



Campus Sustainability Fund Grant Proposal

- **Project Title:** Adirondack to Appenino Sustainable Parks and Communities Project
- **Project Leader:** Professor Kelly Cerialo, kccerialo@paulsmiths.edu, 518-327-6386
- **Co-participants:** 13 PSC students are participating in the 2018 Adirondack to Appenino Sustainable Parks and Communities Project – Tia Akey, Lauren Bowe, Daniel D'Apice, Vera Fatta, Cristhian Gonzalez, Karsen Granger, Nathan Green, Victoria Krolczyk, Anderson LeClair, Matthew Syke, Thomas Szabo, Nayleece William, and Alaina Woods. Second faculty member is still to be determined.
- **Total amount requested from the sustainability fund to complete this project:** \$950

B. Project Summary

Introduction

The Adirondack to Appennino Sustainable Parks and Communities Project was established in 2013, and is a multi-year sustainable development collaboration between Paul Smith's College, the Tuscan-Emilian Appennine National Park (TEA Park) in Italy, University of Parma, and the Adirondack Park. During the summer semester, two PSC professors lead a team of 12-14 interdisciplinary student researchers to Italy to research and develop initiatives for sustainable development in the Parco Tosco Emiliano UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserve that focus on environmental conservation, economic development, and cultural preservation.

The Adirondack to Appennino Sustainable Parks and Communities Project is requesting funding from the Campus Sustainability Fund Grant to help offset the cost of accommodation expenses for the 13 students attending the trip during the Summer 2018. The students are working with undergraduate students and faculty from the University of Parma on the Summer 2018 project, and the tourism operator will not cover the accommodation expense for students for the two nights (5/14/18 and 5/15/18) that PSC students have to stay in Parma, Italy for their research collaboration with the University of Parma. We are hoping that the sustainability fund will assist with covering the lodging expenses for these two nights so the students have the opportunity to work with University of Parma on developing an action plan for the TEA National Park that addresses the United Nation's 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

Goals

From May 13 to May 30, 2018 two PSC faculty members are traveling to the Parco Appennino Tosco-Emiliano (a UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserve) in Italy with a group of 13 PSC students from several disciplines to complete the fifth stage of the Adirondack to Appennino Sustainable Parks and Communities Project. This study abroad experience is offered to PSC students as an upper division liberal arts elective, SOC-299 Protected Landscapes and Community Sustainability for 4 credits and focuses on researching, developing, and implementing sustainable development initiatives in the Parco Appennino Tosco-Emiliano.

In collaboration with officials from UNESCO's Man and Biosphere Program and directors from the Parco Appennino Tosco-Emiliano, PSC students will identify and analyze the ecological, social, and economic features of the Appennine Park and local community to develop an action plan that addresses the United Nation's 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Students will be responsible for conducting a sustainable development needs assessment to determine the immediate and long-term environmental, social, and economic needs of the region.

A secondary goal is to report back to the Champlain Adirondack Biosphere Reserve working group about best practices in building rural resiliency and sustainable communities in UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserves.

Project Justification and Relevance

The Adirondack Park and the Tuscan Emilian Appenine National Park share several of the same sustainable community development challenges including an aging population, negative ecological impact of tourism, impact of climate change on winter sports, and slowed economic growth. Over the past five years, the Adirondack to Appenino Sustainable Parks and Communities Project has given PSC students and faculty the opportunity to research and share strategies with the Tuscan Emilian Appenine National Park of how to build, monitor, and maintain sustainable communities with healthy environmental, economic, and social landscapes. Both parks are members of the United Nations Educational Scientific Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) Man and Biosphere Reserve Program and have utilized the Adirondack to Appenino Sustainable Parks and Communities Project as a model for other biosphere reserves to collaborate on an international level to promote youth leadership in the civic arena and organize community-based coalitions.

This multi-year, multi-phase cross-cultural partnership provides a framework for students of how to unify disparate stakeholder groups in UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserves to agree upon and achieve common goals that support sustainable communities. A multitude of organizations within the Adirondack Park continue to benefit from the sustainable development research conducted for this project including the Regional Office of Sustainable Tourism, the Adirondack Park Agency, the Champlain Adirondack Biosphere Reserve Working Group, Adirondack Hamlets to Huts, Adirondack Council, and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Methods

In order to conduct a sustainable development needs assessment to determine the immediate and long-term environmental, social, and economic needs of the Tuscan Emilian Appenine National Park, PSC students will work in collaboration with University of Parma students using the following research methods:

- Semi structured interviews with environmental, economic, and cultural leaders in the TEA National Park
- Participant observation during site visits to ecological, social, and economic features of the Apennine Park and local community
- Conduct a SWOT Analysis to evaluate the sustainable (social, economic, and environmental) practices of the TEA Park
- Through meetings with TEA National Park Officials, students will assess and prioritize the United Nation's 17 Sustainable Development Goals based on the TEA Park's needs

Secondary resources that the students and faculty will use to support their primary research are provided in the "Supporting Documentation" section.

Results from the students' summer 2018 research will be used to create a 3-year research plan for the Adirondack to Appennino Sustainable Parks and Communities project that addresses a selection of the United Nation's 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

C. Project Budget and Timeline

Project Budget:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lodging accommodations for 13 PSC students in Parma, Italy on 5/14/18 and 5/15/18 (7 rooms @ \$67/night x 2 nights = \$938 + taxes = \$950) 	<p>\$950 USD</p> <p><i>Based on Hotels.com prices on 2/27/18</i></p>
TOTAL:	\$950 USD

Project Timeline:

The travel dates for the Summer 2018 Adirondack to Appennino Sustainable Parks and Communities Project are: May 13 – May 30, 2018. The students will be responsible for completing their research and presenting their findings to officials from the TEA National Park within this timeframe.

D. Supporting Documentation

Provost Nicholas Hunt-Bull and Department Chairs Karen Edwards and Joe Conto, all approved the course SOC-399 Protected Landscapes and Community Sustainability (working title: Adirondack to Appennino Sustainable Parks and Communities Project) for the Summer 2018 semester.

Please find below background literature and course resources that are used by the faculty and students participating in the Adirondack to Appennino Sustainable Parks and Communities Project.

COURSE RESOURCES

Digital Resources:

- UNESCO's MAB Strategy and Lima Action Plan:
<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/ecological-sciences/man-and-biosphere-programme/strategies-and-action-plans/new-mab-strategy-and-action-plan/documents/>
- UNESCO's Ecological Sciences for Sustainable Development:
<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/ecological-sciences/man-and-biosphere-programme/networks/>
- UNESCO's Teaching for a Sustainable Future:
http://www.unesco.org/education/tlsf/mods/theme_c/mod16.html
- Global Sustainable Tourism Council: <https://www.gstcouncil.org/>

- Sustainable Tourism Online: <http://www.sustainabletourisonline.com/business-operations/planning/business-and-strategic-planning/marketing-plan>
- World Tourism Organization: <http://www.world-tourism.org/>
- International Ecotourism Society: <http://www.ecotourism.org/>
- USAID's Sustainable Tourism Enterprise Development: http://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1865/EnterpriseDev_5%5B2%5D.pdf

Sustainable Tourism Resources

Bulbeck, C. (2005) *Facing the Wild. Ecotourism, Conservation and Animal Encounters*, Earthscan, London.

Dickinson, J. and Lumsdon, L. (2010) *Slow Travel and Tourism*, Earthscan, London.

Groth, A. (2000) Sustainable tourism and the environment, *Connect*, 25(1), pp. 1-2.

Hall, D. and Richards, G. (2003) *Tourism and Sustainable Community Development*, Routledge, London.

Johnston, A.M. (2005) *Is the Sacred for Sale? Tourism and Indigenous Peoples*, Earthscan, London.

Mann, M. and brahim, Z. (2002) *The Good Alternative Travel Guide*, Earthscan, London.

Mastny, L. (2001) *Traveling Light: New Paths for International Tourism*, Worldwatch Paper No.159, Worldwatch Institute.

Pattullo, P., Minelli, O., Hourmant, P., Smith, P., Viesnik, L. and Dall, A. (2009) *The Ethical Travel Guide* (Second Edition), Earthscan, London.

Robinson, M. and Picard, D. (2006) *Tourism, Culture and Sustainable Development*, Division of Cultural Policies and Intercultural Dialogue, Culture Sector, UNESCO.

Sharpley, R. (2009) *Tourism Development and the Environment: Beyond Sustainability?*, Earthscan, London.

Spenceley, A. (ed) (2008) *Responsible Tourism. Critical Issues for Conservation and Development*, Earthscan, London.

New York State Resources

Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages. (2009). *Adirondack Park regional assessment project*. Saratoga Springs, NY: The LA Group.

Adirondack Park Recreation Strategy Group. (N.D.). *Adirondack Park recreation strategy: Capitalizing on the economic potential of our natural environment*. Albany, NY: New York State Departments of State and Environmental Conservation.

Bernard, H. Russell. 2006. *Research Methods in Anthropology: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches*. Fourth edition. Walnut Creek , CA : Altamira Press

Dawson, C. (2012). *Adirondack Forest Preserve visitor study summary*. Syracuse, NY: SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry.

Holmes, T. and Higgins, B. (1999). *Tourism business, community and environment in the Adirondacks*. Saranac Lake, NY: Holmes and Associates.

Honey, M. (2008). *Ecotourism and sustainable development: Who owns paradise?* Washington, D.C.: Island Press.

Kretser, H. (2001). *Adirondack communities and conservation program: Linking communities and conservation inside the Blue Line*. New York: Wildlife Conservation Society.

Mann, B. (2003, March/April). The tourism report. *Adirondack Life*, 49-56, 76.

Mason, D., and Herman, J. (2013). *The Adirondack Park: The next twenty-five years: Healthy communities and ecosystems thriving together in a protected and unique landscape*.

Available: <http://www.ADKfutures.org>

Northern New York Travel and Tourism Research Center. (2004). *Economic impact of tourism on northern New York: Second preliminary report*. Potsdam, NY: State University of New York at Potsdam.

- Redford, K. and Fearn, E. (2007). *Protected areas and human livelihoods*. (Working Paper No. 32.) New York: Wildlife Conservation Society
- Regional Office of Sustainable Tourism. (2013). *Leisure travel study: 2012 visitor profile and return on investment-conversion rate analysis*. Essex County, NY: ROOST.
- Rosenzweig, C., et al. (Eds.). (2011). *Responding to climate change in New York State: The ClimAID integrated assessment for effective climate change adaptation in New York State*. Albany, NY: NYSERDA.
- State of New York. (2011). *Adirondack Park state land master plan*. Ray Brook, NY: Adirondack Park Agency.
- Statewide cultural tourism coalition. (2003). *The Empire State Experience: Cultural & heritage tourism = diversity and dollars*. Albany, NY: Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and New York State Tourism Office.
- Tourism Economics. (2011). *The economic impact of tourism in New York*. (PowerPoint presentation). Philadelphia, PA: Oxford Economics.

Thank you for your time and consideration!

-Kelly