

FINANCE 4NATURE



NUMBERS FOR NATURE
TRAINING INSTITUTE

Intensive Conservation Finance Course

*Presented by Conservation Strategy Fund and the
Conservation Finance Alliance*



CONSERVATION
FINANCE ALLIANCE

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OVERVIEW

This course responds to a growing need and awareness of the importance of nature finance for achieving local, regional and global conservation, restoration, and sustainable use outcomes.

It covers the fundamentals of conservation finance solutions from key theoretical elements through practical exercises that will allow the participant the ability to identify, understand, and guide the implementation of diverse conservation finance solutions.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Core conservation finance theory and taxonomy, including how to leverage conservation finance for sustainable conservation and restoration outcomes
- The current state of finance for nature, including finance needs, financial flows, key actors and the most common funding sources
- Comprehensive understanding of the four guidance principles of conservation finance: Optimize resource efficiencies, discourage harmful actions, incentivize positive actions, and increase financial capital for conservation.
- The seven different classes and diverse categories of conservation finance mechanisms
- Practical tools for identifying and prioritizing a portfolio of finance solutions for different landscapes, organizations, and sites.
- The challenges, opportunities, and tradeoffs among different finance solutions and how to implement a portfolio of finance solutions for each specific conservation context.

SPECIFIC TOPICS

- Global finance flows, sources and needs
- Conservation finance theory and practical use cases
- Taxonomy of conservation finance mechanisms
- Public financial management
- Grants and other transfers
- Economic instruments
- Financial efficiency
- Return-based investments
- Business and markets
- Risk management
- Identifying and prioritizing finance solutions



METHODOLOGY & FORMAT

- Trains up to 50 participants (in-person, virtual, or hybrid)
- Live lectures, case studies, guest speakers, and interactive activities
- A practical final project to build a finance portfolio for participants' own conservation initiatives.
- All course materials available for participants at CSF's [Numbers for Nature Training Institute](#).

LEAD INSTRUCTOR

David Meyers Ph.D, CFA Executive Director

David is an environmental finance expert and entrepreneur with more than 35 years of experience in sustainability, business strategy and management, environmental economics, international conservation and development, and education. David has served as a Sr. Technical Advisor for the Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN/UNDP) and has launched and managed various companies. As Executive Director of the CFA, David has led the creation and 3 Cohorts of the CFA Incubator, provided technical and strategic support to numerous organizations, conservation trust funds, programs, and more. David has spent well over a decade in Madagascar and has worked in 50 countries. He holds a Doctorate in Biological Anthropology and Anatomy from Duke University and an MBA from the Yale School of Management.

PAST COURSE FEEDBACK

Our Initial 2025 course was rated 9/10

100% *of participants would recommend this course.*
of participants reported an increase in their knowledge in at least one conservation finance topic.

“In 3 days [this course] consolidated what I've been trying to understand about the pros and cons of different financial instruments over the last year, and brought them all together as a suite of options. [I] gained more knowledge than I could have hoped for”

- 2025 Course Participant

“This course was sold to be for beginners and the course content was super interesting. I also enjoyed how many case studies there were.”

- Kathy Yu, Independent Consultant

“In addition to a much better understanding of how different finance mechanisms work, I really appreciated the financial prioritization exercise at the end that helped put the gained knowledge into practice.”

- Winifred Frick, Bat Conservation International