



Image: 2022 course participants © Roger Kingi

Register for the Conservation Standards training course



New Zealand

*Te Papa Ao Tūroa, Aotearoa
Manaaki Taiao, Tiaki Ora*

Registrations for the May 2024 Conservation Standards training course are now open.

Dates and venue

May 1, 2, 8 and 9: Online sessions (half-day – morning).

May 21-24: In-person session

Venue: Beachside Nelson Conference & Events Centre, Tāhunanui, Nelson.

Please complete your registration as soon as possible using this [Google Form](#).

We will be limiting the group size to 30 participants (maximum) for the best learning experience. If we receive a large number of applicants, we will conduct a final selection to ensure a broad, diverse and balanced cohort.

We strongly encourage commitments to all course dates to ensure meaningful participation for yourself and other participants.

For any enquiries, please contact Haojin Tan, Conservation Leaders Programme manager, TNC Aotearoa New Zealand, at haojin.tan@tnc.org

About Conservation Standards Training

"The socio-economic impacts of our environmental and climate crisis cannot be underestimated, and the Conservation Standards approach can be used at the ground level by community groups, iwi and restoration programs."

- Abbie Reynolds, Country Director, The Nature Conservancy Aotearoa New Zealand.

Who is it for?

Anyone responsible for leading or delivering a conservation project.

We encourage participants to attend as a team, whether you are looking to initiate a project or looking to review your plans. This will be a great opportunity for you to apply your knowledge immediately for tangible results.

What will I gain?

- 1) A plan with:
 - holistic and systematic pathways to achieve greater social and environmental impacts, while using resources in an effective way;
 - well thought-out strategies that are ready to be implemented;
 - a structured, consistent way to monitor strategies to check if projects are on the right track;
 - a funding proposal which outlines the project in a transparent, systematic and structured way, detailing how it will achieve impacts to increase funders' confidence;
 - a focus on outcomes and impacts, rather than activities and outputs.
- 2) The ability to break down and address complex issues in a systematic and logical way.

How does it work?

The training course involves working in small groups on practical exercises. It will introduce the concepts, steps, and structures of the Conservation Standards using your own projects to demonstrate its application.

Participants will pursue specific threads through the entire adaptive planning, monitoring and management loop and learn how to integrate these threads into a powerful ongoing planning and management framework.

Key topics

- Pre-plan, scope & vision
- Targets, health & goals threats & prioritisation
- Situation analysis, strategy & prioritisation
- Results chains
- Adaptation and lessons learnt

Continuous post-workshop support will be provided to project teams, such as refreshers for any of the process of the Conservation Standards, Miradi (if they chose to use the project management

tool) and linking up to the wider support network of practitioners and coaches across Aotearoa New Zealand and the world.

Feedback from 2022 participants

“Thank you very much for your time, patience, support and knowledge. I have a renewed passion in my work and a pathway to improve our outcomes and protect and enhance our targets.”

“Very experienced coaches with lots of practical experience in delivering Conservation Standards. Great resources and knowing we have support available.”

What does it cost?

The full price of the training is NZ\$500 (inclusive of GST). To make this accessible to as many conservation professionals as possible, we offer different rates:

Registration fee	Cost per person	per person, if 3 or more people attending
For profit	500	450
Government	250	225
NGOs	125	110
Iwi/ community	60	55

Fees include all food during the in-person part of the course (lunches and tea breaks) and course materials. Participants will be responsible for their travel to the venue and accommodation.

Limited scholarships are available to support those who need financial assistance to attend the training. Please indicate this when you register. (Not available for for-profit private companies or government agencies).

Who is The Nature Conservancy?

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) works in over 70 countries and territories around the world. Since 2018, TNC has worked in New Zealand with local and central government, local communities, iwi, businesses and conservation groups on a wide range of conservation initiatives on land and at sea. We focus on science and technology innovations, capacity building at the community level, funding applications and expertise, strategic leadership and a global perspective on the issues faced.

Who are the trainers?

Our trainers are very experienced coaches who have worked with indigenous people, government agencies, NGOs, businesses and community-led initiatives around the world.

Phillipa Walsh

Pip is currently Director at Community Solutions - specialising in working with teams to develop, implement and improve conservation and community projects. She has over 20 years' experience in the not-for-profit sector working in senior roles at World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Greening Australia and Bush Heritage.

Stuart Cowell

Stuart manages and supports Conservation Management's team of planners and facilitators. Stuart has been instrumental in developing the widely used Healthy Country Planning concept – a community-based adaptation of the Conservation Standards adaptive management framework in the context of remote Indigenous and non- Indigenous Australia. Stuart has over twenty-five years of experience, working at the forefront of Natural Resource Management.

What are the Conservation Standards?

The Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation, commonly known as the Conservation Standards, are a globally recognised set of principles and practices that bring together common concepts, approaches, and terminology for conservation project design, management, and monitoring. They provide a proven approach in helping projects deliver outcomes and impacts, while navigating complex processes and situations.



Image © Haojin Tan

The Conservation Standards form an outcome planning framework which can be applied to improve cultural, social, economic, and environmental outcomes using existing tools and methodologies. This process facilitates integrated planning and can deliver on wellbeing in a holistic way.

The Conservation Standards are flexible and can be applied in projects from those that are species focused to landscape-based ecosystem approaches. The framework itself is a living document (under the Creative Common License), supported by a lively community of Conservation Standards users across the globe.

How can it help projects?

The Conservation Standards use the key steps of the adaptive management cycle to develop a programme that links the outcomes you want to the actions and resources you need to prioritise, with appropriate measures of success (see figure). Project teams can then focus on tackling root causes of issues, and ensuring interventions are applied at the right place. Conservation Standards also help teams to be systematic about planning, implementing, and monitoring their conservation initiatives so they can learn what works, what does not work, and why—and ultimately adapt and improve their efforts.

The framework values the expertise of project teams working in an area, be it pest control or habitat restoration. It brings all these different levels of expertise together, and using a rigorous process,

tests assumptions to see if the project is on the right track. Teams working on the ground can advise if a certain methodology is working or not, and to feed back into and improve the strategy.

In the long run, using the framework will help channel resources to the right place at the right time and improve transparency in how we spend money - especially important for funders at this point in time. At the same time, it also reduces frustration for implementers – to understand why some strategies work and some don't.

Participation

The Conservation Standards framework emphasises the involvement of conservation planners, and subject experts together with informed community representatives and practitioners with local expertise and knowledge. The process encourages the use of multidisciplinary and diverse teams to ensure that people with relevant skills and knowledge are involved at appropriate points in the process—for example, strategic thinkers for strategy development and practitioners and managers for work planning and budgeting.



Image © Tania Turner

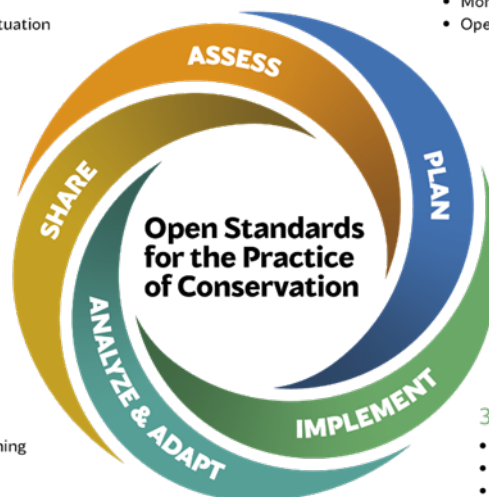
The involvement of indigenous knowledge systems and tāngata whenua is often a key feature of this process. The inclusive nature of Conservation Standards means that the people who will ultimately be responsible for implementing the project must also be involved in designing and monitoring it.

1. ASSESS

- Purpose & team
- Scope, vision, & targets
- Critical threats
- Conservation situation

2. PLAN

- Goals, strategies, assumptions, & objectives
- Monitoring plan
- Operational plan



5. SHARE

- Document learning
- Share learning
- Foster learning

3. IMPLEMENT

- Work plan & timetable
- Budget
- Implement plan

4. ANALYZE & ADAPT

- Prepare data
- Analyze results
- Adapt plans

How is it different from other tools?

Practitioners, scientists and local communities all appreciate how the Conservation Standards are adaptive – lessons learnt are used to evaluate if strategies have been effective, and also if assumptions have been valid.

Where has it been used?

All over the world, across all ecoregions/ ecosystems/ cultures. It can also be applied at a local level, or a landscape-wide scale.

Variations of the adaptive management tool exist. For example, TNC uses Conservation by Design and WWF uses Project and Programme Management Standards. All of these share the same building blocks and bring projects through the same process to achieve outcomes and impacts.

Where there are indigenous-led projects, for example in Australia and Canada, the process has been adapted further to improve its relevance and appropriateness for planning and management of land from an indigenous people's perspective under the name 'Healthy Country Planning'. In Hawai'i, it has been adapted as 'Mālama I Ke Kai: Community Action Guide'.

Can te ao Māori perspectives be incorporated into the process?

Most definitely. TNC aims to support the process where iwi can apply and/or integrate te ao Māori into the Conservation Standards framework. This enables the Conservation Standards to reflect our unique culture, values, style and aspirations.

Our trainers will work very closely with iwi-led conservation projects who are keen to undergo this training and develop an adapted training programme suited for iwi.

Are any organisations using it in New Zealand?

The Southern Lakes Sanctuary Trust is using the Conservation Standards process to help develop their strategic plan and shape day-to-day implementation of workplan. They have also identified their own strengths, and are helping to prioritise and fill gaps at significant places where no other agencies/ organisations are working in.

TNC is supporting the Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance partners to incorporate this process to help operationalise their strategic plan under the approach 'Restoration by Design'. Buller District Council (under the Alliance) is also using this process to help develop a strategic plan for the Buller District.

Otago Regional Council is currently piloting two catchment planning process using the Conservation Standards.

"He manu ki ngā herenga tai rāngai", a collaborative effort by hapū/ whānau from Hokianga, Rāwhiti and Whangaroa, guided by Pōkai o Ngāti Manu, is using the process to develop a plan to manage their lands and waters.

What others said about their experiences

Bush Heritage Australia	Wildlife Conservation Society Peru
	

For more information

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