

Fellows Reunion Notes from Sept. 13, 2019

Each Fellow shared...

- The title and location of their fellows project and gave a brief description of the project
- The current status of their fellows' project (if they knew). About half of the attendees said their project was continuing on in some way.
- What they are doing now and if they are using collaboration

Robin Reid and Maria Fernandez-Gimenez gave a presentation and lead a discussion on Transformative Science and how to bring different knowledges together with the goal to promote transformative local change through collaborative conservation. *See Robin's attached PowerPoint.*

In the afternoon, Rina Hauptfeld gave a presentation on some of the data that she and Megan Jones gathered this summer (through fellow interviews and surveys) for the *CCC Fellows Program 10-year Report*. She then led a discussion on "How Can We Improve the Fellows Program?" We met as a big group and also broke into two World Café small groups to discuss: 1) what would be useful trainings for previous and new fellows, 2) should new fellows' follow-up on previous fellows' projects if the opportunity arises? and 3) how can we maximize impact of the fellows program?

Below are some of the notes from these brainstorms. The rest of the notes will appear in the recommendations section of the final Fellows Report.

Fellows Program goals...

- Fill the gaps others aren't doing
- Develop the fellows themselves or focus on the collaborative process? Which should we focus on? Both? What about conservation impacts?

Small Group Brainstorm – Training for Fellows

Be transformative – what trainings would get you here?

Targeted Subject Matter

- Strategies for managing conflict among collaboration stakeholders
- Case-based education
- Cultural differences
- Power differences
- Methodologies/Practices (intro to, qualitative, quantitative)
- Situation assessment
- Stakeholder analysis
- Participatory mapping
- Collaborative modelling
- Collaboration 101
- Impact Evaluation
- Financing collaborative conservation
- Facilitating collaboration

Structure or process of training depends on the audience

- Length – require multi-day training or one-day trainings in several intervals?
- Cohort based vs. non-cohort based vs. open to the public
- Hands-on
- Mutual learning
- Culturally intelligent
- Continuing monitoring and relationships
- Conduct a workshop on your project
- Work through situations or examples for learning
- Training open to all cohorts (present and past fellows)

Small Group Brainstorm – Follow-On Projects to Previous Fellows Work

Passing on a project from one cohort to the next...

Should We?

- Trust and relationships – who built them originally? Is it ethical to build on that?
- How could the CCC maintain the relationships and trust with stakeholders (would take a lot of resources)?
- Select follow-on projects based on opportunities, success, appropriateness, etc. (some kind of evaluation criteria) then another fellow applies for it.
- CCC becomes curator of project trust and relationships.
- Previous fellow passes along the project during a transition period as a new fellow is coming on board.
- Current project deliverables inform the next fellow's projects.
- Working in the same ecosystem but maybe on a different specific problem, or from a different disciplinary lens.
- Previous fellow mentors the follow-on fellow.

Large Group Discussion – How to Maximize Long Term Impact

- Should the CCC focus on U.S./West to be able to increase its effectiveness?
- There are very real needs with indigenous peoples in North America.
- Who is meant to benefit from the CCC fellowship? Conservation? Or the *Leaders in Conservation* (changes in the way the fellows see the world, and their work in it; this needs to be tangible and measurable).
- If we choose the *Leaders in Conservation*, the CCC could focus on transforming conservation and how it is done. Not many groups can do that. What is our definition of transforming conservation? (See Robin's PPT).
- Real change takes a lot of time.
- Fellows can transfer knowledge and become leaders by dispersing the CC approach globally.
- The current CCC approach fills a big gap in funding by having the fellows program (less restrictive reporting, and having practitioner fellows is KEY!).

Continued...

Improving the Fellows Program (from the draft Fellows report and brainstorming)

- Build a stronger network and connection to fellows from all cohorts, both during and after their fellowships, and greater engagement with the Fellows Program post-fellowship.
- Foster a community of practice among active and alumni fellows and the public, through robust skills building.
- Create a mentoring program between alumni and active fellows.
- Post reports and deliverables online for fellows.
- Post training resources online for access after their fellowship period has ended.
- Fund follow-on projects (continuations of previous fellow's projects).
- Provide guidance on format, metrics and methods for evaluation of projects.
- Streamline fellows' products.
- Fellows want expanded training in skills to increase collaboration capacity, particularly (1) skills for dealing with cultural differences and power differentials; (2) outreach and technical communication skills; and (3) training in how to conduct evaluation.

Resources

An email was sent out to fellows asking, "What are some professional resources you can share related to collaborative conservation? (best paper or report you've read, best website, workshops, organizations seeking collaborators, funding sources, etc.)"

Below are some of the resources sent in by a few fellows. **PLEASE SEND ME YOUR FAVORITE RESOURCES** and we will post them on the CCC website!

Lacey Gaechter (Cohort 5)

Websites

- www.thealliancecenter.org
- <https://www.earthscall.org/>
- The [ComFoods listserv](#) managed through Tufts University - Super wonky and quite outdated technology, but the number one news, discussion, and electronic community building tool used by sustainable food systems folks.
- The [ComFoodJobs listserv](#), also managed through Tufts, this one for job seekers or those seeking employees in the food systems sector.
- [National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition](#) for food systems folks. They host a small job board and offer policy fellowships in DC.
- For people looking for jobs, the [Colorado Nonprofit Association's Job Board](#).
- [Food & Farms Communications Fund](#), again for food systems folks.
- [REI](#) is a great local partner for smaller budget, natural-area type conservation projects.

Heidi Steltzer, (Cohort 7)

Heidi is Co-PI for a US DOE funded watershed collaborative. <https://watershed.lbl.gov/>. This opportunity led to being a lead author on an upcoming IPCC special report. The report comes out in September and includes a chapter on high mountain areas. It is the first time since the 1990's that an IPCC report has included this ecoregion. <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/srocc/>

Ashley Lovell (Cohort 1)

Publications

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