

Conflict Management for Natural Resource Managers

Workshop

(29th – 30th November 2018)



Presented by:
The Sustainability Research Unit
Nelson Mandela University
George Campus



◆◆◆ COURSE OVERVIEW ◆◆◆

The complex and dynamic nature of protected areas are common sites for wicked conflicts which are value laden and difficult to resolve (Mason et al. 2017). Protected areas are dynamic social ecological systems driven by global trends such as climate change, overpopulation and environmental degradation, where boundaries, governance structures, rules and norms are constantly changing. Natural resource managers often find themselves needing to reconcile conservation objectives and a diversity of views, values and needs in and around protected areas, nature reserves and private lands. The range of objectives, levels of protection, restriction on utilization and power in decision making can result in conflict between resource manager, neighbouring communities and other stakeholders. Conflict can undermine environmental protection and inhibit achieving conservation goals (Soliku and Schraml, 2018).

Natural resource managers are often ill equipped to cope with the complexity of conflicts in and around protected areas under their care. The Sustainability Research Unit at the Nelson Mandela University is offering a workshop aimed at developing the capacity of natural resource managers to deal with conflict in and around protected areas about the natural resources and the benefits they produce. Through a highly participatory and collaborative learning approach the workshop draws on participant experiences and real-world settings to help attendees develop the necessary conflict resolution and stakeholder engagement skills to cope with conflict within their own context.



◆◆◆ FACILITATORS ◆◆◆

The workshop is designed and facilitated by Professor Lyn Snodgrass from the Department of Political and Conflict Studies and Dr. Bianca Currie from the Sustainability Research Unit at Nelson Mandela University.



Professor Lyn Snodgrass holds a PhD in conflict resolution, an honours degree in psychology, as well as a bachelor's degree in psychology and Industrial Psychology. Her expertise are in conflict resolution and transformation processes, negotiation, mediation and facilitation, conflict and gender and communication skills for conflict management.

Dr. Bianca Currie has a PhD in public participation and social learning in environmental governance. Dr. Currie has developed expertise in community and stakeholder engagement methods, actively working with the organisations



such as South African National Parks, Southern Cape Landowners' Initiative (SCLI) and has lead the community engagement component of the Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Strategy.

Guest speakers



Dr Chloé Guerbois has a PhD in Conservation Science and is currently a postdoc fellow at the SRU. She has worked on the resilience of protected-area centred social ecological systems in southern Africa for the past 10 years. She specialised in mixed-methods and participatory approaches to understand and promote human-wildlife coexistence, integrated conservation and ecosystem-based transformative adaptations.



Brownwyn Botha is a buffer zone co-ordinator for South African National Parks. Brownwyn currently works with a diversity of stakeholders co-ordinating the Mountain Zebra-Camdeboo Protected Environment.

◆◆◆ WHO SHOULD ATTEND? ◆◆◆

The workshop is designed for managers and practitioners in complex social ecological systems who find themselves needing to reconcile a diversity of social and ecological views values and opinions. In particular the workshop should appeal to:

- **Natural resource managers** of protected areas, nature reserves and private conservation land use areas such as game farms.
- **Community engagement practitioners**
- **Game farmers and managers**
- **Non-Government Organisational (NGOs) field workers**
- **Government officials**

◆◆◆ LEARNING OUTCOMES ◆◆◆

The learning outcomes participants can expect from the workshop include:

- Contextualise conflict management in social ecological systems
- Explore the primary drivers of conflict in the context of complex social ecological systems
- Develop the necessary skills to manage conflict within one's own context
- Develop the necessary skills to engage with a diverse range of stakeholders
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◆◆◆ CORE CONTENT ◆◆◆

As a pre-requisite, participant will be required to submit real world case study conflict scenarios and challenges which will be used in scenario-based role playing and group work sessions. Using the real-world case studies, participants will explore:

- Conflict mapping to help analyse conflict and its drivers in the context of natural resource and protected areas management

- Developing conflict management strategies and techniques
- Principles of stakeholder and community engagement
- Social learning as a method of reconciling views and values
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◆◆◆ COST ◆◆◆

Cost: R1200 per participant. Included in this fee are:

- A set of workshop notes and other literature / key documents on a flash stick
- Lunches and teas
- Certificate of successful completion on passing a post workshop assignment relevant to one's own context.

Additional costs (your responsibility) will be air transport, travel to the Nelson Mandela University, George Campus in the Western Cape, evening meals, and accommodation in George.

Details of available accommodation in the area can be found on the George Tourism website: <http://www.visitgeorge.co.za> (tel: 044 801 9103))

There are only 25 places available

To book your space contact:

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