

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.



Conservation Coaches Network

Strengthening conservation strategies and practice through coaching



Greetings everyone,

In this issue we invite you to read stories from the field, including jaguar conservation in Argentina, songbird conservation in the Netherlands, how a Healthy Country Plan is helping bring fire back into Indigenous cultures in North America, and how Mongolia, Colombia, and others are using the

Conservation Standards to manage protected areas. You can also explore written resources and webinar recordings on topics such as decision science, Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion approaches, conservation audits, climate change, and more.

In addition to these stories, please join us in celebrating our case study competition winners, including our first place winners--the Endangered Wildlife Trust and the International Crane Foundation. We are also delighted to announce our new websites for CCNet, CMP and the Conservation Standards and welcome new regional leaders in Europe and Australia to our network.

With the ongoing disruptions to health, economy, and travel as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, we most likely will not be able to meet in person for our Rally this year. Our coordination team is proposing to hold a series of virtual sessions in the middle of the year. We are excited about the opportunity to adapt ways to keep each other informed and to learn from one another across our network.

—*Michael Looker, Chair, CCNet Global*

Welcome to CCNet News March 2021

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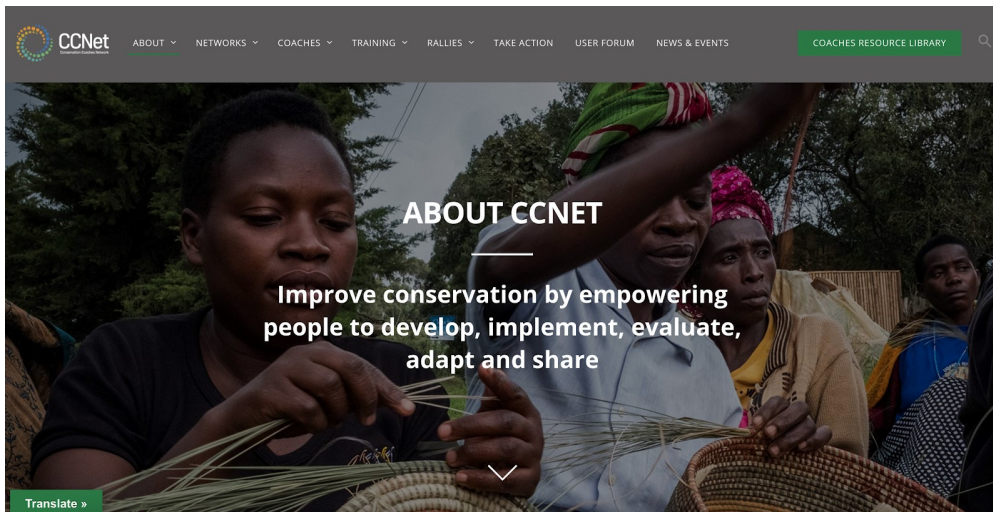
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New Websites Are Live!

We are excited to announce that--after 10 months of hard work--brand new websites for [CCNet](#), the [Conservation Measures Partnership \(CMP\)](#), and the [Conservation Standards](#) are finally live!

The new design illustrates that the three groups are interconnected and work together to solve conservation challenges around the world. A common landing page directs visitors to the individual sites, which all have a similar look and feel and all offer easy navigation to each of the other sites.

The redesign process began in March 2020, thanks to a team of members representing each of the three groups. We would like to extend our appreciation to our project team who made this all possible: Ashleigh Baker, Felix Cybulla, Cristina Lasch, John Morrison, Daniel Sprod, Caroline Stem, Sarah Weber and the designers at [Evermaven, Inc.](#) You can view a [recording](#) from the website launch event on the [Conservation Standards YouTube channel](#).



2020 Accomplishments

The year 2020 was marked by the global COVID-19 health emergency, which has been coupled with environmental and social emergencies in many places, and has caused disruptions and challenges for all. In spite of numerous challenges, CCNet coaches have kept busy, adapting, helping train others, and supporting conservation projects around the world. You can learn about

many of our accomplishments in the articles in this newsletter.

Working with our partners, some of our biggest accomplishments in 2020 include:

- A new [CCNet website](#)
- 15 new coaches trained
- Certification of 3 coaches from Australia, Bulgaria, and Uruguay
- Conservation Standards version 4.0 in English, Catalan, French, Mandarin, Portuguese, and Mongolian (Spanish is in progress)
- Our 3rd global Conservation Standards “Adaptive Management Case Study Competition”
- Practitioner guidance to support ecosystem-based adaptation, better incorporation of Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, and community-based conservation planning and management.
- Planning a virtual gathering for 2021 and our next in-person Rally for 2022

Coaches: We currently have 708 active coaches, representing over 250 institutions and helping projects in 69 countries on all continents. Slightly over half of our coaches work with non-profit organizations, followed by 18% in independent consultancies and close to 17% in government agencies. We also have smaller percentages of participants from academic institutions, community-based and indigenous organizations and networks, foundations, and land trusts.

Regional Networks and Communities of Practice: We currently have nine active regional networks and two thematic communities of practice. One of the communities of practice focuses on teaching adaptive management in collaboration with academic institutions, and the other one focuses on supporting practitioners and conservation coaches working on Conservation Standards projects on Indigenous Lands and Waters. In 2020, we strengthened leadership and re-organized in Africa, Australia, Europe, Latin America, North America, and Southeast Asia.

Read our full report [HERE](#).



2020 Case Study Competition Winners

Every two years, the [Conservation Measures Partnership](#) and [CCNet](#) run a global case study competition. The competition highlights experiences and lessons in developing, implementing, and adapting conservation projects across the globe. In November, we held a virtual ceremony to announce the winners of our 2020 competition.

Learn more about the winners:

- 1st Place: [Partnership Adoption of the Conservation Standards](#)

- 2nd Place: [Reducing Opportunities for Unlawful Transport of Endangered Species \(ROUTES\)](#)
- 3rd Place (TIE): [Think to Learn, Learn to Know, Know to Adapt, Adapt to Win,](#) and [Conservation and Adaptive Management Strategies for Chile's National System of Protected Areas \(SNASPE\)](#)
- Honorable Mention: [Demonstrating Integrated Conservation Planning and Implementation for Habitat Management and Wildlife Protection in Mount Mantalingahan Protected Landscape](#)



Photo Credit: TRAFFIC

2nd place:

Congratulations to TRAFFIC on their entry: **Reducing Opportunities for Unlawful Transport of Endangered Species (ROUTES)**. This case study called attention to the very important topic of wildlife trafficking in aviation supply chains.



Photo Credit: International Crane Foundation (ICF) and Endangered Wildlife Trust

1st place:

Congratulations to Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) and International Crane Foundation (ICF) on their entry: **Partnership Adoption of the Conservation Standards**. This case study expertly highlighted their use of the Conservation Standards and the judges felt that they demonstrated compelling lessons learned.



Photo Credit: CONAF

3rd place (tie):

Congratulations to the Chilean National Forest Corporation (CONAF) for two of their entries tied for third place! In their entry: **Think to learn, learn to know, know to adapt, adapt to win**, the team shared challenges and failures, as well as accomplishments around protecting the Chilean Wine Palm.

The other case study: **Conservation and Adaptive Management Strategies for Chile's National System of Protected Areas (SNASPE)**, showed a creative utilization of the Conservation Standards for implementation and adaptive management of strategies at a large scale.



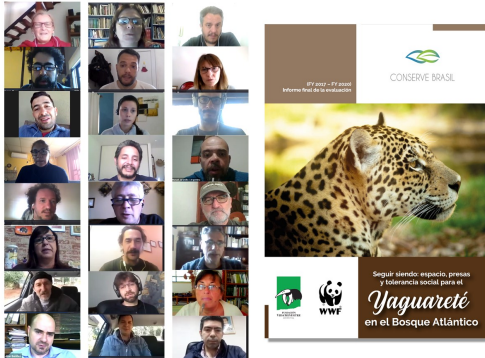
Virtual 2021 Rally!

About every two years, CCNet coaches and friends come together to connect, share innovations, sharpen our skills, uplift our spirits, and help each other do better conservation work all around the world.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the CCNet coordination team and board have decided to postpone our Rally (originally planned for 2020) until 2022, when we hope to meet in person in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. Keeping our community connected and fostering learning is key for us at CCNet, and we will be working with the Rally planning team and colleagues to prepare a series of virtual sessions this year.

Please stay tuned! We will share updates on our CCNet listserv and on our website. If you have ideas or wish to contribute to the virtual CCNet Rally, or if you have questions about your Rally registration, please contact [Cristina Lasch](#).

Coaches in Action



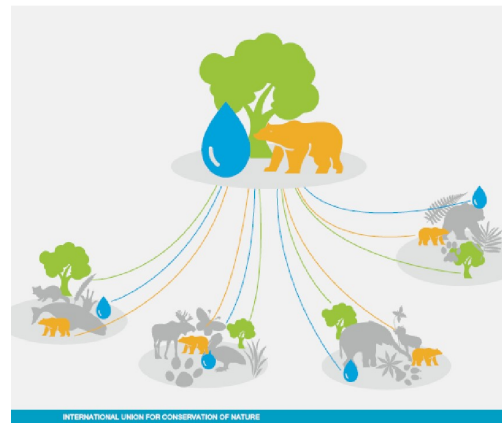
Supporting Jaguar Conservation in Argentina

Story from [Gustavo Gatti](#) (Director, Conserve Brazil and CCNet Latin America co-leader), [Veronica Cirelli](#) (Evaluation Manager, Fundación Vida Silvestre Argentina), and [Daniela Rode](#) (Project Coordinator, Fundación Vida Silvestre Argentina)

Jaguars in the Misiones province of Argentina are currently the southernmost population of the top predator, which thrived in a much broader area in the past. Jaguar conservation has been carried out in the region for more than a decade. These efforts are working. There has been a proven population increase in recent years. To improve the chances of continued success, the groups coordinating jaguar conservation are using the Conservation Standards to support a solid, long-term strategic plan. Over the past year, project managers Fundación Vida Silvestre Argentina and WWF-Switzerland completed another cycle in the Conservation Standards process. To carry out the Analyze and Adapt step, Gustavo Gatti (a conservation coach from Conserve Brasil) performed an external evaluation of the project's results. Dozens of people participated in the evaluation, providing their



Guidelines for planning and monitoring corporate biodiversity performance



IUCN's Guidelines for Corporate Biodiversity Planning

Story from [PJ Stephenson](#) (IUCN Species Monitoring Specialist Group and CCNET coach)

Many businesses that are striving for sustainability struggle to plan and monitor work that contributes to biodiversity conservation. Over the last three years, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has worked with companies from different sectors and taken lessons from conservation science and practice to develop a practical, stepwise approach for companies to develop a corporate strategic plan for biodiversity. The Conservation Standards were a key influence on the planning process proposed the guide. Although the four-stage cycle is not precisely aligned, CCNet coaches will recognise many elements, especially in the steps on conducting a situation analysis, setting

impressions and insights via virtual meetings and interviews. Project managers used the evaluation's findings and recommendations to adapt for the new phase. Findings are also being shared with the project's donor organization and local stakeholders--a nice example of a good practice. Jaguars surely applaud!



Mongolia Launches Protected Area Guidance

Story from [Munkhchuluun Basan](#) (WWF-Mongolia) and [Boldbaatar Turmunkh](#) (Ministry of Environment and Tourism of Mongolia)

Over the last ten years, 73 of Mongolia's 116 protected areas have developed management plans following the guidance of the Conservation Standards. In January 2021, an upgraded version of the methodology was officially approved by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism as the official planning guidance for all of Mongolia's protected areas. This methodology will help meet the needs of protected areas and conservation. The methodology has many advantages:

- Fully introduces all steps of the Conservation Standards
- Aligns with the government-approved Strategic Plan Development Methodology, an evidence-based tool that must be used by all state organizations
- Includes detailed recommendations and guidelines on integration of climate change, human wellbeing targets,

goals and indicators around conservation targets, developing a monitoring plan, and using results chains to define a theory of change.

The IUCN Guidelines for Planning and Monitoring Corporate Biodiversity Performance will be published and launched in March 2021. Keep an eye on the [website](#) for more information, or follow the IUCN Species Monitoring Specialist Group on Twitter [@Monior_Species](#).



BirdLife Netherlands Adopts Conservation Standards

Story by [Vladimir Milushev](#) (CCNet Europe)

[Vogelbescherming Nederland](#) (the [Society for the Protection of Birds, Netherlands](#), or VBN for short) is a member of BirdLife International, a worldwide partnership of organisations conserving wild bird species and the habitats on which they depend. VBN was founded in 1899, and currently has 145,000 members and 90 staff members.

In 2019, the VBN team used the Conservation Standards for its new five-year strategic plan. It was a complex journey supported by three internal Conservation Coaches and Ilke Tilders (CCNet Europe). The team took a phased approach, first retrofitting the previous plan into program level theories of change and evaluating the impact up to 2018. Based on the findings, the team set the scope, targets, and threats, created situation models, and developed theories of change for the new strategic plan. During special sessions, the coaches gave feedback on the new theories of

participatory approaches, and implementation mechanisms

- Reflects the experiences gained by protected area staff over the last 10 years

Mongolia's new [Protected Area Planning Methodology](#) is the result of the close collaboration between CCNet-Mongolia, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, the World Wildlife Fund, The Nature Conservancy, the German development bank KfW and development agency GIZ and protected area staff.



change.

Through the planning process, the team discovered that collective effort pays off--the Conservation Standards worked even though team members had different levels of understanding of the components. In addition to sharpening focus, facilitating discussion, and aligning understanding, the process helped program teams take ownership of their theories of change and realize the value of actively using them. VBN sees the Conservation Standards and new strategic plan as a valuable investment in the organization's success and the future for birds. We are eager to implement the next steps of the cycle!



Conservation Standards Training for Latin American Practitioners

Story from [Karla Lara](#) (Independent Consultant and CCNet Latin America coach)

In late 2020, Latin American practitioners participated in two basic training courses to learn more about the Conservation Standards and its companion Miradi software. These workshops were organized by Asociación Territorios Vivos El Salvador ([ATVES](#)) and aimed at practitioners responsible for or interested in planning for natural spaces, with an emphasis on developing conservation or management plans. In total, 42 people were trained, representing El Salvador, Spain, Paraguay, Honduras, Costa Rica, Chile, Puerto Rico, Panama, Peru, Nicaragua, and Guatemala.

Each training course included six online sessions. Despite the virtual platform, each participant had the opportunity to use the Miradi software with a

Integrating Tradeoff Analysis and Conservation Planning

Story from [Doug Pearsall](#) (TNC)

In late 2020, CCNet North America hosted a webinar titled, "Integrating tradeoff analysis into conservation planning." Presented by David Martin, a Decision Scientist with The Nature Conservancy's Maryland/Washington D.C. chapter, the webinar opened with a general description of tradeoffs using hypothetical conservation planning examples. David then described a decision-analysis framework for prioritizing environmental conservation strategies. Forty-three participants practiced applying the framework using a case study from the Chesapeake Bay region of the U.S. Webinar participants developed criteria and used a multimethod approach to evaluate and rank possible strategies for increasing adoption of nutrient and soil conservation activities and stream and wetland restoration activities. This case study

conservation project of their choice, and each session provided feedback space. Following the training, participants said the new knowledge will be useful and exchanging experiences on conservation projects across the region was a major highlight.



Guidance for All Colombian Protected Areas

Story from [Sandra Valenzuela](#) and [Carlos Mauricio Herrera](#) (WWF-Colombia)

This past February, Colombia’s Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development presented a [guidance document](#) to assist all protected areas in the country achieve their conservation objectives.

The Colombian protected area system includes 410 public protected areas and 914 private protected areas that span over 30 million hectares, covering approximately 16% of its land surface and 14% of its marine territory. The guide builds on the Conservation Standards and provides a standard planning support tool to effectively manage the national protected area system so that each individual area adapts to the local context while also contributing to system connectivity and equity. Developed by over 400 contributors from the public and

illustrated that inconsistencies between ranking methods can be reduced by recognizing potential bias and clarifying assumptions and that a multimethod approach can help inform decisions.

A recording of the webinar is available on [CCNet Global’s YouTube channel](#).



Recapping CMP Initiatives of 2020!

Story from [Sarah Weber](#) (CMP)

The Conservation Measures Partnership (CMP) and our key initiatives were very busy in 2020! To make progress toward our goal of improving the practice of conservation, we developed a suite of products, including guidance documents, reports on key topics of interest to the conservation community, and promotional videos about the work of CMP, CCNet, and the Conservation Standards community.

If you are interested in learning more about the initiatives or how you can get involved, please visit:

- The [CMP workspace](#)
- Our brand-new [CMP website](#), where you can learn about [our initiatives](#)
- Our [YouTube Channel](#), where you can find full recordings and shorter clips about various initiatives.

In January 2021, CMP began hosting short webinars to share existing knowledge and expertise from the conservation community on key themes. The following webinars took place in February and March:

- Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (JEDI) Approaches for the Conservation Standards

private sector, the [guide](#) also includes a tool to help standardize analysis and reporting on the management status of protected areas (including those that are currently not part of the national protected area system), so that data can be analyzed and summarized. This will allow managers to more effectively address needs for individual areas and within a regional or national perspective.



Europe Assembly Shows 2019 Successes!

Story from [Xavier Escuté](#) (CCNet Europe)

CCNet Europe held its Annual General Assembly in November 2020. A total of 24 coaches joined to review 2019's achievements and challenges and celebrate a year full of good collaborative work. All in all, 2019 will stand out in our history as a fantastic year: our training events in Sweden and on the island of Jersey trained 22 coaches and 19 practitioners, and our regional network grew to 97 members. You can read the details in our [Annual Report](#) (which is now aligned to CCNet Europe's Theory of Change and in better shape thanks to Catherine Payne's help!)

During the Assembly, members also approved a leadership change: Nico Boenisch stepped down after serving for six years on the Board, and Lisa Ernoul stepped in. To ensure a smooth transition process when Xavi Escuté steps down in 2021, the Assembly went ahead and approved an interim period during which Peter Cranswick will participate in the leadership team.

At the end of all the formal proceedings,

- Conservation Audits
- Holistic Approaches for Healthy and Resilient Social-Ecological Systems
- Population, Health and Environment Approaches
- Environment & Development Agendas

The next webinar "COVID and Protected Area Funding" will take place on April 7, 2021. To attend, email [Sarah Weber](#) or register [here](#).



From Chrysalis to Butterfly: Transforming Conservation Questions into Evaluation

Story from [Terri Schulz](#) (TNC and CCNet North America) and [Caroline Stem](#) (FoS and CMP)

In February 2021, CCNet North America hosted a webinar that shared a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) evaluation of their monarch butterfly conservation program. The webinar highlighted how the Conservation Standards and associated tools can help teams define evaluation questions, clarify management decisions, and identify data needs and sources—even when the team is already knee deep in implementation.

Despite initial difficulty getting staff on board with something new, staff embraced the Conservation Standards once they understood the process and how it complements the structured decision making process that is used at USFWS. The Conservation Standards tools helped them clarify the context surrounding monarch conservation and the rationale behind priority strategies. For more information, watch the webinar [recording](#) or read the monarch evaluation plan [Arlyne is trying to get a public link to

Cristina Lasch and John Morrison joined the group to thank Nico for his service and commitment. We all reviewed some of the best (hilarious) moments we've experienced with Nico and, with the help of his family, gave him a few presents and tokens of appreciation. It was a beautiful moment of celebration. Thanks, Nico, for all your energy, dedication, and commitment!



Conservation Standards Training for Rainforest Alliance

Story from [Estuardo Secaira](#) (Independent Consultant and CCNet Latin America co-leader) and [Mario Jolon](#) (M&E Regional Specialist, Rainforest Alliance)

In late 2020, an online Conservation Standards training course was delivered to 20 Rainforest Alliance staff from Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, and Peru. The course was divided into 12 four-hour sessions that covered all the steps in the Conservation Standards, with an emphasis on Steps 1 and 2. At the request of Rainforest Alliance, the course focused on how to use the Conservation Standards to plan interventions for livelihoods, specifically agriculture and forestry-based income-generating activities. Participants acknowledged that the different steps and terminology of the Conservation Standards can be applied to livelihoods, even when those activities are considered targets, or areas of focus for the planning and implementation process.

the evaluation plan]

This evaluation was led by Mark Chase and Christy Brown (USFWS) with support from Arlyne Johnson and Caroline Stem (Foundations of Success). The findings and conclusions in this story and the webinar are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Reflections

Rekindling Traditional Burning

Read the full article, “Quiet Fire,” by Page Buono in *The Nature Conservancy’s* magazine [here](#).

Many landscapes rely on fire. Without low-intensity burns to clear fuel, landscapes across the U.S. are primed for more destructive wildfires, especially as climate change leads to higher temperatures and lower humidity in many areas. Furthermore, many plant species that rely on fire are not available to tribal members for food or traditional practices like basket weaving.

Indigenous people have practiced controlled burns for ages to promote the growth of food sources and other raw materials, but federal fire suppression policy has greatly impeded this practice over the last century. Today, tribal members, TNC, and U.S. Forest Service are working together to train Indigenous fire practitioners and bring fire back into the culture and landscape.

In 2013, the Cultural Fire Management Council, a community-based nonprofit organization working to restore fire to ancestral Yurok lands, was formed. In 2014, the Council hosted the first of many TREX--a prescribed fire training and exchange program led by TNC and the Forest Service. Members of the Yurok and nearby tribes and fire practitioners and firefighters from all of the U.S. worked side-by-side on a controlled burn, learning about working with fire from one another and gaining the training to be able to safely conduct fires. In 2015, discussions between the TNC North America fire team and Karuk, Yurok, and Hoopa tribal leaders led to the formation of the Indigenous Peoples Burning Network (IPBN) to support tribes in their self-determination and self-sufficiency when it comes to fire. Since 2015, the IPBN has grown to include tribes and pueblos in New Mexico, Minnesota and Oregon. This effort is guided in part by the Yurok-Hoopa-Karuk Healthy Country Plan, which was developed using Healthy Country Planning, an adaptation of the Conservation Standards, and with guidance from CCNet coaches and facilitators Margo Robbins, Blane Heumann, and Mary Huffman. Council leaders and tribal members report a good relationship with TNC and appreciate that they have never “tried to step in and take over, and act like they know it all.”



Revitalization of traditional fire culture is underway in Yurok, Hoopa and Karuk communities, guided by their shared Healthy Country Plan. Image credit: Kiliii Yüyan.

Resources

What is Healthy Country Planning



Resources for Indigenous-led Conservation Planning

Story from [Amanda Karst](#) (Nature United)

Nature United supports Indigenous peoples' authority to manage their lands and waters through strengthening governance, enhancing on-the-ground stewardship capacity, building and sustaining leadership, and catalyzing local economies. To facilitate Indigenous-led plans, Nature United created resources that introduce Healthy Country Planning (an adaptation of the Conservation Standards) to Indigenous communities and other audiences in Canada.

The introduction to [Healthy Country Planning](#) resources provide useful planning tools and processes that align with Indigenous values and approaches and include a [case study that shares the story of the Yurok-Hupa-Karuk Healthy Country Plan](#) told through the voice of tribal member Margo Robbins (see our [Reflections story](#) to learn more about this plan).

LandScale: A New Framework for Conservation Coaches

Story from [Patrick Crist](#) (Verra)

[LandScale](#) is a new framework and standard for assessing sustainability performance at the scale of landscapes and jurisdictions. LandScale measures performance across four pillars of ecosystems, human well-being, governance, and natural resource-based production using 36 indicators. "Core" indicators are required everywhere. "Landscape-dependent" indicators are required where applicable, and the remainder are "optional." Each indicator comprises one or a few metrics. The framework has a lot in common with the Conservation Standards and integration of ecological and human well-being goals.

Approximately 20 locations worldwide are piloting the latest version of Landscale, which was released in October 2020. As we gear up for our public release of Version 1.0 and the accompanying online platform in Fall 2021, we are seeking volunteers to help landscape initiatives organize and coordinate partners, conduct assessments, or verify assessment results to support claims. Conservation Coaches may be ideal candidates. If you are interested in assisting with this work, please contact [Patrick Crist](#). You can view a recording of the webinar that was conducted with the CCNet community [here](#). Other resources are available at landscale.org.



Resources to Promote the Conservation Standards

Story from Caroline Stem (Foundations of Success)

The Conservation Measures Partnership is excited to launch a series of promotional videos to help those new to the Conservation Standards understand their value and potential. These videos share user stories and highlight exciting work happening in a range of geographies and contexts.

CMP will be releasing these videos every two weeks over the next several months. The short trailer released in February is meant to inspire people to explore more. This and future videos will be available on our new [Conservation Standards website](#) and our [YouTube channel](#).

We encourage our community to share these videos. You can see current plans for future releases and example posts in this [social media toolkit](#).

Produced by Justin Grubb of Running Wild Media, the videos are part of a broader promotional effort, generously funded by a CMP donor, to elevate the profile of the Conservation Standards and our community. Many thanks to all the individuals who are featured in the videos, and to the members of the Conservation Standards Promotion Team: Ashleigh Baker (FOS), Felix Cybulla (Independent), Diane Detoef (WCS), Justin Grubb (Running Wild Media), Mike Johnson (Puget Sound Partnership), Jaclyn Lucas (FOS), Claire Martin (Disney), Becky Raboy (Independent),



Guides for Addressing Climate Change

Story from Marcia Brown (FOS) and John Morrison (WWF)

Although climate considerations should be included in human and conservation planning from the outset, guidance and funding is frequently restricted to “climate adaptation” as a separate activity. The result is a lack of support for practitioners to fully integrate climate into general planning.

To help fill this gap, the [Conservation Measures Partnership](#) collaborated with a project of the GIZ (a German development agency) to create two guidance documents. [Conservation Standards Applied to Ecosystem-based Adaptation](#) focuses on maintaining the resilience of ecosystem-dependent human communities through ecosystem conservation and restoration. [Climate-Smart Conservation Practice](#) focuses on incorporating the impacts of climate change on focal ecosystems and species into broader conservation planning and management. Both guides help conservation practitioners and protected area managers to:

- Document the potential impacts of climate change on focal ecosystems and species under different climate scenarios
- Examine relationships between climate change and conventional threats and drivers
- Consider climate-smart strategies and incorporate climate vulnerability into the theories of change

Caroline Stem (FOS), and Sarah Weber (CMP).

Conservation Standards: Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Approaches



Published by:



In cooperation with:



- Determine how to monitor and evaluate progress



CONSERVATION AUDIT GUIDELINES AND TOOL

Conservation Audit Call to Participation

A working group of the CMP-Moore Collaborative Learning Initiatives hosted a short webinar on conservation audit guidelines and tools in February 2021. A [recording](#) of this webinar and others are available on our YouTube channel. The revised and updated [Conservation Audit Tool](#) is available [here](#).

Let's put the audit tool to use!

We are looking for participation from organizations working to apply the Conservation Standards or similar frameworks now through June of 2021 in the following:

1. **Conduct at least one conservation audit of a project or program that you implement or support using the [Conservation Audit Tool](#) (PROJ 1 Info, PROJ 1 Audit, and PROJ 1 Mgmt Resp tabs in the Tool) (~2-6 hours per audit depending on level of participation)**
2. **Complete the *ORG ASSESSMENT* questionnaire (second tab in the Tool) (~10-20 minutes)**
3. **Share results from your audit and org assessment and complete a survey to provide feedback (instructions to follow) (~10-20 minutes)**

As an incentive, the first five organizations that complete the above for five or more audits will be entered into a drawing for a 500USD discount on the next CCNet Rally.

[Complete this form by April 15 to sign up!](#)

Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Approaches for the Conservation Standards

In February 2021, the CMP-Moore Collaborative Learning Initiative hosted a short webinar featuring tips and advice for applying justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI) approaches during each step of the Conservation Standards. On our YouTube channel, you can view the [official recording](#), or read the full report [here](#).

The report is based on 12 semi-structured interviews conducted by Lacy Consulting Services, who worked with the Conservation Measures Partnership (CMP) and Foundations of Success to discover how conservation organizations around the world are incorporating JEDI into planning and Implementation.

Join the [equity initiative!](#)



Holistic Approaches to Socio-Ecological Systems

A significant portion of the world's high-conservation-value areas are occupied, surrounded, and/or owned or managed by Indigenous and local people, yet efforts by conservation and other social change organizations in these places are often not sufficiently multifaceted to attain or sustain desired conservation and human wellbeing goals. Many within and beyond the conservation space firmly believe that a paradigm shift is needed such that holistic approaches become the norm of how we work in social-ecological landscapes. Through an ambitious, rapid-fire effort, a 30-member CMP-Moore Collaborative Learning Initiative working group crafted a report to act as a guide.

The report includes a clear definition of a "holistic approach," a situation assessment that lays out when more holistic approaches are needed, a working theory of change, and thoughts on when and how to use this approach with success. The final report can be found [here](#).

A recording of the webinar on this report--and others--is available on the Conservation Standards [YouTube channel](#).

We will follow up with instructions on how to share your results and provide your feedback. Please contact the Conservation Audit Working Group - [Elizabeth O'Neill](#), [Sheila O'Connor](#), and/or [Erica Cochrane](#) if you have questions or need help.



USAID's New Biodiversity Web Platform

Story from [Melissa Bevins \(USAID\)](#)

In February 2021, the USAID Biodiversity Division launched [BiodiversityLinks](#)--a new [knowledge portal](#) for USAID staff, implementing partners, and the broader community working at the intersection of biodiversity and international development. The [portal](#) curates and archives technical guidance and knowledge related to USAID's work to help countries conserve biodiversity. Key features include:

- Project profiles for 20 biodiversity projects representing Africa, Asia, and the Latin America and the Caribbean regions
- More than 130 [Library Resources](#)
- 6 Collaborative Learning Groups

BiodiversityLinks transforms the best of its predecessor sites into a platform that fuels [learning](#) to improve biodiversity programming.

The site features a redesigned homepage and updated navigation. Users can easily access resources prioritized by topic areas; explore biodiversity's interactions and cross-sector benefits; and share resources with colleagues and partners. Conservation Coaches might

find the section on [Adaptive Management and Conservation Standards Resources](#) particularly useful.



Conservation Standards 4.0 in New Languages

Version 4.0 of the Conservation Standards (released February 2020) is currently available in the following languages:

- [English](#) (for a higher resolution version [click here](#); you can also download individual sections)
- [Catalan](#)
- [French](#)
- [Mandarin](#) (higher resolution version available [here](#))
- [Mongolian](#) (higher resolution version available [here](#))
- [Portuguese](#)
- Spanish (in progress)

Training Opportunities & Announcements

Conservation Essentials Course Focused on Step 3

Story from [Felix Cybulla and Marika Suval](#)

In recent years, the demand for training in the later steps of the Conservation Standards process has been rising. Thanks to the countless hours and dedication of a small task force, the first [Conservation Essentials](#) course

Conservation Standards Training Focused on Steps 1 and 2

A fun and highly interactive introductory [Conservation Standards training](#) course will be offered through the nonprofit [Center for Wildlife Studies](#). The course will focus primarily on Steps 1 and 2 and will be taught online through live, hands-on and experiential learning with minimal lectures and homework. The course will

Free Self-paced Online Conservation Standards Course

With support from Foundations of Success, we updated the introductory online training course that is offered on [ConservationTraining.org](#) to enable conservation practitioners to learn about the Conservation Standards. *Planning for Conservation: Using the Conservation Standards* provides

to address this need was launched in late 2020 with a strong cohort from the [Fellows from the Rainforest Trust](#).

Focused on Step 3, the 12-week course targets conservation practitioners and graduate students with prior knowledge of Steps 1 and 2. Upon completion, students will gain strong skills for project implementation, such as designing work plans, making strategic budget allocation decisions, writing donor proposals to seek new funding, and selecting systems for recording and reporting on results. This course is the first in a series of courses providing training in Steps 3 to 5 of the Conservation Standards.

This course is offered by the University of Wisconsin-Madison's [Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies](#) and was developed in partnership with [Foundations of Success](#) and independent consultants Felix Cybulla and Marika Suval with funding from the [Conservation Measures Partnership](#).

Learn more about and register for our 2021 courses [here](#).

meet twice per week in 3-hour blocks over a 3-week period (Tuesdays and Thursdays, May 4-20).

The course is approved for [Wildlife Society Associate or Certified Wildlife Biologist@ continuing education credit](#). Class size is limited to allow for instructor-facilitated small team learning. This course filled quickly the last time we offered it, so we encourage interested parties to reserve their seats.

[Early bird discount registration is open!](#)

detailed guidance on Steps 1 and 2 of the Conservation Standards, which focus on assessing the situation and planning conservation projects and programs.

To access this free, self-paced course, create an account on [ConservationTraining.org](#), or log in if you already have an account, and enroll in the course.

Conservation Standards Methods Trainings

While the CCNet focuses efforts mostly on conservation *coaches* and their continued professional development, CCNet individual regional or thematic networks, coaches, or partner organizations also offer basic training on *methods* for the Conservation Standards and related method adaptations, such as Healthy Country Planning. Find upcoming trainings [here](#).

If you are offering a method training on the Conservation Standards or a related method,

Change in CCNet Leadership

CCNet Europe announced changes in leadership, with Nico Boenisch (FOS Europe) stepping down after several years of service. We thank Nico for the many years of service. Current leaders, Daniela Aschenbrenner (FOS Europe) and Xavier Escuté (Fundació Catalunya-La Pedrera), are now joined by Lisa Ernoul (Tour du Valat) and Peter Cranswick (Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust).

CCNet Australia also got a boost, with Natalie Holland (TNC) joining Clair Dougherty (Bush Heritage Australia).

Guidance Review Committee

In order to make sure that we can make the best guidance materials available on our websites for the specific needs of our conservation practitioners, representatives from CMP and CCNet get together once per month to review and rate Conservation Standards guidance resources. You can learn more about what the Committee does and does not vet, the ranking system, the criteria used to vet guidance, and how the members deal with different languages [here](#). If you have guidance materials related to the Conservation Standards that you would like the Committee to review, or if you would like to join the Committee, please contact [Marcia Brown](#).

please contact [Sarah Weber](#), so we can share your information on the Conservation Standards website.

2021 Coach Certification Process Open!

We are opening the next round of our second-party coach certification program.

Certification is not intended to be exclusive (anyone who is acting as a Conservation Standards coach can still call themselves a coach), but to offer a higher level of assurance to those who want/need it. Certification is for those who would like:

- The acknowledgement of their peers;
- Professional recognition that you are a skilled leader in the Conservation Standards;
- Eventually, we hope & believe, preferential hiring.

More information and links to the application form (and payment site) can be found [here](#).

The application process involves detailed documentation of your coach training and experience. There are also fees involved. So as to not overwhelm the small pool of voluntary reviewers, we are capping the number of applications at 15 for this round. We hope to announce the next cadre of certified coaches in April or May 2021.

CMP-Moore Collaborative Learning Initiatives

Story from [Sarah Weber](#)

The next CMP-Moore Collaborative Learning Initiative webinar will be on April 7, 2021 at 3pm Eastern Time (USA). The webinar will cover COVID and Protected Area Funding and will last about 30-45 minutes.

If you would like to attend the following webinars, please email [Sarah Weber](#) or register [here](#).

Funded by the [Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation](#), the CMP-Moore Collaborative Learning Initiative aims to develop guiding principles around key themes by harnessing and distilling the existing collective knowledge and expertise of the conservation community. In 2020, this initiative funded eight themes covering a range of highly relevant social and political topics. Reports on these themes are available [here](#). The webinars are designed to share report findings.

Call for Case Studies

Story from [Sabina Khan](#) (Environmental Conservation Planner)

Lisa Ernoul (Tour du Valat Institute) and I would like to invite you to submit manuscripts to a special issue of *Sustainability* journal on "Human Dimensions of Conservation Research and Practice" that will feature case studies of local initiatives that have integrated human well-being outcomes within their design.

Submitted case studies be transdisciplinary and substantially apply social sciences. Our focus is on Afrotropical, Indomalayan, Neotropical and Mediterranean regions. Manuscripts must be submitted by December 21, 2021. Some topics for consideration include:

- Management of political risks and uncertainty
- Justice, equity, diversity and inclusion
- Using sustainable development agendas as vehicles for conservation
- Reflections on conservation as a social practice and the science of sustainability
- Conceptualisations of sustainable human–nature relationships

More information is available [here](#).

Network Information

Africa

- [Nibani Houssine](#) (Northern Africa)
- [Anne Ntongho](#) (West & Central Africa)
- [Musa Cheruiyot](#) (East and Southern Africa)
- [Genevieve Pence](#), [Claire Relton](#), [Natalie Hayward](#), [Lauren Waller](#) (Southern Africa)

Australia

- [Clair Dougherty](#)
- [Natalie Holland](#)

China

- [Jin Tong](#)

Europe

- [Daniela Aschenbrenner](#)
- [Xavier Escuté](#)
- [Lisa Ernoul](#)
- [Peter Cranswick](#)

Latin America

- [Irina Montenegro](#) (Spanish-speaking South America)
- [Anita Diederichsen](#) & [Gustavo Gatti](#) (Brazil)
- [Estuardo Secaira](#) (Central America)
- [Cristina Lasch](#) (Mexico & Spanish-speaking Caribbean)

Mongolia

- [Munkhchuluun Basan](#)
- [Tuguldur Enkhtsetseg](#)

North America

- [Doug Pearsall](#) & [John Paskus](#) (Central)
- [Sara Gottlieb](#) (Eastern)
- [Terri Schulz](#) & [Andrew Bridges](#) (Western)

Pacific Islands:

- [Trina Leberer](#) (Micronesia)
- [Emily Fielding](#) (Hawaii)

South Asia:

- Vacant

Southeast Asia

- [Hui Shim Tan](#) (Malaysia), [Felix Cybulla](#) (Philippines) & [Annette Olsson](#)

CoP - Indigenous OS Projects

- [Frank Weisenberger](#)
- [Stuart Cowell](#)

Teaching Adaptive Management

- [Vinaya Swaminathan](#)

Looking for conservation coaching resources?

Check out the CCNet [website](#).

Need help or want to share something cool related to the application

of the *Conservation Standards*?

Tap into our [CCNet Listserv](#)! To sign up, e-mail [Cristina Lasch](#) and briefly tell her about how your work relates to the Conservation Standards.

The Conservation Coaches Network (CCNet) is a global community of trained professional coaches that use the Conservation Standards to strengthen conservation action and results around the world.

The Conservation Standards are a free, common structure practitioners can use to promote evidence-based excellence in practice and learn from each other across organizational, geographic, cultural, temporal or spatial barriers.

CCNet trains and supports Conservation Coaches to lead Conservation Standards-based projects and programs. Coaches help teams identify strategies, develop measures, capture and articulate uncertainties; they encourage on-going assessment and continuity of effort; they link practitioners with other support services and identify peer projects with similar challenges. Coaches actively promote the Conservation Standards 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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