Adaptation: Planning and Tools

Course Description
This 5-day class, which is based on three guides* developed to address and plan for climate-related impacts and uncertainties, provides participants with the skills and tools needed to demystify climate adaptation for application to on-the-ground conservation. This course will provide guidance on adaptation planning by showing the participants how to act with intentionality while managing for change, not just persistence. Participants will work in teams to apply the climate-smart cycle to regionally focused projects, starting with creation of climate-informed goals and objectives. The vulnerability of species and/or habitats likely to be affected by projected changes will be evaluated and climate-related management challenges and uncertainty will be addressed through the development of future scenarios. A final team project will be required to summarize the process.

*Guides used in this course include:
Climate-Smart Conservation: Putting Adaptation Principles into Practice
Considering Multiple Futures: Scenario Planning to Address Uncertainty in Natural Resource Conservation
Scanning the Conservation Horizon: A Guide to Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment

Objectives
At the conclusion of this course, participants should be able to:
- Design adaptation planning processes that are relevant at multiple scales (e.g., place-based to large landscape level).
- Evaluate conservation goals from a climate change perspective, and align adaptation strategies with climate-informed goals.
- Explain how climate change vulnerability assessments and downscaled climate models inform adaptation
- Describe basic steps of scenario planning and explore uncertainty by constructing situation-appropriate qualitative scenarios using 1-2 scenario development techniques
- Describe the process for identifying possible adaptation options based on vulnerability information and other management considerations across one or multiple descriptions of future conditions.
- Integrate climate adaptation, employing a suite of complementary methods such as scenario planning and vulnerability assessment, into existing planning and decision making processes and policies.
- Tell a clear and compelling story of how your conservation project is designed to achieve climate adaptation outcomes.

Date
May 14 – 18, 2018

Length
5 days

Location
National Conservation Training Center
Shepherdstown, WV

Who Should Attend
The class is directed toward those interested in learning the methodology and tools to incorporate climate information into their planning and conservation efforts. The target audience includes conservation practitioners, planners, and natural resource managers working at multiple scales to ensure the ongoing effectiveness of their work in an era of climate change.

Tuition
There is no tuition for FWS and NPS employees. For participants from other agencies and organizations, there is a tuition charge of $995.

Semester Credit
Two semester hours are available on request.

To Register
Register online at http://training.fws.gov using DOI Learn, the Department of the Interior’s Learning Management System.

Availability
Course will be offered multiple times/year by various hosts

Contact for Registration Questions
Jill DelVecchio at 304/876-7424 or jill_delvecchio@fws.gov

Contact for Content Questions
Christy Coghlan at 304/876-7438 or christy_coghlan@fws.gov

“Adaptation is rapidly becoming the primary lens for conservation and natural resource planning and management.”
Stein et al. 2012