

HOLISTIC MANAGEMENT CURRICULUM – 3-DAY PROGRAMME

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Overview of Holistic Management

What is Holistic Management?

- A systems-thinking approach to regenerate the world's grassland soils and minimise the damaging effects of climate change on humans and the natural world.
- A comprehensive management framework, which enables you to work with nature to create the economic, social and ecological outcomes you desire.
- A way of solving problems, making decisions and plans that considers the whole.

What are the benefits of Holistic Management?

Holistic management pays big dividends. Practitioners generate enduring wealth measured by sustained profitability, enhanced performance of land and livestock, healthy social relationships, and regenerated soil and ecosystems.

Economic benefits:

- Doubles, triples, or quadruples productivity of the land.
- Increases growing season of grasslands.
- Improves forage quality and grass productivity.
- Improves animal health and performance.
- Increases market value of animal products and crops.
- Reduces the need for costly inputs such as pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers.
- Increases farmer revenue and profit.
- Enables farmers to thrive without subsidy.

Social benefits:

- Enhances relationships with family, employees, suppliers and community.
- Restores sense of pride in being a farmer.
- Lowers food costs.
- Improves the health of plants, animals and humans.

Ecological benefits:

- Regenerates soil and biodiversity.
- Minimises soil erosion and leaching of minerals into groundwater.
- Mitigates the damaging effects of drought, flood, climate change.

Who can benefit from Holistic Management?

- Farmers, gardeners, foresters, manufacturers or retailers of food or fibre.
- Businesses, water companies.
- Conservation and wildlife trusts, parks, NGO's.
- Governments, cities, regions, countries.

Foundations of Holistic Management Course Syllabus¹ – 3 Days

The Foundations of Holistic Management

- Four Key Insights
 - A holistic perspective is essential in management – Nature functions in wholes and patterns
 - The brittleness scale and how it affects the land’s response to the influences upon it
 - The predator-prey connection to land health
 - Time rather than numbers governs overgrazing (and overtrampling)
- Holistic Management Overview
 - Core components of holistic decision making
 - Planning and monitoring procedures
 - The Holistic Management framework

The Ecosystem Processes and the Tools to Manage Them

- Ecosystem Processes – understanding the language of the land:
 - Water cycle
 - Mineral cycle
 - Community dynamics
 - Energy flow
- Tools for managing ecosystem processes:
 - Money and labor
 - Human creativity
 - Technology
 - Fire
 - Rest
 - Living organisms
 - Animal impact
 - Grazing
- Guidelines for using the management tools

Holistic Decision Making

- Defining the Whole Under Management: clarifying what you are managing
- Creating an Holistic Context: the context for your management
- Ensuring the decisions you make and the actions you take are in context
- The context checks – using the seven checking questions:
 - Cause and effect
 - Weak link (social, financial, biological)
 - Marginal reaction
 - Gross profit analysis
 - Energy/money, source and use
 - Sustainability
 - Gut feel

¹ This syllabus includes the recommended content and length for courses to qualify as “accredited” for future Accredited Professionals, and as in-depth training for land managers.

- The feedback loop: monitoring proactively
 - Holistic Management Practice – diagnosis of root cause and identification of potential remedies to address

Outcomes: The course provides the opportunity for participants to learn the basics underlying Holistic Management and to develop a holistic context to guide their decisions and actions. Even though all decision makers may not be present at the course, participants will practice making decisions in line with the holistic context they develop and feel confident they can share the experience successfully when they get home.

Why the Foundations are Important: An understanding of the key insights that led to the development of Holistic Management, the ecosystem processes (and the tools to manage them) that serve as the foundation, and the decision-making process that in turn guides management, is critical to masterful implementation of Holistic Management.

Course Preparation: To get the most from your time at this course, it is recommended that you:

1. Review *Holistic Management, Third Edition*:

- Part 1: Introduction
- Part 2: Four Key Insights
- Part 3: The Holistic Context
- Part 4: The Ecosystem that Sustains Us All
- Part 5: The Tools We Use to Manage Our Ecosystem
- Part 6: Holistic Decision Making
- Part 7: Guidelines for Using the Management Tools (Chapters 33 and 34)

2. Review the supporting Ebooks (provided after you register and pay for the course):

- Ebook one – *The Foundations of Holistic Management*
- Ebook two – *The Ecosystem Processes*
- Ebook three – *Tools to Manage Ecosystem Processes*
- Ebook four – *Defining the Whole and Creating a Holistic Context*
- Ebook five – *Ensuring Decisions Are in Context*

3. (Optional) prepare and bring with you:

- A first draft of your Whole Under Management and Holistic Context.
- An important decision to be made in the near future.

Benefits of 3LM programmes

- **CONFIDENCE.** Build your confidence to practice holistic management on your farm in the manner that suits you best – by taking it one step at a time, or by diving in all at once.
- **TRUST.** Learn from trusted and respected Savory Institute Accredited Educators who live in the British Isles and can support your transition to a holistic management practice.
- **PRACTICAL.** Apply your learning immediately by preparing plans with your data, supported by Savory Institute Accredited Educators.
- **TIME.** Our programmes are designed to support your transition over time. There are no short cuts or quick fixes. Allow yourself the time required to make the transition.
- **ACCREDITATION PATHWAY.** Our 9-day is designed to meet the training requirements for the Savory Institute Accredited Professional pathway.
- **UP-TO-DATE.** Because 3LM is an accredited member of the Savory Network, we bring you the latest thinking, materials and programmes from the originators of holistic management.

Who are these programmes designed for?

Whether you are a livestock or arable farmer, conservationist, agronomist, educator, government employee, or informed consumer, Holistic Management gives you the management tools to understand nature and to work with it.

This whole farm / whole conservation area / whole community approach to resource management provides you with key principles and practices that will help you manage land to improve its health and create a sustainable future for generations to come. You will be well on your way to becoming a Savory Institute Accredited Professional.

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