



Miradi™

Adaptive Management Software for Conservation Projects

January 2007

To Test Users of Miradi 1.0 Beta –

You are reading this letter because you have downloaded the Miradi software and have either volunteered or been recommended as a tester of this software program. We assume that you already know about Miradi – if you don't, go to www.miradi.org for more information.

The remainder of this e-mail contains a few things to keep in mind and then the instructions for testers. Please do not hesitate to contact us at info@miradi.org if you have any questions.

A Few Things to Keep in Mind

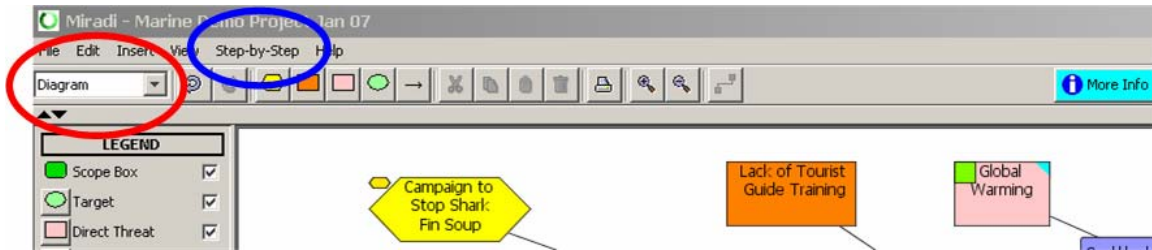
1. **Why We Need Your Input** – We are building the Miradi software using agile (or extreme) programming. A key feature of this approach involves having real users of the software test modules of the software as they are developed and then provide quick feedback. We encourage you to use this software to manage real conservation projects that you are involved in. At the same time, however, we ask you not to share this software more widely until it is available for public release; if there are other folks who you think could be good testers, please put them in touch with us.
2. **Some Important Disclaimers** – The Miradi is currently under development. As a result, you should not expect perfectly functional software. If you are the type of person who will become frustrated with an unexpected bug or problem and will then give up on the entire software program, you probably should not be using the software at this point in time. In particular, you should be aware of:
 - **Limited Features** – The software has only limited (although growing) functionality. You will thus not be able to immediately do everything. Also, you will encounter some “dead-ends” in terms of interview sequences that do not lead to their destination. We will do our best to mark these areas as being “under development.”
 - **Bugs** – We will make every effort to ensure that releases are bug-free and to fix known bugs as soon as possible. However, bugs will certainly crop-up from time to time – we need your help to identify them so we can eliminate them.
 - **Compatibility** – We will also make every effort to ensure that data that are entered in today's version of the software will also be usable in future versions of the software. However, from time to time, underlying changes to data format will require that your existing data be “converted” to new formats. This should happen automatically when you launch a project under the old format. Please be aware, however, that if you have not used a specific project for a long-time, it may become difficult or impossible to convert it. Thus, if you want to keep using project data, make sure you open it at least once every month or two with the latest version of the software.

3. **Feedback** – By agreeing to use an early version of this software, you are also agreeing to provide us with regular feedback on your experience. In particular, we would like you to report on:
 - **Bugs** – Please report any problems that you encounter using the software. If possible, describe the problem, what you were trying to do, and the configuration of your computer.
 - **Design Ideas** – Please send us any suggestions you have as to how the software or the user interface could be changed to make it work better for you. These do not have to be technical descriptions – “stories” of what you would like the software to do would be fine. These can range from the mundane (“I would like the dialog box to select the entire label when it is opened”) to the visionary (“It would be great to add a new module that would.....”)

Instructions for Testers

1. **Obtaining the Latest Version of the Software** – The Miradi software is being developed in roughly monthly releases. The most recent version of the software can always be downloaded as follows:
 - a. Go to www.miradi.org/downloads and log in with your user name (e-mail address) and password.
 - b. Download and run the self-installing file. This will work for new installations, or to upgrade an earlier version that was installed using a previous version of this friendly installer. Note that it will automatically overwrite previous versions of the software.
 - c. For those of you who may have used earlier versions of Miradi called e-Adaptive Management (e-AM), you will have to remove e-AM from your system (for Windows users, through the uninstall command in your control panel) and then install Miradi. Miradi should detect any files you created in e-AM.
2. **Using Miradi Software** – To use Miradi:
 - a. Click the Miradi icon on your desktop to launch the software.
 - b. The installer should come with at least one sample project, or if is not there, you can download it at www.miradi.org/downloads. This is a zip file that you can then import using the command on the project management page of the software. You can review this project. You also, of course, can create your own project.
 - c. The main way to navigate between the different views of your project is shown in the red circle in the diagram below. Views that have the word “demo” after them are only

screen shots and are not yet functional. The other key navigation device is the step-by-step menu shown in the blue circle.



3. **Getting Updates** – We will be releasing updated version of the software on at least a monthly basis, if not more often. Check back to the website listed above to get the latest update. All you need to do is download the latest version and then run the installer. It should automatically install over the previous version (but make sure you are not running the program as it is being installed).
4. **Providing Feedback** – As discussed above, we need to get feedback on your experiences with the software.
 - a. In the immediate future, you can send an e-mail to us at: feedback@miradi.org.
 - b. If you and the other testers would find it helpful, we could potentially set up a web-site where you can post feedback and read reviews from other testers. Let us know.