



“CAPACITY BUILDING FOR CONSERVATION IN AFRICA”

Organizers:

- Dr Rosie Trevelyan, Tropical Biology Association
- Dr Onja H. Razafindratsima, Department of Biology, College of Charleston
- Dr Edu Effiom, Cross River State Forestry Commission, Nigeria

Expected participant: 30-40

Duration: Two hours

Abstract

Primary aims

This workshop aims to explore how we can achieve more impact in conservation in Africa from capacity building. We will explore current approaches to capacity building and measuring impact. This will be a forum where we share what challenges exist to achieving impact (including what is not working), so we can learn from real-life practice and consider how to adapt our approaches, innovate and scale up.

Background and justification

Capacity building is an important tool for conservation, and we need to know how to deliver it in the most effective way that will have long-term impacts. This requires knowledge about what the capacity gaps are and what methods work best in which situations. It is vital that we measure impact and share the results widely to help scale up our work as well as adapt our methods when they are not working. It is also important that we encourage innovation in capacity building, and recognise how best to integrate it with other conservation approaches rather than work in isolation. The workshop will discuss these issues and identify solutions and opportunities for capacity building in Africa that will have a greater impact in conservation.

Specifically, we will discuss the gaps and constraints that exist in capacity building in Africa and solutions to these. In addition, participants will share expertise around capacity building methods and tools that have had a demonstrable impact, so that we can explore whether and how these can be scaled up further. Equally important, participants will share examples where capacity building has not “worked”, with possible reasons for this and how we need to adapt and innovate for better impact.

