

“Facilitators are experts in designing, applying and using process. This in fact means that anyone can facilitate if they understand the process and how to use it”.

Tony Mann

Facilitation- An Art, Science, Skill or all Three? Build your expertise in Facilitation

Introduction

Planning for the recovery of threatened species through to ecosystems is a complex process. Often multiple stakeholders and interests need to be balanced, alongside those of the biological units we value. Navigating through this socio-cultural ‘minefield’ takes a suite of skills which are rarely covered within existing degree or post-graduate biology course programmes.

As conservation professionals, we can find ourselves in the challenging position of having to manage inter-stakeholder disagreements over how best to respond to a given conservation problem. Likewise we may end up in a deadlock with other colleagues over what the ‘right’ decision is, to resolve a particular conservation issue.

Facilitation skills can provide us with the confidence and competence we require to work through such situations and often end up with good decisions that are endorsed by everyone. These skills can be particularly valuable within species conservation planning processes, such as the ‘One Plan Approach’.

In fact, wherever problems are complex or decisions require the collaboration of multiple individuals or organisations, facilitation skills will help improve the outcome.



Course aim

This course is designed to build capacity for the effective facilitation of species conservation planning processes. The course is relevant to conservation professionals and academics working within zoos, universities and field programmes, and in particular those involved in, or wishing to be involved in, developing conservation plans.

Course format

This will be a blended course, mixing pre-course online lectures and knowledge checks with a four-day face-to-face taught workshop in which participants spend much of their time in facilitated scenarios to develop their skills.

CPSG saves threatened species by increasing the effectiveness of conservation efforts worldwide.

Learning outcomes

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

- Demonstrate how to facilitate effective workshops and meetings
- Apply the ‘One Plan Approach’ to species conservation planning processes
- Deal with conflict under different circumstances
- Demonstrate effective listening skills
- Describe how to provide feedback to individuals to improve relationships and work effectively



White Oak saves endangered wildlife and habitats through sustainable conservation breeding, education and responsible land stewardship.

Course facilitators and contributors

Jamie Copsey

Director of Training for the IUCN SSC Conservation Planning Specialist Group (CPSG).



Jamie 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 programmes 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.

Linda Penfold

Director, South-East Zoo Alliance for Reproduction and Conservation (SEZARC)



Linda Penfold is the Founder and Director of SEZARC, and works on helping zoos and aquariums overcome reproduction challenges. Linda is a reproductive advisor for both the marine fish and antelope taxonomic groups for the Association of Zoo and Aquariums. She is a reproductive advisor for the IUCN species survival commission for Giraffe and Okapi, and an adjunct professor at the University of North Florida.

Brandon Speeg

Director of Conservation, White Oak Conservation Foundation



Brandon has been working in the field of species conservation for 16 years, centered around the disciplines of conservation breeding, education, and training. Brandon is the Director of Conservation at White Oak, a 17,000 acre conservation center in Northeast Florida. He leads day-to-day management, communications and strategic direction for White Oak's conservation (in situ and ex situ), education and training programs.

Course dates and venue

Monday Sept. 23rd through Friday Sept. 27th at White Oak Conservation Foundation Yulee, FL USA

Course fees

\$1,250 USD Includes transportation to and from Jacksonville Intl. airport, overnight accommodations at White Oak, and all meals.

For further information

For further information please contact Jamie Copsey at jamie@cpsg.org or Brandon Speeg at bspeeg@white-oak.org

