

Facilitating Species Conservation Planning Workshops: Online Training



"[The CPSG Workshop] was a pivot point to direct investment in devil conservation."

Rebecca Spindler,
Research and
Conservation Manager,
Taronga Conservation
Society Australia

Introduction

Planning for the recovery of threatened species is a complex process. Often multiple stakeholders and interests need to be considered. Navigating through this socio-cultural 'minefield' takes a suite of skills which are rarely covered within existing degree or post-graduate biology programs.

Facilitation skills provide us with the confidence and competence we require to work through such situations. Wherever problems are complex or decisions require collaboration, facilitation skills will improve the outcome.

The IUCN SSC Conservation Planning Specialist Group (CPSG) has developed multi-stakeholder species conservation planning processes that have been 'pivot points' in recovery efforts for threatened wildlife globally.

This online course has been developed to help share some of this experience with a next generation of species conservation planners so more of the 25,000+ species currently threatened with extinction will have a brighter future.

Course aim

This **free** course is designed to build capacity for **effective facilitation of species conservation planning workshops**. Our target audiences are government staff and IUCN SSC Specialist Group members responsible for the development of species conservation plans. The course is also relevant to conservation professionals and academics working within zoos, universities and field programs.

Learning outcomes

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:

- Describe the role of the facilitator in consensus-based decision making
- Design and facilitate a planning meeting or workshop
- Follow the CPSG species conservation planning workshop process
- Select facilitation tools to help groups solve problems, make decisions, and develop plans

Course format

This **online course** (delivered through www.conservationtraining.org) consists of pre-recorded lectures, reading materials, and problem-solving activities along with '**live**' **webinars and discussions**. You will interact with some of the world's leading authorities on species conservation planning, share in their experiences, and develop your own understanding of the skills involved.



Course duration

The course involves **6hrs work per week for six weeks**, from February 18th- March 29th, 2019.



Core course faculty

Jamie Copsey



Jamie is the Director of Training at CPSG. He has been working in the field of capacity building

for species conservation for more than 15 years. He has extensive experience in the design and delivery of training programs for conservation professionals, from junior staff through to senior leadership. He regularly facilitates planning workshops and publishes on topics such as conservation management and leadership, as well as on more biologically-related themes.

Dr Phil Miller

Phil joined the CPSG staff in 1994 and is now Senior Program Officer for



the organization. He specializes in developing and applying complex risk assessment methods to species conservation

planning projects across a wide range of endangered species, and against diverse human socio-cultural backgrounds.

Dr Kathy Traylor-Holzer



Kathy joined CPSG staff in 2002 after assisting with CPSG workshops for 10 years while working at the Minnesota Zoo.

She is now Senior Program Officer with the organization and specializes in population modelling, population management, and linking *ex situ* activities to conservation needs in the wild. She has served as population advisor for multiple tiger *ex situ* programs.

Caroline Lees

Caroline joined the CPSG staff in 2011 as a facilitator and population modeler. Before joining CPSG, she worked with zoos in Australasia to plan and coordinate the management of



captive populations of threatened wildlife. Since joining CPSG, her primary focus has shifted to supporting planning for species conservation in situ, with a particular emphasis on cases where *ex situ* management plays a key role. She has contributed to the work of species recovery programs across Australia and New Zealand and co-convenes CPSG's Australasian Regional Resource Center.

Contributors

Species conservation planning experts from across the IUCN SSC and beyond will provide input to the course through recorded interviews, webinars and online discussions to help you broaden your exposure to conservation planning processes, tools, and facilitation skills.

Course dates

This course will run over a six week period from **Monday 18th February to Friday 29th March 2019**. Pre-recorded sessions can be listened to in your own time. Live webinars will be run twice to accommodate different time zones.

Certification

Participants successfully completing the course will receive a Certificate of Completion. Those going further to apply the skills to their work can be considered for a Certificate of Practice (additional assessment criteria apply).

Application procedure

This first iteration of the course will run for a 'closed' group of up to 40 participants. Participant selection will take into account priority target groups (government staff and SSC Specialist Group members) and an assessment of the likelihood that skills and knowledge developed will be put into practice within species conservation planning workshops.

Application deadline: Friday 25th January, 2019

Course fee

This is a free course.

Further information

Contact Jamie Copsey at jamie@cpsg.org

