

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,

While the COVID-19 pandemic, which is coupled with environmental emergencies in many places, has caused disruptions and challenges for all (such as postponing our biennial Rally), CCNet coaches have kept busy. In this issue of *CCNet News* you can read stories from Australia, Canada, Chile,

Central African Republic, Gabon, Ivory Coast, Morocco, Sierra Leone, South Africa, and the United States of America.

Some highlights include our first new coach training in South Africa and the many ways practitioners worldwide have adapted to virtual gatherings and trainings. We also welcome new leadership into CCNet Africa and congratulate newly certified coaches in Australia, Bulgaria, and Uruguay.

We invite you read the stories from the field, learn about the changes in the *Conservation Standards Version 4.0* (which are now available in multiple languages), find groups to join, and explore resources that support virtual coaching, climate change adaptation, policy interventions, and community-based work.

As economies recover from the pandemic, there will be a critical need for a continued focus on the environment. CCNet brings so many of us together to develop the necessary strategies and leadership to address these challenges. Many thanks for all the wonderful work you are doing especially through these difficult times!

—*Michael Looker, Chair, CCNet Global*

Welcome to CCNet News September 2020

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2021 CCNet Rally Coming Up!

Approximately 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, smarter conservation all around the world.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our 2020 Rally was postponed. We now hope to be able to meet in October 2021. In response to community requests to hold our next event in North America, and in recognition of Canada's increasing use of the Conservation Standards and Healthy Country Planning, we will host our next global gathering in Victoria, British Columbia!

We will update program information on the [CCNet website](#). We have shared a preliminary [agenda](#) and [session list](#) to help you plan ahead. In these times of uncertainty, we are all adapting as best as possible!

In the meantime, we are working on virtual training sessions, which we will share through CCNet's listserv. We are also exploring ways to offer some parts of the Rally as virtual events in case we are unable to meet in person.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Victoria in October 2021! Until then, take care and stay healthy and safe.

--Your 2021 CCNet Rally Planning Team

JUSTICE

EQUITY

DIVERSITY

INCLUSION



**Conservation
Measures
Partnership**



**Conservation
Coaches Network**

Let's Make the Conservation Standards Just, Equitable, Diverse,

and Inclusive!

The Conservation Measures Partnership (CMP) recently launched its “JEDI Learning Initiative,” which is being supported by CCNet coach Leander Lacy as a consultant. The intent of this initiative is to provide recommendations for incorporating Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) principles into the Conservation Standards.

CMP would like to gather tools and resources from organizations that have used JEDI principles in conservation and supplement this information with practitioner advice and tips collected through interviews with various organizations around the world.

To do this work, we need the help of CCNet and others! Are you part of an organization or know of one that has defined JEDI principles (or similar concepts such as social safeguards), has documented JEDI approaches, and/or is actively incorporating JEDI considerations into conservation programs. Can you speak to direct experience (successes and failures) in integrating JEDI principles into conservation practice or know of someone that can? If so, please contact [Leander](#). If possible, please attach or provide a link to any available resources.

CCNet is also looking into ways in which we can foster productive discussions and solutions within our network to help our community be a just, equitable, diverse, and inclusive network for all. We hope to benefit from your involvement and insights!

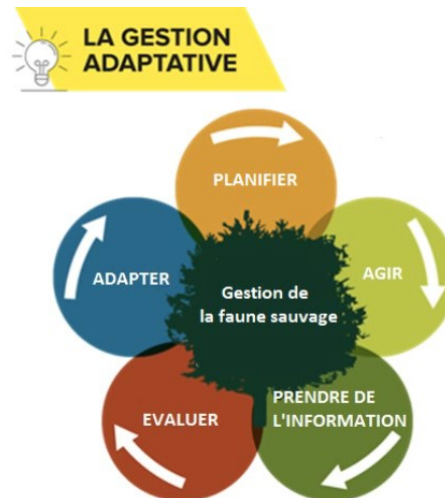
Coaches in Action



Mālama I Ke Kai: Community Action Guide

Story from Emily Fielding (TNC / CCNet Pacific Islands)

In September 2020, the Maui Nui Makai Network will launch the [Malama I Ke Kai: Community Action Guide](#) to empower coastal communities to engage in the management of ocean resources. The Network’s mission is to protect and restore coastal and marine ecosystems in ways that honor and perpetuate local Hawaiian traditions, customs, and knowledge while embracing scientific insight.



Adaptive Management of Bushmeat Hunting in Gabon

Story from Anne Ntongho (WWF Cameroon / CCNet Africa)

Alex and his team are teaching Gabonese villages how to use adaptive management of bushmeat hunting to increase the abundance of forest wildlife and support the well-being of their communities and future generations. The

The Guide brings together the Conservation Standards and Healthy Country Planning, adapted for use in Hawai'i, and provides step-by-step guidance to help community groups organize, develop, and implement "community action plans" for coastal and ocean resource management. The participatory activities and best practices are based on Network experiences and those of colleagues from across the Pacific. The Guide serves as both a facilitator and participant workbook; however, community groups are still encouraged to seek the guidance of trained conservation coaches.

This effort represents a culmination of over 10 years of work with coastal communities in Hawai'i. We share this Guide in hopes that it will be a useful tool in other communities hoping to develop culturally relevant, highly participatory plans that are focused makai, or toward the sea.

Participants who were part of the Malama I Ke Kai workshops recently reflected on their experience. The Maui Nui Makai Network has shared a video with our community, which you can [watch here](#).



South Africa's First CCNet Coach Training

African conservation organisations are working on urgent, multifaceted environmental issues, often in remote and perilous areas with limited funding and

team is facilitating the creation, support, and adaptation of community rules for sustainable hunting management in 10 villages on the periphery of the Ivindo, Mwagna, and Minkébé national parks. The rules communities put in places are not fixed; they must be evaluated regularly by the communities themselves, and each community can adapt its rules based on the information they collect from the field. The process for setting up sustainable hunting rules follows five key steps:

1. Planning: Communities hold multiple meetings to decide on the creation of their sustainable hunting management rules.
2. Action: Communities set a date to mark the start of compliance with the rules.
3. Collect Information: Communities set up management committees that collect information on several aspects related to the level of compliance with the rules. In each village, para-ecologist hired and trained by the project collects data on the community's availability, source, and use of bushmeat.
4. Assess: Communities analyze the information using a data mining tool.
5. Adapt: Communities adjust the rules based on the information available to them and then repeat the process.



Advanced Online Conservation Standards Training for Practitioners in Chile

Story from Felix Cybulla and Oscar Maldonado (Independent Consultants)

resources. Stakeholders are counting on them to meet their conservation goals and have positive, effective, and lasting impact on Africa's natural habitats and wildlife. In February 2020, South Africa had its first (Africa's fourth) CCNET Coach Training. The training included theoretical, collaborative, and practical learning sessions, as well as an enlightening field trip to the Sterkfontein Caves in the Cradle of Humankind and a team-building scavenger hunt. This hugely successful event not only ignited long-term collaboration between African conservation organisations implementing the Conservation Standards, but also initiated participants into the larger global CCNET community. These new coaches aim to work together toward impactful and measurable conservation for the benefit of biodiversity and people in Africa and around the world.

Training host: Endangered Wildlife Trust

Coach trainers: John Morrison (WWF US), Genevieve Pence (CapeNature), and Erica Cochrane (International Crane Foundation).



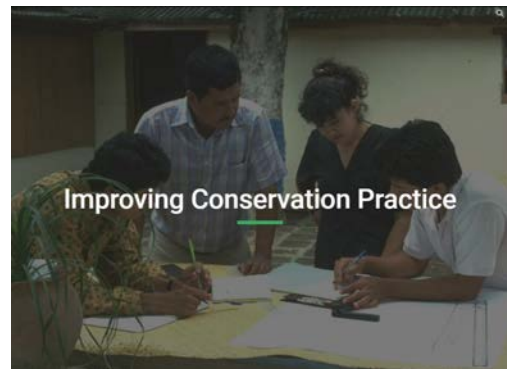
Using the Conservation Standards for Inclusive Conservation in the Central African Republic

Story from [Anne Ntongho](#) (WWF Cameroon / CCNet Africa)

Twenty-seven conservation practitioners from Chile are participating in a 12-week advanced online Conservation Standards training, in Spanish. Facilitated by Felix Cybulla and Oscar Maldonado, the training is a joint venture by two conservation coaches from two different regional networks.

Interest in the training was overwhelming--we had over 100 applicants. The selected participants represent 12 organizations, including government institutions, national and international NGOs, and independent consultants. Nine of the virtual modules cover the steps of the Conservation Standards; the remaining three dive deeper into climate change and the human dimension of natural resource management, Chile's specific challenges, and Miradi. COVID-19 restrictions permitting, we will hold a one-week, in-person workshop after the 12 modules. We hope some of the practitioners joining us for this training will soon participate in a Coach Training and become active members of CCNet.

The training is hosted by Chile's Ministry of the Environment with financial support of The Pew Charitable Trusts, the DOI-ITAP United States Department of the Interior: International Technical Assistance Program, Proyecto MMA/ONU Medio Ambiente/GEF Humedales Costeros and Proyecto MMA/FAO/GEF Gestión del castor. The training is conducted in partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society-Chile and WWF Chile.



Updates from the Conservation Measures Partnership

Story from [Sarah Weber](#) (Conservation Measures Partnership) and [Caroline](#)

In the Central African Republic, WWF has been supporting the Dzanga-Ndoki National Park with the state government since 1990. Because of the park's location and many stakeholders, conservation must be inclusive. The park is located in the Dzanga-Sangha Special Dense Forest Reserve at the southwestern tip of the country, directly adjacent to Cameroon and the Republic of Congo. The park is part of the "Tri-national de la Sangha" transnational protected area, which is part of the Congo Basin rainforest--the second-largest contiguous tropical rainforest area in the world and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. A 500 square kilometer community hunting zone that runs between the national park and the reserve allows for traditional hunting, and within the reserve, limited use by the timber industry and agriculture is possible.

To ensure coherence between these different components, the Dzanga Sangha program began using the Conservation Standards to redefine its objectives, improve strategies, increase efficiency, maintain interventions, enable better monitoring, and access sustainable sources of funding. In July 2019, 35 WWF staff, government representatives, local NGOs and other partners joined a workshop in Bayanga, CAR, to evaluate and revise the 2016-2020 management plan for the Dzanga Sangha protected areas. The workshop focused on adopting a new mode of management and new organizational charts, redefining priority strategies, and establishing approaches for evaluation and monitoring. Participants also worked on integrating the northern expansion of the protected area towards the Ngotto forest and better social safeguards for the different components of the program. The Dzanga Sangha team is highly motivated and participated enthusiastically during the workshop. Several invited partners also participated eagerly. The workshop showed that the Dzanga Sangha program has a diverse set of relatively well-established strategies. When it became evident that the strategies that are in practice do not work together in harmony to achieve joint objectives, the team

Stem (Foundations of Success & Conservation Measures Partnership)

This year certainly has been challenging in a variety of ways for all of us. CMP is grateful that, despite these challenges, our members have been able to channel so much energy into many exciting initiatives. CMP members (along with some CCNet colleagues) are leading more than [12 initiatives](#) to support and improve the use of the Conservation Standards. Here are some highlights from this past year:

- The [Collaborative Learning Initiative](#) aims to develop guiding principles around key topics by harnessing and distilling the collective knowledge and expertise of the conservation community. Examples include understanding how long-term financing mechanisms influence government funding of protected areas and learning about options for adapting to political risk and uncertainty. This work was supported by the Moore Foundation in 2019 and 2020.
- The [Equity Initiative](#) grew out of a CMP retreat in 2019, when members recognized that CMP--and the greater conservation community--could be more intentional about ensuring equity in our work. The initiative aims to develop supplemental guidance on diversity, equity, and inclusion and ensure more equity in CMP representation. As a starting point, this group is compiling knowledge on and experiences with these topics (this work is funded through the Collaborative Learning Initiative). We'll share more information soon!
- To enhance [Promotion of the Conservation Standards](#), CMP has ramped up our focus on communications. We will soon launch new websites for CMP and the Conservation Standards. We are also creating new marketing materials, including videos about CMP, the Conservation Standards, and the great work of the our community. Stay tuned!

To learn more about these and other initiatives, join our members' call on

produced a revised strategy. This was highly appreciated by many participants, as they learned more about what their colleagues were doing and how it could all contribute to shared objectives and goals.



USFWS Mentor Programs Boost African Conservation Leadership

Story from [Anne Ntongho](#) (WWF Cameroon/CCNet Africa)

During a forum in Sierra Leone in February, stakeholders discussed the findings of an evaluation of five U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service MENTOR Programs implemented across Africa over the last decade. The evaluation used the Conservation Standards to check the relevance, design, theory of change, effectiveness, impact, sustainability, and leadership aspects of five programs. The three-day bilingual meeting provided an opportunity to validate the findings and synthesize lessons that can be used to guide the MENTOR program and other similar initiatives. The forum also created a unique opportunity for fellows and other persons involved with the MENTOR program to share experiences, network, and focus on African conservation leadership.

September 23.

To get involved in one or more of these initiatives, visit the [CMP workspace](#) and contact the lead listed on the main page. If you have any problems, you can also contact [Sarah Weber](#) or [Caroline Stem](#).

To learn about what CMP is doing outside of our initiatives, visit the [CMP workspace](#), follow us on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#), and check out the [Conservation Standards YouTube channel](#).



A Theory of Change Template for Regional Conservation Coach Networks

Story from [Xavier Escuté](#) (Fundació Catalunya-La Pedrera / CCNet Europe) and [Cristina Lasch](#) (TNC/CCNet Global)

In July, all CCNet regional network leaders met with the Network's global coordination team for a virtual workshop to discuss developing a generic Theory of Change, which could guide the work of regional networks around the world. During the workshop, we analysed [the current Theory of Change](#) (developed by CCNet Europe) and discussed the possibility of creating a generic template that could be used and adapted by other regional and thematic networks, within our global CCNet community. The template would still allow regional networks to refine their own Theory of Change and corresponding measures as they see fit.

If you would like to know more about this, please contact John Morrison or [Cristina Lasch](#).



More Governments in West Africa Practicing the Conservation Standards

Story from *Anne Ntongho (WWF Cameroon/CCNet Africa)*

Since 2002, the Parks and Reserves Agency of Ivory Coast (Office Ivoirien des Parcs et Réserves (OIPR)) has been managing a network of 8 national parks and 6 reserves in order to preserve and enhance biological diversity and maintain ecological processes. OIPR supports programs in 8 protected areas where results are essential to ensuring sustainable funding. To achieve results, several planning, management, and evaluation tools and approaches have been used. These have generally focused on management functions, instead of conservation targets; this can strongly influence the achievement and capitalization of results. Hoping to improve, the OIPR Board of Directors, in collaboration with the Agency of OIPR Directorate General, requested technical support from conservation coaches in Central Africa in using the Conservation Standards to manage conservation projects and programs. The five-day training in February in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, had 95 participants. More than 90% of the expected results were achieved, and 98% of the participants understood and were satisfied with the training modules. With this training, OIPS agents now have the capacity to integrate the Conservation Standards into their strategies for the protected area network of Ivory Coast. In fact, training led to draft strategic plans for the Banco, Comoé,



A Virtual Conservation Standards Training at the 2020 North American Congress for Conservation Biology

Story from *James Goetz*

Andrew Bridges, Quinn Shurtliff, and Jim Goetz had planned to lead a Conservation Standards training at this year's North American Congress for Conservation Biology as they did in 2016 and 2018; instead, we jumped on the virtual bandwagon and welcomed 35 conservation professionals and students to Zoomlandia for a compressed two-hour workshop on the first day of the conference.

We all know the Conservation Standards are best learned experientially, accompanied by ample discussion and revision. How could we do that in a shorter online forum? No big deal. Just figure out what to cut out, adapt, or invent online, learn the software, and do it. Yikes! After six planning and practice calls and scores of prep hours, we were ready.

What did we do? First, we tempered expectations. We let participants know the whirlwind tour would offer just a quick taste of Conservation Standards principles and practices. We opened with an icebreaker, then a series of four short presentations, each followed by small breakout groups, in which each person used their own personal case.

How did it go? Many participants expressed that it was a "great intro, but way too fast" and that they "can't wait to learn more," which was our main goal.

What would we change? Possibly, we

and Tai National Parks. This gives us great hope for effective future use of the Conservation Standards in Ivory Coast.

should use just two longer breakouts and a single case study for all to focus on situation analysis and results chains.

We look forward to a return to in-person workshops, but as online meetings are here to stay, we also welcome the many software and methods innovations that will create compelling new possibilities for teaching and extending the use of the Conservation Standards.



Virtual Conservation Standards Training Series in Canada

Story from Sarah Cotter and Emily Gonzales (Parks Canada), Brenda VanSleeuwen (Nature Conservancy Canada), and Heather Barna (Independent Consultant)

This Spring, Parks Canada and Nature Conservancy Canada collaborated on a virtual introductory training series for the Conservation Standards (Version 4.0) adapted to a Canadian context. At its peak, the training was attended by 190 participants, representing 72 organizations and every province/territory.

Participants evaluated every session so that we could adapt and improve as the training progressed. Highly rated elements of the training included:

- Simple, relevant warm-up activities during and between sessions so that participants could practice applying the principles of each step
- A "knowledge check" to help participants assess understanding
- An optional 15 min "coffee chat" at the beginning of sessions, during which participants could ask the trainers questions or connect with other practitioners

Latin American Conservation Coaches Reconnect

Story from Irina Montenegro (WWF), Anita Diederichsen (WWF), Gustavo Gatti (Conserve Brasil), Estuardo Secaira (Independent Consultant), Cristina Lasch (TNC/CCNet Global)

After a long silence, conservation coaches in Latin America reconnected virtually this August. In a lively meeting, twenty-three colleagues who work in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Perú, Spain, and the United States shared how we know and practice the Conservation Standards, looked at the evolution of our regional Network, and reviewed our CCNet values and what it means to be a coach. In breakout groups, we discussed key qualities a coach embodies, and we proposed ways in which we can support each other in our CCNet Latin America community.

This meeting was a true test of adaptive management and perseverance: just a few minutes prior to the meeting we discovered that our link was not working, and we conducted the meeting in Portuguol (a mix of Spanish and Portuguese). We look forward to keeping the fire alive in our region with the great

- “Stories from the field” at the end of sessions, during which a guest practitioner illustrated how their team applied that step in the field

A report about the training, the recordings of the session,s and the presentations are available from [Sarah Cotter](#).



Barkandji Healthy Country Plan

Story from [Frank Weisenberger](#) ([Frank Weisenberger Consulting](#))

The traditional lands of Barkandji people can be found along the Darling River in the western region of New South Wales, Australia. The name “Barkandji” means “People who belong to the river.” Since the arrival of European settlers, the traditional lands of the Barkandji have been ravaged by resource overuse, extensive water extraction, and in recent years, an unprecedented drought.

Barkandji people are now developing a Healthy Country Plan to protect cultural and natural values on their traditional lands. As custodians of country, Barkandji people are equipped with a holistic view of their traditional lands and hope to overcome the barriers and silos of government departments and bring stakeholders together to better look after the Darling River. Through the Healthy Country Planning process, Barkandji people established a technical reference group consisting of government and non-government stakeholders to find solutions that will help bring back the health of the iconic Darling River system.

ideas that were recommended in this meeting of new and old friends!

If you work as a coach in Latin America and want to connect with us, contact any of us in the list above. We’d love to be in touch!



Forestry and Wildlife Planning Training for Young Professionals in Maine

Story from [Joshua Royte](#) ([The Nature Conservancy](#))

John Morrison (WWF) and Joshua Royte (TNC Maine) co-taught a class on conservation forestry and wildlife planning with Professor Amber Roth at the University of Maine. The class developed goals and management recommendations for three scenarios: a large family farm with diverse surrounding habitats and solar needs, a large tract of managed forest with golden-winged warblers, and sub-alpine forest management for Bicknell’s thrush and other associated northern species. The plans were rooted in the Conservation Standards, which they learned and practiced in several classes before developing their projects in intensive working groups using Miradi. Amid the school’s shutdown, the teams finished their projects and shared presentations remotely. Students clearly grasped the methods and value of the Conservation Standards. This is the third time the Conservation Standards have been either included in a broader class at the University of Maine or taught as a condensed class over the winter field



Teaching Ecosystem Services and Human Wellbeing in Morocco in the Context of COVID-19

Story from Nibani Houssine (Association de Gestion Intégrée des Ressources/CCNet Africa)

Professionals in Morocco now have the opportunity to complete a master's degree in Adaptive Management at the d'Al Hoceima University. This program includes a course on the Conservation Standards. Adapting to current conditions, professor Nibani Houssine is now offering the course as a series of online classes.

The series focuses on helping people at different levels find ways to better recognize and value the link that exists between nature and people. Species and ecosystems are dynamic capital, which (if kept intact or functional) can generate ecosystem services. In turn, these ecosystem services are transformed into materials necessary for good social relations, security, freedom, and health--or human wellbeing. When we protect nature, we can benefit from its resources and services indefinitely.

The COVID-19 pandemic has illuminated this concept. The pandemic has brutally deprived us of basic elements of human wellbeing, and it has exposed that not all social services are sustainable. This is an opportunity for us to engage in creating an economy based on the real capacity of

period.



Involving Indigenous and Local Communities in Marine Protected Areas Management

Story from Gustavo Gatti (Conserve Brasil/CCNet Latin America) and Irina Montenegro (WWF Chile/CCNet Latin America)

Indigenous and/or local communities are key to the success of coastal and marine protected areas. Sustainable use of resources must be harmonized with the areas' norms and restrictions. Unfortunately, available conservation methods and legislation are usually written in a very technical fashion and are hard for these stakeholders to understand.

During the first half of 2020, WWF Chile promoted the development of a planning and management guide for coastal and marine protected areas in which active participation by Indigenous and/or local communities is of paramount importance. The guide adapts the Conservation Standards and Healthy Country Planning to the local context of Chilean protected areas. The content is also framed by principles of good governance and

terrestrial, freshwater, and marine ecosystem services.

The courses (in French) are available to the public [here](#).

legislation related to the Chilean protected areas. With an easy-to-understand language and structure, the guide can be used actively by Indigenous and local communities, bringing them into discussions and decision-making about coastal and marine protected areas.

CCNet coaches Irina Montenegro (WWF Chile) and Gustavo Gatti (Conserve Brasil) helped the multidisciplinary team align the guide with the Conservation Standards. Frank Weisenberger and Stuart Cowell, who lead a CCNet community of practice for Conservation Standards projects on Indigenous land and water, also provided a huge help. Financial support of the Oceans 5 initiative made publication of this guide possible. Download the guide in Spanish [here](#).



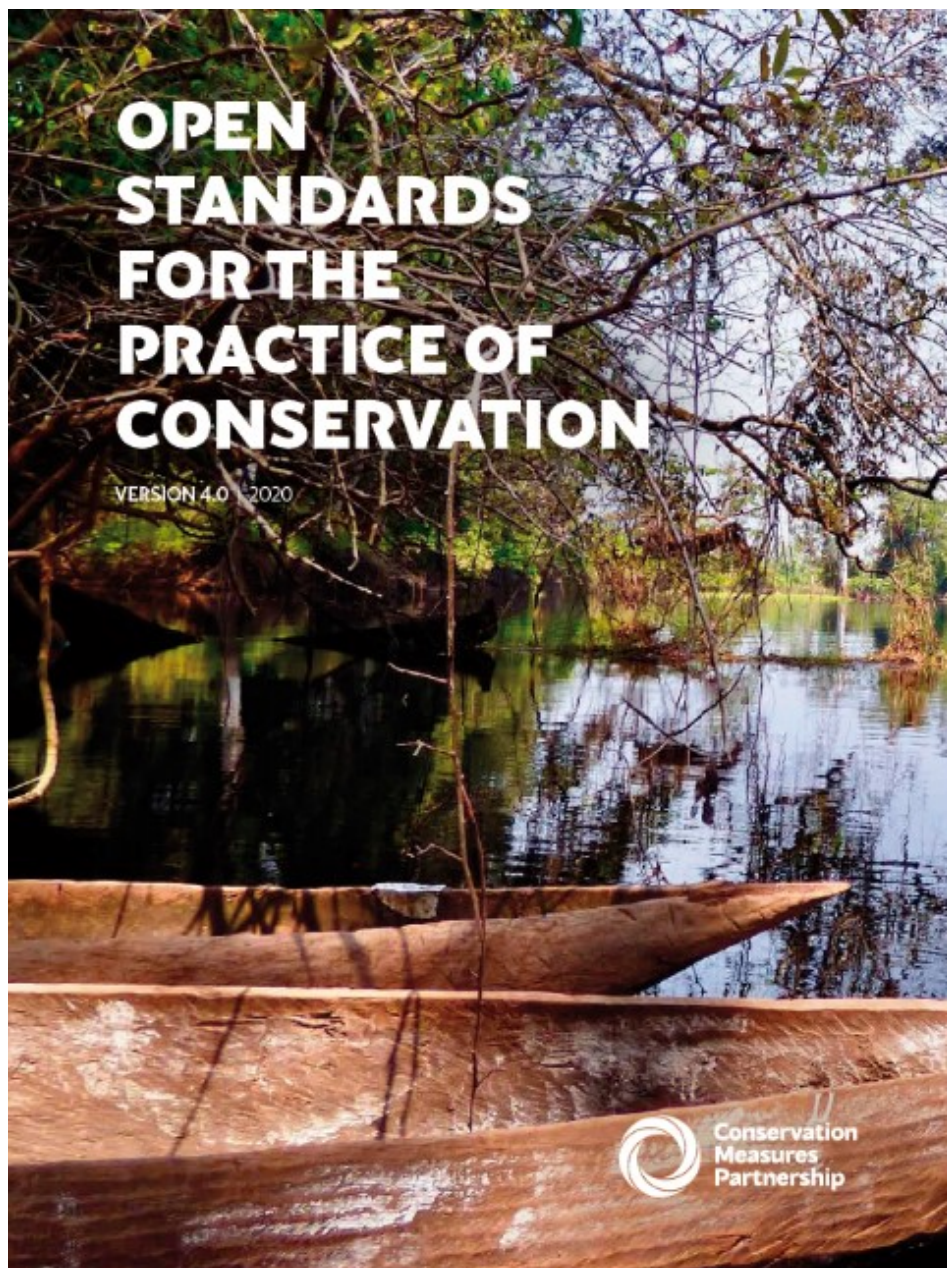
Virtual Practitioner Training Through the Center for Wildlife Studies

Story from John Morrison (WWF/CCNet Global), Quinn Shurtliff, and Andrew Bridges (NaturePlan)

NaturePlan colleagues Andrew Bridges and Quinn Shurtliff teamed up with John Morrison to lead a basic Conservation Standards online training through the new Center for Wildlife Studies, a nonprofit organization that promotes wildlife conservation and education through research and specialized training. The class offered an opportunity for 24 practitioners, ranging from graduate students to senior staff from large NGOs, to share perspectives from 11 countries across four different continents. Participants had the option of receiving academic credit through College of the

Atlantic, and members of The Wildlife Society received continuing education credits. We are hoping that this relationship with the Conservation Standards will continue to grow and that coaches will be able to refer interested people to other online and in-person Conservation Standards courses.

Reflections



What to Expect from Conservation Standards Version 4.0

Story from *Caroline Stem (Foundations of Success and Conservation Measures Partnership)*

You've probably heard about the release of version 4.0 of the [Conservation Standards](#). Have wondered, "Is it worth taking a look? What could be so different?" Read on for some highlights. We hope you'll be persuaded to explore more on your own!

Updating the Conservation Standards has always been a community effort. Version 4.0 is no exception. In fact, it had the largest number and range of contributors of any version. The Conservation Standards are truly a community product that grows stronger with each version as our community grows and evolves its collective knowledge and experience.

What's New:

- New look and feel, including a fresh, colorful, dynamic new cycle, as well as beautiful and compelling images provided by our community members
- Strengthened focus on the core standards and reduced "how-to" guidance, which is better addressed in more detailed companion documents
- Greater detail on steps related to implementing conservation actions, analyzing monitoring data, adapting actions as needed, and sharing learning within and beyond conservation teams
- Recognition of spatial dimensions relevant to various steps
- Updated terminology to better communicate key concepts
- Clarification of the relationship between the Conservation Standards and other decision-support frameworks
- Clarification about how the Conservation Standards support principles from adaptive management and evidence-based conservation
- Refinement of climate change considerations and how teams can better prepare for and address climate change
- Updates from CMP's guidance on social dimensions and human well-being
- Enhanced explanation of how to address thematic projects

What's Next?

Our multilingual, multicultural community needs the Conservation Standards in a variety of languages. The [Conservation Measures Partnership](#) is helping to fund translations in eight languages. Thanks to Gustavo Gatti at ConserveBrasil, we now have the Conservation Standards in Portuguese. French (Laurianne Besse Streit) and Spanish (Armando Valdés) are coming soon. We hope to have all 8 languages available by early 2021. Stay tuned!

Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#) and check out our [YouTube channel](#).

Resources



Thinking and Working
Politically When

New Online Course in Step 3 of the Conservation Standards

Story from Felix Cybulla and Marika Suval

In recent years, demand for training in later steps of the Conservation Standards process and for online training options has been rising. CCNet participants, especially those from the Teaching Adaptive Management Network, have given this increasing attention. Thanks to the dedication and countless hours of a small task force, the first course to address these needs has been launched!

[Conservation Essentials](#) is the first in a series of courses providing training on the later steps of the Conservation Standards. Focused on Step 3, this course targets conservation practitioners and graduate students with prior knowledge of Steps 1 and 2. Conservation Essentials is currently offered as a 12-week course by the University of Wisconsin-Madison's [Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies](#). There will be two cohorts in 2020 and three in 2021. The course was developed in partnership with [Foundations of Success](#) and independent consultants Felix Cybulla and Marika Suval with CMP funding.

To learn more and register, check out the [Conservation Essentials](#) course online.

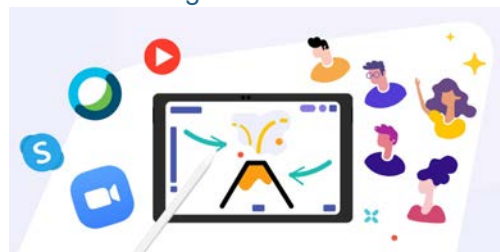
Practicing the Conservation Standards at USAID

Story from Kelsey Schueler (Environmental Incentives), Heidi Schuttenberg (USAID) and Jeff Stark

USAID has developed a new resource with practical advice for thinking and working politically when practicing the Conservation Standards in USAID work. Given strong evidence that political factors overwhelmingly drive the loss of biodiversity, this guide is based on the premise that conservation programs will be more effective when they skillfully integrate political dynamics.

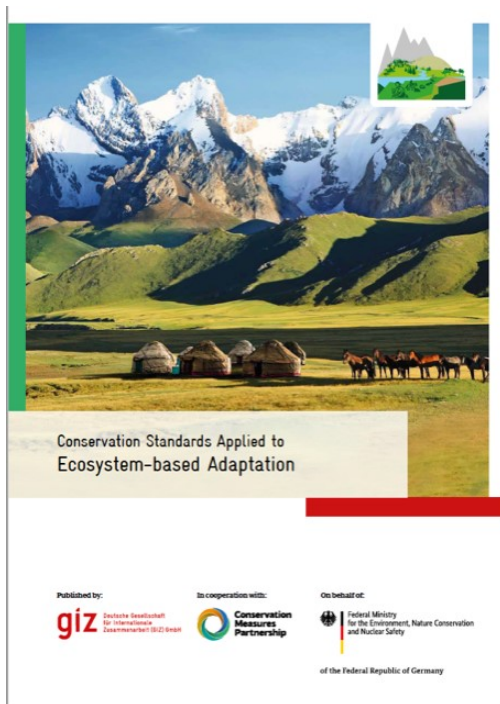
The new guide is the result of significant, iterative inputs from a large number of contributors. It unpacks areas of alignment and divergence between the Conservation Standards and thinking and working politically as practiced at USAID and offers recommendations for drawing on the strengths of both approaches to enhance biodiversity programming. The primary audiences for this guide are USAID staff and implementers who use the Conservation Standards. It also serves as a resource for USAID's partners as they develop proposals, lead programs, and craft approaches. Conservation practitioners from other organizations may also find the guide of interest as they wrestle with similar challenges.

We invite your feedback on the 1.0 version of the [guide](#).



Virtual Coaching Webinars and Resources

Keeping our commitment to increase shared learning opportunities, and



Guidance on Applying the Conservation Standards to Ecosystem-based Adaptation

Story from Marcia Brown (FOS/CCNet Global), John Morrison (WWF/CCNet Global), Tobias Garstecki, (Independent Consultant) Adrienne Marvin (FOS), Nicolas Boenisch (FOS Europe/CCNet Europe)

A Conservation Measures Partnership working group, which includes representatives from Foundations of Success and World Wildlife Fund, recently had the opportunity to work with colleagues at the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH in Central Asia to develop a manual that applies the Conservation Standards to ecosystem-based adaptation.

The Conservation Standards provide a user-friendly, evidence-based, and consistent approach that, when applied to ecosystem-based adaptation, can help teams (composed of community members and the development and conservation practitioners who assist them) identify priority ecosystems, assess non-climate and climate-related threats, conduct scenario planning, and select the

responding to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are offering training sessions on virtual coaching. These trainings were developed and are led by a small team of colleagues from CCNet and the Conservation Measures Partnership.

Recordings are available for the two trainings we have offered so far:

- Introduction to Virtual Coaching (April 30 - May 1, 2020). In this training offered by Marcia Brown and Cristina Lasch, participants learned about virtual coaching and virtual venues as well as how to prepare for a virtual coaching session and how to respond to common virtual challenges. Watch the recorded webinar [here](#).
- Using Mural, A Virtual Whiteboard, To Coach Remotely (August 27 – 28, 2020). In this webinar hosted by Olivia Millard, Armando Valdés, and Felix Cybulla, participants learned all about Mural and how to use it to coach project teams. Watch the recorded webinar [here](#).

We thank the coaches who graciously put these trainings together for our community. Stay tuned--more training webinars are coming soon.

Here are a few additional recommended resources:

- [Mural's Definitive Guide to Facilitating Remote Workshops](#)
- [Lessons Learned From Hosting a Virtual Conference](#)
- [Online Meeting Resources Toolkit for Facilitators](#)
- [A table comparing a few virtual platforms](#) (curated by CCNet participants--please help us add content)
- [Possible Solutions to Common Challenges in Virtual Coaching - CCNet & CMP](#) (curated by CCNet participants--please help us add content)

For updated information on virtual coaching, visit our [website](#).

most appropriate interventions to address priority threats under different scenarios.

To meet the specific needs of ecosystem-based adaptation, this guide proposes revisions to Step 1 (Assess) and Step 2 (Plan) of the Conservation Standards. Revisions include identifying ecosystems on which human communities depend, assessing climate vulnerability, setting climate-smart goals, and considering various types of adaptation interventions. Steps 3-5 of the Conservation Standards (Implement, Analyze & Adapt, and Share) remain the same and are only described briefly in this manual.

The guide includes an example project based in the high mountains of Central Asia, but the target audience is the global community of practitioners and the communities with whom they work. Find the manual [here](#).



Tools to Support Healthy Country Planning

In September 2020, CCNet coach Frank Weisenberger produced an updated version of a set of tools to support Healthy Country Planning processes. Special thanks go to Natalie Holland, Stuart Cowell, Andre Grant, Luke Preece, and David Hinchley for providing input and feedback.

Changes include:

- New inclusion and diversity check-up
- New stakeholder assessment
- New vision tool
- Updated health assessment tool
- Updated guidelines for ranking threats

Check out the tools [here](#).



Conservation Standards Version 4.0 Available in Portuguese!

The Conservation Measures Partnership is excited to announce that Version 4.0 of the Conservation Standards is now available in Portuguese. A big thank you to Gustavo Gatti of [Conserve Brasil](#) for the hard work, patience, and attention to detail in producing this translation!

In creating this and other translated versions, we identified and corrected some errors in the English version. Please visit the [download page](#) to get an updated English version! Translations are supported via CMP membership dues, generous funding from the Moore Foundation, and in-kind time donations from translators--a true community effort! You can download all versions of the Conservation Standards

Announcements

2020 Cohort of Certified Coaches

We are pleased to announce another cohort of certified coaches:

- Vladimir Milushev (Bulgaria)
- Natalie Holland (Australia)
- Paola Mejia (Uruguay)

Their certification lasts for three years, after which coaches may reapply to show that they have continued to hone their skills, gain experience, and stay up-to-date with the latest advancements in the Conservation Standards and coaching.

If you'd like to apply in January 2021, please note that the application process involves detailed documentation of your coach training and experience. More information can be found on the CCNet website [here](#).

Our sincere thanks to all the reviewers, and to Andy Dickerson, a Certified Coach from Ohio, USA, who organized the review teams. And congratulations to the new cohort!

CMP-CCNet Guidance Review Committee Update

Once per month, CMP and CCNet review and rate Conservation Standards guidance resources. Over the past few months, the committee has reviewed and posted the following:

- [Conservation Essentials: Vital skills for implementing and managing conservation projects](#)
- [Salt Marsh Bird Conservation Plan for the Atlantic Coast](#)
- [Conservation Enterprises: Using a theory of change approach to synthesize lessons from USAID biodiversity projects](#)
- [USAID — Effectiveness of Enterprises as a Conservation Strategy](#)

You can learn more about the Committee and the vetting process [here](#).

If you have guidance materials that you would like the committee to review, or if you would like to join the committee, please contact Marcia Brown.

Changes in CCNet Regional Leadership

CCNet Africa recently got a boost! Our colleagues Anne Ntongho (WWF-Cameroon) who covers West and Central Africa) and Musa Cheruiyot (WWF-International) who covers East Africa, were recently joined by additional colleagues who will share a leadership role in CCNet Africa. We welcome Nibani Houssine (Association de Gestion Intégrée des Ressources) who will cover Northern Africa, and the following colleagues who will cover Southern Africa: Genevieve Pence (Independent Consultant), Claire Relton (Endangered Wildlife Trust), Natalie Hayward (Cape Nature), and Lauren Waller (Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds).

We would like to extend our gratitude to Rob Sutter (Enduring Conservation), who served as one of **CCNet North America's** leaders, and will no longer be able to serve in this role.

Africa

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

Australia

- Clair Dougherty

China

- Jin Tong

Europe

- Daniela Aschenbrenner
- Nicolas Boenisch
- Xavier Escuté

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

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.

CCNet is a community of practitioners who support the application of the *Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation (Conservation Standards)*. Our mission is to train, connect and support conservation practitioners to do better, smarter conservation that achieves tangible results, benefiting people and nature all 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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Conservation Coaches Network · Calle 25 No.187B por 8 y 10 · Col. Garcia Gineres · Merida, Mexico 97070 · Mexico

