

Routes to Resilience

Systems-thinking & Place-based Sustainability Leadership: A certificate programme

The Impact Trust in collaboration with CISL-SA and the Grootbos Foundation would like to invite you to participate in a first immersive *Routes to Resilience* programme to be hosted at the Grootbos Private Nature Reserve. The programme seeks to develop your leadership skills in sustainability practice and will focus on deepening your understanding of systems and systems-thinking, the nature of complex problems and the ways in which they can be tackled.

Date: Tuesday 10th July to Saturday 14th July 2018

Starting time: 14h00 on Tuesday 10th July

Venue: Grootbos Private Nature Reserve

Address: R43, Between Hermanus and Gansbaai, Western Cape

Booking details

Cost: R11,500 per student inclusive of luxury accommodation, full board, drinks and refreshments throughout the days, programme participation, notes and learning materials, excursions, learning journeys, activities and certificates of attendance. A small number of bursaries are available.

Accommodation will include full board at the Fynbos Retreat for three nights and full board at the luxury Grootbos Forest Lodge for one night.

[http://www.fynbosretreat.com/ /](http://www.fynbosretreat.com/)

<https://www.grootbos.com/en/accommodation/forest-lodge>

Attendance: If you are a Grade 10 or 11 student between the ages of 16 and 18 years and are interested in sustainability, sustainable development, systems thinking or environmental conservation, this programme is for you. Places are limited and will be allocated on a first confirmed first secured basis.

Registration: If you want to apply, please follow the application process detailed on the last page of this note and email your submission to tamzin@impacttrust.org.za and julie@grootbosfoundation.org.

Routes to Resilience: Leadership for a Sustainable Future

The Greatest Challenge

Humanity faces challenges of an unprecedented scale, complexity and interdependence. The word sustainability is derived from the Latin *sustinere* (*tenere*, to hold; *sus*, up) meaning to “maintain”, “support”, or “endure”. As we face 21st Century challenges of inequality and the need for accelerated development alongside growing resource scarcity and environmental change, sustainability is used more widely in the context of social (human) development. It is increasingly understood to be a “wicked problem”, a function of the complexity of interactions that exist and place contradictory demands upon our social, economic and environmental systems.

This course provides an experiential foundation in systems thinking, complexity and place based sustainability to help students understand sustainability in general and sustainable development in particular.

A Powerful Partnership

Routes to Resilience is a unique Sustainability Leadership Development programme established by the Impact Trust in collaboration with the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership, South Africa (CISL-SA).

Now, in partnership with the Grootbos Foundation and Grootbos Private Nature Reserve, a member of the Long Run group of Global Ecosphere Reserves, this first place-based systems-thinking and sustainability immersion programme has been designed to deliver a unique experience and provide a distinctive opportunity for developing knowledge of complexity thinking and skill in sustainability leadership practice. It will provide a transformational educational experience focused on the systems level, inter-dependent causes and consequences of sustainability in its broadest sense, and invite critical reflection on the implications for lifestyle and career choices today and in the future.

Why You Should Attend

The programme will prepare you to imagine, articulate and respond to the challenges of sustainability and sustainable development. It will give you an experiential appreciation of complexity theory, enable you to observe complex systems in action, and help you to understand and develop innovative and practical approaches that incorporate cutting edge sustainability thinking into your world view and future career and life choices as you face a very different world from that in which we live now.

On completion of this course you earn a *Routes to Resilience* Certificate of Completion from the Impact Trust, CISL-SA and Grootbos Foundation in recognition of your new knowledge and leadership potential. Students who undertake a further Social Action project will be eligible for an additional Certificate of Sustainability Leadership in Action.

Programme Style & Faculty

The programme will be delivered by leading thinkers in the environmental and sustainable development sectors and has been designed to be highly intensive and participatory, with a minimum of formal lectures and the maximum opportunity for experiential learning, inquiry based real-world learning, practical exploration, dialogue, debate and analysis.

Looking Ahead: The Programme Legacy

A key programme objective is to help build a cohort of alumni who will go on to undertake social action initiatives supported and mentored by the *Routes to Resilience* team.

An advanced level Certificate will be open for graduates of the Leadership in Action programme to further develop mastery in knowledge and practice.

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How to apply

If you are interested in applying to participate in the programme, please submit an imaginative and compelling response to the following four guiding questions. Video or other means of response (drawings, mindmaps, presentations etc.) are all acceptable in addition to written responses.

1. Why do you want to attend the course?
2. What do you hope to get out of the programme?
3. What do you believe you can / will contribute?
4. Are you considering following up this course with a social action, project in your school / community in the future for which this might prepare you? Do you have specific ideas of what you want to do already or are you hoping the programme might provide you with some clarity on what you might be able to do?

Send your submissions to Tamzin at tamzin@impacttrust.org.uk AND to Julie at julie@grootbosfoundation.org by Monday June 4th.

PLEASE NOTE places are limited to 12 and applications will be assessed on a first received basis.