



Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment Training Course

March 20-22, 2012

Facilitated by U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service National Conservation Training Center

Local Sponsor: National Park Service

Fort Collins, CO

BACKGROUND

This course is based on the January 2011 publication “Scanning the Conservation Horizon: A Guide to Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment” (www/nwf.org/vulnerabilityguide). The Guidance is a product of an expert working group on climate change vulnerability assessment convened by the National Wildlife Federation in collaboration with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This course is designed to guide conservation and resource management practitioners in two essential elements in the design of climate adaptation plans. Specifically, it will provide guidance in identifying which species or habitats are likely to be most strongly affected by projected changes; and understanding why these resources are likely to be vulnerable. Vulnerability Assessments are a critical tool in undertaking any climate change planning or implementation.

Objectives:

Participants will understand how to design and interpret natural resource related climate management actions to help build resiliency and adaption. Specifically, participants completing the course will be able to:

- Understand vulnerability assessment in the broader context of adaptation planning and other relevant contexts,
- Evaluate the different factors influencing vulnerability and how they can affect the outcome of vulnerability assessments,
- Identify and evaluate the approaches for conducting a vulnerability assessment and choose among the options,
- Design a vulnerability assessment applicable to their needs,
- Evaluate and interpret the results of vulnerability assessments and recognize next steps,
- Communicate the purposes, methods, and results of vulnerability assessments to others,
- Develop (elements of) a vulnerability assessment workplan/statement of work, including level of effort.

Pre-course work: Participants are requested to read “Scanning the Conservation Horizon: A Guide to Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment” and have knowledge of basic principles of conservation biology and climate change.

AGENDA

Tuesday March 20

<u>Est. Time</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
8:00am	Welcome & Agenda	Danielle LaRock
	Opening Remarks	John Gross
	Instructor Introductions	Instructors
8:20am	<i>Unit 1: Overview of a Vulnerability Assessment</i>	
	1: Overview of Vulnerability Assessment/Guide	Hector Galbraith
	Participant Introductions	Participants
	BREAK	
9:40am	<i>Unit 2: Components of a Vulnerability Assessment</i>	
	2: Foundational Elements and Key Steps	Bruce Jones
	3: Using VA to Inform Agency Decisions	John Gross
	Structured Discussion	Jennie Hoffman
	4: Elements of a VA- Sensitivity	Kyle Barrett
	Breakout: Unit 2, Exercise 1	All
12:15-1:30pm	LUNCH	
	5: Assessing Exposure	Bruce Jones
	Breakout: Unit 2, Exercise 2	All
	BREAK	
	6: Adaptive Capacity	Hector Galbraith
	Breakout: Unit 2, Exercise 3	All
	Next steps: identify/sign up case studies	Danielle LaRock
5:00pm	ADJOURN	

AGENDA

Wednesday March 21

<u>Est. Time</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
8:00am	Day 2 Session Updates (Case Study sign up)	Danielle LaRock
8:15am	<i>Unit 3- Part 1: Approaches to a Vulnerability Assessment</i>	
	7: Uncertainty	Jennie Hoffman
	Structured Discussion	All
	8: Expert Elicitation	Hector Galbraith
	Structured Discussion	All
	9: Distribution Modeling	Kyle Barrett
	10: Habitat Indices	Hector Galbraith
	11: Species Indices	Bruce Jones
	Structured Discussion	All
	BREAK	
11:00am	<i>Unit 3- Part 2: Tools of a Vulnerability Assessment</i>	
	12: Tools Selection	Jennie Hoffman
	Tools Café (VISTA, MAXENT, CAKE, NEAFWA, Climate Wizard)	Instructors
	Tool Rotation 1	Rotate
	Tool Rotation 2	Rotate
12:00-1:15pm	LUNCH	
	Tool Rotation 3	Rotate
	Tool Rotation 4	Rotate
	Tool Rotation 5	Rotate
	BREAK	
2:20pm	<i>Unit 4: Building a Vulnerability Assessment</i>	
	13: Approaches to VA- Scale	Hector Galbraith
	14: Scope and Objectives	Jennie Hoffman
	Scope and Objectives Exercise	All
	Breakout: Build a VA (use case study)	All
	Check-in and instructions	Danielle LaRock
5:00pm	ADJOURN	

AGENDA

Thursday March 22

<u>Est. Time</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
8:00am	Check-in and Review Day 2	Danielle LaRock
	Breakout: Build a VA (use case study)	All
11:00-12:15pm	LUNCH	
12:15pm	<i>Unit 5: Interpreting and Applying Vulnerability Assessment Results</i>	
	Poster Session Walk Around	All
	Summary of Poster discussions	Jennie Hoffman
	BREAK	
	15: Century Bog	Hector Galbraith
	No Box Exercise	Hector Galbraith
	No Box Report Back	Hector Galbraith
	Feedback and Evaluation	Danielle LaRock
4:00pm	ADJOURN	