

# USAID and ABCG—Freshwater Conservation and WASH Integration Workshop Summary Report

Compiled by: Janet Edmond and Colleen Vollberg of Conservation International, and Sarah Davidson of The Nature Conservancy, in collaboration with Helen Petrozzola, Training Resources Group, Inc.

July, 2013



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## AFRICA BIODIVERSITY COLLABORATIVE GROUP



July, 2013

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## INTRODUCTION

The Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group (ABCG) comprises seven international conservation Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), including African Wildlife Foundation, Conservation International, the Jane Goodall Institute, The Nature Conservancy, Wildlife Conservation Society, World Resources Institute, and World Wildlife Fund. The goal of ABCG is to work collaboratively and efficiently and effectively to further a sustainable future for the African continent. Funding has been generously provided by The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, the U.S. Agency for International Development, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and members.

Development and conservation organizations are committed to working together to promote policies, plans and projects that integrate access to water supply and sanitation with the conservation and sustainable management of freshwater resources. This commitment was articulated in a Joint Statement on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Freshwater Ecosystem Conservation issued by a coalition of NGOs<sup>1</sup>. The Joint Statement can be found in Appendix A.

In June 2012, ABCG issued a report entitled, "[Linking Biodiversity Conservation and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene: Experiences from sub-Saharan Africa](#)" which found that there are numerous organizations and projects in Sub-Saharan Africa that are integrating WASH and biodiversity conservation on an ad-hoc basis. Building on that study, ABCG is developing programmatic guidelines for designing integration projects to conserve biodiversity and improve access to WASH services.

To that end, ABCG hosted a workshop for WASH and conservation NGO professionals and donors to increase awareness and understanding of the value of integrated programs, and to gather input for the development of Freshwater Conservation and WASH Guidelines. This effort was led by ABCG members, Janet Edmond and Colleen Vollberg of Conservation International (CI) and Sarah Davidson of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and supported by a working group made up of coalition members. The workshop was held at the US Forest Service offices in Washington, DC on May 22 and 23, 2013 with facilitation from Training Resources Group, Inc (TRG). An agenda can be found in Appendix B. Twenty-six people attended the two-day workshop (see Appendix C for a list of participants).

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<sup>1</sup> The coalition supporting the integration of WASH activities and freshwater conservation for sustainable development includes Catholic Relief Services, Conservation International, the Natural Resource Defense Council, The Nature Conservancy, World Vision, WWF, CARE, the Millennium Water Alliance, and WASH Advocates.





**Figure 1.** Mother washing feet of son beside water tank, Chebi Chebi, Lake Naivasha, Kenya

Photo: © WWF-Canon / Simon Rawles



## OVERVIEW OF THE WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

Helen Petrozzola, workshop facilitator from TRG, opened the workshop with a brief introduction activity to get everyone familiar with the other participants in the room. She then shared the objectives and agenda for the workshop (See Appendix B). The objectives of the workshop included:

- Provide the space for shared learning on the integration of WASH and freshwater conservation
- Critically review the Theory of Change
- Determine principles, key ideas and draft recommendations to include in the Guidelines
- Develop a joint plan for drafting the Guidelines

## PARTICIPANT SUMMARY

Participants in the workshop included representatives from health and development organizations implementing WASH projects, policy advocacy organizations, conservation organizations, USAID, ABCG coordinator, the U.S Forest Service International Programs and the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars and other organizations interested in the integration of WASH and freshwater conservation. See Appendix C: Participants List.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WORKSHOP

This report provides an overall summary of the workshop results. For more detailed information on presentations and the participant discussion, please see the full workshop report.

### Introduction to WASH

Dennis Warner, Senior Advisor with the Millennium Water Alliance, presented an introduction to WASH, including its core activities and applications. He also shared some of the institutional and operational barriers to integration, necessary linkages, and select opportunities to make those connections.

#### *Discussion:*

In the discussion that followed Dennis's presentation, one participant pointed out the need to articulate the scope of the Guidelines. The participant noted that in rural areas, water projects are seen more as development activities, whereas in urban areas, they are seen more as

infrastructure projects. There is less “development” experience in urban areas, except as it relates to infrastructure.

### **Introduction to Freshwater Conservation**

Sarah Davidson, International Water Policy Advisor with The Nature Conservancy, shared an introduction to the Freshwater Conservation Sector, including its key activities. She also shared some of the barriers to integration, necessary linkages, and opportunities to make those connections.

#### ***Discussion:***

In the discussion that followed Sarah’s presentation, one participant commented on the importance of the rights-based approach to conservation. The participant shared the perspective that this refers not only to the rights people have, but also to the *obligations* they have, and stated that this needs to be emphasized more in the future—every stakeholder has both rights and obligations.

Participants also raised concerns about addressing scale and the role of governance (including Lake/River Basin Coordination Commissions). They noted the importance of sharing examples of successful integration, and the facilitator pointed out that the workshop agenda included a panel discussion of such successful models.



**Figure 2.** Children washing in sugar cane drainage chanel, Mazabuka, Zambia

Photo © Sarah Black / WWF-Canon

## Developing Guidelines for Integrated Freshwater Conservation and WASH Programming

After the introductory presentations, the workshop participants went through a series of exercises designed to build the foundation of the guidelines for integrated WASH and freshwater conservation guidelines. These activities included:

- **Making the Case for Integration.** Participants described the added value of integration, challenges and strategies to overcome the challenges. This exercise helped participants conceptualize the on-the-ground program planning and operational steps involved in these projects.
- **Panel Discussion with Examples of Integrated Projects.** To better illustrate aspects of integrated projects, three panelists presented examples of ongoing projects. The three participants included:
  - Sarah Lee, Program Associate, Winrock International
  - Colleen Vollberg, Senior Manager, Freshwater and Biodiversity Policy, Conservation International
  - Renuka Bery, Senior Program Manager, FHI 360

- **Defining the Scope and Structure of the Guidelines.** The workshop organizers distributed a draft outline of the Guidelines and explained that the ABCG work plan calls for guidelines to integrate projects on WASH and freshwater conservation. They noted four things the group agreed to work on together:
  1. technical
  2. maximizing investment
  3. advocacy
  4. awareness-raising

The organizers explained that the draft outline is the product of a working group that was assembled to lay the initial foundations of the Guidelines being discussed at this workshop. At the time the outline was developed, the group discussed how exhaustive/inclusive it wanted the Guidelines to be, and ultimately decided to keep them focused on freshwater conservation and WASH. It does not include food security. The Guidelines are intended to be a starting place, from which to further build as they are put into practice and lessons learned are gathered.

The Guidelines are being written for the field level in Sub-Saharan Africa. Participants agreed the final product should be roughly 20-40 pages, but the length of the document is not as important as having a manageable scope.

- **Reviewing the Theory of Change.** Participants reviewed and critiqued the draft Theory of Change, which is designed to explain how WASH and freshwater conservation are linked and identify entry points for collaboration among multi-sectoral partners and stakeholders. The TRG facilitation team captured participant feedback on what can be strengthened, deleted and consolidated for incorporation into the guidelines document.
- **Refining the Core Principles of Integrated Programming.** Colleen Vollberg from CI reviewed the seven proposed core principles developed by the workshop working group for implementers to consider when integrating WASH and freshwater conservation projects. The core principles will be included in the Guidelines as critical elements to consider before developing and implementing integrated projects. The workshop participants then proposed modifications and additions to the principles.

At the end of Day One, the core planning group gathered to consider this feedback and integrate it into a set of revised principles (see below).

*Freshwater Conservation and WASH Guidelines for Sub-Saharan Africa: Core Principles – Revised during Discussion*

- WASH projects should contribute to water-related ecosystem services to assure ecosystem health and sustainable water quantity and quality.

- Conservation projects should incorporate/consider WASH goals that provide social/environmental benefits and make links to conservation goals.
- WASH and conservation programs should promote resilience to future changes in water use, availability, and climate patterns through adaptive management of both natural and built infrastructure.
- Multi-level, multi-stakeholder engagement should be included for the adoption and long-term sustainability of integrated WASH and conservation programs.
- Stakeholder efforts to integrate freshwater conservation and improved WASH services should include gender sensitivity and a comprehensive approach to equitably increase access, participation and benefits among men and women, youth, elderly, and vulnerable groups.
- Conserve and protect the broader watershed by climate-smart siting, design and operation of built infrastructure for sustainable WASH services.
- Design and implement water supply and sanitation projects to protect or enhance freshwater ecosystem health.
- WASH projects should use natural infrastructure to complement built infrastructure in planning and implementation.

On Day 2, participants reviewed discussions and agreements from Day 1, and then agreed to Project Cycle components as a way to structure the guidelines. The following five agreed-upon phases are:

1. Common goal setting
2. Information gathering, including problem analysis, identification of stakeholders and stakeholder meetings
3. Project design, including partnership development
4. Implementation of integrated activities
5. Monitoring and evaluation

Participants then worked in groups to brainstorm the steps of processes needed in each stage of the project cycle to design and implement integrated freshwater conservation and WASH programs.

At the conclusion of this exercise, workshop organizers revisited the next steps needed to complete the guidelines. According to the ABCG work plan, the Guidelines are to be launched by World Water Week in September 2013. Janet Edmond, Colleen Vollberg and Sarah Davidson also shared that a “Stakeholder Feedback” meeting in July/August will be another opportunity to provide feedback on the Guidelines. The goal for the document is 20-40 pages, but section lengths will depend on content. Janet explained that they are seeking volunteers to serve in three roles: shapers, reviewers and editors. Shapers will work on the chapters related to

translating the core principles into action. Reviewers will review the draft Guidelines and provide inputs, and editors will engage in the polishing of the Guidelines. Janet will coordinate the process. Colleen, Sarah, and Janet will take on the responsibility of shaping the other sections of the document. Inputs from others are welcome, including from anyone unable to attend the workshop. Those interested in contributing should contact Janet at [jedmond@conservation.org](mailto:jedmond@conservation.org)

Participants proposed that for the sake of consistency, an intermediate step be added for authors to develop a detailed outline and share ideas.

The following incentives were agreed upon:

- Agency/organization logo and acknowledgement in document
- Chocolate-chip scones and a space to write be provided
- The Guidelines be shared with other sectors to kick-start further integration efforts

At the end of the day, participants agreed to roles, responsibilities and a proposed timeline for next steps to complete the guidelines.

**Table 1.** List of Participants Who Volunteered for Each of the Roles

<b>Shapers</b>	<b>Reviewers</b>	<b>Editors</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John Sauer (Chapter TBD)</li> <li>• Jennifer Platt (M&amp;E)</li> <li>• Dennis Warner (Either Information Gathering [planning] or Project Design)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flavia Loures (with support from other Pandas)</li> <li>• Brian Loo</li> <li>• Jackie Powell</li> <li>• Sarah Lee</li> <li>• Ron Clemmer</li> <li>• Renu Bery</li> <li>• Miro Honzak</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dennis Warner (Reviewer)</li> </ul>





**Figure 3.** Open-air laundry, clothes washing on the banks of the Niger River in Bamako, Mali  
Photo: © Tanya Petersen / WWF-Canon

### **Box 1: An updated timeline reflecting current plans for completing the guidelines**

<b>Task</b>	<b>Target Date</b>
Authors, reviewers and editors selected for each chapter confirmed	June 17, 2013
Authors draft chapters and send to coordinator	July 12, 2013
Coordinator consolidates draft and sends to reviewers	July 16, 2013
Reviewers provide technical comments to coordinator	July 23, 2013
Technical comments are incorporated and draft is sent to editor	July 25, 2013
Final version from editor is sent to coordinator	July 29, 2013
Stakeholder feedback meeting at Wilson Center	week of July 29 or August 5
Comments incorporated into final version	August 12, 2013
Final review by USAID and ABCG	August 12–22, 2013
Comments incorporated and final version produced	August 27, 2013
Document disseminated and promoted at World Water Week and in Washington, DC	week of Sept 3, 2013

## WRAP-UP

In wrapping up the workshop, the facilitator summarized the proceeding of the workshop and the next steps. The facilitator and the organizers thanked the participants for their energy, ideas and enthusiasm for collaboration on the production of the Guidelines. Lastly, an anonymous evaluation was distributed to all participants.

## EVALUATION

**Table 2.** Participants used a scale from 1 to 5 to rate each question/statement below. N =12.

<b>1. Meeting Objectives: During the retreat, we succeeded in:</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree 1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Strongly Agree 5</b>
Providing the space for shared learning on the integration of WASH and freshwater conservation	-	-	8% (1 participant)	8%	84% (10 participants)
Critically reviewing the Theory of Change	-	-	16%	33% (4 participants)	50%
Determining principles, key ideas and draft recommendations to include in the guidelines	-	-	25% (3 participants)	42% (5 participants)	33%
Developing a joint plan for drafting the guidelines	-	-	16% (2 participants)	42%	42%
<b>2. Meeting Overall</b>	<b>Very poor 1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Excellent 5</b>
How would you rate the meeting structure?	-	-	-	42%	58%
How would you rate the overall quality of the meeting?	-	-	-	33%	67%

Responses to the following questions are captured verbatim below.

### 3. What part of the meeting was most useful?

- Opportunity to share perspectives was invaluable 😊
- Loved the outside facilitator. Small break-out groups were great for gathering and documenting lots of info. Liked the translating key principles into action. Should be useful to draft chapters without too much headache.

- Translating core principles into action
- Hashing through the report sections—great opportunity for lots of meaningful feedback
- Discussions, conversations, reviews
- Rationalizing the core principles and discussing the content of the different sections
- Theory of Change
- Discussion of interaction between WASH and Conservation. Opportunity to understand between the differing perspectives of these two sectors.
- Learning more about conservation and links with WASH.
- Facilitation was very good.
- Review of theory of change constructive.
- Opening presentations critical to clarifying WASH/Conservation agendas and barriers to integration

**4. What recommendations do you have for future similar meetings? Any other comments?**

- Let's replicate—both for WASH/Conservation but Wash/XXX sector
- Great job—y'all clearly put a lot of thought and time into this workshop. KUDOS.
- More working group time
- Some more group discussions
- Thank you for everything!
- More presentations on the core principles underlying the WASH and Conservation sectors.

## APPENDICES

### Annex A: Joint Statement

#### Joint Statement on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Freshwater Ecosystem Conservation

by organizations dedicated to sustainable development  
and the conservation of freshwater resources

##### Statement summary:

Development and conservation organizations have a vested interest in promoting policies, plans and projects that integrate access to water supply and sanitation with the conservation and sustainable management of freshwater resources. Healthy freshwater ecosystems provide the basis for water supply, flood control, food and numerous other services on which millions depend for human health and well-being. Promoting integrated approaches to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and freshwater conservation is a critical need and is essential to meeting both human and ecosystem protection goals.



*Photo by David Snyder for CRS.*

Our organizations support the theory of change that not only do freshwater conservation and WASH development efforts reinforce each other, but they are mutually dependent upon each other in order to succeed.

##### We recognize that:

- For conservation efforts to be sustainable, poverty must be reduced. The resources on which people depend, particularly the marginalized, need to be managed in a sustainable manner in order for poverty to be reduced in the longer term. This is particularly the case where people depend on local water sources, such as wetlands, for water, food and biodiversity benefits, where the balance of nature and livelihoods are closely intertwined.
- Freshwater ecosystems provide the underpinning for water supply, sanitation and hygiene programs. Ground water and surface water in rivers, lakes and wetlands are the largest sources of available water for drinking, washing and cooking.
- Both water supply and sanitation projects can either degrade or help protect freshwater ecosystem health depending on how they are designed and implemented. Sustainable WASH projects play a great role in both improving the lives of people and in supporting the conservation of freshwater-dependent species.
- Already water-related climate change impacts are being experienced in the form of more severe and more frequent droughts and floods. The poor, who are the most vulnerable, are also likely to be affected the most. Protecting natural systems is one of the critical ways to make sure they can continue to receive water in times of change.



### We can address these challenges together:

The long-term sustainability of WASH services depends on the conservation and protection of the broader watershed and the wise management of built infrastructure. It also requires that such infrastructure is resilient to future changes in water use and climate patterns. Integrating efforts of the environmental and WASH communities can be explored in four main areas:

1. Technical: programs to protect natural systems can improve the predictability and sustainability of adequate quantities and quality of water for drinking, cooking, irrigation and other uses. At the same time, well-planned sanitation programs can protect freshwater and coastal ecosystems.
2. Maximizing investment: collaborative efforts to protect watersheds and implement WASH programs can maximize community participation, save critical funds, and allow for synergies between WASH and environmental objectives.
3. Advocacy: efforts on Capitol Hill to protect funding to improve the implementation of water conservation and WASH projects will be strengthened from an even broader coalition of allies. Collaboration between the two sectors will open new doors on the Hill and allow a stronger, collective voice to protect foreign assistance for integrated water conservation and WASH programming.
4. Awareness-raising: It is necessary to raise the understanding of the importance of integration of WASH and freshwater conservation among key stakeholders.

This statement represents our commitment to integrating the improvement of access to water and sanitation services with the conservation and sustainable management of freshwater resources for the benefit of humans, species and ecosystems.



## **Appendix B: Workshop Agenda**

### **Freshwater Conservation and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Integration Workshop**

**May 22–23, 2013,**

**US Forest Service International Programs  
1 Thomas Circle, NW, Suite 400**

#### **Workshop Objectives:**

- Provide the space for shared learning on the integration of WASH and freshwater conservation
- Critically review the Theory of Change
- Determine principles, key ideas and recommendations to include in the Guidelines
- Develop a joint plan for drafting the Guidelines

#### **Workshop Agenda:**

##### Day 1, May 22

8:30–9:00	Continental Breakfast and Coffee
9:00–9:30	Welcome from USAID and ABCG <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Christian Holmes, USAID Global Water Coordinator</li><li>• Tim Resch, USAID Bureau for Africa</li><li>• Natalie Bailey, ABCG</li></ul>
9:30–10:00	Getting Started
10:00–10:30	Introduction of Sectors <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dennis Warner, Consultant</li><li>• Sarah Davidson, The Nature Conservancy</li></ul>
10:30–10:45	Break
10:45–12:00	The Case for Integration
12:00–1:00	Lunch



1:00–1:45	Panel Presentations and Discussion
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sarah Lee, Winrock International</li> <li>• Colleen Vollberg, Conservation International</li> <li>• Renuka Berry, FHI 360</li> </ul>
1:45–3:00	Theory of Change
3:00–3:15	Break
3:15–4:00	Determining the Core Principles
4:00–4:15	Day 1 Wrap-up

Day 2, May 23

8:30–9:00 am	Continental Breakfast and Coffee
9:00–9:15	Welcome to Day 2
9:15–10:30	Translating the Core Principles into Action
10:30–10:45	Break
10:45–12:00	Translating the Core Principles into Action <i>cont.</i>
12:00–1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00–2:00	Recommendation to Stakeholders
2:00–2:30	Roles, Responsibilities & Timeline
2:30–2:45	Wrap-up & Evaluations

### Appendix C: Participants List

Name	Organization	Title
John Sauer	Water For People	Head of Programs External Relations
Jennifer Platt	WASH Advocates	Sustainability Director
Christian Holmes	USAID	Global Water Coordinator
Annie Nagy	USFS-International Programs	Africa Program Specialist
Marc Dettmann	Global Environment & Technology Foundation	Program Intern
Kristen P. Patterson	The Nature Conservancy	Manager of External Affairs, Africa Region
Dennis Warner	Millennium Water Alliance	Consultant—Water Supply, Sanitation and Water Senior Advisor
Mary Renwick	Winrock International	Director, Water Innovation
Sarah Lee	Winrock International	Program Associate
David Williams	African Wildlife Foundation	Director-Conservation Geography
Natalie Bailey	Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group	Coordinator
Colleen Vollberg	Conservation International	Senior Manager, Freshwater and Biodiversity Policy
Ron Clemmer	World Vision	Senior Technical Advisor—WASH
Sarah Davidson	The Nature Conservancy	International Water Policy Advisor
Diane Adams	USAID	Biodiversity Advisor/ AAAS Fellow
Jimmie Mandima	African Wildlife Foundation	Program Design Director of Policy
Janet Edmond	Conservation International	Senior Director
Richard Volk	USAID	Water Resources Advisor
Brian Loo	Conservation International	International Policy
Tim Resch	USAID Bureau for Africa	Bureau Environmental Advisor
Renuka Bery	FHI 360	Senior Program Manager
Ink Zheng	Wilson Center	Intern
Robert Batten	Wilson Center CEF	Intern
Miro Honzak	Conservation International	Senior Advisor Human Dimensions Program
Flavia Loures	WWF	Senior Program Officer, International Law and Policy Freshwater Program
Jackie Powell	WASH Advocates	Research Associate