

Facilitating Species Conservation Planning Workshops

FSCPW



Changing the Future for Wildlife



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

Dr Rebecca Spindler, former Research and Conservation Manager, Taronga Conservation Society Australia.

INTRODUCTION

Of the more than 157,000 species assessed through the global Red List, 28% are considered threatened with extinction (IUCN, 2024). Well-resourced, effectively implemented species conservation plans will play a key role in reversing this situation and improving the status of threatened species worldwide. To achieve this change at scale requires a significant increase in the number of competent planners able to support governments, non-government organizations, zoos, aquariums, botanic gardens, and civil society groups to plan for threatened species recovery.

Planning can be complex. Often multiple stakeholders and their interests need to be considered. Facilitation skills provide us with the confidence and competence needed to lead groups through the process.

The IUCN SSC Conservation Planning Specialist Group (CPSG) has developed and facilitated many hundreds of multi-stakeholder species conservation planning processes that have been 'pivot points' in recovery efforts for threatened wildlife globally. In 2020 CPSG published its [Species Conservation Planning Principles and Steps](#), a resource for those seeking guidance on how to design collaborative species conservation planning processes. This online course explains how to put these principles and steps into practice.

COURSE AIM

CPSG has the ambition of ensuring that, every species that needs a plan is covered by an effective, implemented plan'. This online course has been designed to build the capacity necessary, globally, for this ambition to become a reality.

Our target audiences are government wildlife agency staff, IUCN SSC Specialist Group members, and other conservation professionals working in zoos, aquariums, universities or field programs, responsible for the development of species conservation plans.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

This is a comprehensive course on species conservation planning.

By the end participants will be able to:

- Apply the CPSG Species Conservation Planning Principles and Steps to the design and facilitation of 4-day in person species conservation planning workshops;
- Describe the importance of interpersonal skills and process design steps in enabling groups to function most effectively together;
- Demonstrate the role of the facilitator in consensus-based decision making;
- Demonstrate how to facilitate an open discussion and run a meeting or workshop process;
- Explain the role that quantitative risk assessment tools can play in informing species conservation planning problems and solutions.



"This excellent course is a must for everyone involved in conservation planning!"

CPSG online course participant

CORE COURSE FACULTY



JAMIE COPSEY

Is the Director of Training at CPSG. He has been working in the field of capacity building for species conservation for more than 20 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.



CHRISTINA DEMBIEC

joined the CPSG staff in 2024 as the Training Program Officer. She provides coordination and administration for our training courses as well as our grant-funded capacity-building programs. Before joining CPSG, Christina worked extensively in conservation education within zoos, aquariums, and environmental education centers. She has experience working within the *ex situ* conservation community as well as expertise in leadership development, facilitation, and instructional design.

CONTRIBUTORS

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



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COURSE FORMAT

This online course 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.

COSTS

We are committed to making our courses as accessible as possible and, since 2026, we offer a fee structure **based on country of residence**. This approach allows us to keep our training accessible to conservation professionals around the world while sustaining course quality.

The cost for participating in this course is:

- List 1: \$ 375
- List 2: \$ 300
- List 3: \$ 190
- List 4: \$ 115
- List 5: \$ 75

Find the country lists [here](#).

A limited number of training grants are available for this course. If you would like to discuss this opportunity, or have other questions, please contact: training@cpsg.org

COURSE DURATION

The course lasts for seven weeks and involves **4-6hrs work per week**, depending on how quickly you can work through the materials!

COURSE DATES AND LIVE SESSIONS

Please [click here](#) for course dates and deadlines for applications. Pre-recorded sessions can be listened to in your own time. Live webinars will be repeated each week to accommodate different time zones. Application closing date will be one month prior to the course start date.

CERTIFICATION

Participants successfully completing the course will receive a Certificate of Completion.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Participant selection will take into account priority target groups (government staff and SSC Specialist Group members in particular), and an assessment of the likelihood that skills and knowledge developed will be put into practice within species conservation planning workshops.

Further information
training@cpsg.org