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Land Use Management

Photography by Julie Larsen Maher

About ABCG

The Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group (ABCG) is a consortium of seven international conservation organizations with extensive field programs in Africa: African Wildlife Foundation (AWF), Conservation International (CI), The Jane Goodall Institute (JGI), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), World Resources Institute (WRI) and World Wildlife Fund (WWF). ABCG is supported by the US Agency for International Development (USAID) to advance understanding of critical biodiversity conservation challenges and their solutions in sub-Saharan Africa.

The ABCG creates innovative conservation solutions by fostering collaborative and adaptive learning opportunities that help practitioners improve, scale and replicate, while generating valuable user-driven knowledge that can be disseminated globally. Together, ABCG members share their experiences and generate knowledge in the form of practical tools to address conservation challenges, inform policy, and integrate biodiversity conservation into international development agendas.



CONSERVATION
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AFRICA BIODIVERSITY COLLABORATIVE GROUP

Land Use Planning Training Methodology

Land-use planning is critical for identifying sustainable, climate-smart, win-win development strategies that minimize encroachment on high conservation or ecological value land while meeting multiple land-use objectives. However, knowledge and capacity for land-use planning is insufficient to meet needs across Africa. To meet this challenge, ABCG developed a Land-Use Planning Training Methodology, combining expert presentations with interactive group exercises to provide a comprehensive introduction into the theory and practical starting points of biodiversity sensitive land-use planning.

African conservation landscapes face growing and accelerating threats, from a suite of drivers including rapid population growth, changing resource utilization patterns, economic development, and climate change. Major development corridors across the continent are channeling investment into roads and ports with the potential to uplift millions of Africans out of poverty, at the risk of tremendous environmental cost.

Land-use planning skills are crucially needed across Africa to help governments balance development and conservation goals. The Land-Use Planning Training Methodology course has been piloted and positively received in Madagascar, Tanzania, and Gabon.



Impact and Achievements to Date

Adoption of land-use planning process in Madagascar, Tanzania, and Gabon, with strong governmental involvement:



Tanzania

Agroforestry and forest restoration efforts targeting increased ag productivity, ecological connectivity, and CC-resilience.



Gabon

Government able to generate the initial analysis and update any ongoing analyses as new climate and land-use information become available.



Madagascar

Common vision for landscape developed, which is being used to inform ongoing land-use planning decisions by government.

Key Stakeholders

ABCG's Land-Use Planning Training Methodology is designed to be relevant to a wide variety of cross-sector stakeholders, including national and regional governments, conservation & development NGOs, and universities. The modular nature of the course means it can also be tailored towards different levels of technical expertise. Key stakeholders include:

Government representatives:

Governments are often tasked with making decisions about complex landscapes with multiple stakeholders and conflicting land-use objectives. The ABCG Land-Use Planning Training Methodology can help give government staff the knowledge and tools to help lead land-use planning processes in their countries/regions.

Conservation NGOs: In many areas across Africa, conservation NGOs are leading or are heavily involved in planning/decision making processes that revolve around managing land-use for conservation and economic development objectives. The ABCG Land-Use Planning Training Methodology can help give NGO staff the knowledge and tools to influence land-use planning processes that promote environmental sustainability and human well-being.

Development NGOs: In many cases, proper land-use planning is vitally important in order to balance trade-offs between economic development projects, the rights/traditional practices of local communities, and overall environmental health (including ecosystem services people depend on). An understanding of the land-use planning process is important for NGOs aiming to foster environmentally and socially responsible development.

Universities/Education

organizations: Land-use planning is becoming more and more widespread across Africa, and its necessity is only set to grow given the massive economic and population growth forecast for the near future. Providing students and youth with an understanding of land-use planning processes will set them up with the skills needed to help balance land-use trade-offs in their future careers.