



BLUE MOUNTAINS
World Heritage Institute

ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT FOR CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Course: Applying the Conservation Standards

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

PURPOSE

This **Adaptive Management for Conservation** program aims to equip conservation professionals with the knowledge, tools and skills required to adaptively manage protected areas and other area-based (land and sea) conservation. The program involves two complementary courses that can be taken independently or as a package (in any order):

Course 1: Applying the Conservation Standards

Course 2: Collaborative & Community-Based Conservation

WHO SHOULD UNDERTAKE THIS PROGRAM

The training is valuable for professional development and tertiary study, and is relevant for people working in government and private sanctuaries, protected area management agencies, Indigenous protected areas (IPAs), environmental organisations that look after land, and community-based conservation practitioners.

Teamwork will enable sharing of diverse experience and skill levels, regardless of whether they are a senior leader, mid-level manager or field staff.

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT?

Conservation challenges are increasingly urgent and complex. Consequently, conservation practitioners need strong leadership skills and the capacity to rapidly exchange knowledge and apply innovative and creative solutions in highly collaborative environments.

To assist, new approaches to management, education and capacity building are now seen as the foundation for responding to environmental change.

Training in adaptive management will build skills in shaping solutions and change for individuals, organisations, communities engaged in conservation and systems that support them. Adaptive management calls for implementation of strategies and measures that address the technical aspects of problems, such as data, incentives, and funding and capacity for incremental change in our management systems in response to changing attributes of ecosystems.

This training aims to build the inclusiveness, discrimination, openness and reflexivity necessary for change processes, to guide justifiable, appropriate and effective action.

ABOUT COURSE 1 | Applying the Conservation Standards

APPLYING THE CONSERVATION STANDARDS

This course provides participants with an understanding of adaptive management tools through the internationally recognised **Conservation Standards**.

The course explores the theory and practice of adaptive management, using an approach that can be applied to a wide range of situations. Participants will be guided by facilitators to work online in small teams to progress through an adaptive planning, monitoring and management loop. Management issues will be explored to reveal underlying problems, to find ways of working with complex and seemingly intractable issues such as climate change.

OUTCOMES

This course addresses the need for highly skilled professionals in protected areas and natural resource conservation. The knowledge and practical skills gained are readily implemented and applicable for use in conservation by governments, non-government, private landholders and Indigenous communities. The adaptive management approach is applicable to conservation projects and property planning at any scale. By the end of the course, participants will know how to design and implement an ecological monitoring program and integrate the data into a decision-making framework for adaptive management.

COURSE FEATURES

- Equips participants with a methodology for collecting, managing, and interpreting data to understand dynamic ecosystems.
- A management decision making framework that is suitable for varying cultures and situations.
- Developing capacity to navigate complexity and uncertainty.
- Challenging our assumptions and identifying non-obvious barriers to change.
- Online team-building and networking.
- Recognising the interdependence of nature and culture.

COURSE FACULTY

COURSE 1: APPLYING THE CONSERVATION STANDARDS



STUART COWELL

Stuart has over 25 years of experience working at the forefront of Natural Resource Management. Stuart has been instrumental in developing the widely used Healthy Country Planning concept – a community-based adaptation of the Open Standards adaptive management framework in the context of remote Indigenous and non- Indigenous Australia. Stuart specialises in Healthy Country and Conservation Action Planning; facilitation & training for the Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation; impact focused and values based project design; strategic planning; innovation in MERI; collective impact and collaboration. Stuart is renowned for a pragmatic approach to land management, ensuring all stakeholder needs are met while helping to find solutions and an effective path forward.



PHILLIPA (PIP) WALSH

Pip is a conservation coach and the Director of her company, Community Solutions. Pip specialises in natural resource and social planning; community consultation, facilitation & engagement. Pip has held a number of senior roles in Australian environmental agencies, including working as Program Manager and CEO for Greening Australia, and Executive Manager for Bush Heritage Australia. She has led or co-led over thirty workshops training participants in the use of the Open Standards for Conservation. Pip is a senior leader in the industry, providing both individual and team support as needed. She currently works closely with a number of organisations in Australia and the Asia Pacific as a Conservation Coach, through which networks she shares her passion for equipping teams to learn from their projects and each other.

MORE DETAILS

DURATION AND COST

Online: Flexible, 10 half-days spread over 3 weeks.

Cost: \$1500 + GST.

In-field: Intensive, 5 full days and 4 nights in residence.

Cost: \$2500 + GST.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships are available through the Protected Areas Collaboration (PAC). Scholarship rounds open in October and close in November each year.

Please visit: www.palrc.com/scholarships

ACCREDITATION

This course is delivered by accredited coaches in the Conservation Standards. Upon your satisfactory completion of the course, you will receive a certificate stating that you have completed a training program in the Open Standards for Conservation.

ENQUIRIES

Please email us anytime on:
education@bmwhi.org.au

APPLICATIONS

Please register via our online form:
bmwhi.org/adaptive-management

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This course is presented in partnership with the PAC, Conservation Management and Community Solutions.

