



Senior Administrative Officer:

Ms Coréne van der Merwe
UESM - NWU

(018) 285 2443 / Email : corene.vandermmerwe@nwu.ac.za

Programme leaders:

Prof Francois Retief - francois.retief@nwu.ac.za
Dr Reece Alberts - reece.alberts@nwu.ac.za

Masters in Environmental
Management: Conservation
Leadership and Futures Thinking

Masters Environmental Management: Conservation Leadership and Futures Thinking

Building on the success of its taught masters programmes in the field of environmental management and governance, the Unit for Environmental Sciences and Management (UESM) is proud to announce a new masters programme in Conservation Leadership and Futures Thinking. The programme was developed through benchmarking against established international conservation leadership and futures thinking programmes together with broad sector consultation. The programme aims to better equip individuals working in the conservation sector with the required skills to address the current conservation leadership and management challenges.

The need for a programme is evident given the current pressures facing our conservation areas internationally,

regionally and locally, with research highlighting the critical lack of leadership skills as a particular risk within the conservation sector.

The Southern African region is of global biodiversity importance, and therefore conservation success within the region is of international consequence. The region also has a rich history of successful conservation spanning more than 100 years. In order to deal effectively with future conservation challenges there is a specific need to strengthen leadership and futures thinking skills in the region.

The programme is built around the following 5 key themes:

- 1) conservation governance
- 2) conservation psychology
- 3) conservation ethics
- 4) conservation leadership
- 5) futures thinking

The learning outcomes will allow graduates to successfully position themselves in leadership positions within the conservation sector.

The content provides a critical understanding of the legal and policy context for conservation governance together with an in-depth understanding of the different conservation governance approaches and instruments. Students will also engage with different ideologies and world views framing conservation whilst being able to critically reflect on conservation psychology and ethics. They will furthermore be expected to demonstrate their understanding of different futures thinking paradigms and methods and how these inform conservation leadership.

The programme relies on experienced international contributors, drawn from our network of partners and collaborators specifically within the SADC region, together with informative field trips and practical sessions within differing types of conservation areas. This allows students to fully immerse themselves in practical scenarios related to conservation leadership challenges and to apply the theory to practical conservation challenges.

