



Innovation and Learning from the Field

A Program of the Wildlife Conservation Society

Supported by the USAID/Global Conservation Program

GCP Learning

Annual Report

October 2006 – September 2007

Living Landscapes Program

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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 GCPII 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

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

This learning activity was led by AWF and EWV. The information provided below is designed to supplement the annual report for this learning activity to be provided to USAID by AWF and EWV.

WCS contributed the following activities:

- Broad dissemination of the "Parks and People" case study methodology designed to rigorously assess how establishment of the national park network in Gabon influences the welfare of local communities over 5 years (Lead: Dr. David Wilkie); and
- Hosting 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).

The “Parks and People” approach was published in the Diversity section of Conservation Biology, which resulted in over 30 requests for copies of the complete methodology and datasheets (Appendix 1). Conservation International in Equatorial Guinea is planning to use the methodology to assess the impact of protected areas on local livelihoods. Results from the study will contribute to the Poverty Environment Network project run by CIFOR. David Wilkie participated in an AWF/FFI sponsored workshop on measuring livelihoods held in Cambridge, UK on the 18-19th of July. All 20+ participants were provided with electronic copies of the methodology. A summary of methods used to assess livelihoods was published as a Living Landscapes Program Technical Manual, and will be available on our website in English, French and Spanish (Appendices 2 and 3, the Spanish version is currently in draft form).

The Living Landscapes Program, in collaboration with the WCS Institute, hosted a Protected Areas and Livelihoods workshop on June 4-7 (see Appendix 4). Draft papers from the workshop have been produced and a WCS Working Paper will be published late this year or early in 2008.

Building social resilience into marine protected area networks (TNC)

This learning activity was lead by TNC and WWF.

WCS staff participated fully in the activities proposed and implemented by WWF and TNC, including taking a leadership position on the social aspects working group. WWF, as lead institution, is reporting on this learning activity.

Integrating hydrological processes in landscape conservation planning (CI)

This learning activity is lead by CI, who will provide a full annual report.

Dr. Pete Coppolillo, Director of our Rungwa-Ruaha landscape program, and his colleague Festo Semanini contribute substantively to this CI lead learning activity.

Festo participated in the 2nd CI-sponsored Hydrological Processes workshop, held from March 12-16 in Chilika Lake, India. The workshop was hosted by the Chilika Development Authority and Wetlands International-India. During the workshop Festo presented the Ruaha River case study.

A journal article on the restoration of the great Ruaha River was written and is presently being reviewed (Appendix 5). The article was co-authored by staff of Tanapa, USAID, Lighthouse Group Tanzania, AIMS Australia and WS.

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)

This learning activity was lead by WWF. Scott Robertson, the coordinator of the WCS Hunting and Wildlife Trade Program in Vietnam, participated materially in this learning activity. Only WCS funds were used to support our participation in this activity. A detailed report of this learning activity will be provided by WWF.

Future scenarios modeling for landscape conservation decision making (WCS)

This learning activity was solely supported by WCS funds. In FY07 the desired outputs, data coverages and model operational rules were developed for the hunting simulation model with the assistance of Dr. Esteban Suarez, Director of the WCS Ecuador Program. Dr. Wilkie then drafted a logical flow chart for the multi-agent based spatial simulation model (Appendix 6). Funds have been secured to hire a student programmer (fall 2007) to write and debug the code. Hunting simulations under differing scenarios will be undertaken in the spring 2008.

NY and field staff time conflicts prevented us from beginning to explore the use of 3-D visualizations as a tool for landscape conservation decision making.

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

Dr. Samantha Strindberg and Tom Clements of the WCS Cambodia program surveyed WCS staff in Central Africa and Asia to assess the functional specifications for a standard law enforcement monitoring spatial database. After review of options they selected the Management Information System (MIST) and conducted a training on the system at the recent WCS Asia Program staff meeting. Tom Clements leads the MIST team that developed a reference guide and training manual for protected area staff in Cambodia (available at <http://conserveonline.org/workspaces/mist>). The WCS Asia program plans to roll-out the use of MIST across several Tigers Forever sites. Dr. Fiona Maisels of the Africa Program is exploring, with CARPE partners, the potential use of MIST to systematically monitor forest status and threats across the Congo Basin.

Appendices

- Appendix 1. “Parks and People”: complete methodology and datasheets
- Appendix 2. LLP Technical Manual 4- *Household Surveys – a tool for conservation design, action, and Monitoring*
- Appendix 3. LLP Manuel Technique 4- *Les enquêtes sociales – un outil de conception, d’action et de suivi pour la conservation*
- Appendix 4. Agenda: Protected Areas and Livelihoods workshop, June 4-7 2007, co-hosted by the WCS Institute and Living Landscapes Program
- Appendix 5. DRAFT: M.G.G. Mtahiko, E. Gereta, A. Kajuni, E. A. T. Chiombola, G.Z Ng’umbi, P. Coppolillo, and E. Wolanski. Towards an ecohydrology-based restoration the Usangu wetlands and the Great Ruaha River, Tanzania
- Appendix 6. Flow chart: Multi-agent Based Spatial Simulation Hunting Model