

## **Next Steps: World Conservation Congress**

The Nature Conservancy's proposal for a Learning Opportunity Event related to Marine Conservation Agreements (MCAs) at this year's World Conservation Congress in Barcelona was accepted by IUCN. The event will be 4 hours long (9 AM - 1 PM) and is currently scheduled for Wednesday, October 8th. To the extent possible, practical, and desirable, TNC will partner with CCIF, CI, and WWF for this event as the logical immediate follow-up to the June workshop. The event's current general description is attached below; individuals are identified from TNC, CCIF, CI, and WWF, but these are considered tentative until everyone has agreed to roles.

The event's target audience is marine and coastal NGOs. The goal is to walk participants through the PMCA process with their local project areas in mind. One possible structure of the event is:

- Hour 1: Introductions and Feasibility Analysis
- Hour 2: Stakeholder Engagement
- Hour 3: Building the Agreement
- Hour 4: Implementation

<b>Title and Description of LEARNING OPPORTUNITY #995 during the IUCN World Conservation Congress (5–14 October 2008)</b>
<b>A Private Sector Approach for Practitioners – Conservation Agreements in Support of Marine Protection</b>
Descriptive Summary
Private marine conservation agreements are underutilized tools that complement government-established protected areas and regulations to sustainably deliver ocean and coastal ecosystem services. For centuries, private, for-profit entities throughout the globe have acquired rights to marine areas for purposes such as marinas, utility lines, gravel mining, aquaculture, and oil extraction. We're now using these strategies to enable non-profit conservation organizations to obtain similar rights to marine areas for purposes that improve and protect the environment. This learning opportunity session will guide participants through the essential steps for their project areas: 1) Learning the Basics; 2) Decision-making; 3) Acquisition; and 4) Implementation.
Extended Summary
Over the past several years, private organizations have entered into agreements (such as leases, licenses, easements, concessions, and deed transfers) with public, community, and private parties to protect lands and resources lying within ocean and coastal waters. These agreements define specific geographic areas, harvested species, and access capacity for acquisition or protection. Private conservation agreements have protected important marine biodiversity and ecosystems while positioning private organizations as legitimate stakeholders with decision-making management agencies. Conservation agreements position organizations as "stakeholders with capital" and enable conservationists to advance broader ocean management strategies such as zoning and ecosystem-based management.  Participants will review recent experiences, lessons learned, economic considerations, and land-sea tenure requirements related to conserving ocean and coastal biodiversity through private agreements. Participants will use the information and processes from an on-line toolkit ( <a href="http://www.leaseown.org">www.leaseown.org</a> ) to help them develop and plan their own projects. Participants will build the skills necessary to recognize opportunities and needs, differentiate between policy and perception, identify needed collaborations, and apply legal mechanisms used elsewhere to new geographies. The event will identify actions that need to

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be taken, stakeholders that need to be involved, and how to work with event participants in the future to develop and implement specific projects.

### Partner Organizations

John Claussen, Director  
Conservation & Community Investment Forum  
Jalan Bypass Ngurah Rai No 121X, Sanu  
Indonesia, 80227  
Tel: +62-361-285-298  
Fax: +62-361-284-178  
Email: [jdclaussen@gmail.com](mailto:jdclaussen@gmail.com)

Bill Eichbaum  
Marine Program Director  
World Wildlife Fund  
1250 Twenty-Fourth Street, N.W.  
P.O. Box 97180  
Washington, DC 20090-7180  
Fax: 202-778-9637

Richard E. Rice, Ph.D., Chief Economist  
Conservation International  
2011 Crystal Drive, Suite 500  
Arlington, VA 22202  
Phone: 703 341-2468  
FAX: 703 271-0137  
Email: [d.rice@conservation.org](mailto:d.rice@conservation.org)

Jay Udelhoven, Sr. Policy Advisor  
The Nature Conservancy, Global Marine Team  
1917 First Avenue, Seattle, Washington, 98101  
United States  
Tel: 206-343-4345, ext. 339  
Fax: 206-343- 5608  
Email: [judelhoven@tnc.org](mailto:judelhoven@tnc.org)