



ONLINE COURSE Wildlife Disease Risk Analysis WDRA





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The approach of using this material to introduce WDRA is a fantastic way to bring the relevance of WDRA as a technique to numerous stakeholders from wildlife rehabilitators, policy makers and conservation biologists, to vets and medical personnel.

WDRA course participant

INTRODUCTION

Disease is a primary driver of wildlife population declines worldwide. As these populations shrink or fragment, the dynamics of stable ecological systems are disrupted resulting in closer contact between wildlife, domestic animals and people, and providing novel opportunities for pathogen transmission. Where disease is a direct threat to species conservation, or wildlife are implicated as a vector or reservoir of disease impacting domestic animals and/or people, Wildlife Disease Risk Analysis (WDRA) can help decision-makers determine how best to respond.

Structured WDRA presents an opportunity for multiple stakeholders with varied interests to develop collaborative plans that benefit all those involved and ensure the conservation of threatened species, wherever they exist.

The IUCN SSC Conservation Planning Specialist Group (CPSG) led the development of the [IUCN Guidelines for Wildlife Disease Risk Analysis](#), published in 2014. This online course is designed for those who wish to put these guidelines into practice.

COURSE AIM

CPSG supports the One Health approach to species recovery planning. This online course has been designed to equip participants to undertake collaborative disease risk analyses for threatened species.

Our target audiences are government wildlife agency staff, IUCN SSC Specialist Group members, and other conservation professionals and veterinarians working in zoos, aquariums, universities or field programs, responsible for planning for disease management at the interface between people, places and wildlife.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course is designed to equip participants with an understanding of how to put the IUCN Guidelines for Wildlife Disease Risk Analysis into practice.

By the end participants will be able to:

- Recognize and justify situations where a WDRA process can contribute to
 - a) Wildlife conservation
 - b) Domestic animal health care
 - c) Public health protection
- Explain how the principle of One Health and the science of epidemiology are applied to a WDRA
- Design a workshop to effectively engage multiple stakeholders in completing a WDRA



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, and capacity-building as well as on more biologically-related themes.



STEVE UNWIN

Is a wildlife vet and academic researcher in One Health. In 2006, he became the veterinary coordinator for the Pan African Sanctuary Alliance (PASA) veterinary program, where he started using and training others in WDRA. In 2022 Steve joined Wildlife Health Australia team as Program Manager for the Indo Pacific region. As well as WDRA, Steve continues to work on other One Health and conservation capacity development tools for those working at the human-wildlife interface.



FABIANA LOPES ROCHA

Is a wildlife veterinarian and ecologist. Her academic interest are ecology, parasitology, and conservation of wild mammals, with an emphasis on carnivores and One Health. Fabiana is the head officer of the Center for Species Survival Brazil, a three-way partnership of IUCN SSC, CPSG, and Parque das Aves. Her work is focused on bringing global standards and improving national capacity to assess, plan, and act within governmental agencies, NGOs, and other relevant stakeholder groups to conserve threatened species.



RICHARD JAKOB-HOFF

Is a zoo and wildlife veterinarian, group facilitator and Wildlife Disease Risk Analysis advisor to CPSG. Between 1990-2020 he was employed by Auckland Zoo, New Zealand in various capacities. He was lead editor of the IUCN/OIE Manual of Procedures for Wildlife Risk Analysis and its companion Guidelines published in 2014. He is a lifelong conservationist with a passion for facilitating multi-stakeholder collaborations.



PHIL TUCAK

Is a veterinarian, journalist, and communications manager. He works with various organizations, including the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Vetnostics, Vet Practice Magazine, dvm360 and SBS. As the Wildlife Outreach Vet, Phil also works to share the conversation about conservation. Phil has previously worked as Science Communication Advisor for Wildlife Health Australia, Communications Manager for the Australian Wildlife Conservancy, and as Communications and Interpretation Coordinator for Perth Zoo.



ZALI BROOKES

Is a veterinarian with an honors degree in law. She is passionate about wildlife conservation and disease, with interests in epidemiology, animal law and international public law. Zali has worked in emergency response to exotic disease and bushfires which led her to One Health. She has a diverse background which includes working with the media, writing and wildlife photography, is an experienced project leader and former associate director of the New Zealand International Science Festival.

COURSE FORMAT

This online course consists of pre-recorded lectures, reading materials, and problem solving activities along with 'live' webinars and discussions. Assessed groupwork is included in the program. You will also interact with some of the world's leading experts on WDRA, communication and multi-stakeholder planning processes.

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: \$625

List 2: \$500

List 3: \$310

List 4: \$185

List 5: \$125

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

This course contains eight modules spread over nine weeks, requiring 4-6hrs of work per week, depending on how quickly you can work through course content.

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 from CPSG.

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