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March 2023



A Note from the CCC Director

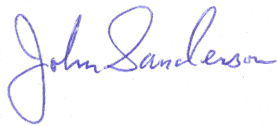
Many of you share the CCC's passion for big ideas about building a better world through collaborative conservation. At the CCC, we are also passionate about building skills needed to move big ideas forward, including in areas that may seem mundane, like . . . meetings. Meetings have a reputation as a distraction from "real" work. In contrast, I think most of us doing collaborative conservation would agree meetings are essential. Not only that, by following some basic principles meetings can (and should!) be a great use of time. In that spirit, I thought I would share a few things I keep in mind as I prepare and run meetings:

- Meeting attendees are my guests. I try to treat them accordingly.
- I commonly spend as much time preparing for a meeting as in the meeting itself. Even more when the meeting is complicated.
- While preparing, I always ask, *what, exactly, do we want out of this meeting?*

- Especially if attendees don't know each other well, I ask: *how can we use this time to deepen relationships?*
- Meetings can be designed with an energetic story arc. Being deliberate about this arc gives me a better shot at leaving my guests feeling we have advanced our shared goals.
- I strive for clear agreement by asking for specific proposals, writing proposals down where everyone can see them, then asking everyone to show their level of support for the proposal. I ask those who don't like it, how—again, specifically—would you change the proposal so you can support it?
- Evaluate. I have learned enormously by asking my guests to answer (in writing) two simple questions before they leave the room: What went well? What could have been better?

We share a few additional meeting resources on our ["how to" page](#). What other resources would you suggest?

Be well.



John Sanderson

News from the CCC



CCC Solutions Lab

Next Solutions Lab: April 12

Yesterday we hosted our third session of our [CCC Solutions Lab](#)! We discussed the power of storytelling – focusing on exploring the key elements that make stories compelling, what works, and why.

For our next session on **Wednesday, April 12 at 4pm M.T.**, we'll explore integrating storytelling into our work – for example, how to use stories to win the hearts and interest of funders via grant writing.

As with all Solutions Lab meetings, if you missed yesterday's session, no worries! We hope you'll attend the next for some great conversations and opportunities to connect, share ideas, and get inspired! [Register here!](#)



Calling All Fellows: Current & Alumni!

Join us for a fun, informal way to connect with CCC Fellows (current and graduated) at the new CCC Fellows Peer-to-Peer Learning Group! The group will meet the third Wednesday of each month!

We would love to see you at our first meeting **Wednesday, March 15 at 4pm M.T.** Share experiences, reflect on collaborative practices, and have great conversations around topics of interest!

Fellows & alum - please reach out to [Allison Brody](#) for more details.

WESTERN COLLABORATIVE CONSERVATION NETWORK



Get More Involved in the WCCN: Join a WCCN Working Group!

Are you passionate about collaborative conservation of landscapes and cultures throughout the Western United States? If YES, it's time to get involved in one of the six WCCN Working Groups! WCCN catalyzes resources and expertise to solve and reduce barriers to collaboration, fill critical gaps in collaborative capacity, and share best practices.

Here's a bit of information about the different Working Groups you could get involved in:

- The **Awareness & Engagement Working Group** maintains communication platforms to connect network participants and grow our community of practice via communication tools to increase awareness of and support for the collaborative approach to conservation.
- The **Capacity Building Working Group** convenes the collaborative conservation community to strengthen collaboration skills, sharpen tools, and build the capacity of collaborative groups.
- The **Emerging Leaders Working Group** convenes conservationists of all ages and expertise to the field of collaborative conservation to create innovative visions for the future of conservation work and the motivation, passion, and collaborative mindset to work toward that vision.
- The **Collaborative Governance Working Group** identifies and encourages ways public land management agencies can institutionalize collaborative conservation and shares keys to success for agency personnel to act as effective collaborative partners and leaders.
- The **Sustainable Funding Working Group** convenes funders and practitioners to explore regional funding capacity issues for collaboratives, develops strategies to reduce barriers and fill needs, and implements long-term funding strategies to sustain the WCCN.
- The ***NEW* GIS Working Group** convenes collaborative groups with interest or skills in mapping and Geographic Information Systems with the goal of sharing ideas and resources that enhance collaboration.

If you would like to learn more about the WCCN Working Groups or want

to get involved, find more info at the [Catalyze page](#) of the WCCN website!



Colorado Forest Collaboratives Network

Save the Date

2023 COLORADO FOREST
COLLABORATIVES SUMMIT

Thursday, September 7, 2023

Learn more and connect with us via our website! Scan the
QR code (right) or visit collaborativeconservation.org/cfcn



Save the Date for the 2023 Colorado Forest Collaborative Summit

Colorado Forest Collaboratives Network is excited to share the date for the 2023 annual Forest Collaboratives Summit! Join us **September 7, 2023** in Summit County as we gather forest collaboratives and partners from around the state to connect, share, and learn together.

Registration, travel assistance opportunities, and a meeting agenda will be coming soon! To learn about last year's Summit, check out [this summary](#).

Please feel free to [share this poster](#) with your networks to spread the word!



Enter the *Storyteller's Circle*

Introducing the Storyteller's Circle, co-sponsored by CCC & Intermountain West Joint Venture! As conservation communicators, we are faced with a daunting task: *telling compelling stories to encourage actions that will "save the world"*. But how often do we make space for developing our craft in order to do these stories justice?

Our (free!) bi-monthly, virtual event combines topic-based discussions led by other communications professionals with dedicated time to work on your own storytelling projects in a supportive environment.

[Join us](#) March 30th, 2023 from 12:30 to 2 p.m. MT for our first session! We will be working with a videographer to tell your conservation story. Christi Bode of [Moxiecran Media](#) will discuss the best practices for collaborating with a professional videographer to create a compelling conservation video.

How does the Storyteller's Circle work?

Sessions will last for 90 minutes and will be “drop-in”-style; i.e., join whenever and stay for however long you want. A designated facilitator will commit to keeping the Zoom room open for the full 90-minute session. Don't feel like you need to commit to coming every session, either. Show up as your availability and interest dictates, the next session will be held in May.

Sessions will be broken into 45-minute halves. The first half will feature a speaker, presentation, or facilitated discussion that allows participants to work collaboratively through storytelling challenges. The second half will be a “write-in” where you'll have space to work on your storytelling projects in a quiet group space. During this time, we ask that you mute yourself and use the chat feature to ask questions, bring a problem to the group's attention, or hold side conversations.

Please [share our event page](#) for Storyteller's Circle with your networks! All are welcome! Reach out to [Emily Downing](#) or [Nicole Reese](#) for more information.

Get to Know the CCC



Meet our CCC Fellow: Jerry Kirensky Mbi

Jerry Kirensky Mbi is the Conservator (Park Warden) of Cameroon's iconic Takamanda National Park in the South West Region, working under the country's Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF). Prior to this position, he was the Conservator of Kimbi Fungom National Park, Cameroon's newest National Park (established in 2015) in the North West Region.

Jerry is passionate about protecting and conserving wildlife, especially pangolins, the most trafficked mammal in the world. He has been a champion of these cryptic species since 2016, through his participation as a MENTOR POP (Progress on Pangolins) Fellowship team member, supported by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service International Affairs. Jerry has experience working on transdisciplinary teams to solve challenging environmental issues and holds a B.A. in Anthropology and a M.A. in Anthropology and Forest Resource Management. He is presently pursuing his Ph.D. in the Department of Environmental Sciences under the Natural Resource and Environmental Management Program at the University of Buea, Cameroon.

Scholarly and Applied Impact

Current and past CCC Fellows and staff publish impactful research on collaboration and conservation. Here is the latest. CCC Fellows and staff are indicated by bold font.

Questioning the practice of participation: Critical reflections on participatory mapping as a research tool

When we think of collaborative conservation, we think of participation. Collaboratives should adopt practices that maximize equitable participation while working toward a shared vision. This is best done by taking a "bottom-up" approach, accounting for locally defined priorities and local perspectives (e.g., [Cornwall et al, 1995](#)).

This is the promise of participatory research methods such as "participatory mapping", a method studied in a recent publication by Melinda Laituri and CCC

Fellows alumni **Matthew Luizza** (*Cohort 4*), **Jamie D. Hoover** (*Cohort 5*), and **Arren Mendezona** (*Cohort 1*) (published in [Applied Geography](#)). The authors define participatory mapping as “a method used to create a common map to integrate perspectives, recognize alternative ways of knowing, and facilitate cross-cultural awareness”.

By taking a critical look at four case studies, the authors noted that depending on how it is done, participatory mapping can impact who participates and how, as well as the collective learning that can happen. As researchers, we bring our own privilege, biases, and experiences – these make it hard to understand the on-the-ground geopolitical realities faced by communities. The authors reflect that participatory efforts “demand respectful reciprocal research interactions” and that these “cannot be rushed and time to build trust is essential.”

When participants are involved in the mapping process, but then are left out of the interpretation and analysis of the results, the process can be extractive. The authors therefore suggest a “roadmap” to strengthen the participatory nature of the effort. By using this roadmap, we can be “careful, thoughtful, and sensitive to the communities we work with. Otherwise, the power imbalance is real, and the results are often mixed when Indigenous and Local Knowledge is distilled into a larger research effort, embedded in a digital database far removed from the places such information was derived.”

Other News and Opportunities

Registration is now open for the 2023 Pathways Conference: *Managing Wildlife in an Era of Mutualism*, hosted by Colorado State University's Department of Human Dimensions of Natural Resources within Warner College. The conference will take place in Fort Collins, Colorado [May 31 to June 3](#). The [program](#) is now published, [click here](#) to learn more!

WARNING: hotel rooms for the 2023 [Colorado Wildland Fire Conference](#) are filling up fast! The CCC is honored to be a part of this year's conference, which will take place in Fort Collins [April 10 to 14](#). Information about workshops, learning sessions, and field trips can be found [here](#). Register today!

Check out the [agenda](#) for SWERI's 2023 Cross-Boundary Landscape

Restoration Workshop, *Adapting to a Climate-Altered West*. The conference, hosted by Southwest Ecological Restoration Institutes (SWERI) will take place May 2 to 4 at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado. Find more workshop and conference details [here](#).

[National Center for Environmental Conflict Resolution](#) is hosting a training **May 3 and 4** titled, ***Understanding Conflict and Planning for Successful Collaboration***. "Participants will develop an understanding of environmental collaboration and conflict resolution including using interest-based negotiation to uncover interests and assess the situation, using these findings in the development of a collaborative process, and practicing collaborative communication skills that help foster long term relationships." Find out more and [sign up here](#).

Jobs

Check out the CCC's [Job Board](#) for a list of jobs focused on natural resources and collaborative conservation! Here are just a few postings shared through our board:

Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, is hiring a [Bilingual Environmental Educator](#) based in Brighton, CO to facilitate interactive environmental ed programs to all ages in multiple settings including but not limited to schools, community engagements, and special events (in Spanish when needed). **Applications close March 13.**

The Nature Conservancy is seeking a [Global Director, Oceans](#). Location is flexible. Apply ASAP.

Quivira Coalition has several job opportunities, including: [Grants Manager](#), [Education & Outreach Program Director](#), and [Communications Director](#). ***Application deadlines vary.***

Clearwater Resource Council is hiring an [Executive Director](#) who demonstrates vision, passion, and the ability to provide consistent external and internal leadership. **Review of applications will begin April 1.**

If you have job openings that are aligned with our work on collaborative conservation and you want us to share them, submit them to our [job board](#).

If you think a colleague would find value in the resources and information we share through this newsletter, please forward this email to them. If you do not yet received our newsletter, you can sign up [here](#).

Do you have questions, suggestion, ideas, or opportunities?
Please email CCC Director [John Sanderson](#).



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