

# Facilitating Species Conservation Planning Processes

*“Facilitators are experts in designing, applying and using process. This in fact means that anyone can facilitate if they understand the process and how to use it”.*

Tony Mann

Facilitation- An Art, Science, Skill or all Three? Build your expertise in Facilitation

## Introduction

Planning for the recovery of threatened species through to ecosystems is a complex process. Often multiple stakeholders and interests need to be balanced, alongside those of the biological units we value. Navigating through this socio-cultural ‘minefield’ takes a suite of skills which are rarely covered within existing degree or post-graduate biology course programmes.

As conservation professionals, we can find ourselves in the challenging position of having to manage inter-stakeholder disagreements over how best to respond to a given conservation problem. Likewise we may end up

in a deadlock with other colleagues over what the ‘right’ decision is, to resolve a particular conservation issue.

Facilitation skills can provide us with the confidence and competence we require to work through such situations and often end up with good decisions that are endorsed by everyone. These skills can be particularly valuable within species conservation planning processes, such as the ‘One Plan Approach’.

In fact, wherever problems are complex or decisions require the collaboration of multiple individuals or organisations, facilitation skills will help improve the outcome.



## Course aim

This course is designed to build capacity for the effective facilitation of species conservation planning processes. The course is relevant to conservation professionals and academics working within zoos, universities and field programmes, and in particular those involved in, or wishing to be involved in, developing conservation plans.

## Learning outcomes

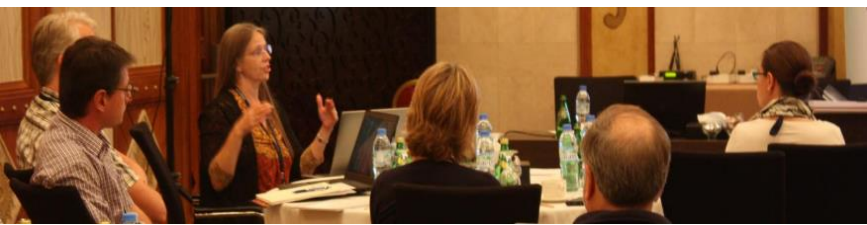
By the end of this course participants will be able to:

- Demonstrate how to facilitate effective workshops and meetings
- Apply the ‘One Plan Approach’ to species conservation planning processes
- Deal with conflict under different circumstances
- Demonstrate effective listening skills
- Describe how to provide feedback to individuals to improve relationships and work effectively



## Course format

This will be a blended course, mixing pre-course online lectures and knowledge checks with a four-day face-to-face taught workshop in which participants spend much of their time in facilitated scenarios to develop their skills.



## Course faculty

### Jamie Copsey



Jamie is Director of Training for the IUCN Conservation Planning Specialist

Group (CPSG). Jamie has been working in the field of capacity building for species conservation for more than 15 years. He has extensive experience in the design and delivery of training programmes 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.

### Dr Johanna Rode-Margono



As Chester Zoo's Field Programme Coordinator for South-East Asia Jo ensures that the zoo's expertise is

effectively used to enhance field projects. To strengthen the connection between the zoo and the wild, Jo also manages Chester Zoo's partnership with the IUCN SSC Asian Wild Cattle Specialist Group (AWCSG).

### Dr Claire Raisin



Claire is Chester Zoo's Field Programme Coordinator for Madagascar and the

Mascarenes. Having completed her PhD on the Mauritius parakeet Claire held a number of research and NGO positions before joining Chester Zoo in 2017. Claire has facilitated a number of workshops and events in the UK and overseas.

## Feedback from 2018

*"The pre course information suggested that this was going to be an interesting and lively few days and it lived up to expectations!"*

*"As well as delivering on content over the four days the CPSG method of species planning was taught in an engaging way and the tools to enable the process and take back into our roles were gained. This was a well-run course delivered by experts with the field experience to know what works and what doesn't."*

*"I'd highly recommend the Facilitating Species Planning Process Course."*



## Course dates and venue

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2019 at Chester Zoo, Chester, England.

## Course fees

£400 (this includes daily transfers to course venue from our preferred hotel; lunch and refreshments each day; and a delegate's dinner).

We have secured a discount rate for delegates at a hotel in Chester from £53 per night B&B.

## For further information...

Please contact Jamie Copsey at [jamie@cpsg.org](mailto:jamie@cpsg.org) or Claire Raisin at [c.raisin@chesterzoo.org](mailto:c.raisin@chesterzoo.org)

