



ONLINE COURSE

# Facilitating Species Conservation Planning Workshops

FSCPW



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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 an introductory course to 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 species conservation planning processes.
- Demonstrate the role of the facilitator in consensus-based decision making.
- Select facilitation tools to help groups solve problems, make decisions, and develop plans.



**"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.



### PHIL MILLER

Joined the CPSG staff in 1994 and is now Director of Science: Single-species Planning for the organization. He specializes in developing and applying complex risk assessment methods to species conservation planning projects across a wide range of endangered species, and against diverse human socio-cultural backgrounds. Recently, he began working extensively with Federal and local authorities in North America to develop robust recovery plans for a variety of endangered species.



### CAROLINE LEES

Joined the CPSG staff in 2011 and is now the Director of Science: Multi-species Planning. Before joining CPSG, she worked with zoos in Australasia to plan and coordinate the management of captive populations of threatened wildlife. Since joining CPSG, her primary focus has shifted to supporting planning for species conservation in situ, with a particular emphasis on cases where ex situ management plays a key role. She has contributed to the work of species recovery programs across Australia and New Zealand and is CPSG's Australasian Regional Resource Center convenor.

## 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 (delivered through [www.conservationtraining.org](http://www.conservationtraining.org)) 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

**The cost for participating in this course is US\$300.** This does not reflect the true cost or value of this training as CPSG is committed to reducing financial barriers to training that will benefit threatened species worldwide. This is currently possible only due to the support received from the Global Conservation Network, (GCN) a group of committed institutions and individuals who support CPSG work. If you or your organization would like to consider becoming a GCN donor, or if you would like to learn more about CPSG, please contact: [jamie@cpsg.org](mailto:jamie@cpsg.org).

A limited number of scholarships are available for this course. If you would like to discuss this opportunity, or have other questions, please contact: [jamie@cpsg.org](mailto:jamie@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 go to [www.cpsg.org/training](http://www.cpsg.org/training) 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 approximately one month prior to the course start date.

## CERTIFICATION

Participants successfully completing the course will receive a Certificate of Completion. Those going further to apply the skills to their work can be considered for a Certificate of Reflective Practice (additional assessment criteria apply).

## 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  
Contact Jamie Copsey at  
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