**CCNet Conservation Coaches Training**

**Viability Analysis**

**Meeting Common Challenges**

The purpose of this exercise is to distill some successful examples and/or best suggestions for how to address some of the common issues that teams have when developing their viability analysis for their targets.

On each of the seven flip chart pages that you have been given you will find a different challenge that teams have faced with this step. (Below is the list of these seven common challenges.)

Review these seven challenges with your group quickly.

Are there any big challenges that several people have encountered that are not on this list? Capture them on flip chart pages and add them if the group would like to do so.

Your group’s task is to determine what two or three things you would recommend that a team try when faced with each challenge.

To do this, ask your team members to write their suggestions to specific challenges (based on their first hand experiences) on the flip chart pages.

Once the team members have written what they have tried that worked, discuss the information that you have as a group. Add any other ideas that this discussion sparks. Circle the ones that your group feels are very insightful or that two or more people have tried and found successful.

Remember it is always best to develop your recommendations based on real experience.

If your group lacks direct experience with any of the challenges, consider other ways you might be able to guide a team to a useful suggestion?

**The Challenges:**

1. What is the surest way to get an adequate (reasonable) first draft of Key Ecological Attributes and indicators and a first draft of the rating scale?
2. How do we, as coaches, control the tendency of some teams to want to list scores of KEA’s and indicators or really obscure KEA’s?
3. How do we deal with the confusion some teams have with the terminology?
4. How do we deal with the un-evenness that is always present with our team’s knowledge of the different targets?
5. How can we extract information from reluctant experts?
6. How much can we reasonably expect to achieve in a workshop setting on this step?
7. Should we do viability analyses for other types of targets beside biodiversity targets? E.g. cultural, socioeconomic? Etc. If so, any recommendations for how to do this?

Be prepared to share your most insightful recommendations with the whole group in plenary.

**You have 50 minutes for this exercise**.

**Conservation Coaches Network**

**Developing Viability**

**Exercise**

Your team will be doing a first draft of a viability analysis for their focal targets at the next workshop.

You expect to have 20 people at this workshop. The group will be a mixed group - some scientists, some conservation field people, some government relations staff, and some lay partners who are very involved in the conservation of this project area.

The Team leader has decided he wants the whole group to have some involvement in this step so that they understand the kinds of things that are important to know about their targets to understand how they function and what their current status is.

As the coaching team for this project, decide the following:

1. What information do you want the core team to assemble to have available at the workshop?
2. How do you want to set up the process in the workshop? E.g. break-out groups or not? How designated? How people will be assigned? How these will be facilitated?
3. How much time do you want to designate for the process?
4. What workshop aides do you want to have on hand?
5. How much will you expect to achieve in this session?
6. How will you capture the information generated in the workshop?
7. What is the follow-up?

Extra question if time allows.

You know you will have two very opinionated and difficult science types in the room. Describe some ways you and the project leader think you will be able to “manage” them so that they don’t alienate, dominate or drive the other participants to disengage from the process?

When you report back to the group, we expect you to explain to us (as the project’s core team) your recommendations for how best to implement this step in the workshop setting and what you expect from us.

You have 50 minutes for this exercise.

**Conservation Coaches Network**

**Developing Viability Exercise**

**Instructors Notes**

Select teams of three for this exercise.

Instructions to the team:

Your team will be doing a first draft of a viability analysis for their focal targets at the next workshop.

You expect to have 20 people at this workshop. The group will be a mixed group - some scientists, some conservation field people, some government relations staff, and some lay partners who are very involved in the conservation of this project area.

The Team leader has decided he wants the whole group to have some involvement in this step so that they understand the kinds of things that are important to know about their targets to understand how they function and what their current status is.

As the coaching team for this project, decide the following:

1. What information do you want the core team to assemble to have available at the workshop?
2. How do you want to set up the process in the workshop? E.g. break-out groups? How many? How designated? How people will be assigned? How these will be facilitated?
3. How much time do you want to designate for the process?
4. What workshop aides do you want to have on hand? (If you will be using a flip chart to record information, set it up for us to see.)
5. How much will you expect to achieve in this session?
6. How will you capture the information generated in the workshop?
7. What is the follow-up?

Extra question if time allows.

You know you will have two very opinionated and difficult science types in the room. Describe some ways you and the project leader think you will be able to “manage” them so that they don’t alienate, dominate or drive the other participants to disengage from the process?

When you report back to the group, we expect you to explain to us (as the project’s core team) your recommendations for how best to implement this step in the workshop setting and what you expect from us.

You have 50 minutes for this exercise.

Instructors notes:

Let the team decide among themselves how to set their interaction up.

When they report back to the group, Ask them to stay “in character” by pretending the other participants in the training is their core project team.

Ask the other participants the following questions:

1. Any questions for the coaches?
2. Do you think this approach will work?
3. Do you have concerns about anything they are suggesting?
4. Is there something you might suggest be done differently?
5. Is there something that they didn’t really think about?