Training and Capacity Building

Learn our unique visual communication skills

If you want to influence decisions and policymaking, you need to learn the art of storytelling; to capture the key messages from scientific research and make the data compelling.

At IAN we are always exploring new and innovative ways to visualize scientific data. We can teach you everything we know.

With a high instructor to student ratio, our courses use lectures, practical tutorials, and group activities. Our hands-on training builds capacity within your organization by providing you with the tools you need to effectively communicate science.

We can create a course specifically catered to the needs of your organization; choosing from training modules we have developed for overall science communication, conceptual diagrams, presentations, publications, and environmental assessments.

Our team has shared our expertise with organizations throughout the United States and around the world, in locations such as Australia, Europe, Thailand, and Tanzania.

Contact us to set up a course for your organization.

“Working with IAN is transformative. Their team of science communicators and integrators help you tackle environmental challenges head-on, often using thoughtful and innovative approaches.”

Shawn Carter
National Park Service

Integration & Application Network

Communicate better. Empower change.
Science communication
The most successful scientists are skilled at communicating their ideas. Think of Charles Darwin, Albert Einstein, and Rachel Carson: all talented scientists whose communication skills changed how we view the world around us. This module teaches the principles and practice of effective science communication, with emphasis on visual science communication tools.

Conceptual diagrams
The adage “A picture is worth a thousand words” refers to the notion that an idea can be conveyed with just a single photograph. Conceptual diagrams go one step further; illustrating key ecosystem processes and making your data instantly accessible, even across cultural and language barriers. This module teaches the theory behind conceptual diagrams, and includes a hands-on tutorial to create your own conceptual diagram using the free symbol libraries that IAN has developed.

Presentations
Powerpoint can be used well, and it can be used very, very badly. Have you ever had to sit through an interminable presentation where you just can’t wait till the torture ends? We know you have. We can teach you how not to be one of those presenters! This module includes practical tips on how to communicate your message clearly, how to prepare effective slides, and how to present your talk so your audience is both attentive and interested.

Publications
Do you want to get your research into the hands of decision makers? By creating innovative ways to visually present science, we can help you make your research more accessible to managers, stakeholders, and the general public; meaning that your data will reach a much wider audience than just your peers. This module teaches the core principles of layout design, creating a storyboard, and includes a practical demonstration using layout software.

Environmental assessments
Imagine if your research could galvanize volunteers to protect their local river or inspire politicians to fund restoration activities. Let us share some of our success stories, because that’s just what we’ve achieved.

Our environmental report cards synthesize data from scientists and volunteers and convert it into an image-rich format that is easily accessible to a wide audience. They have been used to catalyze improvements in ecosystem health, guide restoration efforts, and stimulate relevant research.

This module will guide you through the process from start to finish: scoping, synthesis, communication, and handover. We can’t just study environmental problems any more, we need to use science to inspire real change.