



# Facilitating Social Learning and Stakeholder Engagement in Natural Resource Management (NRM) Contexts: Introductory Course

Rhodes University



**RHODES UNIVERSITY**  
*Where leaders learn*

environmental  
LEARNING RESEARCH CENTRE



**TSITSA  
PROJECT**



**environment, forestry  
& fisheries**  
Department:  
Environment, Forestry and Fisheries  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

# Course Overview

Are you interested in an online course that will help you facilitate social learning?  
Then this course is for you!!

The course aims to build capacity of current and future practitioners of environmental learning processes such as training, facilitation, stakeholder engagement and information sharing by drawing on up-to-date learning theory, methods and processes.

Who should apply...

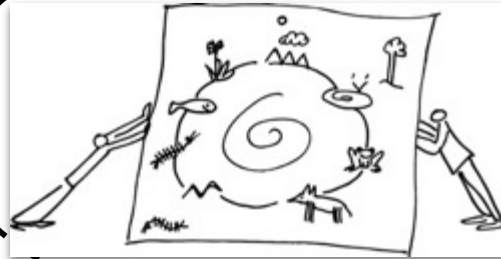
Project managers



Facilitators,  
trainers &  
educators

Anyone interested in  
conducting learning  
processes or working  
with communities

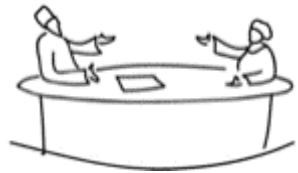
In an NRM Context



Community-based  
monitors & activists



Researchers  
interested in social  
learning processes



## What is the focus of each Module and when will they be run?

Module 1 (October 2020): Educational Contextual Profiling

Module 2 (mid-November 2020): Stakeholder Engagement

Module 3 (February 2021): Introduction & Design of Environmental Learning Processes

Module 4 (mid-March 2021): Implementing & Evaluating Environmental Learning Processes

## What are the registration options?

1. **Certificate of Competence (Level 5):** Attend all sessions and complete assignments (Matric or equivalent required)
2. **Certificate of Participation:** Attend all sessions (Matric not required)

You will need 3-4 days (Certificate of Competence) or 2-3 days (Certificate of Participation) per month to fully participate.

## Assignments

Four assignments, each linked to a Module, can be tailored by students and their mentors to meet their contextual and organisational needs.

**ASSIGNMENT 1:** Write 2-4 pages or present a short talk on the social, economic and bio-physical issues in your context, and where you gather your information and insights on these topics; interview one other person on the issues in their context, and where they gather their information and insights on these topics. Describe how you have conducted the interview using the given template. Reflect on what you have learnt, in relation to the principles provided on the course. Record & share your findings in a written / visual or spoken report.

**ASSIGNMENT 2:** Produce an expanded contextual profile on the social, economic and bio-physical issues in an NRM context of your choice, and where the learners or stakeholders in this context get information and insights on these topics; use more interviews, and/or documents, surveys or other methods to gain the information. Reflect on what you have learnt, in relation to the principles provided on the course. Record & share your findings in a written / visual / spoken report, or combination.

**ASSIGNMENT 3:** Using the information and insights from your contextual profile, design a stakeholder engagement and/or social learning facilitation process suitable for this context. This may be a workshop, awareness campaign via social media, online training, poster, brochure, exhibition, webinar, blog, website, or similar. Present to the group what your process will look like, and why you have designed it in this way. Make reference to a selection of principles covered on the course (or others you find pertinent).

**ASSIGNMENT 4:** Implement the process you designed in Assignment 3. Using the structure provided, conduct an evaluation of how well it went, what the strengths and shortcomings were, how you would do it next time, how you could build on it, and what advice you would give others. Reflect on the extent to which you were able to apply the principles you chose to include, and what you have learnt from this.

## How is the course offered?

- All Modules are offered online, using small videos, talks and notes
- Modules are offered in English with facilitation support in additional languages
  - Discuss course content and assignments in relation to own situation with facilitators, mentors in interactive small group sessions
- Individual work-away time (autonomous learning) to engage with the course content and complete assignments

There is no prior level of experience required - the course draws and builds upon your existing knowledge and practice OR your ideas on what you want to do. Module content and assignments will support and enrich what you know, and want to do.

## What is expected of participants?

- Have and use a smartphone or other device with an internet connection to participate in the course, access videos, online documents and live talks, and share your assignments
  - Contribute during scheduled interactive sessions and engage with assigned mentors
- Complete & submit assignments for assessment (if registered for a certificate of competence)
  - Pay the registration fee or make arrangements for funding

## Application Process & Registration Fee

Registration fee for the course is R7000,00. Participants who require funding support should include a funding request letter in their application.

Applications close on August 15, 2020

### Apply as Follows:

1. Follow the [link](#) and complete the form:
2. Upload a short CV (2-3 pages)
3. Upload a motivation letter explaining why you are interested in the course
4. Upload a copy of your ID
5. Upload a transcript of your highest qualification if enrolling for NQF 5 certificate of competence
6. Upload a funding request letter if financial support is needed; note that we cannot guarantee funding support.

For more information on how to apply contact:

1. Dr Matthew Weaver

Email: [m.weaver@ru.ac.za](mailto:m.weaver@ru.ac.za)

Contact or WhatsApp 072 705 6433

OR

2. Mr Reuben Thifhulufhelwi

Email: [thanyani.reuben@gmail.com](mailto:thanyani.reuben@gmail.com)

Contact or WhatsApp 078 864 6564



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