**Conservation Coaches Network**

**What is it?**

The ***Conservation Coaches Network*** is an organized and supported network of peers that spans six continents and 25 organizations. The Mission of the Network is to *catalyze effective conservation across lands and waters worldwide through supporting sound action planning, coaching, knowledge sharing and innovation.*

**What does it do?**

* Supports individual teams to apply Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation (Open Standards) or Conservation Action Planning (CAP) effectively to their projects to develop strategies and evaluate effectiveness.
* Executes “Efroymson Fellowship” workshops to foster peer review and train practitioners in the Open Standards/CAP, to enable sharing of innovative strategies and experiences across projects, programs, disciplines, organizations, and “generations.”
* Shares lessons across entire network to act as a human conduit through which conservation advances and innovative applications of the Open Standards/CAP can travel across the partner organizations and beyond.
* Supports user working groups who develop user-driven modifications and develops new products for the practice as a whole.

**What are some recent highlights?**

* In 2009 C**oaches supported more than** **200 teams** to apply the Open Standards/CAP to their projects.
* **51 Coaches participated in The Nature Conservancy’s Climate Adaptation Clinic** to help develop strategies and new guidance on adapting projects to the potential impacts of climate change.
* The **Network sponsored workshops** included the international Whooping Crane Efroymson to develop a conservation strategy across its entire range; an international Karst ecosystem conservation workshop across three countries; CAP training for NOAA species recovery planners; a Salmon conservation workshop for three Russian watershed teams; measures training workshops in Africa, Australia, Indonesia and China; and more.
* The coaches, four lead Network partners (WWF, TNC, Greening Australia and Foundations of Success), and the Network franchise leaders completed and ratified a **new Strategic Plan** which calls for enhancing and expanding the Coaches Network **to enable greater exportation of the methodology and inclusion of more partners worldwide.**

**What is the Current Status?**

* **250 Coaches** trained and formally recognized as members of network **from 39 countries, six continents and 25 organizations**
* **Network is organized into “Franchises”- named units formally established with designated leader and cadre of coaches**. Franchise Units encompass – North, Central and South America, Caribbean, Pacific Islands, Australia, China and Indonesia.
* Interactive web-space on Conserveonline populated with a large amount of support materials (in English and Spanish). Regularly the most visited site on Conserveonline.

**Summary Comment.**

A core goal of the Coaches Network and Fellowship program is to create a **user driven network where everyone speaks a common conservation language and can freely learn and share across cultures, places, languages, scales, generations, experiences and disciplines in a non-hierarchical way.**