



Climate Adaptation for Conservation Training & Coaching Session Memphis, Tennessee October 27-28, 2015

Photo: NPS

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) is offering a two-day Climate Adaptation for Conservation Training & Coaching Session for a limited number of project teams on October 27-28, 2015 in Memphis, Tennessee.

This unique opportunity provides hands-on training in how to consider climate change information in conservation planning and identify adaptation actions for implementation. It will also furnish participants with feedback and coaching on their own real-world climate adaptation project.

At the end of the training, participants will be able to:

- Identify climate change impacts that pose the greatest challenges and opportunities for achieving current conservation goals with existing actions;
- Describe whether and how conservation goals and actions may need to be adjusted in light of climate change;
- Design a “climate-informed” on-the-ground conservation project that aims to address the effects of climate change on a focal ecosystem;
- Tell a clear and compelling story of how their conservation project is designed to achieve climate adaptation outcomes;
- Prepare a stronger application for future project funding to sources like the WCS Climate Adaptation Fund.

This training and coaching session has been developed as part of the WCS Climate Adaptation Fund program, which supports on-the-ground conservation projects that demonstrate interventions for wildlife and ecosystem adaptation to climate change. The content of the training draws on several climate adaptation frameworks and guidance including: the Northern Institute for Applied Climate Science’s Climate Change Response Framework and Adaptation Workbook for forest and natural resource management, the Guide to Climate Smart Conservation, a collaborative effort led by the National Wildlife Federation, and the Adaptation for Conservation Targets (ACT) Framework.

The training is a combination of short presentations and small group engagement. In addition to receiving general information and guidance on adaptation planning, participants will spend much of the time in hands-on work sessions where they will incorporate climate change into a real-world conservation project that they bring to the workshop. Climate adaptation planning experts from WCS and other organizations will help coach small project teams as they apply a series of climate adaptation planning concepts to their projects. At the end of the training, we expect that project teams will have not only gotten a feel for how to integrate the effects of climate change into their conservation work, but will have also made demonstrable progress towards developing a climate-informed conservation project that identifies specific actions that can be implemented to adapt conservation efforts to changing conditions.

Who is encouraged to apply for this training?

This training is designed for conservation practitioners and project teams that are ready to identify and implement adaptation actions that further their conservation goals. For this offering we are emphasizing conservation projects from the southeastern U.S. that are taking place in inland systems. Individuals or small groups are able to attend this training session. Small project teams (about 2-4 people) that are involved in project design and implementation are best positioned to receive the greatest benefits from the curriculum. At least one member of the project team must be from a non-profit conservation organization, but we welcome participation of government, tribal, and private partners on project teams. We plan to limit attendance to no more than 12 project teams and 36 participants. If we receive more applications than we can accommodate, we will select project teams on a first-come-first-served basis, assuming they have already completed or will be able to complete some pre-work in advance of the training (see below).

What pre-work will need to be completed in advance of the training session?

This training uses active participation and constructive work time to help participants create their own “climate-informed” conservation project. Prior to the training, participants will be expected to:

- Identify the conservation issue or project that they would like to work on during the training and coaching session
- Clearly state the related conservation/management goals and objectives for the project
- Begin to consider the potential effects of climate change on the project area

Additional information and coaching will be made available to help participants understand and complete these steps in advance of the training. At the same time, it is anticipated that participants may need to devote 3-6 hours of time to preparation for the training, which could include informational webinars, group conference calls, and small group or individual work time. Prior to the training, participants will also need to be familiar with available science on climate change effects that are relevant to the focal issue or ecosystem. Instructors will help participants identify what additional reading or thinking they need to complete before the training in order to maximize the effectiveness of their time during the session.

Who will be instructing the training and coaching session?

This training will be led by a team of instructors specializing in climate adaptation who have led numerous climate change and adaptation trainings in the past.

- **Erika Rowland, Wildlife Conservation Society**
- **Kim Hall, The Nature Conservancy**
- **Stephen Handler, USFS Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science**
- **Beth Stys, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission**

More questions? Contact Erika Rowland (erowland@wcs.org; 406-640-1204) or Molly Cross (mcross@wcs.org; 406-209-4060) with questions.

Interested individuals or project teams will need to submit a completed application form no later than 5:00pm ET on Monday August 24, 2015. We plan to limit attendance to 10-12 project teams. If we receive more than 12 applications, we will select project teams on a first-come-first-served basis, assuming they have already completed or will be able to complete some pre-work in advance of the training.

There is no registration fee for the session

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