

**NR 5884 Adaptive Management**  
Offered: Spring Semester

**INSTRUCTOR:** Heather E. Eves, Ph.D., (703) 254-7474, [heves@vt.edu](mailto:heves@vt.edu)

**REQUIRED TEXT:**

*Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation, Version 3.0* ([free pdf download](#))

FOS Training Manual: Conceptualizing and Planning Conservation Projects and Programs (2009) ([free download](#))

[Miradi software](#)

[Miradi Tutorial](#)

[Weekly Tutorials](#)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Faced with limited resources to confront growing challenges, conservation organizations must show that their efforts are strategic, systematic, and results-oriented. This course provides students with the skills and knowledge to collaboratively design and implement effective conservation projects and to generate strategies to evaluate clear evidence of their progress toward achieving conservation results. The course provides theory and practice in adaptive management (AM) planning for real-world conservation projects for continued monitoring, implementing, analyzing, learning from, and adapting—offering essential knowledge and skills for current and emerging conservation practitioners. In addition, this course offers a review of literature on theoretical and applied conservation topics related to conservation project design and planning.

Learning Objectives:

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:**

Grades will be computed on the following basis:

- Student participation – 30%
- Presentations/results – 30%
- Adaptive management plan – 30%
- Final exam – 10%

**SCHEDULE:**

- Week 1: Introduction to Adaptive Management
- Week 2: Project Team, Scope, and Vision
- Week 3: Conservation Targets and Viability Assessments
- Week 4: Rating Critical Threats and Situation Analysis (Conceptual Models)
- Week 5: Goals & Strategies
- Week 6: Assumptions, Results Chains, and Objectives
- Week 7: Actions and Monitoring
- Week 8: Team Projects: Scope and Visions
- Week 9: Targets and Viability Assessment
- Week 10: Threat Rating and Situation Analysis (Conceptual Models)
- Week 11: Goals & Strategies
- Week 12: Assumptions, Results Chains, and Objectives
- Week 13: Actions and Monitoring
- Week 14: Final Reports

SAMPLE