



Conservation Coaches Network

e-newsletter

July 2013

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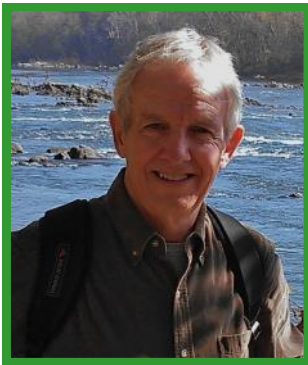
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Network News

From the CCNet Chair:



Brad Northrup, CCNet
Board Chair © TNC.

It hasn't been long since I touched down after our fifth Conservation Coaches Network Rally at Callaway Gardens in Pine Mountain, Georgia. I feel more optimistic than ever about the future of our Network. The Rally report in this newsletter will give you a sense of the rich learning environment and the fun we had celebrating the work of Network coaches and friends.

Since returning from Georgia, I've been reflecting on how this Rally contributed to CCNet's broader mission. The CCNet partnership was chartered in 2009 because our planning process pointed out that we needed to evolve the Network management model to a more diverse partnership model. In this way, we felt we could better adapt and respond to the needs of the global conservation community and ensure more innovation and growth. At the Rally, it was rewarding to see evidence that those objectives are being met.

At the outset in 2009, our coaches were predominantly North Americans from a single partner organization. Five years later, approximately 140 attendees arrived at the Rally from 29 countries and 47 different institutions. Our coaches now come from 87 organizations, 47 of which are new to the Network since our last Rally.

And we're growing steadily. Since our last Rally in 2010, 165 coaches have joined the Network, bringing our total to more than 400. At the recent Rally, we welcomed the leaders of four new Franchises in Europe, Africa, Mesoamerica, and South America. With these new Franchises, CCNet has reached every continent.

Demonstrating the value of this global growth, our coaches brought their diverse experiences to bear in adapting our methods and meeting new challenges in their own geographical and cultural contexts. This rich base of experience translated into over 30 workshops. These included a moving workshop with our Australian and South American colleagues on using the Open Standards with indigenous peoples to a workshop on integrating human well-being targets. We also learned of the growing success we are having with government agencies adopting and universities teaching the Open Standards.

To quote from a sign on the grounds at Callaway Gardens, the Rally offered "nourishment for the soul, consolation for the heart, and inspiration for the mind." Many thanks to all of you who contributed to the success of our meeting and to everyone who contributes to our important work throughout the year.

All the Best,
Brad

Network News

CCNet Rally 2013: Learning, Connecting, Celebrating – Making a Difference



A total of 137 participants representing 47 institutions across 29 different countries gathered in Georgia, USA at the CCNet Rally 2013. Photo © Carly Voight/TNC.

This year we held our fifth CCNet Rally from April 29 to May 1, 2013, in Pine Mountain, Georgia, U.S.A. It was wonderful to see so many of you there!

With input from our coaches and the dedication of an international and multi-institutional planning team, we designed a Rally program that included a mix of plenary events; workshops dedicated to “training” new skills; working group sessions for sharing approaches, exploring specific problems, and developing products; and unstructured time to foster networking. In total, practitioners hosted 33 sessions that addressed key challenges and covered a range of core and advanced skills. Many practitioners had never met before the Rally, and the Networking Market offered an informal and fun space for colleagues to meet, share their passions, and learn about tools, methods, and ideas. From breakfast until late in the evening, the conference center vibrated with a multi-lingual buzz, as 137 participants from government agencies, indigenous land management agencies, foundations, non-profits, academic institutions, and several independent consulting firms mingled to learn, connect, and celebrate. In total we represented 29 countries and 47 different institutions across all six continents. We were especially pleased to welcome a number of members of the Conservation Measures Partnership, who launched the latest version of the Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation.



Coaches from Australia, Greece, USA, Germany, Italy, Guatemala, and Mexico enjoyed good music and company © Felix Cybulla.

At the Rally's opening, we challenged attendants to learn and share ideas, to meet new colleagues, and to celebrate our vibrant community. Evaluations at the end of the Rally show that our objectives were met. For example:

- 96% of respondents considered Rally workshops, plenaries, and content addressed topics that were relevant and important.
- 89% agreed there was a good balance of time spent in workshops versus time spent networking.
- 77% agreed the Innovations and Networking Market was creative and provided a lot of useful ideas and contacts.
- 83% reported they strengthened or learned more about the basics of the OS and/or coaching in at least one area.
- 82% said they would likely apply what they learned in the next year.

Network News continued

Some of this year's favorite sessions included:

- Franchises - What are best practices? Help the CCNet Board think about how to strengthen the current franchise model.
- Getting the most out of Miradi Software
- Slipping through the sticky bits: examples and tips for doing full cycle adaptive management
- Taking the reins: Indigenous peoples using and adapting Open Standards
- M&M's. Using Models & Metrics to test alternative conservation strategies and assess return on investment.
- A road map to success: how to make conservation plans more spatially explicit and prioritized
- Integrating Human Wellbeing in the Open Standards - Guidance and Innovations
- New Approaches in Conservation Business Planning

Please visit the CCNet Rally 2013 web space at www.ccnetglobal.com, to check out materials.

Our Rallies represent an opportunity to celebrate our rich and diverse community and gather inspiration, so we can keep working together to make a better world. Our Rallies are a huge communal effort, and on behalf of the CCNet coordination team I'd like to express our gratitude to everyone who contributed to making this event so successful—thank you coaches, volunteers, CMP colleagues, and generous sponsors!

At the Rally's closing, Jora Young, who has been our dear CCNet leader since the network's infancy, asked us to share with a colleague sitting next to us why we do this work. So, to close this Rally summary, I invite us all to reflect on this question:

“ *Why do you do this work, and why do you think that your work as a conservation coach is important?* ”



At the Networking Market participants learned about approaches and tools and shared ideas on topics such as participatory approaches, climate change and REDD, and new developments in the Open Standards, Miradi, spatial tools © Carly Voight/TNC.

New Smartphone App Supports Field Observation and Monitoring

A new smartphone application (app) for field observation and monitoring is being developed by a team from the Centre for Ecnics and Ecosystem Management. The app is intended to facilitate systematic documentation of information gathered in the field. Currently, the app is being tested with a pilot project taking place in Guatemala's Sierra del Lacandón National Park. Designed to monitor selected indicators and record new evidence related to the threats and targets defined in the National Park's risk management plan, the app will help monitor conservation progress as well as document unexpected social or natural responses to management activities. Using the app, it is possible to track each single activity and task that has taken place in the field and view a detailed data report. Users can also easily add GPS data, location photos, measurements, and comments to selected conservation targets, threats, and activities. Though Miradi is not required to run the app, the structure and taxonomy of the app are based on the MIRADI software. The app facilitates the selection of conservation targets, threats and activities (Fig.1). The tree-structure is adopted from Miradi (Fig.2) and enables rangers or field scientists to add attributes such as GPS data, location pictures, comments, or measurement values (Fig.3). An additional feature is the possibility to track each single activity and task with its detailed report data from the field (Fig.4).

Information can be imported or exported as a comma-separated values format like the ones used by Microsoft Excel or Access. Internet access is not required to run the app; however, a GPS signal, a camera, and rain, dirt, and shock protection would be helpful. By providing organized, traceable information, this app contributes to a comprehensive and rapid understanding of any changes that take place at conservation sites—changes that could turn into risks if not dealt with quickly.



Fig.1—Project a) Targets, b) Threats, c) Activities (or Strategies/Objectives)



Fig.2—Selected item threat "Sewage" with its predefined monitoring indicator

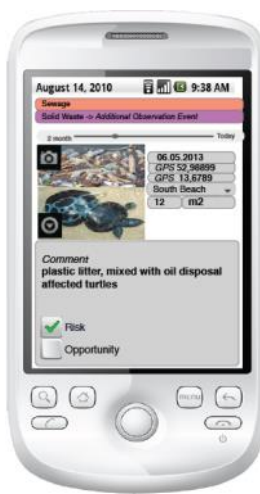


Fig.3—Possibility to add observations and measurements such as date, location, and comments



Fig.4—Possibility to add measurements for Activities/Tasks



The team is excited to pilot the app with more project sites in the next month. Please contact [Laura Geiger](#) if you would like to test the app in your project! And, if you have ideas for a cool name for the app, please let Laura know!

Miradi Used Around the World

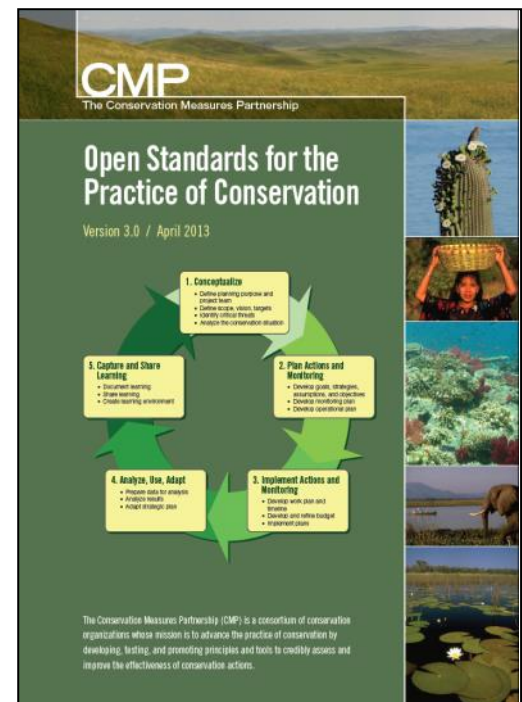
Our friends from the Miradi Team have been reviewing statistics from Miradi use and have shared some exciting and inspirational news. With over 7,600 total individual downloads (an average of 202 downloads per month), Miradi has been downloaded in over 170 countries! Countries with the highest number of downloads include the U.S.A., Mexico, and Brazil, but Miradi users can also be found across the world in Bhutan, Lithuania, Mongolia, Nepal, Sudan, and Zimbabwe. Global interest in Miradi has led to translation into nine different languages with more to be released soon. Moreover, more than 60 organizations have provided their staff with Miradi under an organizational license. The review also indicated that over 6,700 users run Miradi on a PC; 990+ are Mac users, and 190+ use Linux.

The strong interest in Miradi is exciting, and the global coverage is a sign that Miradi is helping to answer the design, planning, and monitoring needs of many conservation teams. The new Miradi 4.0 has just been released with new features and many improvements. You can download the new version [here](#). Stay tuned for further Miradi updates and related innovations such as Miradi Share!

Open Standards 3.0

The Conservation Measures Partnership (CMP) is thrilled to announce the launch of the [Open Standards \(OS\) 3.0!](#) The new OS builds on the great foundation of previous standards to help tackle new and emerging challenges that conservation practitioners, coaches, and decision makers are faced with in projects across the globe. Updates and modifications include new frameworks for human wellbeing links, ecosystem services, identifying key considerations related to climate change, and emphasizing the role of diverse stakeholder needs in optimal strategy selection.

We would also like to celebrate the collective effort of the CMP members who have made this launch possible. Since the first OS release, our community of practice has grown from three to twelve organizations. The 25 individuals listed below provided critical leadership and thoughtful inputs throughout the update process. The success of the OS is dependent on its practitioners, and we look forward to hearing how all of you are implementing the new standards!



Key Open Standards 3.0 contributors: Jeff Hardesty, TNC, Amielle DeWan, Rare, Dan Salzer, TNC, Tess Present, formerly with the National Audubon Society, Sheila O'Connor, WWF, Marcia Brown, FOS, Lydia Gaskell, WWF, John Morrison, WWF, Natalie Dubois, Defenders of Wildlife, Judy Boshoven, FOS (formerly with Defenders of Wildlife), Jean Gael Collomb, WCN, Daniel Hayden, Rare, Caroline Stem, FOS, Ilke Tilders, FOS, Barbara Best, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Judy Boshoven, Defenders of Wildlife, Madeleine Bottrill, CI, Judy Braus, NAAEE (formerly with the National Audubon Society), Cristina Lasch, TNC, Estuardo Secaira, Consultant, David Wilkie, WCS, Nick Salafsky, FOS, Jensen Montambault, TNC, Alan Holt, MAC, Matt Muir, USFWS, Richard Margoluis, FOS.

Teaching Adaptive Management

Ongoing efforts to integrate adaptive management into study programmes that deal with nature conservation have been met with encouraging enthusiasm and success.

During November and December 2012, and part of January 2013, FOS (Europe) led an Adaptive Management course for 36 Marine Biology students of the Van Hall Larenstein College in the Netherlands. Students worked in teams of four to develop management plans for fictional, self-selected case studies using the Open Standards. Spread out over six weeks, the course included five days of training and time to review the scientific literature, conduct research, and discuss the case study in detail. The course concluded with an oral examination. Many of the students' case studies were close to home—for example, the Ems-Dollart estuary—but some were drawn from more "exotic" places like mangrove forests in Panama and St. Maarten, the Patagonian Sea, and kelp forests in Monterey Bay, California, and Kachemak Bay, Alaska. Both students and tutors expressed enthusiasm about the course and reported finding the content interesting, logical, and useful. One tutor commented that the Miradi software tool gives the Open Standards a big advantage over other methods, especially with young people who like using computers.

Similar efforts were undertaken at the Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development, Germany, for the 2013 summer semester. Approximately 20 students studying International Forest Ecosystem Management were trained in adaptive management using the Open Standards. WWF Germany collaborated on the course and presented a real-life case study for the students to work on. Students provided enriching ideas and feedback on the case study for the WWF to consider further. As in previous years, some students showed great interest in working more with the Open Standards for their theses as well as desire to eventually become an active conservation coach.

In Lima, Peru, colleagues are preparing an undergrad course on Adaptive Management for the Practice of Conservation at the Cayetano Heredia University. We'll have news soon!

We highly encourage all conservation coaches to engage with academic teaching of the Open Standards. Preparation material for University courses (syllabi, lecture plans, PowerPoint presentations, and more) can be found on the [Wiki](#). Or, email [Vinaya Swaminathan](mailto:Vinaya.Swaminathan@ccnet.org) or [Felix Cybulla](mailto:Felix.Cybulla@ccnet.org).

CCNet Franchise Update

Check out what CCNet's franchises will be up to in the next six months!

Africa

- A GEF Small Grants Program – UNDP training will take place June 3 - 6, 2013. We will use Step 1 and parts of Step 2 of the OS to do landscape conservation planning for our Laikipia portfolio of community projects. Our key focus will be ecosystem protection and promotion of agricultural biodiversity.
- The TNC and the Northern Rangelands Trust (an umbrella body for conservancies) will conduct CAP for several conservancies at the Kenyan Coast.
- WWF's Cameroon Country Program Office will use the OS to review its three year strategic plan.
- Three of WWF's senior staff from Uganda & DRC will participate in WWF's Network-wide OS training.
- A CCNet coach training in French is planned for early 2014 in Cameroon or Gabon.
- To learn more about our franchise and our coaches, please visit our website at CCNetAfrica.com or contact [Anne Ntongho](#) or [Nancy Chege](#).

Pacific Islands

- The Nature Conservancy and Palau International Coral Reef Center worked with the Yap Community Action Program and 12 villages in the Tamil Municipality to complete a conservation action plan and management plan for the Tamil Marine Conservation Area. Traditional leaders in Tamil are now reviewing plans for what will be Yap's first municipality-wide conservation area and will officially endorse the plan in July. The area will protect important food resources such as fish, clams, lobsters, and turtles as well as key habitats such as coral reefs, mangroves, and sea grass beds.
- Five new partner coaches will be trained in Micronesia to lead community management planning efforts on their islands, and two coach learning exchanges will be conducted.
- The Marine Protected Area Management Effectiveness assessment tool will be applied at three new sites. New partners and communities at those sites will be trained to use the tool.
- For more info, contact [Trina Leberer](#) and [Jason Sumiye](#).

Australia

- A staff training for Northern Territory Natural Resource Management Group in northern Australia will be run by Stuart Cowell and supported by coaches from Bush Heritage, Greening Australia, and TNC.
- Paul Koch (Greening Australia) continues to work with environmental organisations around Australia linking CAP/Open Standards to advanced spatial prioritisation mapping tools.
- Northern and Yorke Natural Resource Management Group in South Australia has developed a draft MOU based on implementation of conservation action plans with partner organisations across 3 million hectares.
- Expressions of interest are currently being sought for an Open Standards Introductory Workshop in Canberra in August (led by Stuart).
- A new coach training will be held March-April 2014, outside Cairns. Contact [Natalie Holland](#) if you're interested in attending.
- Training on Open Standards Cycle Completion (emphasis on later parts of the process) will be held in March 2014.
- Interested in joining CCNet Australia's discussion group on facebook? Contact [Stuart Cowell](#).
- For more information, contact [Todd Berkinshaw](#) and [Natalie Holland](#).

North America

- North American franchise leaders are busy developing a joint work plan that will include a website, updating the list of coaches, reinvigorating quarterly/biannual joint conference calls, and holding Webex sessions and/or joint workshops on specific topics including ecosystem services, site prioritization, and migratory birds.
- Stay tuned for more news and feel free to contact regional franchise leaders: [Tina Hall](#) (Central); [Sara Gottlieb](#) (Eastern); [Teri Schulz](#) (Rocky Mt/NW and Canada); [Sandi Matsumoto](#) (Sierra/CA).

CCNet Franchise Update continued

Mesoamerica

- We initiated the franchise's efforts with a course at the National University of Costa Rica as part of the Master Program on Wildlife Management on Adaptive Management using the Open Standards for Conservation. In addition to learning the theoretical components of the OS framework, students—who come from Latin America, Germany, and Spain—must develop a conservation plan on a site of particular relevance for biodiversity conservation in Costa Rica.
- To consolidate and expand the regional network of coaches, we will identify focal points for each country to identify training and support needs nationwide. We will also design a web site for the Franchise.
- CATIE and TNC are finishing a Spanish guide for management plan development based on the OS that is expected to be available via a web platform by September 2013.
- For more information, contact [Bernal Herrera](#).

South America

- A CCNet coach training will be held in Spanish on August 17-20, 2013, in Bogotá, Colombia.
- The Franchise will continue to translate coach training materials from English to Spanish.
- For more information, contact [Armando Valdés-Velásquez](#)

Europe

- Inspired by the 2013 Rally, the European coaches are fully engaged and motivated to organise their second European Rally in Bulgaria on October 26-27. Topics include Facilitation Techniques, Natura 2000 and Protected Area management, Monitoring, Miradi Updates, and much more. We are aiming to organise two parallel sessions at the same time, offering about 10 sessions in total. In the next newsletter we will share our experiences and lessons learned with you.
- Prior to the European Rally, we are planning to have a coaches training, with John Morrison—CCNet's coordinator—joining us as one of the lead trainers. More than 30 people are interested in becoming a coach in Europe, so we expect to have a new cadre joining our forces at the end of 2013.
- For both events we want to give the European coaches and coaches-in-training the first opportunity to join. If we have any places left for non-European coaches after our registration deadlines, we will let you know through the listserve.
- To learn more about our franchise and our coaches, please visit our website at www.ccneteurope.com or contact [Ilke Tilders](#) and [Stella Varelzidou](#).

Asia-Pacific

- For more information, contact [Matt Durnin](#) and [John Morrison](#).

WWF

- WWF is organizing information on trained coaches through coach profiles and is offering online trainings on WWF's Programme Standards to its staff.
- For more information, contact [Sheila O'Connor](#) and [Lydia Gaskell](#).

Coaches Around the World

New Indigenous Protected Areas in North Western Australia

From [Sam Bayley](#), Wiltinggin Indigenous Protected Area Project Officer, Kimberley Land Council:



Rangers and traditional owners celebrate the declaration of four Indigenous Protected Areas (Bardi Jawi, Balanggarra, Wiltinggin and Dambimangari) in the Kimberley Region of North West Australia. © Frank Weisenberger/ Kimberley Land Council

More than 300 Indigenous Rangers and traditional landowners in the Kimberley region of Northwest Australia celebrated the declaration of four new Indigenous Protected Areas (IPAs) WHEN. Covering more than 8.6 million hectares, the four new protected areas are driving a new era in land management in Australia that enables Indigenous communities to manage the conservation and cultural preservation of their traditional estates. Hard work and commitment from Indigenous groups and their partners are rejuvenating the Kimberley country and providing new career paths for people living in remote communities.

Through the IPA Program, the Australian Government provides generous funding for communities to develop management plans. The majority of these plans use the Healthy Country Planning framework, an adaptation of Conservation Action Planning. In this framework, Indigenous groups play a pivotal role in identifying specific conservation targets, threats, and strategies. Indigenous groups can use the completed plans as the basis for IPA management contracts with the Australian Government. These contracts are voluntary—Indigenous groups can pull out at any time—and there is no change in land tenure. Many IPAs do arrange co-management to provide greater regulatory strength to the groups. Each IPA is also classified according to International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) categories, meaning the IPAs must be managed to an international standard. The Kimberley Land Council works with Indigenous groups and Traditional Owners to help them achieve the conservation outcomes they want to see happen on the ground. Other organisations including The Nature Conservancy and PEW Charitable Trusts provide vital financial support. As the Healthy Country Plans for the new IPAs move into implementation phases, robust support from the Conservation Coaches Network support will become more and more important. For more information, visit <http://www.environment.gov.au/indigenous/ipa/> or www.klc.org.au.



Image courtesy of the Kimberley Land Council.

Coaches Around the World continued

Workshop Trains Mongolians to Conserve Unique Nature Preserve

From [Tuguldur Enkhsetseg](#), Field Biologist, TNC Mongolia Program:



Roughly 80 miles (130 kilometers) from the bustling city of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, and neighbor to one of the country's active coal mines in Baganuur, the Gun Galuutai Nature Reserve is a sanctuary for many rare and endangered species. The CAP process was recently initiated for Gun Galuutai to help protect the cranes, wild mountain sheep, and other unique and important species that inhabit the lush wetlands, great lakes, open steppe, and high mountains of the Nature Reserve. In January and February 2013, TNC Mongolia program staff, Gun Galuutai Local Citizen Union staff, local herders, biologists, and representative from local government and tourist companies came together for CAP training. Equipped with new skills and a detailed plan, the Gun Galuutai Local Citizen Union is applying for funding for protected areas management.

The CAP training brought together local herders and young environmentalists © TNC.



The attendees of the CAP training in Mongolia worked together to develop a strategy for protecting Gun Galuutai © TNC.

Coaches Around the World continued

Cotton-top Tamarin Monkeys and Their Future in Colombia

From [Armando Valdés-Velásquez](#), Program Coordinator, Alianza Andes Tropicales and franchise leader for CCNet Southamerica:



Cotton-top Tamarin Monkey in his natural habitat © Lisa Hoffner/FPT.



Fundación Proyecto Mono Tití" members and key stakeholders discuss the identified factors influencing the threats to the Cotton-top Monkey and its habitat © Rosamira Guillén/FPT.

With the aim of securing healthy populations of the Cotton-top Tamarin Monkey and their habitat in the Tropical Dry Forest ecosystem (TDF) in northwest Colombia, the Titi Monkey Foundation (Fundación Proyecto Tití, or FPT) started a conservation planning process this year. Supported by the Wildlife Conservation Network and coach Armando Valdés-Velásquez, the FPT team revised their goals and explored potential new strategies for the next phases of the plan. These strategies expand on the variety of actions that have been carried out during past phases, such as generating educational material for local schools, supporting a women's artisanal association in one of the communities, and making extra effort to provide alternatives to using Tropical Dry Forest trees for fuel. Syncing their work with Colombia's National Plan for the Conservation of the Cotton-top, which was created last year, the FPT team has incorporated national conservation strategies and standards into the plan. Through alliances and agreements with governments and various organizations, the team has expanded their scope of work to cover other regions in Colombia and gained widespread support for plan implementation. Perhaps one of the most ambitious results they expect to achieve in the next five years is to assert the Cotton-top Tamarin Monkey as one of the symbols of the Colombian Caribbean region, side-by-side with soccer player Carlos "El Pibe" Valderrama and the traditional hat, the sombrero vueltiao.

If you would like to learn more about conservation efforts for the Cotton-top Tamarin Monkey in Colombia, visit the websites for [Alianza Andes Tropicales](#) and [Fundación Proyecto Mono Tití](#). Or, please contact [Armando Valdés-Velásquez](#) or [Rosamira Guillen](#).

Coaches Around the World

Europe and Guatemala Partner to Apply MARISCO in National Park

From [Laura Geiger](#), Centre for Ecnics and Ecosystem Management, Germany:



Developing the results chain including supporting strategies and risks. © Pierre Ibisch / HNEE, 2012



Sierra de Lacandón / MARISCO team. © HNEE, 2012

Crucial questions about the future of Sierra de Lacandón National Park—the second largest in Guatemala—came to light during risk analysis workshops triggered by a new approach called MARISCO. Sierra de Lacandón is an area of high biodiversity, but land conservation is difficult because around 20,000 people live inside the park area and clear the land for farming and grazing. Based on the Open Standards, the MARISCO approach deals with adaptive risk and vulnerability management at conservation sites. In Sierra de Lacandón, the approach addresses threats like deforestation.

Professor Pierre Ibisch and I are in charge of designing the risk management component for the “Lacandón – Forests for Life” project in Guatemala. Though imagining worst case scenarios and playing “devil’s advocate” as part of risk management planning is not always easy or fun, I am glad to be part of this challenging project and thrilled to report that we are definitely seeing significant progress.

During the two workshops we held in March 2011 and October 2012, we developed a situation analysis using the OS, but we also included a screening of current risks and potential development of all identified risk factors. To do this, we screened for risks under different potential scenarios, such as cattle ranchers taking over control of the National Park. Based on these risk assessments, we reformulated former strategies and developed new ones. In the time between the workshops, I digitalized all information and prepared a conceptual model to be reviewed by the Guatemalan team. I then revised the design of the management plan. Since 77 strategies appeared in the management plan, we used the second workshop to evaluate and reformulate the strategies, whittling down to less than 18 strategies. We also had the opportunity to work with the NGO team on complex results chains. After choosing one intervention point, we created a results web, making sure to identify specific activities for specific strategies and to incorporate risks that could affect the results. Though we struggled to find enough space to lay out our sprawling webs and huge evaluation charts, having this kind of visual representation helped the team understand the complex situation in the park as well as the potential synergy and risk of their strategies. The most recent meeting in Guatemala resulted in specific risk management procedures and a smartphone application for recording field data. This past April, we were able to publish an animated introduction to MARISCO, which can be found online, and a guidebook for the MARISCO approach will be released late this summer with the support of the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ). With an approach like MARISCO, if basic conditions (such as clear documentation process, precise allocation of tasks) are not sufficiently in place, implementation can be thwarted; therefore, long-term guidance will be a key part of a successful risk management planning.

For additional information about the MARISCO method and the trailer, check [here](#). For more information about the “Lacandón – Forests for Life” project, check [here](#).

Coaches Around the World

Training Leads to Conservation Plans for Honduran Protected Areas

From [Estuardo Secaira](#), Independent Consultant in Conservation and Protected Area Planning and Management, Honduras:

Ten conservation plans were developed recently for Protected Areas in Honduras. These 10 locations comprise 45% of the whole Protected Area system and represent the majority of the country's ecosystems, including cloud and pine-oak forests, tropical lowland forests, and coastal and marine ecosystems like mangroves, coral reefs, and sea grasses. A training workshop held last December taught 38 Honduran conservation planners and practitioners about the Open Standards method and Miradi software, which were then used to develop the new conservation plans. After the conservation plans were finalized, a comprehensive analysis showed that:

- In order to adequately analyze biodiversity, three to four ecological system-level targets and two to three species-level targets were enough for the majority of Protected Areas (average size of 182,000 ha), with the exception of the largest, Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve (815,000 ha), which needed seven system-level targets and six species-level targets to cover the terrestrial, freshwater, and coastal ecosystems it comprises.
- The largest and most remote ecosystems, like cloud and tropical lowland forests, had higher viability status.
- The most critical threats for the whole system were forest conversion to agriculture and cattle ranching; unsustainable hunting and fauna collection for the pet trade; forest fires poorly planned hydropower dams; unsustainable urban and touristic development; and overfishing.
- The main impacts of climate change may be an increase of drier conditions, with concomitant changes in ecosystem composition including a decrease in amphibians, bromeliads, mosses and ferns, affecting cloud forests and exacerbating the threat of forest fires and pests. An upward shift in the distribution of several bird species distribution has been observed already. Major impacts on human communities have also occurred, including crop losses and infrastructure damage caused by severe landslides and floods.
- The most common strategies were the promotion of law enforcement against environmental crimes, the strengthening of land tenure in the core zones of the Protected Areas and the improvement of public policies and regulations for hydropower development.

This analysis demonstrated the value of using the same methodology to derive conclusions and strategies for the entire system instead of just the individual Protected Areas.



Participants in the training included representatives from the government institution in charge of the Honduran System of Protected Areas, the NGO that co-manages Honduran Protected Areas, and the Institute of Forestry Conservation. Embracing peer review and creative problem solving, these participants worked in groups to apply the concepts and skills shared during the training. Workshop participants also enjoyed a group field trip to Cerro Azul Meámbar National Park, an important Protected Area for migratory birds and wildlife retreating from increased human activity around Yojoa Lake © Estuardo Secaira.

Coaches Around the World continued

Young Leaders Use Open Standards for Mesoamerican Reef Conservation

From [María Eugenia Arreola](#), Fondo Mexicano para la Conservación de la Naturaleza and [Paquita Bath](#), *Aligning Visions*:



Luis Bourillón (COBI), who assists MAR Leadership in project design training, helps 2011 MAR Fellow Gaby Nava design the results chain for her coral restoration project @ Javier Ochoa.

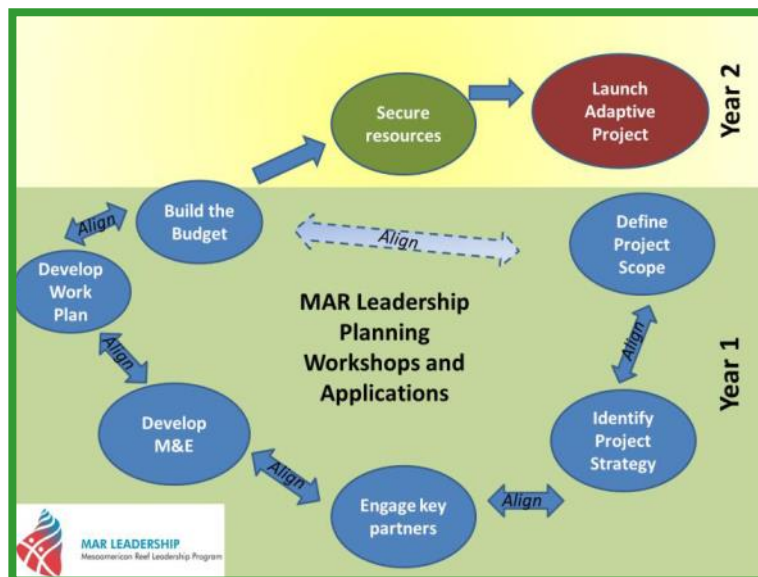


Paquita Bath, who consults as MAR Leadership's project design coach, explains the Open Standards

The [Mesoamerican Reef Leadership Program](#) (MAR Leadership) bolsters conservation efforts along the coasts of Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, and Honduras by building interdisciplinary relationships and honing the skills of passionate Mesoamerican Reef conservationists. Each year, we select a diverse group of fellows to take part in the 18-month program.

Over the past three years, the MAR Leadership Program has climbed a steep learning curve to ensure that fellows can successfully plan and implement their project ideas. In 2010, we used a business planning methodology, but soon found that most fellows were better served by project planning and proposal writing tools. With the 2011 and 2012 cohorts, project design training incorporated the Open Standards.

Because fellows do not have the resources or capacity to address multiple threats at ecoregional scales, MAR Leadership adapts the Open Standards for smaller-scale projects. However, many fellows are employed by, or can partner with, larger programs in which the full Open Standards framework is used. In this way, MAR Leadership approach empowers individual action that can build on the local connections, commitment, and place-based understanding that are necessary for effective projects. Furthermore, using the Open Standards helps fellows feel confident with their project design and motivated to launch the project as soon as possible. Demonstrating the success of this approach, 18 fellows are now implementing their projects along the Mesoamerican Reef! This is a gateway to a life's work in support of the Mesoamerican Reef ecoregion and the well-being of its people.



The diagram to the right shows the MAR Leadership project design process. Fellows begin designing projects by identifying a conservation target and key threats. Over six months and three training workshops, fellows define the project's strategy, scope, key stakeholders, a monitoring and evaluation plan, a work plan, and a corresponding budget. A final proposal must be submitted to the MAR Leadership team within a month of the final workshop. Fellows can then use this proposal to advance fundraising and project implementation.

Coaches Around the World continued

Conserving Longleaf Pines as a Whole System

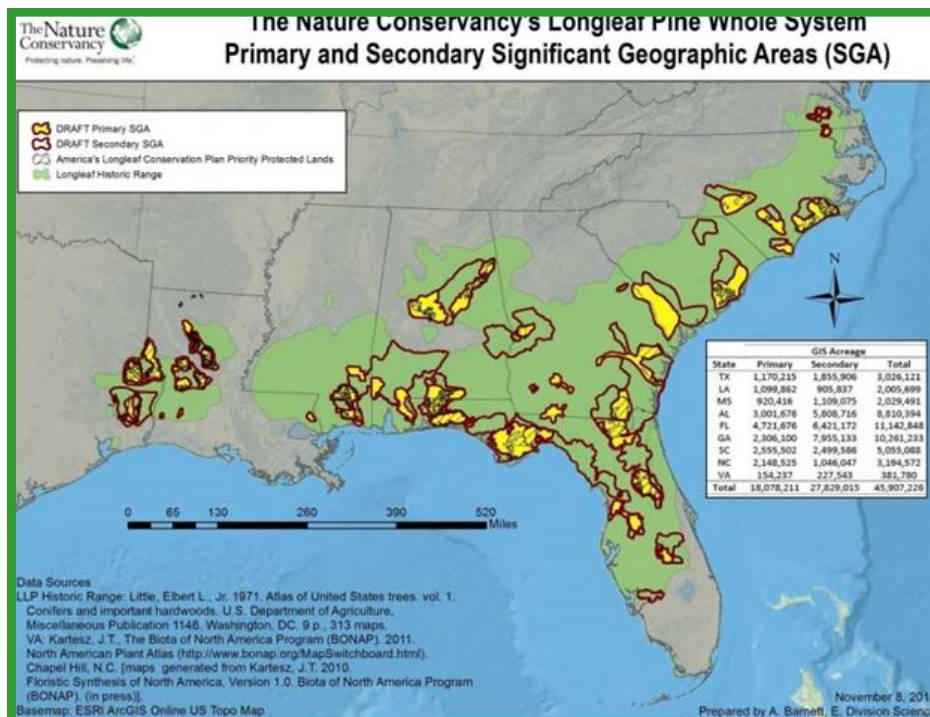
TNC-Georgia's [Sara Gottlieb](#) shares her experience working on a Conservation Business Plan for the Longleaf Whole System:



Sara Gottlieb takes measurements in Southeastern forests to help develop an effective Conservation Business Plan for the Longleaf Pine Whole System © Malcolm Hodges.

The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) North American Region began working across state lines in "Whole Systems" several years ago. Whole Systems, like the Longleaf Pine Whole System (LLWS), are defined by iconic, unifying ecological features on the landscape and are large enough to maintain resilience, sustain key ecological processes, and allow organisms to move within and through them. During the past year, all of the Whole System projects in the Eastern Division developed Conservation Business Plans to define Outcomes, prioritize Strategies, clarify staff Roles, and secure Investment in large-scale work.

Joining Project Lead, Troy Ettel, I helped senior conservation staff from states in the Eastern and Central Divisions develop a plan for the LLWS. Great work has been going on for years in many states in the LLWS, so a significant challenge was framing a plan that is not just a roll-up of efforts already underway. Working at the Whole System scale was also a challenge, but a few innovations in the process enabled us to develop a robust plan and gain buy-in from the essential players. A key feature of the plan is attention to socioeconomic factors. Addressing these factors helps ensure the sustainability of human communities that rely on the natural resources provided by Longleaf Pine forests. The plan also embraces partnering with stakeholders, such as the forest products industry, to help sustain this economically-valuable resource base and its ecological function. In a few years, we'll be able to show the progress we've made conserving and restoring millions of acres of the iconic Longleaf Pine landscape.



Significant geographic areas of Longleaf Pines are found across the Southeastern U.S.; however, areas of these trees have shrunk compared to the historic range (shown in green). Map created by Analie Barnett/TNC-Eastern Division.

Coaches Around the World continued

Barrier Island Conserves Ring-tailed Lemurs and Other Unique Resources

From [Robert Sutter](#), Senior Conservation Ecologist, *Enduring Conservation Outcomes*:



Ring-tailed lemurs © Sara Gottlieb/TNC.

St. Catherine's Island is one of eight large barrier islands along the coast of Georgia, in the United States. While it shares a diverse mix of ecological and cultural resources with the other barrier islands, St. Catherine's stands out as the site of globally significant archaeological and Spanish colonial sites and the ring-tailed lemurs that inhabit the island. These unique resources have fostered a rich history of research, education, and conservation. As a privately owned island, these extensive efforts have all been supported by a private foundation, all for the public good.

In late 2012, the foundation hired Enduring Conservation Outcomes (ECO) to complete a Strategic Conservation Plan for the island. ECO teamed with Greg Low (Applied Conservation, LLC) and Sara Gottlieb (TNC, Georgia) and used the Open Standards to structure a plan. Encompassing the island's special place in history and unique natural resources, the plan identified a diverse and unusual suite of conservation targets:

- Ecological resources
 - Six species (e.g. loggerhead sea turtles, shorebirds, colonial nesting birds)
 - Five ecological systems (e.g. beach and dune, maritime live oak forests, maritime longleaf pine woodlands)
- Archaeological resources
 - Earliest pottery (fiber-tempered ceramics) in North America
 - Earliest burial mounds in the American Southeast
 - Site of Mission Santa Catalina de Guale, founded sometime between 1570 to 1580
 - Village of an estimated 1,000 Guale Indians that neighbored the Mission
- Historical resources
 - Colonial, antebellum, and postbellum sites and structures
 - Wildlife Survival Center – a breeding facility for rare and endangered species operated by the Wildlife Conservation Society from 1974 to 2007
 - Buildings, fences, etc
 - Free-ranging population of ring-tailed lemurs (the only one outside of Madagascar)

Developing an array of comprehensive and detailed conservation, programmatic, and management strategies for these targets presented a huge challenge; however, the team successfully outlined 104 specific actions and assessed the timeframe, responsible parties, costs, priorities, and measures of success for each. To drill down to the fine details of the strategic actions, the project team compiled information from extensive interviews of 41 researchers, regional experts, and staff. These strategic actions ranged from provisioning lemurs and removing wild hogs to providing additional refrigerators in housing for researchers and creating signage for historical and archaeological structures and sites.

Malaysian Coach Passes Away



Charlene Toyong
© Joni Jomitol, 2012

Charlene Dawn Toyong, conservation coach for WWF-Malaysia passed away May 3, 2013 after a year of illness. Charlene supported many projects and programs in Malaysia that apply the Open Standard, including the “Conservation of Global Priority Mammal Species and their Habitat in Sabah, Malaysia” and “Facilitating Collaborative Management of Coral Reefs with Tourism and Fisheries in Semporna, Malaysia.” Her passion for and commitment to conservation and her home country will live on through her work. She set an inspiring example for her colleagues and friends by always having a smile to share in all circumstances; her quiet strength was an inspiration to all who knew her. Charlene’s dear friend and colleague, Julia Ng, wants us all to know that “Charlene is greatly missed by her colleagues, but we know she is in a better place now.”



Charlene with CCNet friends from around the World at Rally 2010 © Jora Young/TNC

Internship Opportunity for OS-trained Students

Tour du Valat—a non-profit foundation in Arles, France, for the research and conservation of Mediterranean wetlands—is looking for a student to develop a management plan using the Open Standards methodology. This is a six month internship, preferably starting January 2014, and no later than April 2014.

Intern requirements:

- BSc. degree in environmental sciences and currently studying at MSc. level
- Full OS training via an academic course or other training
- Fluent in French
- Experience working with teams

If you are interested in this internship, please send your CV (max. 2 pages) and cover letter (max. 1 page) to [Lisa Ernoul](mailto:lisa.ernoul@tourduvalat.org) before October 31, 2013. Please include a reference regarding your Open Standards training.

For more information, visit ccneteuropa.com. To learn more about Tour du Valat, visit <http://www.tourduvalat.org/>.



Seeking Members for OS Training Videos Working Group

Many coaches are finding that the growing desire for training in the Open Standards combined with limited financial and human resources are making it difficult to meet demand. In addition to self-paced training aids currently available (www.conservativetraining.org), a series of short training videos in the general style of TED-Ed (<http://ed.ted.com/>) or Khan Academy (www.khanacademy.org/) could vastly improve our ability to reach a large audience while minimizing expenses. We envision a series of short, animated videos with audio that would include instruction on the basic concepts of the OS, as well as an assortment of case study examples. The videos would be versatile, able to stand alone for remote use by self-learners, or be used to prepare a group in advance of a live training, allowing Coaches to spend more time answering questions and helping teams develop draft products. We'd like to take this idea to the next level by forming a working group of individuals from multiple organizations who would be willing to assist with developing and reviewing storyboard ideas, brainstorming options for funding, generating proposals, etc. If you would like to help advance this initiative, we'd love you to join our working group! Coaches who are interested in learning more can contact [Armando Valdés-Velásquez](#).



Got stuck, need help, or found something cool? Tap into our CCNet List Serve!

Click [here](#) to learn more about the CCNet List Serve, or send an e-mail to [Marjorie Bennett](#) and/or [Cristina Lasch](#) asking them to sign you up.



Upcoming Events

- **August 17-20, 2013:** Coach training in Bogotá, Colombia, in Spanish.
- **October 2013:** Coach training in Bulgaria in English.
- **October 26-27, 2013:** CCNet Europe Regional Rally in Bulgaria.
- **Late 2013-early 2014:** Possible coach training in Mesoamerica in Spanish.
- **Early 2014:** Coach training in Africa in French.
- **March-April 2014:** Coach training outside Cairns, Australia, in English, and Implementation training to teams in Australia.



From left to right Nick Salafsky, Dan Salzer, Trina Leberer, Ilke Tilders and Terri Schulz receive their service awards at the 2013 CCNet Rally © Carly Voight/TNC.

The coaches community is nine years old. What keeps a community like ours together is a shared passion for something (in our case – conservation), a shared approach (in our case the Open Standards), a desire to keep learning and a core group of people who serve to keep us together.

A community also needs traditions, and one of our traditions is to recognize the people who give a lot to keep our community functioning during our Rally party. This year we recognized seven coaches with a service award.

The Network really wouldn't work without the dedication and great collaborative leadership skills of the Franchise leaders. These are the people who help form new connections and

grease existing ones. They make the effort to understand what the needs are within their geography and see where the talent is blossoming. The Franchise leaders encourage new coaches and are the champions of the Network to regional leaders. They solicit support for projects that cross their region. They help think about ways to get local coaches linked to other parts of the network. And as members of the board, they bring their knowledge of what is needed where they are working to the board of the network to ensure that the decisions that the board makes will be the right ones to enable and support the real work of real coaches in real places. Our deep appreciation goes out to Ilke Tilders, Terri Schulz, and Trina Leberer for their unselfish service to our community as exemplary franchise leaders!

Another colleague we recognized for his service is Nick Salafsky, a coach who has had an enormous positive influence on the depth and breadth of practice of adaptive management in general, and the Open Standards in NGOs, private foundations, and governments. In his dual roles with both the Conservation Measures Partnership and the Conservation Coaches Network, he has ensured that the links between CMP, which developed the Open Standards, and CCNet, which represents the practitioners, are maintained.



Stuart Cowell

Stuart Cowell was unable to receive his award in person at the Rally, but we are extremely grateful to his service. He has played a key role in shaping the "Healthy Country Planning" framework—an adaptation of CAP/Open Standards to help local communities design a sustainable future. Thank you Stuart for contributing to the transformational work being done by Indigenous peoples and local communities of Australia to go back "on country."

If you tug on any string that you find in this Open Standards movement, you will find our next awardee on it at some point along the way. Dan Salzer was one of the original thinkers who put together the basic framework of 5S—which was the seed for the Open Standards. He has been not just the agitator about the importance of measuring and learning from what we do but he has been the guy slugging it out in the trenches trying to figure out how to make measures real and operational. He has been there for the birth of the idea of "open standards" and has launched and carried the effort to evolve software programs and databases to share and learn together, never seeming to tire from the heavy lifting. Thanks Dan for your unselfish and constant support to our community.



Jora Young receiving her service award from Kimberly Corbett and Brad Northrup, CCNet's Chair, at the 2013 CCNet Rally © Carly Voight/TNC.

And last, but certainly not least, we express our heartfelt gratitude and respect for all this very special colleague has given to our community. Jora Young, who pretty much has been the mother of CCNet - and as with most mothers has had more to do with day to day raising. She has also been CCNet's midwife, cheerleader, standard setter, fundraiser, and taskmaster. Without Jora there would probably be no CCNet in its current form, full stop. Jora fostered the CAP Coaches Network early in the century and delivered a healthy baby CCNet in 2009. Jora's commitment to improving conservation on the ground using what we now call the Open Standards, and supported by trained experienced coaches, is still CCNet's guiding vision. Jora's unique, sensitive personality combined with her insight and conservation experience has been just what was needed to get CCNet off the ground. Last year was Jora's last year as our overall CCNet coordinator, she has successfully passed on CCNet's coordination and is slowly reducing her participation in CCNet, but she can never be replaced. Many of us in the Network were trained as coaches by Jora Young,

and as a recent coach graduate said, not only are we better coaches for it, but we are better people. Jora, thank you for nurturing our community and for getting us all to this present state. You will always be a very special member of our CCNet community and we can proudly say we are probably the only network out there that has its own Italian grandmother!

“ *Because of Jora we are not only better coaches,
but we are also better people.* ”

CCNet Newsletter Team - Sara Delheimer, Cristina Lasch, Felix Cybulla

For more information about the Conservation Coaches Network (CCNet) contact:
[John Morrison](#) or [Cristina Lasch](#).