ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT FOR CONSERVATION
10-day online training course
21 September - 2 October 2020 (3 hours/day)

The Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute, in partnership with the Protected Areas Learning and Research Collaboration, will deliver a 10-day intensive online training course on Adaptive Management for Conservation in September 2020.

**WHEN:** 1-4pm Monday-Friday Sept 21- Oct 2, 2020

**COST:** AUD $1200.00 (excl GST) including course materials.

**REGISTRATION:** Before mid-August 2020: [https://forms.gle/oq7LniCfdvDey9ht8](https://forms.gle/oq7LniCfdvDey9ht8)

**INQUIRIES:** Sarah Terkes s.terkes@bmwhi.org.au

**ABOUT THE COURSE**
The course provides participants with a good understanding of adaptive management tools through the internationally recognised Conservation Standards. The course explores 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 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.

**KEY FEATURES**
● 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

**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.
**WHO SHOULD TAKE THIS COURSE?**
The training is valuable for professional development and tertiary study and is relevant for people working in government and private sanctuaries, protected area (PA) 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 practitioners are tasked with a challenge of unprecedented scope and complexity. Landscape conservation, and management of protected areas, needs leadership, knowledge, practical skills, science, innovation, creativity and collaboration. Extrapolating past experience into the future is not helpful as we witness unprecedented changes in all systems. 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.

**MORE DETAILS**
The course will be delivered by Conservation Standards facilitators Stuart Cowell and Philippa Walsh. The approach helps people be systematic about planning, implementing, and monitoring conservation initiatives. [http://cmp-openstandards.org/](http://cmp-openstandards.org/)

The Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute Institute is an independent non-profit organisation that works with management agencies and local communities on innovative solutions for the complex challenges of conservation and sustainable living. The Institute’s work focuses on research to inform policy and management, and the delivery of nature-based education and training. [www.bmwhi.org](http://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](http://www.palrc.com)