESCO C2C staff	Wildlife Institute of India	India
Dr. Gopi G V	Scientist	Wildlife Institute of India	India
Mr. Niraj Kakati	Technical Officer	UNESCO C2C, Wildlife Institute of India	India
Mr. Laxman Poudyal	Park Warden	Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation - Sagarmatha National Park	Nepal
Ms. Aishath Ajfaan Jawad	Ranger	Ministry of Environment and Energy of Maldives	Maldives
Ms. Aminath Afau	Protected Area Manager	Ministry of Environment and Energy of Maldives	Maldives
Mr. Ahmed Fawwaaz Nazeer	Conservation officer	Ministry of Environment and Energy of Maldives	Maldives
Ms. Hawwa Rasheed	Conservation Officer	Ministry of Environment and Energy of Maldives	Maldives
Mr. G. C. L. Perera	Park Warden	Department of Wildlife Conservation	Sri Lanka
NGO staff			
Dr. Archana Godbole	Director	Applied Environmental Research Foundation	India
Mr. Arunava Gupta	Project Coordinator	Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE)	India
Mr. Gopal Krishan	Director	Bio diversity Tourism And Community Advancement	India
Ms. Tshering Uden Bhutia	CEO	Khangchendzonga conservation Committee (KCC) Sikkim	India
Mr. Shiju Chacko	Regional Planner	Periyar Tiger Conservation Foundation, Thekkady, Kerala	India

Name	Title	Org	Country
Mr. Ratul Saha	Landscape Coordinator-Sundarbans	WWF-India	India
Mr. Gopal Krishan	Director	Bio-Diversity, Tourism and Community Advancement (BTCA)	India
Mr. Aditya Sood	Staff	Bio-Diversity, Tourism and Community Advancement (BTCA)	India

Table 4. Participant responses to “What do you most like about the OS?”.

Ref	Response
1	All
2	Connectivity of targets and contributing factors
3	Ease of planning, monitoring and creating reports
4	Easy to apply
5	Easy to apply
6	Group activity
7	Group practice for formulating the project
8	It gave a platform to understand the logic of applying measurable project outputs for achieving long term objectives
9	It is simple and allows you to make strategic planning
10	Its easier to work with and very specific
11	Narrowing down the issues, challenges and barriers and unforeseen challenges of the projects and working in a systematic way to solve them
12	OS workshop is very helpful for measuring the field programme
13	Project planning
14	Quantitative approach
15	Simple and measurable
16	Simplicity
17	Standardised methods
18	the easiness and effectiveness
19	The step by step approach the diagrammatic conceptual model
20	Well designed application. Easy application once you know.

Table 5. Participant responses to “Is there anything you think could be improved about the OS?”

Ref	Response
1	Adding a map of the area
2	Area description through map or GIS platform
3	Conservation is complicated and multifaceted process rather than simple targets and scope simplified. It will be a good idea to bring it in
4	Deal with actual issues and problems
5	Definitely
6	Different case studies for better understanding
7	If I have a manual with my hand then I would improve the project
8	Link with Google Earth
9	Make it more user friendly
10	Nothing much
11	Nothing that I can think of. It is pretty good, as it is
12	Successful case studies should be highlighted at the start of the session so that confidence about OS is there with all participants

Table 6. Participant responses to “Is there any other type of OS support that you would like to have?”

No.	Responses
1	Documents and some case studies
2	Keep me updating the standards developed from time to time
3	No
4	Nothing
5	Please put me in your emailing list and keep me updated
6	Provide scope for comparative analysis
7	Yes

Table 7. Participant responses to “How do you think we could improve this workshop?”

Ref	Response
1	Could have had more timely sessions
2	Extend duration of workshop
3	Make it for a longer time. Three days seems like too short for this kind of workshop
4	More time
5	More time may be allotted for the more important sections
6	More time should be dedicated followed by practical sessions.
7	Participants could bring their own site examples and incorporate in Miradi
8	Regular seminar/ workshops
9	Should be for a week with more exercises
10	Should take realistic issues and problems and work on it
11	Time for group tasks can be increased a bit
12	Time span is short

Table 8. Participant responses to “Please tell us anything else you want to add”.

No.	Responses
1	All staff of Forest Department Himachal Pradesh
2	Case studies, site specific for better understanding more such workshops
3	It should be done in the welfare of the communities based project preparation
4	It was great meeting new people and learning new concepts
5	Many things which seemed vague earlier is now more clear, this will positively impact my ongoing project
6	Present more case studies planned and implemented with open standards
7	Very good workshop and I learnt a lot via it

Table 9. Participant responses to “What do you think your workshop coaches did well at?”

Ref	Response
1	All the R.P. has done their Presentations.
2	all the topic
3	As it was a new concept for many of the participants we understood very much of all the concepts
4	Enabled peer review of all groups
5	Everything
6	Excellent
7	Hands on training
8	Interactive discussion
9	Interactive sessions
10	It was very lively and we enjoyed the tasks during the workshop
11	Mr Adam made it very well
12	Pretty much on everything!
13	They were interactive and described the principles of OS on learning by doing methods
14	Very Well
15	Yes
16	Yes but in very short time

Table 10. Participant responses to “What were the things you most liked about the workshop?”

Ref	Response
1	Easy to understand
2	Group activity
3	Group exercise
4	Group tasks, food, accommodation, presentation materials
5	Interactions of the participants
6	Interactions, exercise, peer reviewing and obviously the software that I got to learn
7	Interesting and interactive
8	It was a gathering of people from many countries and yet we helped each other very well
9	Learning by doing
10	Miradi
11	New idea
12	Participatory approach
13	Software MIRADI is very useful. Interaction with the Instructor is very helpful
14	The interactions

Table 11. Participant responses to “What do you think your workshop coaches could do better at?”

Ref	Response
1	Devote more time for the session
2	Full time training
3	Give more time for each sessions
4	Give more time for the tasks
5	More exercise and more time
6	More time could be provided for the software part
7	More time for the sessions
8	Mr Adam
9	Nothing
10	Should give more practicing period

6 Figures

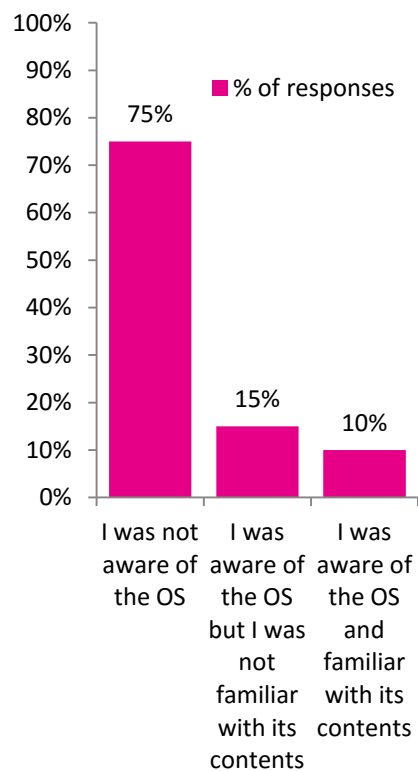


Figure 1. Participants’ response to “Which of the following options best describes your awareness about the OS before the workshop?”

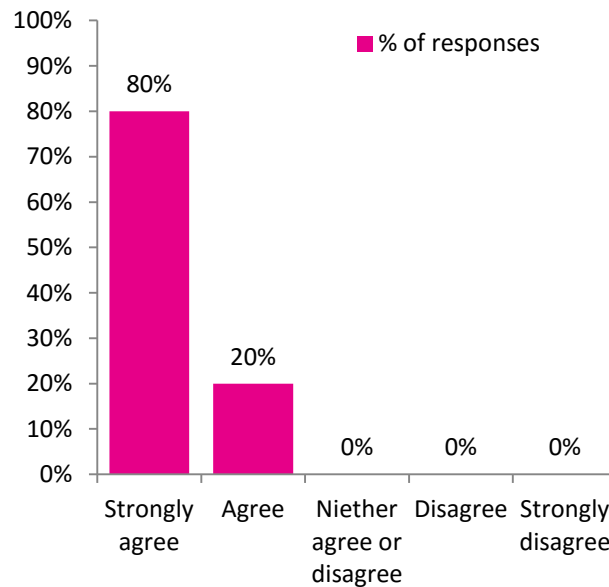


Figure 2. Participant level of agreement with the statement “I am now more aware of the OS existence”.

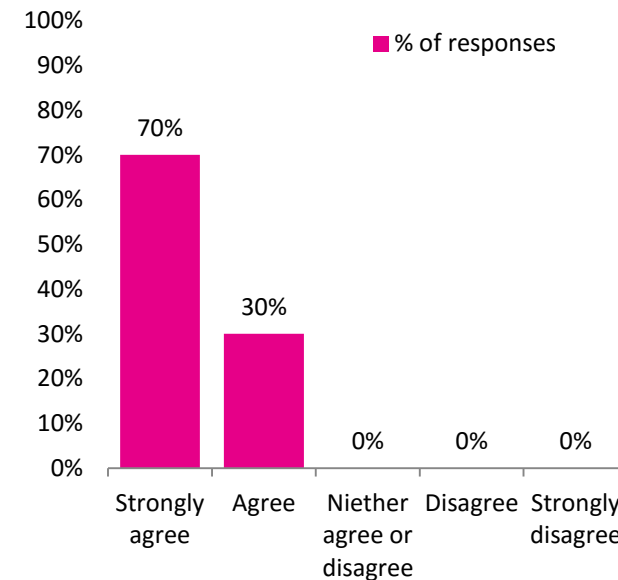


Figure 3. Participant level of agreement with the statement “I am now more aware of the OS benefits”.

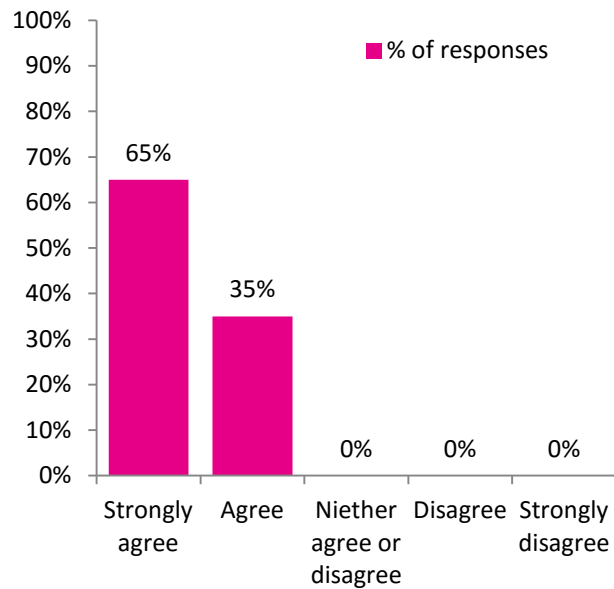


Figure 4. Participant level of agreement with the statement “I am now more aware of the OS resources”.

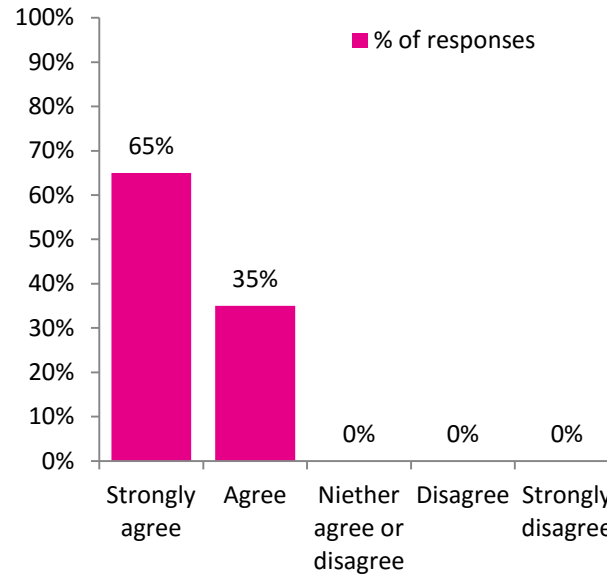


Figure 5. Participant level of agreement with the statement “The OS represents best practice for adaptively managing conservation projects of any size”.

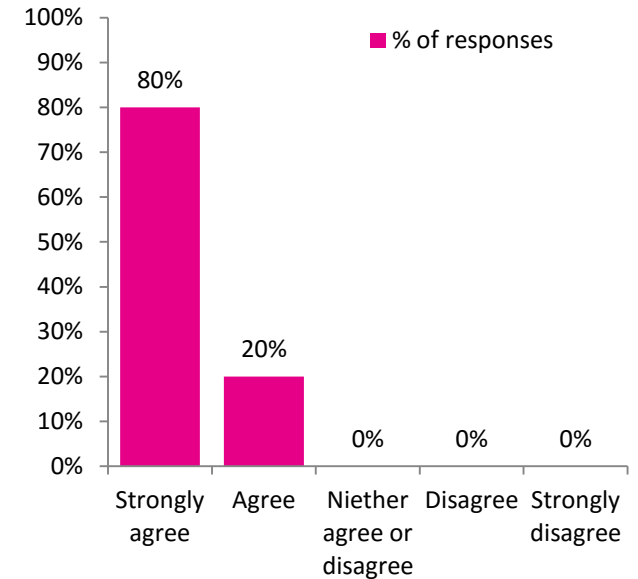


Figure 6. Participant level of agreement with the statement “Using the OS will increase the chances of a project achieving measurable conservation impact”.

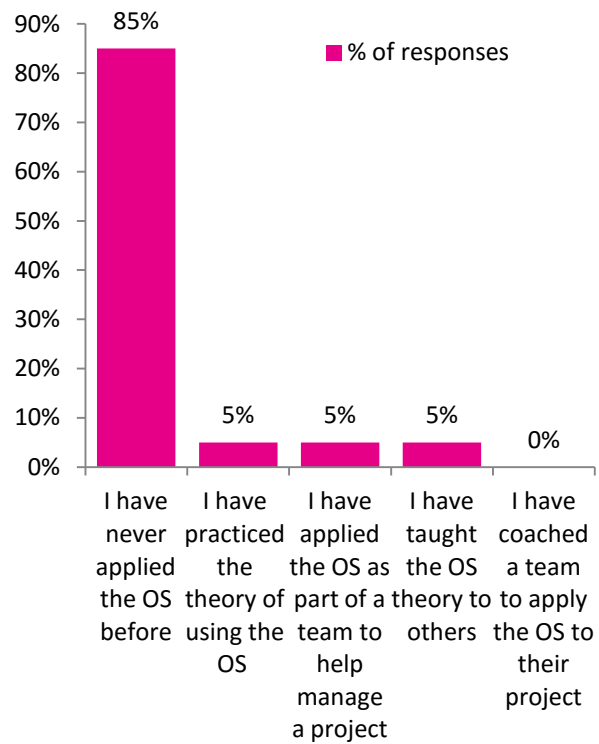


Figure 7. Participants’ response to “Which of the following options best describes your application of the OS before the workshop?”

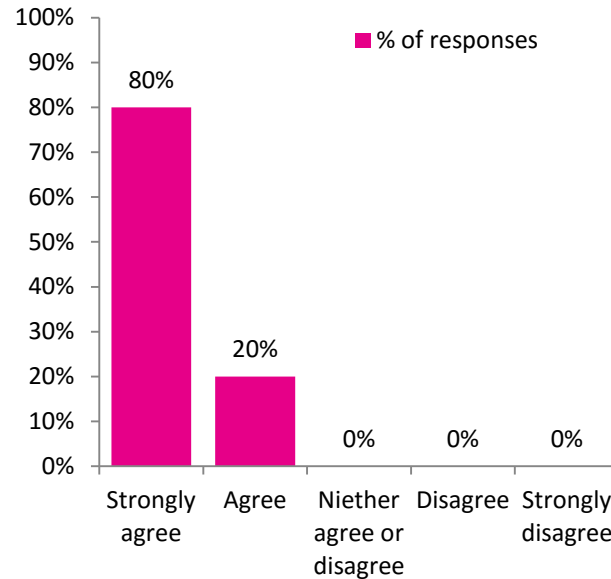


Figure 8. Participant level of agreement with the statement “I would like to apply the OS to the project I am working on”.

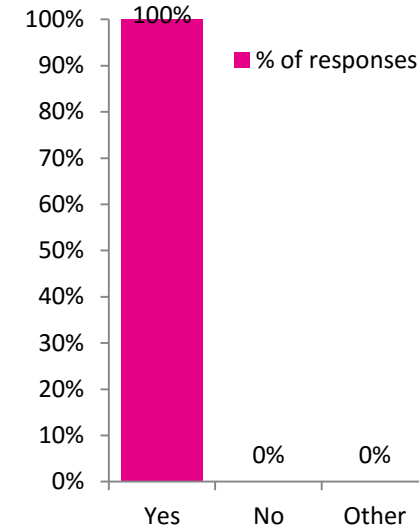


Figure 9. Participant response to “Would you recommend using the OS to others?”

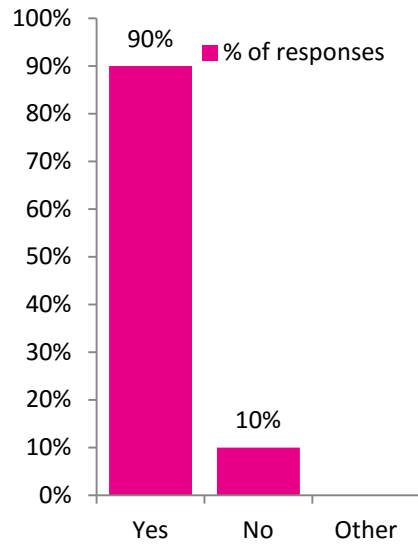


Figure 10. Participant response to “Would you like to receive coach support to help your project team through the OS process?”

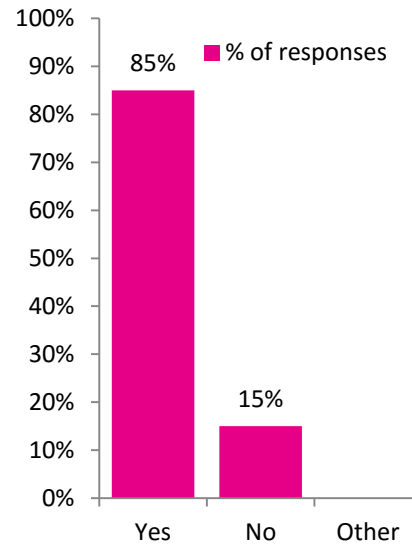


Figure 11. Participant response to “Would you like to take part in classroom-based OS courses?”

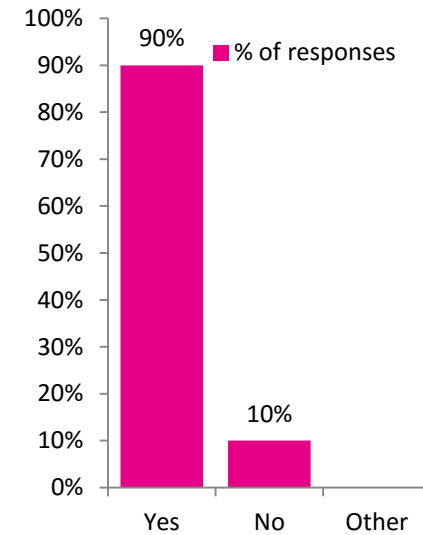


Figure 12. Participant response to “Would you like to take part in OS online courses?”

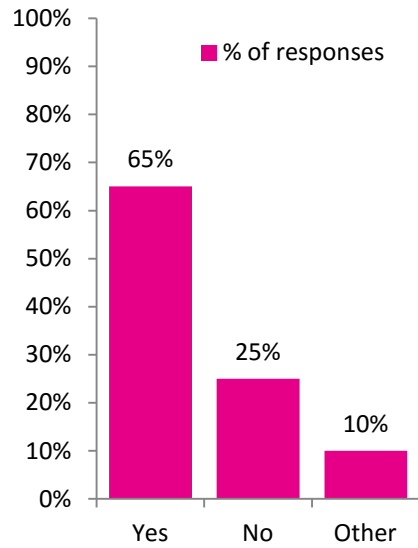


Figure 13. Participant response to “Would you like to be trained as a CCNet coach?”

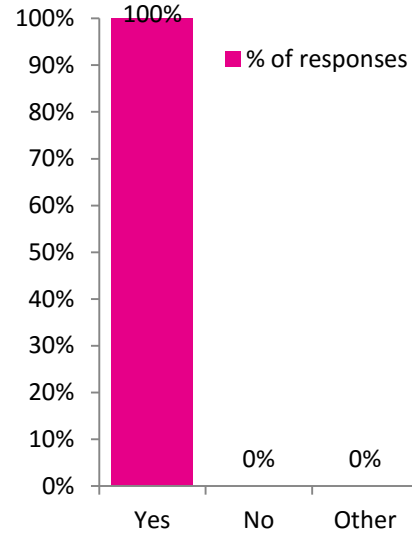


Figure 14. Participant response to “Would you recommend this workshop to others?”

7 References

CMP. 2013. The Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation v3.0.

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