



BLUE MOUNTAINS
World Heritage Institute

ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT FOR CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Course: Collaborative and Community-Based Conservation

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 2 | Collaborative & Community Based Conservation

COLLABORATIVE & COMMUNITY-BASED CONSERVATION

This course addresses the growing need for skills of professionals and community leaders to collaborate and work in complex stakeholder environments and with communities to achieve protected area and natural resource conservation.

Collaboration is vital for conservation and essential for supporting sustainable livelihoods in and around protected areas. Collaboration is a critical aspect of the human dimension of conservation and requires a special set of skills, knowledge and supporting systems as well as a high degree of adaptability to be successful. Effective collaboration demands persistence and strategic leadership to navigate through the inevitable complexity of bio-cultural linkages for a protected area and to negotiate the interests of many stakeholders.

Conservation is no longer viewed as the pursuit of governments or locking up of areas but is instead seen as a partnership that engages all local interests, values, knowledge and management capacities. Communities commonly undertake roles of stewards, guardians or supporters of conservation areas, and it is essential that government agencies, non-government organisations, local businesses, communities and individuals work together in the development of the conservation program and its design.

COURSE OVERVIEW

This is a practical course to help build the capacity of individuals, organisations and communities through examining new skills and systems that can ensure successful collaborative outcomes. We will explore the concepts, apply strategic thinking and examine the best tools and practices for collaboration at all levels, with both internal and external stakeholders.

This course begins with the individual - exploring leadership strengths and weaknesses and the benefits of working collectively and engaging with multiple perspectives, values and solutions.

COURSE FORMAT

Participants are taken through a series of modules and provided with practical tools for addressing:

- **Insights and Perspectives**
- **Connecting with Respect**
- **Collaborating to Add Value**
- **Power & Empowering**
- **Collective Action & Leadership**

COURSE CONTENT & FEATURES

COURSE 2: COLLABORATIVE & COMMUNITY-BASED CONSERVATION

THE COURSE COVERS:

- The biocultural aspects of conservation and the value proposition necessary for collaborative conservation for each stakeholder.
- How to address and protect rights of local communities, custodial landholders and Indigenous peoples and optimise their potential as conservation partners and ensure delivery of co-benefits.
- The collaborative process, as both a business and social venture requiring effective co-design, strong governance, support systems, clear roles and responsibilities for current players and across generations.
- Building adaptive toolkits for stakeholder engagement, communication and negotiation, power management and the empowerment of all players.
- Key aspects of social and environmental return on investment, and other measures of progress that are essential to sustaining collaborative relationships and investments.

KEY COURSE FEATURES:

- Exploring leadership strengths and the tools and principles of collective leadership and engaging multiple perspectives in addressing complex problems.
- Building teams and networking including regional and cross-organisational collaboration.
- Challenging biases and prejudices.
- Acknowledging and safeguarding human rights, community rights and contributions, marginal groups.
- Applying tools for stakeholder evaluation and assessment of needs and potential as conservation partners.
- Designing communication strategies, stakeholder engagement processes and development of local structures for participation.
- Developing optional governance arrangements and stepwise plans for co-management of resources.
- Exploring alternative approaches and design of sustainable livelihood projects.
- Developing capacity to navigate uncertainty in collaborative programs and complex stakeholder and community settings.
- Building organisational systems to support ongoing collaboration.
- Designing systems for monitoring progress and impact of collaborative programs.

COURSE FACULTY

COURSE 2: COLLABORATIVE & COMMUNITY-BASED CONSERVATION



DEDEE WOODSIDE

Dr. Dedee Woodside (AM) is director of Corporate and Community Sustainability International, an organisation dedicated to environmental and social leadership and capacity building. She has played many leadership roles in government organisations, businesses and NGOs both as a director and board member and chief advisor to several government Ministers. She brings that experience to her work in helping to build the skills and systems for other organisations and is passionate about that work both on the ground, through training and in the Boardroom. She was the founding Director of the Australian Conservation Institute that delivers innovative training programs in 36 countries, and continues to work on capacity building in both developing countries and the rural sector. She has worked extensively in Indigenous communities of Australia leading a women's environmental knowledge network for Indigenous women rangers working "on country". She has also led a number of global conservation programs with major conservation NGOs. Her goal is to establish the Gondwana Institute on her conservation property to enhance the future of the Gondwana World Heritage Area. Dedee has recently been awarded for her leadership and commitment to capacity building and is now a Member of the Order of Australia.



JENNY VASSELEU

Jenny's work is mostly centred on the tricky and often challenging side of organisations – the people, the organisational systems and teams involved in solving complex problems. For the past 3 decades or so, she has worked in senior leadership roles in government and business dealing with major programs including environmental and natural resource planning projects. As a leader, she follows the principles of collective responsibility and leadership and the benefits of a shared value workplace that is socially engaging. She now develops training programs for government, conservation organisations and commercial bodies to enhance collaboration, innovative problem analysis and collective systems design. Most recently Jenny has been engaged in advising an international coalition of conservation NGOs who are addressing the global challenges of building the capacity of rangers working in protected areas and for safeguarding the rights of communities around protected areas while engaging with their cultural knowledge and leadership.

MORE DETAILS

DURATION AND COST

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

Cost: \$1800 + 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 conservation capacity building. Upon your satisfactory completion of the course, you will receive a certificate stating that you have completed a training program in Collaborative and Community Based 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, CCS International and JV Insights.

