



PROTECTED AREAS

LEARNING & RESEARCH COLLABORATION

Fostering excellence in governance and management
of protected areas in Australia, Asia and the Pacific

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Adaptive Management for Protected Area Conservation in the Asia-Pacific

This training program aims to strengthen capacities in the management of natural resources, particularly in the context of protected areas in the Asia-Pacific region.

The programme is offered through the **Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute** as part of the **Protected Areas Learning and Research Collaboration** and in partnership with the **Wildlife Institute of India** (a UNESCO Category 2 training centre).

November 5-10, 2018
Katoomba, Blue Mountains, Australia

A 6-day training course will be held in the World Heritage-listed Blue Mountains just inland of Sydney. This intensive live-in course will give participants a good understanding of adaptive management tools including the internationally recognised Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation and monitoring techniques critical for making decisions about complex issues.

COURSE CONTENT

The course will explore the theory and practice of adaptive management using the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area as a case study with approaches that can be applied to a wide range of cultures and situations. Participants will work in small teams to progress through an adaptive planning, monitoring and management loop, including field monitoring and integrating the data into the decision-making framework. Management issues will be explored to reveal underlying problems, to find ways of working with complex and seemingly intractable issues such as climate change.

KEY FEATURES

- ◆ Methods and approaches to collecting, managing, and interpreting data that are necessary to understand dynamic changes
- ◆ Field learning of monitoring ecosystem values and threats
- ◆ A decision-making framework for monitoring and management 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
- ◆ Team-building and networking including regional and cross-agency collaboration
- ◆ Management issues as a focus of monitoring include: fire regimes; climate change indicators; introduced species; urban development; tourism; ground & surface water; threatened species

OUTCOMES

This course addresses the need for highly skilled professionals in protected area and natural resource management. The knowledge and practical skills gained are readily implemented and applicable for use in natural resource management 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.

WHO

The course is suitable for professional development (government & private) and post-graduate university students. Participants will work in teams to complete components of the course, enabling sharing of diverse experience and skill levels, regardless of whether they are a senior leader, mid-level manager or field staff.

The course will be facilitated by the Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute, and an Open Standards trainer, with monitoring led by local scientists.

- ◆ The **Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute** is an independent non-profit organisation, established in 2004 in partnership with universities and government management agencies, to develop and implement innovative solutions for the complex challenges of conservation and sustainable living. The Institute's work focuses on the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area and its region, and partners with researchers, managers, and local communities and businesses, to inform innovative conservation policy and management, and deliver nature-based education, capacity building and experiential learning programs. www.bmwhi.org
- ◆ The **Protected Areas Learning and Research Collaboration** is a tertiary and vocational education and research initiative dedicated to natural and cultural heritage protection, stewardship and conservation management and capacity building. PALRC's purpose is to benefit professionals and community-based conservation practitioners. www.palrc.com
- ◆ The **Open Standards for Conservation** help people be systematic about planning, implementing, and monitoring their conservation initiatives so they can learn what works, what doesn't, and why – and ultimately adapt and improve their efforts: <http://cmp-openstandards.org/>

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT?

Business as usual is no longer a suitable response to the dynamic ecosystem changes taking place globally as a consequence of climate change and population growth. Extrapolating past experience into the future is not helpful as we witness unprecedented changes. New approaches to management, education and capacity building are now seen as the foundation for responding to environmental change.

Training in adaptive management can build capacity to not only adapt to change, but to shape and create change. Adaptive challenges are individual and collective as well as technical. Adaptive management calls for implementation of strategies and measures that address the technical aspects of problems, such as data, incentives, and funding, and perhaps most importantly, learning. It calls for us to be able to evolve along with the ecosystems that we are caring for and to release assumptions and question underlying beliefs about what is taking place in the environment. Adaptive management allows for incremental change in our management systems in response to changing attributes of ecosystems, and effective monitoring can help us to objectively see what is taking place. This training aims to build the inclusiveness, discrimination, openness and reflexivity necessary for change processes, to guide justifiable, appropriate and effective action. Adaptive management can be simply defined as 'learning how to manage by managing how to learn'.

ESTIMATED COST AUD\$3,000 (excl GST) including 7 nights accommodation, all meals, local transport & course materials.

Scholarships are available through PALRC (see www.palrc.com)

INQUIRIES & REGISTRATION Dr Rosalie Chapple, Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute
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