**Conservation Measures Partnership**

**Conservation Standards Effectiveness Initiative and Working Group**

**2022 Scope of Work**

*(Based largely on results from 2021 CSEI Learning Initiative and 2020-21 Audits Learning Initiative)*

# INTRODUCTION

In 2021, with the support of the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, the Conservation Measures Partnership (CMP) undertook the Conservation Standards Effectiveness & Impact Learning Initiative (CSEI), through which we sought evidence that applying an adaptive management approach strengthens the efficiency and effectiveness of conservation endeavors. During this same period, the Audits Learning Initiative and Working Group set ‘pause’ for several months as CMP encouraged its members to undertake trial audits in their own organizations.

This document provides a Scope of Work for both a continuation of the CSEI learning initiative and a revival of aspects of the Audits Working Group combining these two efforts under a new Initiative and Working Group - “Conservation Standards Effectiveness & Impact Initiative: Improving the Practice of Adaptive Management Approaches”. This new initiative and working group would involve strengthening the use of audits (and Audit Tools) as well undertaking research over several years to create a stronger evidence base for the use of adaptive management approaches with a focus on the Conservation Standards. In addition, this work would continue to build evidence of our assumptions along the ‘theory of change’ developed during the 2021 initiative that underpin the Conservation Standards and other similar approaches. During the 2021 initiative we identified some indicators, tools and methods for assessing conservation efficiency and effectiveness and in 2022 we intend to expand upon this toolset and investigate tool(s) for assessing large-scale conservation impact, potentially with Odd Industries as a partner. [*Odd Industries is an ethically-driven industrial artificial intelligence (IAI) company, using the most advanced technologies to help revert the environmental crises. Of particular importance for this initiative, Odd Industries have developed Lemu: an atlas of the biosphere, which combines multiple geospatial data sources to measure and track Earth’s ecosystems.* [*Find out more here*](https://le.mu/?utm_source=odd.co&utm_medium=website).]

While the CSEI initiative made important progress towards answering the questions around ‘proof of concept’ with adaptive management approaches (see CSEI Report 2021), there continue to be important gaps in the evidence and learning around the benefits of these approaches in terms of increased efficiency, effectiveness and impact in conservation. During the research project (see Concept Note) we will explore how other sectors answer the question of using adaptive management and leadership approaches to deliver the best outcomes.

The priorities for going forward are outlined below; more detail will be provided as we develop the research concept note into a full proposal in early 2022.

PRIORITIES FOR CONSERVATION STANDARDS EFFECTIVENESS INITIATIVE 2022:

|  | **This Scope of Work** *(with $15k additional funds)* |
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| Research | * Develop the concept note into a full proposal to conduct a long-term research project centered on the evidence and learning about application of adaptive management approaches in conservation * Seek funding for implementation of the full research projects * Advance at least one approach outlined in the research concept note |
| Learning | * Undertake key research topics with funds and ‘staffing’ that may be available in advance of the larger proposal funding (e.g. explore other sectors, begin to fill gaps, create a systematic way to source information beyond the CMP/CCNet community) * Source and analyze audits, evaluations (including ex post or legacy evaluations) * Set up an online tool that allows for ‘anonymizing’ data entry |
| Audits | * Work with CMP and the larger conservation community to push auditing and allowing access to ‘anonymised’ audit results * Simplify/adapt the audit tool for different settings/types of uses * Encourage auditing beyond CMP/CCNet, and undertake audits where requested |
| General | * Run one or more discussion groups about the results of the 2021 Initiative with the working group and other interested parties * Help socialize the results of the 2021 Initiative within organizations as useful * Help situate adaptive management in the context of project and programme management * Collaborate with other organizations and approaches to allow more informed decisions on the use of these different approaches |

# ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The CSEI Initiative/Working Group will continue to be led by Claire Relton (Durrell) and Sheila O’Connor (Independent), with significant participation by CMP members, including:

* + Erica Cochrane, International Crane Foundation
  + Catherine Payne, Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust
  + Eleanor Carswell, Bush Heritage Australia

The leaders will continue to coordinate the priorities, activities, and budget of the working group. Additional working group members will be recruited and be critical in designing and implementing roll-out of the research proposals, audits and fundraising. Additionally, as in the 2021 learning initiative, the working group will seek to engage a wide array of CMP member organizations and CCNet members as well as build up its relations with external groups. There is also continued interest from Parks Canada (Emily Gonzales and Brenda van Sleeuwen), IUCN CPSG (Caroline Lees), and we believe USFWS (Matt Muir) and some independent individuals such as Rachel Neugarten. Sarah Weber who has been tracking the audit survey and audits is also interested along with the team from Odd Industries. We note others interested in developing the research proposal with us as well such as PJ Stephenson with the University of Lausanne.

BUDGET

The budget would consist of approximately $25,000 USD to support costs of Claire and Sheila’s participation, any additional grants/stipends for consultants/expertise, online facilitation/data platforms, and where necessary, participation of CMP members who might not otherwise engage without some funding assistance, potentially including working group members.