Welcome to the second edition of the CLAN Newsletter, written for Alumni of the Masters in Conservation Leadership at the University of Cambridge.

In this issue of the CLAN Newsletter we’re celebrating our Conservation Leaders in the media! From music videos to public speeches, find out why the Masters in Conservation Leadership students past and present have been in the spotlight...

The CLAN Newsletter is intended to keep alumni up to date with what is happening on the Masters, and to help you to keep in touch with us and each other. We produce an issue every six months. Please let us have your news and views.

Updates from the Course

• The current students played a central role in the major launch of the new CCI Campus building, attended by Sir David Attenborough and the Duke of Edinburgh. More details are given overleaf.

• In the Lent and Easter terms the current cohort enjoyed two excellent Conservation Leadership Lectures given by Professor Rhys Green and Professor Patricia Majluf.

• The Masters course has received a record number of applications for entry in October 2013 – 73 in total.

• This year saw two new sessions added to the Communicating Conservation module; one on *Handling the Media* given by Linda Fairbrother, and the other on *Love, Loss and Creative Communications for Conservation* given by Ed Gillespie of Futerra.

• Bhaskar Vira, the Senior Examiner on the Masters, has been appointed to act as the first Director of the Cambridge Conservation Research Institute. Dr David Coomes and Dr Andreas Kontoleon, who both lecture on the Masters, were promoted to University Readerships.
An inspiring and insightful lecture by Sir David Attenborough in the University of Cambridge Senate House on 2 April, 2013 was attended by over 400 guests including HRH the Duke of Edinburgh and the Conservation Leadership students and team, to mark the official launch of the Cambridge Conservation Campus.

The Campus, due to be completed towards the end of 2015, will become the hub for the world’s largest conservation cluster, the Cambridge Conservation Initiative (CCI). It will be an international centre of interdisciplinary collaboration and outreach that will transform conservation research, policy and practice, and learning and leadership, for the benefit of biodiversity and humanity.

Speaking at the launch, Sir David said: “The world’s biodiversity urgently needs research-driven, innovative and practical solutions for its conservation. By coming together on the Conservation Campus, CCI partners will be better able to integrate their distinct and complementary strengths to tackle the complex challenges facing the natural world in exciting new ways.”

Four students from the current cohort gave excellent short presentations about how the course will help shape their conservation careers and what it means to them to be part of CCI.

The Masters students and guests were then lucky enough to attend a wine reception following the speeches to meet Sir David and the Duke of Edinburgh in person.

- See more on how plans for the Campus plans are shaping up, overleaf.
The CCI Campus – plans

Plans for the CCI Campus building have been developing rapidly. The architects have been appointed and there has been much discussion among all those who plan to move into the building regarding the showers in the basement, solar panels on the roof and everything in between! The plans for the building are developing really well, and there is growing excitement among the Cambridge conservation community about the opportunities co-location will bring. The intended moving in date is currently in late 2015.

One particularly striking aspect of the building will be its use of green planting, both on the actual roof outside and down an interior wall of the central atrium space. This will bring biodiversity right into the building and will give visitors a clear message about what we do.
The Masters in Conservation Leadership will have a large dedicated floor in the East tower that is linked to the main building, and overlooking the Grand Arcade shopping centre. This will be on the same floor as all the university staff and students moving into the building, and next door to the library.

More information can be found at this page, including a link to an artist’s impression fly-through, from which the images here are taken: [http://www.conservation.cam.ac.uk/overview-conservation-centre](http://www.conservation.cam.ac.uk/overview-conservation-centre)

**Join our Alumni Network!**

Please make full use of our reinvigorated [LinkedIn](http://www.linkedin.com) group. We now be post all news, interesting links and job opportunities to this site, so join the conversation.

We’re always happy to hear from you, so please get in touch if you have any other ideas for alumni events or networking opportunities.

As a first step – please do contribute to the next newsletter!
On return I was promoted in my old government job, but I am stranded in the capital city for now! I am planning for a field posting soon. My Division, the Nature Recreation & Ecotourism Division focuses on the human aspects of conservation.

As a new field, my job is both challenging and exciting. I get to put the CL lectures into good practice in the field as I continue to explore means of connecting conservation and happiness. Besides, I am involved in national planning and policy development related to environmental conservation and forestry.

I regularly take advantage of my networks and the strong team I built at Cambridge.

As I write this, I am among some 20 veteran policy makers of South and South East Asia attending an Executive Forest Policy Course. Banking on a multitude of CL lectures, I am using my skills in economics, political ecology and environmental governance to challenge their conventional policy options and the need to horizon-scan implications of future science & technology.

I miss Cambridge. My soul still wanders the Geography corridors and my college campus!

Nawang Gyeltshen
Masters in Conservation Leadership 2011-12

Nawang works for the Department of Forests & Park Services under Royal Government of Bhutan. He uses his CL skills to find creative means of connecting conservation with the happiness of the Bhutanese people.
Conservation Leadership students on film

The Communicating Conservation module emphasises the role that short videos posted online can play in getting the conservation message across to diverse audiences. Our alumni and current students have clearly taken this message to heart, as several of them have made, or appeared in, excellent examples.

From the 2010-11 cohort, Bruno Monteferrì has made a number of highly creative videos about his work raising awareness of conservation issues in Peru. His latest, called ‘Kuyapanakuy = reciprocation’, shows a diverse range of Peruvians with their messages for a better life, written on a simple blackboard.

See the whole film online: http://vimeo.com/68596177

Also from the 2010-11 cohort, Francisco de Oliveira Filho starred in a video on the Environment section of the Guardian website. In it he explains his work with the Brazilian government to improve monitoring and enforcement as part of the fight against deforestation.

http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/nov/14/brazil-amazon-rangers-farmers-burning
(Look out for Francisco after around 2 minutes)

Perhaps most creatively of all, Supriya Jhunjhunwala from the 2011-12 cohort has created a music video as part of her work with the Ark Foundation to promote the conservation of her
beloved Lesser Florican. It is a fantastic combination of education with entertainment, all set to a very catchy tune! We particularly like the way the jumping florican fits with the music.

See the full video online here:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=57t0_XKwx0&feature=youtu.be

(With English subtitles)

Finally, several students of the current cohort feature in the video montage put together by CCI to publicise the launch of the Conservation Campus. We are sure you will agree - they did a fantastic job!


(the MCL section is from 1:58)

It is really encouraging to see our students taking advantage of some of the opportunities the web has to offer for communicating conservation, and we are looking forward to seeing what other alumni will come up with in the future.

We need your contributions!

Don’t forget we need your stories of life after the Masters for future issues of the CLAN Newsletter. You don’t need to wait for the next issue – we’re always pleased to hear from you!
2012-13 Consultancies and Placements

The current cohort of MCL students finished their MoTI consultancy projects before Easter, and they are now mid-way through their placements. Four consultancy groups ran this year, on the use of social media at RSPB, key performance indicators for UNEP-WCMC, an international strategy for the consultancy wing of BTO, and how to engage with African agri-business for TBA.

We also have a really fantastic set of placement projects this year covering a wide range of CCI organisations. They include helping to establish a Trust Fund for conservation in Mozambique (Madyo Couto, FFI), working with IPBES on its Stakeholder Engagement Strategy (Tamar Pataridze, UNEP-WCMC) and writing a business plan for an Ecosystem Services Toolkit (Swapnil Chaudhari, BirdLife International).

The opportunity to work directly with conservation organisations through consultancy and placement projects is a real highlight of the Masters experience. Every year we see the level of responsibility given to our placement students increasing, and we get a lot of compliments from host organisations on their performance.

We continue to be grateful to both the Judge Business School and the conservation organisations for their support and involvement with these placements and consultancies, and hope this successful collaboration may long continue!