CAP-app

*Enhanced Conservation Action Planning Software*

CAP-app is a completely new CAP Excel Workbook designed for strategic conservation planning. Developed by Greg Low, CAP-app has been used with the Tanana Valley Watershed Association and partners to develop a Watershed Resource Action Plan (WRAP) for the Chena River Watershed in Alaska.



# What’s Different about CAP-app

* Shows the current and projected future health (aka viability) of each target *with and without* strategic action.
* Measures target health on a scale of 0 (poor) to 100 (very good), allowing teams to more easily assess condition, compare results, and assess strategic benefits.
* Provides a simpler and arguably more robust threat ranking approach, based upon projected degradation of Key Ecological Attributes (KEAs).
* Ranks targets & KEAs most needing attention based on current condition plus future threat.
* Assesses the return on investment (ROI) of pursuing alternative strategic objectives.



**Health Scorecards -- With and Without Strategic Action**

* **Current Health** scores for each target are presented on a scale of 0 to 100, based upon a weighted average of the KEA ratings for the target.
* **Future Health With No Action** reflects the projected Health scores in 10 years based upon expected threats and circumstances.
* **Future Health with Strategic Actions** reflects the projected scores if selected strategic objectives are successfully implemented, and provides a vital comparison.

**Threats**are assessed by *directly projecting the future KEA ratings* assuming continuation of current circumstances, management and policies. The former Stress Ranking procedure (which pre-dated KEAs) is thereby eliminated, and greater accuracy is brought to threat ratings.

* Ratings of “Good – “ and “Fair – “ have been added to for KEAs, to reflect the often wide ranges in these categories, and the fact that conditions often trend down within a category.
* Sources are still graded by their Contribution -- to degraded KEAs. However, the confusing Irreversibility ratings have been discontinued, based upon an analysis that showed they made little difference to the final Threat scorecard.
* The Overall Threat Scorecard remains essentially the same as the CAP Excel Workbook.

**ROI** shows which strategic objectives yield the most benefit towards improving target health (KEAs) considering feasibility and cost – in comparison to Future Health with No Action.



# What’s the Same

CAP-app still uses the longstanding core approach to developing a Conservation Action Plan – selecting focal resources (conservation targets); determining and rating the key attributes of the targets’ health; assessing what is likely to get worse and why; developing measurable objectives to enhance future health and/or abate threats; and developing strategic actions to achieve these objectives. Key Ecological Attributes (KEA) are the vital foundation and “currency” of CAP-app – everything is built upon them, leading up to measurable strategic outcomes.

# What’s Next

CAP Coaches are invited to try out and use the software. Anyone familiar with the CAP Excel Workbook should be able to navigate through the process. CAP-app requires Excel software on a Windows-based computer or tablet; since it is programmed in Visual Basic, it requires macros be enabled. Greg hopes eventually to migrate CAP-app to a web-based, interview-driven platform. It can be downloaded at appliedconservation.com. Feedback is welcomed and encouraged. Contact Greg Low at glow@appliedconservation.com