

Sustainable Tourism Community of Learning and Practice



Initial Program Dates: December 2024 – March 2026

This program also includes participation in the ongoing sustainable tourism community of learning and practice.

Location: Online & in the Western U.S.A.

For more information, visit our website: <https://warnercnr.colostate.edu/cpam/sustainable-tourism-clp/>.

Launching, Building, and Maintaining a Community

USDA Forest Service International Programs and Colorado State University's Center for Protected Area Management have teamed up to offer the sustainable tourism community of learning and practice, piloting an integrated approach to strengthen capacity development in sustainable tourism worldwide.

The community combines traditional and self-directed educational sessions, an intensive 17-day U.S. based field seminar, follow-up technical support for required participant projects, and ongoing engagement in a growing professional community.

Over a 16-month program, participants from around the world will explore:

- What makes **tourism programs and activities sustainable**.
- How to apply **systems thinking** to the challenges and opportunities posed by sustainable tourism in protected areas.
- Ways to identify and promote **justice, equity, diversity, accessibility, and inclusion** for all who depend on and visit the protected areas.
- How to lead the **planning, development, and delivery** of tourism services in protected areas.



Each year, new members will help grow the community, while ongoing opportunities for engagement will help maintain it.



Program Topics

- Planning and management for tourism and public use in protected areas.
- Best practices in legal and policy frameworks to support sustainable tourism and conservation.
- Tourism and climate change: resilience, mitigation, adaptation, and education.
- Public-private partnerships and the roles of government, local communities, businesses, non-governmental organizations, indigenous people, universities, and other collaborators.
- Tourism infrastructure, facility development, and industry value and supply chains.
- Interpretation and environmental education.
- Systems thinking and leadership.

Program Format

- Initial 9-month virtual program conducted on Zoom and through our learning platform. This 9-month period will run from December 2024 until August 2025. Sessions occur 1 - 2 times per month.
- 17-day U.S. site visit in September 2025.
- 6-month period of implementation support for Project Action Plans and the Leadership Development Plans from October 2025 to March 2026.
- Ongoing community of learning and practice that participants can continue to engage with into the future (optional). This community will include: webinars, conferences, and Podcasts.

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