

Center for Protected Area Management



Colorado State University

2015 Annual Report

Mission

The Center for Protected Area Management (CPAM) was formed to extend the CSU land-grant mission by contributing to the conservation, planning, and management of the world's protected areas and the landscapes and seascapes that connect them through capacity building, applied research, and technical collaboration, in partnership with organizations that manage and support protected areas and the communities whose well-being depends on them.

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Fresh water beaches of Alter de Chao, Para, Brazil near the Tapajos National Forest

“CPAM works to ensure that protected areas have the trained and motivated staff needed to understand and face increasingly complex conservation challenges, and to work to ensure that protected areas are effectively managed as part of efforts to promote more sustainable use of wider land and seascapes for the good of present and future generations.”

Jim Barborak,
CPAM co-director



A Message from our Co-directors



This past year brought lots of exciting opportunities for the Center for Protected Area Management to engage in projects both abroad and at home. In this annual report we highlight 10 specific projects that range from our on-going flagship courses in the US to exciting initiatives in Panama, Paraguay, and the Amazon of Brazil. In 2015 we trained over 200 professionals and community members from 20 countries in a variety of topics related to protected area management including management planning, concessions, ecotourism, trails, infrastructure, interpretation, and conservation finance. Our team also gave keynotes and lectures at conferences, and symposia that helped us reach over 500 additional individuals.

climate change, invasive exotic species and even recreational and tourism demand are placing new pressures on protected areas globally.

CPAM continues to work to ensure that protected areas have the trained and motivated staff needed to understand and face these challenges, and to work to ensure that protected areas are effectively managed as part of efforts to promote more sustainable use of our wider land and seascapes for the good of present and future generations.

We are optimistic about the future. The growing network of trained professionals working tirelessly to leave the world a bit greener and cleaner and with its cultural and natural heritage intact inspires us in each and every course we give. Your collaboration is appreciated and of the utmost importance to the continuation and success of our efforts!

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan Finchum".

Ryan Finchum
Co-director



We were motivated by the number of new global protected areas established, growing numbers of visitors to parks around the world, the continuous push to ensure that already existing areas are more effectively managed, and also that protected area goals can be achieved in ways that also respect cultural heritage and improve local livelihoods. Even though the number and total size of protected areas both on land and at sea have increased greatly in recent years, particularly in developing regions that harbor most of the world's species, the threats and pressures faced by these parks and reserves have also increased. Deforestation, fragmentation and isolation lead to loss of species. Development pressure from mining and from unsustainable levels of logging, fishing and hunting continues. A growing population means rising global demand for food and commodities, and

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James R. Barborak".

Jim Barborak
Co-director

A Message from our Department Head



The history and tradition of our Department of Human Dimensions of Natural Resources (HDNR) is rooted in the parks and protected area movement that blossomed in the mid 20th century. Since our formation more than 65 years ago, we have been at the forefront of providing education for parks professionals, providing research that informs park decisions, and building the capacity of in-service protected area professionals. Our excellence has not only been achieved by world renowned faculty, but also by the similarly accomplished protected area professionals housed in the Department's Center for Protected Area Management (CPAM). The Center, a brainchild of now retired former faculty member Professor George Wallace, was intended to provide expertise and capacity building to front line managers, particularly in Latin America. CPAM staff now work with professionals from over 36 countries around the world. CPAM has always brought a rich element to the more academic focus of HDNR. CPAM professionals provide a critical bridge between practitioners and the world of academia. Beyond that, we all benefit from the sharing of information, the mutual involvement in projects, and the innovation that arises from

collaboration. Ultimately, it is our students who are big winners in this arrangement as the presence of CPAM staff brings a unique "realistic" view of protected area management to our students.

Parks and protected areas are now seen as the primary policy mechanism by which we can protect biodiversity and the ecosystem services we rely on for sustainability. More than 15% of the world land base has been classified as protected by governments, non-governmental organizations, and communities. The success of this endeavor depends on our ability to manage and protect these areas. In that regard, I can think of no pursuit more important in the area of conservation than that of the Center for Protected Area Management. We are proud to have the Center associated with HDNR.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Manfredo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

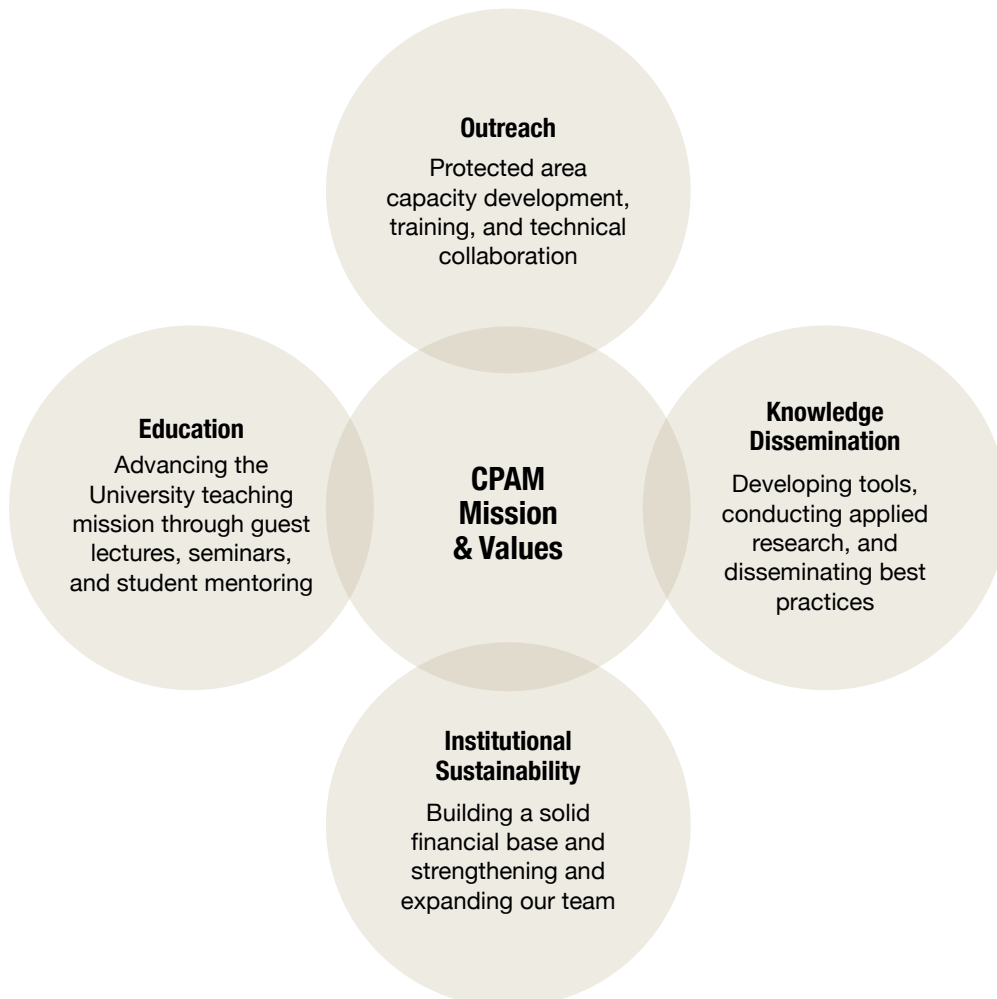
Mike Manfredo
Department Head, Human Dimensions
of Natural Resources

Our Philosophy and Approach

The Center for Protected Area Management helps implement the land grant mission of Colorado State University by contributing to natural resource management across our state, nation, and the world. Through the land grant mission we are in effect partners with the communities, institutions, and nations where we work, trying to solve conservation challenges and problems collaboratively. Together we focus our energy and resources to improve our human livelihoods today, while also ensuring the health and prosperity of future generations and the sound stewardship of the natural resources that are vital to their welfare.

Within this context we believe in the power of individual and institutional ingenuity to create

and adapt resilient systems and processes for the long-term, sustainable management of our natural resources, particularly protected areas on land and sea, the buffer zones that ring them, and the corridors that connect them. Therefore much of our focus is spent on conservation education and training. We invest time and resources disseminating knowledge and tools to empower early and mid-career men and women with the skills needed to be high-achieving conservation leaders who will guide us through considerable environmental change and uncertainty. We also bring lessons learned from innovators around the globe back to our University and local community, and work to make sure that as a University center we have a solid financial and technical base of operations.



Highlighted Projects from 2015



Three-toed sloth in Soberania
National Park, Panama





2015 Year in Review

25th Year | 525+ Graduates

3rd Year | 50+ Graduates



Annual Spanish-language Protected Area Management Course

In 2015 we completed the 25th edition of our annual Protected Area Management course. This past year we had 24 participants from 12 countries spend a month in Colorado, Wyoming, and Utah, visiting a variety of protected areas and exchanging information and ideas with each other and conservation and protected area personnel from a variety of organizations. Key topics included leadership, planning, adaptive management, engaging diverse stakeholders, managing tourism in protected areas, field skills development, communication, and climate change adaptation. To date we have had over 525 participants from 26 countries participate in the course. This year we also organized a 25th anniversary celebration and developed a short video highlighting the impact that course has had over the years. Over 75 people joined us in this celebratory event.

Annual English-language Tourism and Protected Areas Seminar

In September, 2015, we conducted the 3rd annual seminar on Planning and Managing Tourism in Protected Areas with 17 participants from 8 countries. This seminar was co-led by the CPAM co-directors and Dr. Steve McCool from the University of Montana. Dr. Stu Cottrell, Larry Lechner, Craig MacFarland, and Jim Wurz all played important roles. Over 2000 miles were covered in 4 western US states as we visited 9 National Park units, 3 National Forests, and sites managed by state, local, and tribal governments. We met with park staff, NGOs, Native American leaders, and private sector concessionaires. Participants developed action plans during the seminar that they presented in Grand Teton National Park in the final days of the seminar.

10 Amazon protected areas supported

15+ Exhibits created

3 Amazon communities supported



3rd Annual Amazon National Park Seminar

In April we held the 2nd Mobile Seminar on Tourism Management in Amazonian Protected Areas in Manaus, Novo Airão, and Anavilhanas National Park, in Amazonas State, Brazil. The seminar was sponsored by USAID-Brazil and the USDA Forest Service International Programs. Organization of the seminar was led by CPAM in coordination with the Chico Mendes Institute (ICMbio). Initial modules of the seminar were held in Manaus, the capital city of Amazonas state. Then, in Novo Airão, a small city three hours by bus from Manaus, we developed a series of focused group projects on specific aspects of tourism management in protected areas. The 20 participants included representatives from the Chico Mendes Institute in Brasilia and 10 different federal protected areas in the Amazon. In 2016 we are planning the 3rd seminar on Marajo Island in the State of Para, Brazil.

Amazon Visitor Center Interpretation and Community Signage

CPAM led a team of interpretation specialists in the overall planning, implementation, and inauguration of the interpretive exhibits at the CAT (Visitor Information Center) in Alter do Chão, Para, Brazil. The interpretive team collaborated with local service providers, regional government officials, local artists and federal agencies to construct interpretive exhibits that will help connect the Brazilian public and foreign visitors to protected areas, especially in the Tapajos region. The overall design followed the interpretive plan for the Tapajos National Forest, ensuring that the interpretive services support and build off the plan. In addition, key messages and linkages align the CAT with the regional tourism development strategy. On July 10, 2015, the newly remodeled CAT was officially inaugurated and opened to the public in conjunction with a local Alter do Chão festival. In addition to the CAT, we also developed 4 additional interpretative signs for other tourist attraction in the Tapajos National Forest.

100 rangers
trained

4 cohorts of trainees



Panama Park Ranger Training and Program Evaluation

During 2015 CPAM continued to participate as a key partner in the ongoing effort to provide basic training to the entire Panamanian Ministry of the Environment ranger corps, approximately 300 persons. Four additional training diploma cohorts were completed in 2015 for approximately 100 rangers. This training program is being implemented in partnerships with the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Minera Panama Mining Company, the University of Panama, and the Panama Ministry of Environment. Over half of all Panama's rangers have now received intensive basic training lasting over a month in several modules over a three to four month period for each cohort, with one to two week intensive training modules interspersed with time spent on the job in the field. This year, we also conducted a review of the training program to make mid-program adjustments in the training syllabus, and we also facilitated workshops with key Ministry and University of Panama partners to begin to develop a strategy for in-service training for technical and director-level staff working in Panama's national protected area system.

10 trainers trained

20 community
guides trained



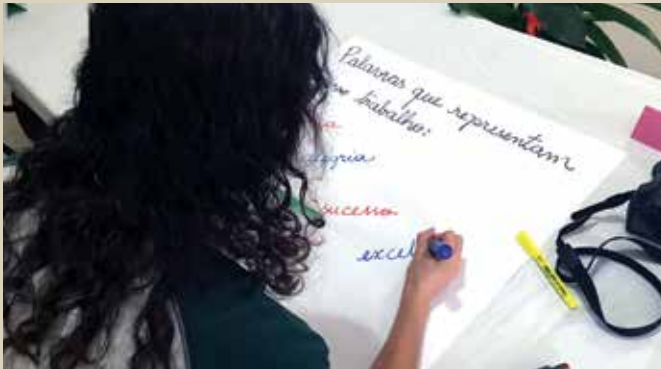
Chico Mendez Institute Interpretation Training of Trainers

CPAM collaborated with the US Forest Service International Programs and the Chico Mendez Institute (ICMBio) on the design of an interpretation and customer service workshop for traditional rainforest communities in the Brazilian Amazon. Participants were traditional and indigenous communities living in or near protected areas in the Amazon that collaborate with ICMBio as ecotourism guides. Participants shared their success stories and learned effective visitor communication techniques. This course is a win-win strategy for local communities and conservation as it both helps to position the guides to be more successful in their job, while also helping to structure community-based communication efforts in a way that are directly tied to biodiversity conservation efforts in the Amazon. The trainers for this course were ICMBio staff that has previously participated in a US-based training of trainers course on interpretation, also in 2015. Additional courses are planned for 2016 in Amazonas, Brazil with ecotourism guides active in protected areas located in the lower Rio Negro portion of the Amazon basin.

2 workshops held

50 ICMBio
staff trained

15 stakeholders involved
in participatory planning



Management Planning and Concessions Training in Brazil

CPAM, along with USFS and USNPS, supported Brazil's federal protected area system by training over 50 staff from the Chico Mendez Institute (ICMBio) in two one-week workshops. The first workshop, at Capivara National Park in March, trained staff in design and implementation of partnerships to expand tourism services and facilities in protected areas. Policies and procedures used in the USA and by other countries were reviewed for their applicability to Brazil's situation. On field trips participants observed park infrastructure and visited cooperative tourism ventures implemented in partnership with communities and NGOs. CPAM helped lead a second workshop in August at ICMBio's training center in Sao Paulo focusing on helping ICMBio resolve its planning backlog. Procedures for management planning in Brazil were compared and contrasted to US and global best practices. Practical exercises demonstrated use of accelerated processes for producing simple master planning documents for protected areas. Participants agreed on practical steps for making Brazilian protected area management planning quicker, cheaper, and ultimately more effective.

Ecotourism Planning in Soberania National Park, Panama

In the Spring of 2015, CPAM led two participatory planning workshops on ecotourism planning tools: Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) and the Range of Opportunities for Visitors in Protected Areas (ROVAP) in Soberania National Park, Panama. The workshops supported the Panamanian protected area system develop an updated public use plan for Soberania National Park, one of the most accessible tropical forests in the world, adjacent to the Panama Canal. The LAC planning framework empowers protected area managers with a collective vision for visitation to their area, indicators and standards that help them achieve that vision, and an overall monitoring plan to help z them on track. ROVAP is a tool that helps managers develop zone or opportunity class descriptions for different areas of the protected areas. This helps them determine what kind of development, social interaction, and management actions are appropriate within different areas of the park.

Supporting
45 PAs

100 rangers
to be trained

15 people trained



Capacity Building Assessment for Rangers in Paraguay

CPAM was invited by the Paraguayan Ministry of the Environment and that country's Tropical Forest Conservation Fund to conduct a needs assessment for development of a national ranger training program. The Paraguayan Ministry of Environment has recently hired dozens of new rangers, and there are also a growing number of rangers working in watershed authorities and private nature reserves. The Paraguayan government and collaborating organizations want to ensure that this growing ranger force possesses the knowledge and skills to adequately protect Paraguay's protected area system, in light of continued threats including poaching, fires and deforestation, and to manage increasing national and international tourism to Paraguay's parks and reserves. An initial proposal for an intensive training program for the Paraguayan ranger force together with Paraguayan government, university and NGO conservation leaders was developed. We conducted field visits to several parks, interviewed rangers and decision makers, and facilitated a formal planning workshop.

Wilderness First Aid and Spanish Language Training on Campus

Each year CPAM invests in professional development and training for its staff and associates, building skillsets that will help the team be more successful. This year CPAM led an initiative to train its team in the National Outdoor Leadership School's Wilderness First Aid course prior to backcountry trips undertaken during our annual Protected Area Course. This two-day, fast-paced, hands-on course is designed to give outdoor enthusiasts and leaders an introduction to caring for people in remote locations. CPAM sponsored the training for its own team and offered additional spots in the training for Human Dimensions of Natural Resources departmental staff and students to participate. Classroom lectures were complemented by role-playing scenarios outdoors where participants came upon accident situations and had to go through the steps to properly care for and diagnose the injured party, and then decide if they could be treated or needed evacuation. All participants graduated with the knowledge, skills and ability to make sound decision in remote emergency situations.

Financial Overview

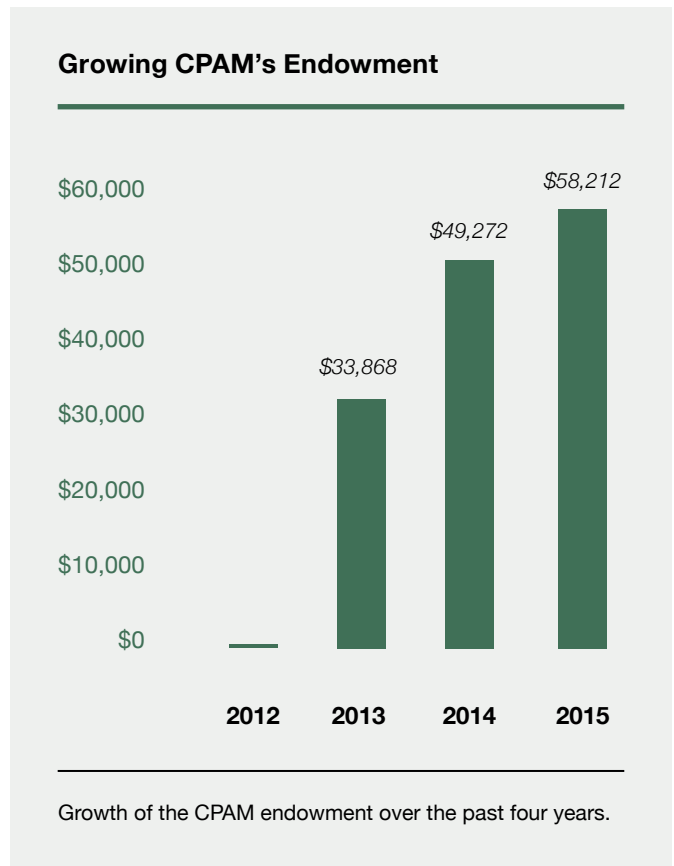
The Center for Protected Area Management is a “soft-money” center that is responsible for raising money to cover the cost of its operations through project funding and donations. We are housed within the Human Dimensions of Natural Resources Department, which provides us with our office space and administrative support. However, the bulk of the funding that drives our impact in the world comes from projects with conservation and development agencies and philanthropic organizations around the world. An increasingly important part of our day-to-day operations is funded by our growing endowment and contributions by individual supporters of our work. In 2015 we concluded our final year of implementation of a three-year strategic and business plan that laid out a number of opportunities for CPAM to achieve a more sustainable financial future. In 2016 we will be developing a new 3-year strategic plan.

Endowment Funding

In order to ensure the financial sustainability of CPAM’s work over time, an endowment has been initiated with a generous gift from George and Nancy Wallace that will provide on-going funding in support of our mission. This endowment is growing thanks to contributions from our own team and from individual supporters who believe in our work. Our goal is to grow our endowment from the initial contribution of \$25,000 to over \$500,000 in 10 years.

Project Funding

The bulk of our funding comes from specific partnerships or projects where CPAM teams up with organizations around the globe to support protected areas through a variety of capacity development and technical collaboration initiatives. Over the coming years we will continue diversifying our partnership base and positioning our skillset to match the needs of the front line managers and conservation NGOs around the globe. In addition, we will continue to build on our existing community-based projects that help align local community livelihood activities and protected area and conservation goals.



Executive Committee



Jim Barborak
Co-director



Ryan Finchum
Co-director



Dr. George Wallace
Founder and Director Emeritus



Jim Wurz
Founder and Associate



Dr. Stu Cottrell
Faculty Associate



Dr. Jennifer Solomon
Faculty Associate



Dr. Chris Mayer
Associate



Dr. Craig MacFarland
Founder and Associate
Emeritus



Larry Lechner
Founder and Associate
Emeritus

Staff and Associates



Audrey Ek-Psomas
Project Coordinator



Maritza Arizaga
Executive Assistant



Rina Hauptfeld
Research Associate



Lorena Mondragón
Communications



Dr. Tara Teel
Associate



Dr. Kelly Jones
Associate



Dr. Rebecca Gruby
Associate



Dr. Mike Gavin
Associate



Allan Rhodes
Associate



Adrian Benedetti
Associate



Dr. Peter Newman
Associate



Alan Moore
Associate



Dr. Mike Manfredo
Associate



Mark Willuhn
Associate



Dr. Miguel Milano
Associate

Tourism and Protected Area Seminar,
Badlands National Park, South Dakota





“Over the last decade or so, one of the most important partners of the National Park Service (NPS) in promoting its international mission has been the Center for Protected Area Management (CPAM) at Colorado State University. CPAM has enabled NPS to significantly extend its international reach and global connections.”

Stephen Morris,
Chief, International Affairs of the US National Park Service

To learn more about CPAM's work with protected areas, the people who manage them, and the communities who depend on them, please visit:

<http://warnercnr.colostate.edu/cpamt-home>

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Colorado State University

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Natural Resources**

Center for Protected Area Management
Warner College of Natural Resources
Human Dimensions of Natural Resources Department
233 Forestry Building
Fort Collins, CO 80523-1480

Cover: Aerial view of Anavilhanas National Park
Islands, Rio Negro, Brazilian Amazon

