



Innovation and Learning from the Field

A Program of the Wildlife Conservation Society

Supported by the USAID/Global Conservation Program

GCP Learning

Implementation Plan

October 2006 – September 2007

Living Landscapes Program

Wildlife Conservation Society

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Implementation Plan FY 2007

October 1, 2006 – September 30, 2007

Total Level of Effort \$102,000

Topic	USAID Learning	WCS	Total
Measuring socio-economic impacts of conservation interventions (AWF/EWV)	\$20,000	\$8,000	\$28,000
Building social resilience into marine protected area networks (TNC)	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$20,000
Integrating hydrological processes in landscape conservation planning (CI)	\$23,000	\$10,000	\$33,000
Applying Learning from the Forest Trade Network to reduce China’s Footprint on the forests of the Lower Mekong through Responsible Forest Management and Forest Product Purchasing (WWF)	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000
Future scenarios modeling for landscape conservation decision making (WCS)	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000
A simple, user friendly database for law enforcement monitoring (WCS)	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000
TOTALS	\$53,000	\$49,000	\$102,000

The importance of learning within GCP

The premise for the GCP learning initiative is embedded in USAID Biodiversity Team’s commitment to encourage and support the development and sharing of better conservation practices, and builds directly on the work of the Biodiversity Support Program (BSP), the Global Bureau’s predecessor. This is in accordance with GCP’s mandate, which is to address gaps and build on lessons learned from BSP. Hence, WCS’s initiative under the GCP II umbrella will ensure that USAID’s commitment to learning finds synergy with ongoing initiatives among the multiple layers (field and central programs) within individual GCP institutions, as well as across institutions.

Focal areas for GCP learning

Learning activities supported by GCP II funds cluster within the following three strategic foci:

- Decision and management tools and methods
- Effective approaches to threats abatement
- System specific conservation challenges

WCS Learning Topics in FY07

As agreed during the 2006 GCP annual meeting (see attached meeting highlights), WCS will spend all of its Learning Funds in FY07 to ensure that WCS field and NY staff are able to provide knowledge leadership and practical assistance in product definition and production to the three GCP partner learning activities. WCS will finance its field and NY staff to contribute to one additional GCP partner activity and to implement two WCS directed activities that should be of considerable interest and learning value to GCP partners.

Mobilizing and measuring socio-economic impacts of conservation interventions (AWF/EWV)

For details on this learning activity please refer to the FY07 implementation plan submitted by AWF/EWV.

WCS will contribute to this activity through:

- the ongoing “Parks and People” case study that is designed to assess how establishment of the national park network in Gabon influences the welfare of local communities over 5 years (Lead: Dr. David Wilkie); and
- organization of a multi-partner meeting to follow up the WCS Parks and Displacement workshop and the recent ABCG sponsored session on Parks and Poverty (Lead: Dr. Kent Redford).

Level of effort: (*USAID Learning - \$20,000, WCS - \$10,000*)

Results and Outputs

Specific WCS products from this activity will include:

- broad dissemination of the methods used in the Gabon Parks and People project;
- preliminary analysis of the baseline (pre-park) welfare status of households with traditional claims on park resources and a match set of control households with no prior claims; and
- proceedings from the WCS organized People and Parks meeting.

Building social resilience into marine protected area networks (TNC)

For details on this learning activity please refer to the FY07 implementation plan submitted by TNC.

WCS will contribute knowledge leadership to the process proposed by TNC and to the FY07 workplan to be finalized during a meeting to take place in October 2006 that was originally planned for FY06.

Level of effort: (*USAID Learning - \$10,000, WCS - \$3,000*)

Results and Outputs

Results and outputs generated by this multi-partner learning activity, led by TNC, will be determined during the October planning meeting.

Integrating hydrological processes in landscape conservation planning (CI)

For details on this learning activity please refer to the FY07 implementation plan submitted by CI.

WCS will contribute to this activity through a case study of water management in the Rungwa Ruaha Living Landscape, Tanzania:

In semi-arid regions water is the principal limiting factor in the function and productivity of both natural and agro-ecosystem. As part of WCS' USAID funded learning activities, we will support participation of Dr. Pete Coppolillo, Director of our Rungwa-Ruaha landscape program, in Conservation International's hydrology group. This Living Landscape offers an extraordinary learning opportunity, as the very existence of the Rungwa-Ruaha landscape is dependent on the hydrology of the Great Ruaha River. Once the only perennial river in the driest part of the country, it now flows only eight to ten months per year, depriving wildlife of their dry season water supply and Tanzania of \$2 million/day in hydro-power. Dr. Coppolillo will use his participation in this learning activity to build and share knowledge on the hydrological dynamics of the river as affected by upstream rice cultivation, and to explore how his efforts to establish water-management cooperatives and irrigation control structures are influence dry season flows. By working with the people who depend on the water for their crops and enhancing their ability to use water efficiently, Dr. Coppolillo will build a model of how hydrological interventions can enhance both human and wildlife outcomes.

Level of effort: (*USAID Learning - \$23,000, WCS - \$10,000*)

Results and Outputs

Dr. Coppolillo will participate in workshops organized by CI and will present, publish and disseminate his case study of water management in the Rungwa-Ruaha Living Landscape.

Applying Learning from the Forest Trade Network to reduce China's Footprint on the forests of the Lower Mekong through Responsible Forest Management and Forest Product Purchasing (WWF)

For details on this learning activity please refer to the FY07 implementation plan submitted by WWF.

WCS will contribute to this activity by supporting the regular involvement of Scott Robertson, Coordinator of the WCS Hunting and Wildlife Trade Program in Vietnam, in workshops and other learning activities.

Level of effort: (*USAID Learning - \$0, WCS - \$1,000*)

Results and Outputs

Scott Robertson will participate in workshops organized by WWF.

Future scenarios modeling for landscape conservation decision making (WCS)

Conservation planning at a landscape scale is typically based on an understanding of the past and a snapshot of the present. Though it would clearly help enhance our conservation decisions if we could peer into the future, few attempts have been made by the international conservation community to use future scenario methods in conservation planning and priority setting. In FY07 we plan to explore the use of 3-D visualization (Dr. Karl Didier) and agent-based spatial simulation modeling (Dr. David Wilkie) to examine the utility of future scenario development in conservation decision making.

Level of effort: (*USAID Learning - \$0, WCS - \$10,000*)

This is a unilateral contribution to GCP's learning activities by WCS.

Results and Outputs

We will conduct an assessment of the utility of 3-D visualization and agent-based spatial simulation modeling in conservation planning and priority setting at a landscape scale. Lessons learned will be made available to GCP partners and others through an LLP bulletin that summarizes the results from this learning activity.

A simple, user-friendly database for ranger-based law enforcement monitoring (WCS)

Collecting, storing, analyzing and using Law Enforcement Monitoring (LEM) information is critical to ensuring effective regulation of access to and use of natural resources. In the past WCS staff members have developed a variety of project specific solutions. This WCS lead activity is designed to capture what these projects have learned, and to develop a standard WCS LEM database that can be shared within WCS and the wider conservation community.

The first step in this process is to work with WCS field project with experience developing and using LEM data management systems, to put together the functional specifications for a standard LEM spatial database. Once the core LEM database development team has finalized the system's specifications, it will be circulated to WCS staff more generally for comments and final revisions.

When the final specifications are in hand, there are several options for implementation in FY07: (1) develop our own database (possibly in MS Access with a GIS link), (2) adapt the MIST system (standalone Borland Delphi application with MapObjects enabled GIS capabilities) to meet our needs, (3) adapt the MIKE database system (MS Access with a link to ArcGIS) to meet our needs, or (4) further develop one of the WCS project systems currently in use.

The database will be implemented and tested across a number of sites in FY07. The WCS focus in Asia would initially be the WCS Tigers Forever sites, under WCS' new Tiger Program. In Africa, implementation would start across some of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) sites in the Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Gabon.

Level of effort: (*USAID Learning - \$0, WCS - \$10,000*)

This is a unilateral contribution to GCP's learning activities by WCS

Results and Outputs

The piloted database will be made available to GCP partners on the LLP website.

Appendix

1. WCS GCP Learning Branding Strategy and Marking Plan