



Adaptive Management For Conservation Success

Course 1: Design and Plan Your Project (Online)

Faced with limited resources to confront growing challenges, conservation and natural resource management organizations must be able to show that their efforts are strategic, systematic, and results-oriented. This course provides conservation and natural resource management project teams and individuals with the skills and knowledge to design and implement effective projects. It also helps them determine how to provide clear evidence of their progress toward achieving the results they seek.

Overall Goal

By the end of the course, participants will understand the process of adaptive management in terms of the Conservation Measures Partnership (CMP) [Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation](#) and be able to apply Steps 1 and 2 of the *Open Standards* to their projects. Students will also be comfortable using [Miradi Adaptive Management Software](#) to document their work.

Learning Objectives

1. Become familiar with Steps 1 and 2 of the *Open Standards* – “Conceptualize Your Project” and “Plan Your Actions and Monitoring.”
2. Apply Steps 1 and 2 of the *Open Standards* to a real project by beginning to produce the following parts of a strategic plan for that project:
 - A clear conceptualization of the project, including:
 - The definition of the core project team and roles and responsibilities.
 - The definition of project scope and conservation targets.
 - Rating of threats to biodiversity and resources.
 - A conceptual model describing the current situation in the project site, including the factors influencing each conservation target, and the causal relationships among these factors.
 - An action plan including:
 - Well-defined goals for all conservation targets.
 - Prioritized strategies derived from the project conceptual model.
 - Results chains defining core assumptions about how project strategies will contribute to reducing threats and conserving targets.
 - Well-designed objectives linked to key results in a project results chain.
 - Activities required to implement a strategy and achieve objectives.
 - A monitoring plan for measuring the effectiveness and impact of the project. The monitoring plan will include:
 - Definition of audiences for the monitoring and their information needs.
 - Indicators for monitoring goals and objectives.
 - Monitoring methods, who will gather the monitoring data, when and where will monitoring take place.

Note that during the course, a participating team or individual will not complete a full project plan but will have gained the skills to do so going forward. If a team or individual needs to complete an actual plan, FOS can build in additional coaching and follow-up for that team (at an additional charge).

Format

The course can be taught in English or in Spanish. The course is organized as an 11-week workshop taught via e-mail and the Internet. Working with project teams through a liaison (see Participant Requirements section) or directly with individual participants, the FOS instructor provides introductions to new concepts and materials, guidance for the successful completion of each section of the course, and feedback to ensure that participants stay on track. Please see the FOS website for a [sample course schedule](#).

Course materials include FOS's training manual, supplementary readings, and a number of tools developed and used by various CMP member organizations. The course will also use [Miradi Adaptive Management Software](#), an innovative, user-friendly software program that walks teams and individuals through the steps of the CMP *Open Standards*.

Instructors

All courses are taught by FOS staff members. To review staff member profiles, please see the [FOS website](#).

Participant Requirements

FOS asks that [all participants](#):

- Set aside time to participate in the training and complete all course assignments (an average of four to six hours per week).
- Have access to reliable high-speed bandwidth, ensuring that participants can easily and reliably access manuals, presentations, discussion boards, and emails.
- Come to the training prepared with a project that needs planning or revision.

Additionally, FOS asks that [project teams](#):

- Provide a lead contact with whom FOS can coordinate the training (someone comfortable enough with computers to be able to navigate the online training site, post assignments, and use discussion boards and email);

And that [individual participants](#):

- Collaborate on their project assignments with their colleagues so as to maximize the utility of the course products.

Dates:

FOS offers its 11-week online course starting the week of September 14, 2009.

Course Fee

FOS is offering a special discounted price for upcoming courses. The fee is US\$1,800 per person or US\$2,500 per project team.

Registration

For more information and to register, please contact FOS at training@fosonline.org.