Partner Organization Project Proposal
Conservation Leadership through Learning - Colorado State University

Thank you for your interest in CLTL. We are excited to work with you to develop Capstone Project opportunities for our students. Please read through our Project Partner webpage, and then fill out this project interest form to propose your project ideas and email it to Terra.Smith@colostate.edu.

Organization Information
Organization Name: Conservation International
Primary Contact: Adrienne McKeehan
Office Phone Number: Alternate Phone Number:
Primary Contact Email:

Capstone Project Information
Students will participate in coursework at CSU from August 2016 to May 2017. Capstone project fieldwork will commence June 2017 and be completed by October 1, with all deliverables completed by December 1, 2017.

☑ Please check this box to acknowledge these dates.

Brief Project Description:
In 2013, Conservation International published guidelines for applying Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) to our work. FPIC is a process for ensuring that outside actors engage indigenous communities in a culturally appropriate way, so that their development needs, priorities and desires can be met. It recognizes that indigenous peoples have rights to their lands and territories, and that these rights are often ignored by development actors, whether that be governments, extractive industries, or conservation organizations. The guidelines were produced in order to give CI staff a tool for ensuring FPIC within our own work.

We would like to know how closely CI’s FPIC guidelines align with real life examples of FPIC in action. Do they align with the steps others have taken to ensure FPIC? Do they align with what indigenous communities expect of outside actors? Examples may be drawn from different sectors and different countries, as long as they offer examples to compare and contrast with CI’s guidelines.

We are open to how this project might be accomplished - it might include a desktop review, interviews, or a combination of several different methods. Site visits to at least 1-2 of the field sites would be required.

Below are the project criteria. Please check each criterion the project would likely meet.

☑ Community-based: on-the-ground work at a community/regional level, including interactions with and/or exposure to local decision-makers and/or stakeholders
☑ Multi-disciplinary: analysis and investigation of a conservation issue through multiple lenses (e.g., ecological, economic, social, political)
☑ Cross-cultural: opportunities for students to interact with individuals and/or in a culture vastly different than their own
☑ Networking: opportunities for students to interact with other conservation professionals

Capstone projects should provide opportunities for students to apply knowledge from their CLTL coursework. Please check the topics the proposed project would address:
☐ Biodiversity ☐ Systems thinking
☐ Governance/Decision-making ☐ Policy
☐ Facilitation ☐ Ecosystem services
☐ Spatial analysis ☐ Collaborative conservation
☑ Social science research methods ☐ Ecological research methods
☐ Multi-level views of conservation ☐ Outreach
Students are required to provide their project partner with a professional-level deliverable (e.g., management plan, technical report, communication materials, set of policy briefs, series of podcasts, etc.). Please provide a brief description of potential deliverables for your project:

Potential deliverables might include a report outlining the findings and recommendations for applying FPIC.

Please describe the project team, including who the student(s) would likely work with at the project site or if it would be mostly independent:

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**Project Details**

Project location (city, state/province, country): 1-2 CI field sites and Arlington, VA (or remotely)

Desired Number of Students: Min 1 Max 2

Please indicate in-kind support, if any, the student would receive (check all that apply):

- [ ] Room and board during fieldwork
- [ ] Translators
- [ ] Travel to/from U.S. to project location
- [x] Additional support  Please describe:

If non-field site portion of project is done at Headquarters, an office space could be provided.

**Preferred/Required skills and experience of the student(s):**

Language proficiency: [ ] Preferred  [x] Required  Specify language: English

Technical skills: [ ] Preferred  [ ] Required

Please specify:

Prior experience in country/region: [ ] Preferred  [ ] Required

Please describe the connectivity at project site (e.g., internet access, mobile phone coverage):

This project could be based anywhere, depending on student’s idea for specific site visits. If based at HQ in Arlington there would be no problems with connectivity.

Additional Comments:

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Thank you for proposing a CLTL Capstone Project. We will contact you with any further questions about the proposed projects. If you have questions, please feel free to contact us at Terra.Smith@colostate.edu. We look forward to working with you.