

LCC Network Science Coordinators Team Charter – Adopted March 14, 2013

Preamble

The complexity of addressing landscape scale conservation challenges requires the LCC Network to establish effective governance and operational structures at several levels to support, but not constrain, individual LCC conservation and resource management efforts while also leading to efficient regional and LCC Network-wide solutions.

The LCC Science Coordinators will function in the best interest of conservation science and delivery if they work as an integrated and cohesive science team in support of the LCC Network vision and mission. By functioning as a science team all LCC Science Coordinators will be more effective at their jobs, more efficient at conserving priority natural and cultural resources, and more responsive to our partners, decision-makers, funders, and tax-payers by being better able to identify and address the science needs emerging from issues operating at multi-LCC scales.

Therefore, the LCC Science Coordinators, as staff representing their respective LCCs, hereby formalize a body to more efficiently and effectively achieve the LCC Network’s “Vision, Mission, Roles, and Guiding Principles” (**see Appendix A**), while respecting individual LCC steering committee governance authority. The LCC Science Coordinators recognize that as an evolving endeavor, the function and roles of this team will need to evolve as the LCC Network matures.

Purpose of the Charter

This Charter establishes an LCC Network science and technical advisory group, known as the LCC Network Science Coordinators Team (LSCT), and defines its roles and decision-making procedures in support of the LCC Network’s Vision, Mission, Roles, and Guiding Principles.

Purpose of the LCC Network Science Coordinators Team

The purpose of the LSCT (or “Science Team”) is to strengthen the scientific foundations of the LCCs and the LCC Network in pursuit of landscapes capable of sustaining natural and cultural resources for current and future generations.

Roles

The LSCT serves as a forum for communication and collaboration on technical and scientific matters among the LCCs and between the LCC Network and other science partners. In addition, the LSCT provides the core capacity for identifying and collaborating on approaches to strategically address science and technical issues that are relevant to multiple LCCs or the LCC Network as a whole.

Actions include, but are not limited to:

1. Developing a strategic science framework and a LCC Network Science Agenda with an associated work plan;

2. Ensuring coordination and information sharing among LCCs on topics such as LCC operations, best practices, data management, science needs, conservation tools, and partner engagement,;
3. Providing recommendations to the LCC Coordinators Team (LCT) and the LCC National Council on approaches, best practices, tasks, timing, and projects to meet LCC Network challenges;
4. Communicating new and emerging science and technology to enhance conservation and partnership practices (e.g., use or novel application of modeling approaches [scenario planning], software packages, and datasets [connectivity and urbanization layers], etc.), and;
5. Maintaining and enhancing strong working relationships with science partners (such as the Climate Science Centers) to leverage resources and to ensure that science activities and programs are coordinated and complementary.

Composition / Membership

LCC Network Science Coordinator Team (LSCT)

For the purpose of this Charter, the LSCT is composed of the LCC Science Coordinators from the twenty-two LCCs, the National LCC Coordinator, and the Assistant National LCC Coordinator. It is expected that the Science Coordinators are affirmatively recognized within their LCCs as fulfilling this role.

Other LCC staff, such as the LCC Coordinators, and representatives of various LCC Network workgroups or LCC member organizations, will be asked provide support as needed and requested and are welcome to participate in LSCT meetings and activities (but not formalized as LSCT members)

LCC Science Coordinators Leadership Team (SCLT)

The Science Coordinators Leadership Team (SCLT; “skillet”) will serve as the “Executive Team” for the LSCT. The SCLT includes 6 LCC Science Coordinators, the National LCC Coordinator, and the Assistant National LCC Coordinator. The National LCC Coordinator and the Assistant National LCC Coordinator are permanent members of the SCLT. The other six SCLT members will be selected from the pool of LSCT members based on voluntary agreement to serve. SCLT members are determined by a simple majority vote of the LSCT. SCLT appointments are for two years, with three new members appointed annually. A pair of co-chairs for the LSCT will be selected from among the Science Coordinators on the SCLT, with one co-chair selected from within each cohort.

The SCLT’s role is to provide strategic thinking and recommendations to the LSCT, to ensure that the priorities identified by the LSCT are carried forward, and to ensure that the administrative tasks (e.g., agenda development, meeting logistics, and work planning) are efficiently addressed. The co-chairs work with the National LCC Coordinators to run meetings of the LSCT and SCLT.

Relationship to Other Groups

The LCC Network is composed of the twenty-two individual LCCs and their linkages, including Steering Committees, staff, partners, and other individuals, organizations, and agencies associated with the LCCs.

A variety of organizational structures have been established to support the individual LCCs and to enable the 22 LCCs to function as a coordinated and seamless international network. These structures include the individual LCC Steering Committees, the LCC Coordinators Team (LCT), the LCT Executive Committee (LCT-EC), and the LCC National Council (see Figure 1). The LSCT functions within and as part of this organizational structure, providing the entire Network science and technical support.

Process

The LSCT operates under the guidance and direction of the LCC Coordinators Team and its Executive Committee. While serving the broader LCC Network, individual LSCT members continue to represent the interests of their LCCs as expressed by their Steering Committees, LCC Coordinators, or other LCC-specific practices.

Establishment of a Quorum

All decisions, whether by consensus or by vote, require a quorum of LSCT members, and only official LSCT members may vote. A quorum is established when two-thirds of the official LSCT representatives are present in person, by proxy, or electronically. Proxies must be designated in writing to one of the co-chairs of the LSCT at least 24 hours prior to a scheduled decision.

Decision Making

The LSCT strives to make all decisions by consensus. For the LSCT, consensus is defined as general agreement, which means that members present or represented at the time a decision is made either agree with or at least do not oppose the decision.

In the event consensus cannot be reached, a two thirds-majority will decide. For voting purposes, each LSCT member has one vote (note: to address cases in which an LCC has more than one science coordinator, only one LSCT member per LCC may vote). This vote may be cast by an alternate or proxy identified by the LSCT member.

Issues or action items brought to the LSCT for a decision or recommendation will be presented to the LCCs with enough lead time for LSCT members to review and consult with their respective LCC Coordinators or LCC steering committees, as needed. The LSCT strives to move forward in a manner that is efficient and effective to further the goals of the LCC Network while honoring the self-directed nature of the individual LCCs.

Operational Context

The types of actions and issues the LSCT addresses range from administrative matters, to the challenge of identifying and prioritizing multi-LCC or LCC Network-wide needs, to highly complex matters, such as addressing scientific and technical challenges related to a nationwide conservation objective. The LSCT recognizes that the issues it addresses have ramifications that vary in their relevance to individual LCCs, the work of the LCC Network, and possibly national or international conservation efforts. The LSCT cannot act in a way that limits the autonomy of individual LCC Steering Committees nor that obligates

any organization to an action that is not acceptable to that organization. The LSCT works with the LCT and the LCT-EC to ensure that issues recommending individual LCCs to substantially modify, develop, or support actions receive full engagement and consent of LCC Steering Committees, as appropriate.

Annual Updates

It is expected that flexibility will be needed in order to accommodate the innovative and evolving nature of LCCs. As such, this Charter will be reviewed annually for its applicability and effectiveness and will be adjusted as needed using the decision process described in this document.

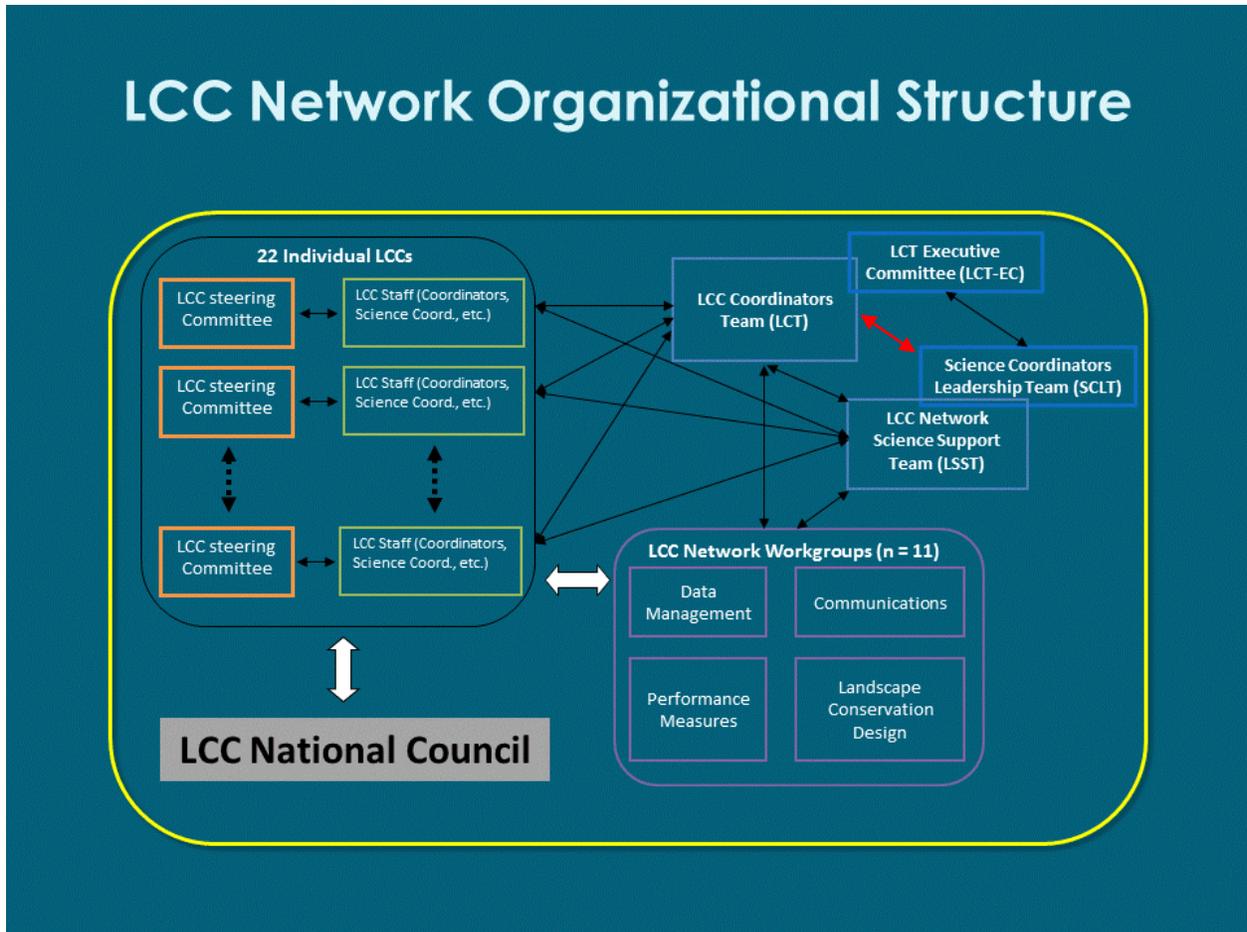


Figure 1. LCC Network Organizational Structure.

Appendix A.
Vision, Mission, and Guiding Principles

Landscape Conservation Cooperatives Network 7/9/2012

Preamble

The Landscape Conservation Cooperative Network¹ (LCC Network or Network) desires to establish a unifying agenda for furthering the conservation of natural and cultural resources in the 21st Century;

The Network is striving to establish an organizational framework and approach for pursuing opportunities to inform natural and cultural resource conservation and sustainable² resource management in the face of unprecedented challenges facing these resources;

We recognize that the need to understand the science of global climate change, and mount an integrated response for adapting to this threat, is a foundational principle for the establishment of LCCs and the Network;

We recognize that, in addition to climate change, there are a variety of other landscape-scale stressors³ that require mutual understanding and effective responses to conserve the natural and cultural resources within the Network's geography;

We recognize that a functioning Network will require pursuit of certain fundamental approaches by each LCC;

We recognize that it is important that each LCC have flexibility to adapt to local conditions; the intent of this document is not to prescribe how things are done by individual LCCs, but to identify the anticipated responsibilities each LCC will need to fulfill in support of the Network vision.

Therefore, the twenty-two Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, in coordination with their steering committees have adopted this document to unify the individual Cooperatives into a Network.

Vision

Landscapes capable of sustaining natural and cultural resources for current and future generations.

¹ The LCC Network is composed of the twenty-two individual LCCs and their linkages (i.e., steering committees, staff, partners and others associated with the LCCs).

² The use of the terms sustainable, sustaining, and sustainability do not intend to imply maintenance of status quo.

³ This term is used in the context of broad spatial scales that may encompass coastal or marine systems, freshwater systems, and terrestrial systems, depending on the scope defined by the individual LCCs.

Mission

A network of cooperatives depends on LCCs to:

- Develop and provide integrated science-based information about the implications of climate change and other stressors for the sustainability of natural and cultural resources;
- Develop shared, landscape-level, conservation objectives and inform conservation strategies that are based on a shared scientific understanding about the landscape, including the implications of current and future environmental stressors;
- Facilitate the exchange of applied science in the implementation of conservation strategies and products developed by the Cooperative or their partners;
- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of LCC conservation strategies in meeting shared objectives;
- Develop appropriate linkages that connect LCCs to ensure an effective network.

Guiding Principles

- Consider and respect each participating organization's unique mandates and jurisdictions.
- Add value to landscape-scale conservation by integrating across LCCs and other partnerships and organizations to identify and fill gaps and avoid redundancies.
- Conduct open and frequent communications within the LCC network and among vested stakeholders and be transparent in deliberations and decision-making.
- Focus on developing shared landscape-level priorities that lead to strategies that can be implemented.
- Develop and rely upon best available science.
- Develop explicit linkages and approaches to ensure products are available in a form that is usable by partners delivering conservation.
- Use a scientifically objective adaptive management approach in fulfilling the mission.