February 28, 2017

Study about Climate Change Adaptation Practices of Land Trusts

Organizers:

Dr. Michael Drescher Associate Professor, School of Planning

Telephone: 1- (519) – 888 – 4567 extension 38795

Email address: mdresche@uwaterloo.ca

Nadya Mrochkovskaia Student Researcher

Email address: nmrochko@uwaterloo.ca

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is written on behalf of Dr. Michael Drescher at the School of Planning at the University of Waterloo, located in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada in regards to conducting a study on land trusts in Ontario. The importance of land trusts is understood: they protect vital natural lands which would be in danger of degradation or loss otherwise. Therefore, it is essential that the conservation practices implemented by land trusts are successful. The purpose of the current research study is to take one factor, climate change, and examine how land trusts are adapting their current conservation practices to this factor. Land trusts in Ontario and other Canadian provinces are being contacted to voluntarily contribute information about their climate change adaptation efforts. Currently, there is a lack of information about climate change adaptation and protected land conservation, thus this research is essential for furthering knowledge about these subjects. By investigating operations and strategies of land trusts, the research team hopes to understand the different types of conservation methods utilized and their relation to climate change adaptation. The end goal is to determine the current level of climate change adaptation of Canadian land trusts to help improve practices for protecting land holdings for future generations.

The questionnaire examines land trusts as a whole, ranging from administrative information to specifics about acre amount. However, the main focus is understanding climate change awareness, perception, and adaptation of each land trust. We encourage land trust representatives to complete this questionnaire in groups, not individually, with a time commitment of about one hour.

Participation in this study is completely voluntary. Confidentiality is guaranteed and all collected data will be deidentified. The questionnaire is available through an editable Portable Document Format (PDF), a hard copy which can be printed and returned to the researchers via email or mail, or an online survey. The online survey is available here: http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/3008409/Land-Trust-Questionnaire. Please be mindful of your internet security whilst filling out the online survey. When information is transmitted over the internet, privacy cannot be guaranteed. There is always a risk your responses may be intercepted by a third party (e.g., government agencies, hackers). University of Waterloo researchers will not collect or use internet protocol (IP) addresses or other information which could link your participation to your computer or electronic device without first informing you.

According to University of Waterloo policy, the data gathered will be retained at the School of Planning in a secure location for ten years, after which the data will be destroyed. There are no known or anticipated risks to participation in this questionnaire. In order to indicate your consent in this survey, please sign and return the form on the next page. However, participants have the right to withdraw consent to participate at any time without fear of reprisal and may decline answering any questions they prefer not to answer. If there are questions, desire for more information, or inquiries about hard copies, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Michael Drescher through email at mdresche@uwaterloo.ca or by telephone at 1 - (519) 888 – 4567, extension 38795. Please return the completed questionnaire to Dr. Michael Drescher by email to mdresche@uwaterloo.ca or by mail to Dr. Michael Drescher, School of Planning, Faculty of Environment, University of Waterloo, 200 University Ave West, Waterloo, Ontario, N2L 3G1, Canada by April 28 2017.

This research project has been reviewed and received ethics clearance through a University of Waterloo Research Ethics Committee (ORE# 21760). However, the final decision to participate is yours. If there are any concerns or questions for the committee, please contact the Chief Ethics Officer at the Office of Research Ethics at 1 - (519) – 888 – 4567 extension 36005 or ore-ceo@uwaterloo.ca. For all other questions, please contact Michael Drescher through email at mdresche@uwaterloo.ca or by telephone at 1- (519) 888 – 4567.

Thank you in advance for your interest in this study!

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Michael Drescher Nadya Mrochkovskaia

Land Trust Questionnaire

Consent of Participating Land Trust

Thank you for your interest in participating in our study! Before you continue with the questionnaire, please sign this form of consent as a representative of your land trust. By signing this consent form, you are not waiving your legal rights or releasing the investigators or the University of Waterloo from their legal and professional responsibilities.

I have read the information presented in the information letter about a Land Trust study being conducted by Dr. Michael Drescher at the School of Planning at the University of Waterloo. I have had the opportunity to ask any questions I have related to this study, to receive satisfactory answers to my questions, and any other additional details I wanted. I am aware that I may withdraw from the study without penalty at any time by advising Dr. Michael Drescher of this decision at mdresche@uwaterloo.ca or 1 - (519) – 888 – 4567 extension 38795.

This project has been reviewed and received ethics clearance through a University of Waterloo Research Ethics Committee (ORE# 21760). I was informed that if I have any comments or concerns resulting from my participation in this study, I may contact the Chief Ethics Officer, Office of Research Ethics, at 1-519-888-4567 ext. 36005 or ore-ceo@uwaterloo.ca.

With full knowledge of all foregoing, I agree, of my own free will, on behalf of my land trust, to participate in this study.

Print Name of Representative of Land Trust
Signature of Representative of Land Trust
Name of Land Trust
Date
Witness

Land Trust Questionnaire

This study aims to expand knowledge of land trusts' perceptions of and adaptation abilities to climate change. We hope that the outcomes of this study will highlight facilitators and challenges as well as best practices for climate change adaptation. The outcomes of this study will be shared with the land trust community through a variety of channels with the hope that Canadian land trusts can benefit from our work.

When responding to the following questionnaire, please make sure you select answers representative of the entire land trust. If possible, it is encouraged that multiple staff members complete this document together in order to ensure the most accurate responses. Furthermore, you are not required to answer any undesired questions. Your anonymity and confidentiality is guaranteed. If you have any questions or concerns about this questionnaire, including inquiries about hard copies, please do not hesitate to contact Michael Drescher at mdresche@uwaterloo.ca or at (519) 888 – 4567 extension 38795. Thank you in advance!

1)	Please state the name of the land trust:
2)	What is the mission statement or goal of the land trust? Please summarize in one sentence.
3)	In what year was the land trust founded?
4)	Please state the amount of hectares the land trust protects. This could be through conservation
	easements, ownership, leases of land, management agreements, etc.
5)	Please describe the specific geographic areas where the land trust protects sites (eg. City of Toronto, parts of Lake Nippising, Haldimand County, Kenora District).
6)	How many members does the land trust have?

Please indicate the amount of in	dividual	s who work	k for the land	d trust:			
Full time employees:	_	Volu	ınteers:				
Part time employees:	_	Othe	ers:				
8) Please indicate the reason(s) fo	r land pr	otection of	sites. Selec	ct all that ap	ply.		
Preserving biodiversity			Mair	ntaining agric	ultural lands		
Preserving ecosystem services	3		Pres	erving cultura	al heritage lo	cations	
Protecting from encroaching de	evelopme	ent	Habi	itat protection	1		
Preserving water bodies and/o	r shorelin	ies	Rest	toration of na	tural areas		
Protecting water supplies			Mair	ntaining recre	ation areas		
Other (please elaborate):							<u> </u>
9) Please state the percentage of hactivities:							
Annual site visits	0%	1 - 25%	26 - 50%	51 - 75%	76 - 99%	100%	Unknown
Walk boundaries for encroachments							
Remove trash							
Remove invasive species							
Tromove invasive species							
Poetore natural communities							
Restore natural communities							
Monitor water quality							
Monitor water quality Perform activities that improve habitats							
Monitor water quality							
Monitor water quality Perform activities that improve habitats							
Monitor water quality Perform activities that improve habitats Monitor biological indicators							
Monitor water quality Perform activities that improve habitats Monitor biological indicators							

pes the land trust have a Board of Directors?
Yes: please proceed to question 11a) No: please proceed to question 12
a) How many individuals are on the Board of Directors?
ease state the 2015 annual budget of the land trust to the best of your knowledge:
Has there been a change to the budget in the past few years?
Yes: it has increased Yes: it has decreased No: it has remained the same
Other (please elaborate):
How much of the 2015 budget has accounted for capital expenses and operations of the land trust?
pital expenses:% Operations:%
as the land trust ever been asked to evaluate whether the lands it protects are meeting the nservation goal(s) indicated for the sites?
Yes, regularly: please proceed to question 13 a) Yes, rarely: please proceed to question 13 a)
Yes, sometimes: please proceed to question 13 a) No, never: please proceed to question 14
 Which organization(s) or group(s) requested this evaluation (e.g., member, donor, governme agency):

14) Please state the percentage of h	ectares	for which t	he land trus	st conducts t	he following	j :	
	0%	1 - 25%	26 - 50%	51 - 75%	76 - 99%	100%	Unknown
Prepare a baseline documentation report							
Prepare an ecological inventory and description							
Develop specific conservation goals							
Develop a list of conservation targets for sites							
Develop land management plans							
Identify threats to conservation goals							
Conduct annual photo documentation							
Other (please elaborate):							
Other (please elaborate):							
15) How well informed is the land tru Not at all Slightly	st abou	_	s of a chanç derately	ging climate	on its land h	noldings?	
16) Does the land trust believe its lar	nd holdi	ngs are be	ing affected	by climate	change?		
Yes: please proceed to question 16 a)		: please pro estion 16 b)	ceed to		know: please ed to questio		
a) How confident is the land tr	ust that	climate ch	ange affects	s its properti	es?		
Extremely Vo	ery		Somewhat		Not at a	all	
b) How confident is the land tr	ust that	climate ch	ange does l	NOT affect is	ts properties	s?	
Extremely	Very		Somewh	nat	N	ot at all	

government reports, other land trusts, conferences, own observations)? If more room is required to
answer, please use the last page of the questionnaire.
18) Do donors and other members of the land trust believe land holdings are being affected by climate change?
Yes, all do Yes, some do No, none do Unknown
19) Which of the following best describes the land trust's current phase of climate change adaptation planning and implementation?
Understanding Planning Implementing
Other (please elaborate):
20) How concerned are donors and other members of the land trust about adapting to climate change?
Extremely concerned Very Somewhat Not Concerned Unknown

2	1) What is the	land trust's	level of	concern	about	these	potential	stressors	on you	r land	holdings	during
	the next 10	years?									_	

•	Extremely concerned	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not concerned	Not applicable
Natural disasters					
Local effects of climate change					
Population growth					
Residential development					
Industrial development					
Infrastructure development					
Weak economy					
Limited capacity of local government					
Other (please elaborate):					
Other (please elaborate):					

22) How does the land trust believe climate change has affected or will affect the local conditions and features of the natural environment protected in its land holdings? Even if you have not considered the potential effects of climate change within the areas, please offer the best estimate.

	Increase	Stay the same	Decrease	Not applicable
Summer air temperature				
Winter air temperature				
Invasive species (land)				
Invasive species (aquatic)				
Amount of snow				
Length of winter				
Frequency of irregular seasonal change (e.g. warm one day and frost the next)				
Amount of rain				
Amount of river/lake water in the summer				
Amount of river/lake water in the winter				
Flooding				
Storm frequency or intensity				
Faunal biodiversity				
Floral biodiversity				
Diversity of ecosystems				
Amount of pests and diseases				
Wildfire frequency or intensity				
Amount of air pollution				
Amount of soil pollution				
Amount of water pollution				
Erosion				
Abundance of ecosystem services				
Other (please elaborate):				
Other (please elaborate):				

23) Please review these same items as in question 22 and indicate the amount of information the land trust has on each item in relation to its land holdings and climate change.

	All needed information	Most of the needed information	Some of the needed information	None of the needed information	Not applicable
Summer air temperature					
Winter air temperature					
Invasive species (land)					
Invasive species (aquatic)					
Amount of snow					
Length of winter					
Frequency of irregular seasonal change (e.g. warm one day and frost the next)					
Amount of rain					
Amount of river/lake water in the summer					
Amount of river/lake water in the winter					
Flooding					
Storm frequency or intensity					
Faunal biodiversity					
Floral biodiversity					
Diversity of ecosystems					
Amount of pests and diseases					
Wildfire frequency or intensity					
Amount of air pollution					
Amount of soil pollution					
Amount of water pollution					
Erosion					
Abundance of ecosystem services					
Other (please elaborate):					
Other (please elaborate):				П	

	s? Even if you ha	•	ed the potentia	r will affect flora al effects of clima	
	Will gain some species	Will gain some species and lose some species	Will lose some species	Will neither gain nor lose species	Not applicable
Land fauna					
Aquatic fauna					
Land flora					
Aquatic flora					
25) Please review the land trust has o		s as in question elation to its land			information the
	All neede informatio		Some of the needed information	None of the needed information	Not applicable
Land fau	na				
Aquatic fauna					
Land flor	a 🗌				
Aquatic flora					
26) Of the mentione trust? Please lis 1: 2: 3: 4: 5:	t below from hig	tions 22 to 25, whest to lowest o		st concerning for	the land

σ.	re appropriate or	suitable for a	dapting to clir			ch adaptation pra	olioco
	Not knowledgeable	Somev knowle	what edgeable	Very knowle	edgeable	Extremely knowledges	able
a) 	climate change	? Please elal	borate (e.g. c	onferences	s, workshops	about adapting to about adapting to a community age of the questic	
20/11			Post			•	
28) H	as the land trust i	implementea	any climate o	hange ada	eptation mea	isures?	
	Yes: please proc question 28 a)	eed to	No: please properties of the plant of the pl	roceed to	Unsure questic	e: please proceed t on 29	0
(€		nge adaptatio	question 29 on strategies I mitigation effo	has the lan	question d trust imple	on 29 emented? Please	explain
(€	question 28 a) /hich climate charge.g. risk assessme	nge adaptatio	question 29 on strategies I mitigation effo	has the lan	question d trust imple	on 29 emented? Please	explain
(€	question 28 a) /hich climate charge.g. risk assessme	nge adaptatio	question 29 on strategies I mitigation effo	has the lan	question d trust imple	on 29 emented? Please	explain
(€	question 28 a) /hich climate charge.g. risk assessme	nge adaptatio	question 29 on strategies I mitigation effo	has the lan	question d trust imple	on 29 emented? Please	explain
(€	question 28 a) /hich climate charge.g. risk assessme	nge adaptatio	question 29 on strategies I mitigation effo	has the lan	question d trust imple	on 29 emented? Please	explain
(€	question 28 a) /hich climate charge.g. risk assessme	nge adaptation	question 29 on strategies I mitigation effo	has the lan	question d trust imple	on 29 emented? Please	explain

	Present	Not present	Unknow
_ack of urgency			
Lack of agreement over importance of climate change adaptation			
nsufficient amount of staff			
_ack of trust in science			
_ack of public support			
nsufficient funding			
_ack of capacity within the land trust			
Adaptation is inconsistent with land trust mandate			
Lack of agreement in selecting solution options			
Unsure that climate change presents a problem			
_ack of leadership			
Other issues more concerning			
_ack of data/information			
_ack of information analysis			
Opposition from other land trusts			
Opposition from donors or other members			
Other (please elaborate):			
Other (please elaborate):			

29) The land trust may have encountered obstacles when planning or implementing adaptation

31)	There are a number of costs with respect to implementing and developing climate change	Э
	adaptation practices for land trusts. Please indicate the degree to which the following cos	١t
	tems limit your progress in climate change adaptation.	

	Not at all limiting	Not very limiting	Somewhat limiting	Very limiting	Don't know/Not applicable
Time to make adaptation a priority					
Equipment/technology cost					
Training expenses					
Cost of public engagement for strategic planning related to climate change adaptation					
Unable to hire more staff to balance priorities					
Cost of increased investment in adaptation strategies					
Cost of assessment to evaluate price of adaptation					
Other (please elaborate):					
Other (please elaborate):					
32) What does the land trust consider to be adaptation? Please list the top three in 1: 2: 3:	order of imp				

33	With respect to	improved clima	ate change	adaptation,	please	indicate	how much	the	land	trust
	agrees that the	items below w	ould suppo	ort its practic	e.					

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Increased flexibility for decision makers of the land trust					
Increased flexibility to select methods of conservation					
Better regional climate change information (e.g. vulnerability assessments, downscaled information)					
More educational materials in general (e.g. adaptation options related to flooding, invasive species)					
Community of practice for distribution of new information or research					
More training (in classrooms/in the field)					
Practical guidance and examples					
Support for conferences and forums for professional discussion and engagement					
Additional vulnerability assessments					
Opportunities to work across institutional borders					
Information on how to propose innovative practices to land trust decision makers					
Other (please elaborate):					
Other (please elaborate):					
34) Please indicate below whether your land trust wou interview.	uld be willing	g to partio	cipate in a	follow-up	

Please write any additional comments below. If you are using this space to provide more information for one of the previous questions, please write the question number beside your answer. Feel free to attach another piece of paper if necessary.					

Thank you for your participation! Please return this questionnaire via email to mdresche@uwaterloo.ca or send by mail to Michael Drescher University of Waterloo 200 University Ave West, Waterloo, ON, N2L 3G1