

CONSERVATION PRACTITIONERS' PROGRAMME

2026



PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

The challenges of nature conservation have become far more complex, operating in chaotic systems with high stakes. This has made addressing the conservation challenges multi-dimensional in scale and scope. It is pertinent and imperative that practitioners are equipped and updated with the necessary skills and knowledge that are multi-disciplinary and at the cutting edge.

To address these requirements, The Habitats Trust and Shiv Nadar Institution of Eminence launched the Conservation Practitioners' Programme in 2025, and are now offering its second edition.

This programme covers the fundamentals of ecology, social sciences, field methodologies, use of technology, data analysis, intervention design, project planning & implementation, monitoring & evaluation, and other skills required for carrying out effective conservation. This nine-month certificate programme is taught by some of India's leading experts.

With the goal of supporting conservationists in upskilling, the curriculum blends various skill sets and promotes interdisciplinary learning, grounded in both theory and real-world application, that can be imparted to any practitioner.

This programme is designed in a way that practitioners can continue to work and be able to learn. It aims to empower practitioners with the tools needed to safeguard India's rich biodiversity and natural ecosystems.

It features flexible learning options to accommodate existing commitments, along with scholarship opportunities for enhanced accessibility.

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OBJECTIVES

01

Comprehensive Knowledge Integration

Develop a foundational understanding of the social and natural sciences to support integrated conservation approaches. Gain a comprehensive understanding of ecological principles and their application in conservation. Build capacities in the linkages of conservation with economics, psychology, and other social science disciplines. Understand the institutions, laws, and policies that govern conservation efforts.

02

Development of Technical and Practical Skills

Improve the technical abilities needed for efficient conservation practices – including tools and devices used for data collection, monitoring, and detection; expertise in managing, organising, and communicating projects effectively; and skills in stakeholder involvement, proposal drafting, fundraising, and media relations. Address the gap between academic theory and conservation practice.

03

Leadership & Personal Growth

Learn essential leadership qualities and personal skills for managing diverse conservation projects and teams. Be part of a supportive community where practitioners can exchange experiences, engage in mutual learning, and connect with experts and leaders in conservation and academia.



PROGRAMME FORMAT

Duration

9 Months

Split into two terms, starting September 2026

Eligibility Criteria

Graduates

with 2+ years of on-ground conservation experience seeking interdisciplinary skills.

Cohort Size

Upto 30 Participants

Selective intake for quality learning

Online Classes

The programme is delivered through a mix of pre-recorded sessions, accessible at any time, and live discussion sessions conducted after 6 PM, enabling participation alongside full-time work (~4-6 hours per week in total).

Bootcamp

A two-week bootcamp, offering hands-on practical learning and opportunities to interact face-to-face with other professionals in the field.

ELIGIBILITY



The ideal candidate for this course is a practising conservationist looking to enhance their interdisciplinary skills in conservation. In addition to this,

- Applicants must be **Indian nationals**.
- Applicants must hold an **undergraduate degree in any discipline**.
- Applicants need to have **two or more years of work experience** in conservation or allied fields
- Applicants are required to have **working proficiency in English**, as it will be the language of instruction for the course

ADMISSION PROCESS

July 2026

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Submission of Application Forms						
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Submission of Application Forms						
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Submission of Application Forms						
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
Submission of Application Forms						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9

August 2026

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
					1	2
Submission of Application Forms						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Shortlisting of Applicants						
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Interviews of Shortlisted Applicants						
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Announcement of Final Selection List						
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

September 2026

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
Admission and Fee Payment						
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Sessions Begin						
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11



SUMMARY

- 2nd Week of July to 1st Week of August – Submission of Application Forms
- 2nd Week of August – Shortlisting of Applicants
- 3rd Week of August – Interviews of Shortlisted Applicants
- 4th Week of August – Announcement of Final Selection List
- 1st Week of September – Admission and Fee Payment
- 3rd Week of September – Sessions Begin

COURSES

01 Conservation and Society

Explore how economic systems, governance structures, and human behaviour shape conservation outcomes. This module introduces key ideas from environmental and ecological economics, political economy, and behavioural sciences, situating conservation within broader social and institutional contexts. From understanding markets, externalities, and commons to examining power, policy, and development debates, participants gain a nuanced perspective on the challenges of conservation in practice.

> Economy, ecology, and their interconnections

> Markets, externalities, and environmental decision-making

> Commons, collective action, and governance

> Environmental and ecological economics in practice

> Development, livelihoods, and conservation debates

> Power, institutions, and policy processes

> Human behaviour, social norms, and decision-making in conservation

> Designing behaviour change and communication strategies

> Quantitative, qualitative, and mixed research methods

> Case studies and applied learning in conservation contexts



COURSES

02 Ecology, Study Design and Statistics

Build a strong foundation in ecological principles and develop the analytical skills required to study and interpret natural systems. This module explores ecosystems, species and population dynamics, and the factors that shape their distribution and interactions across landscapes. Participants are introduced to key concepts in study design and statistical analysis, enabling them to plan, execute, and interpret conservation research effectively.

With a focus on practical application, the module connects ecological theory with on-ground conservation challenges.

> Ecosystems, habitats, and ecological processes across India

> Climate change and ecosystem responses

> Species and population dynamics and interactions

> Foundations of ecological statistics and data interpretation

> Study design and research approaches in Ecology

> Applying ecological knowledge to conservation practice



COURSES

03 Environmental Law and Policy

Develop an understanding of the legal and policy frameworks that shape conservation practice, grounded in both theory and real-world application. This module introduces key concepts of law, justice, and governance, alongside constitutional provisions, legislation, and institutional structures that influence conservation in India.

> Foundations of environmental law, justice, and governance

> Protected areas, forest classifications, and conservation designations

> Institutions, policies, and decision-making processes

> Legal frameworks for site-based conservation in India

> Legal tools, procedures, and avenues for conservation action

> Applying legal knowledge to conservation practice and advocacy



COURSES

04 Intervention Design and Project Implementation

Develop the skills to design and implement effective conservation interventions, grounded in systems thinking and design thinking approaches. This module introduces participants to understanding conservation challenges as part of complex, interconnected systems, and equips them with tools to design thoughtful, context-responsive solutions.

Through a structured approach to project planning and management, participants learn to frame problems, develop interventions, and navigate implementation in real-world contexts.

> Project planning and management in conservation contexts

> Networking, collaboration, and stakeholder engagement

> Systems thinking approaches for understanding complex conservation challenges

> Design thinking for problem framing and solution development

> Intervention design and implementation strategies

> Monitoring, evaluation, and adaptive learning



COURSES

05 Technology for Conservation

Develop the ability to effectively use technology in conservation practice, including selecting, comparing, and deploying tools for data collection and analysis. This module builds skills in evaluating and integrating appropriate technologies, while also engaging with the broader thinking that guides their use in conservation contexts.

> Technology, society, and conservation

> Data management and analysis

> Selecting and deploying conservation technologies

> Emerging technologies in conservation

> Tools for data collection and monitoring

> Applied exercises and case studies



COURSES

06 Communication in Conservation

Build practical communication skills to effectively engage diverse audiences, including communities, decision-makers, peers, media, and the public. This module is delivered through a series of interactive sessions, focusing on writing, storytelling, and structuring communication across formats and contexts.

Participants learn to craft clear messages, adapt communication for different audiences, and use appropriate channels and media to amplify impact.

> Foundations of effective communication

> Audience engagement and message design

> Organisational communication

> Media engagement, popular writing, and communication channels

> Writing and storytelling for diverse audiences

> Academic writing, structuring arguments, and best practices

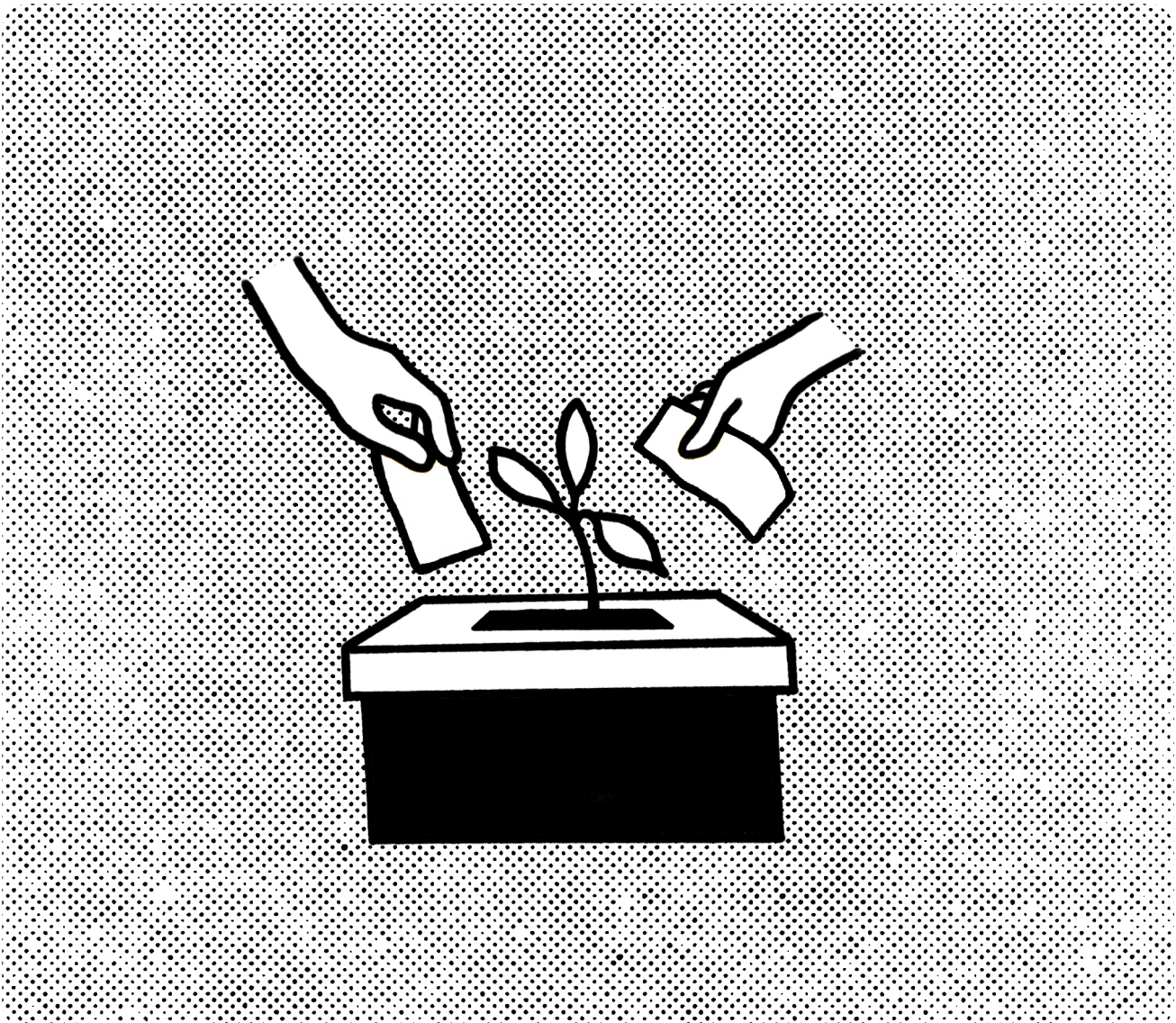


COURSES

07 Seed Grant Proposal

As a culmination of the programme, participants develop a seed grant project proposal, which carries independent credits and serves as a final submission. This component provides an opportunity to design and develop a conservation project proposal, integrating learning from across the programme.

Participants receive guidance through dedicated sessions on fundraising, proposal writing, and grant-making processes, enabling them to translate ideas into actionable projects. Select proposals may be considered for seed funding, with several participants successfully receiving grants in the previous edition.



FACULTY, ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

20+ top conservationists and experts

from diverse leading organisations are collaborating to teach the Conservation Practitioners' Programme.

Assessment Methods

Assessment modalities will be determined by faculty in alignment with the objectives and pedagogical approach of each course. These may include a combination of various evaluation methods.

Minimum Requirements

To receive the certificate, participants must achieve a minimum overall score of **75%**, with at least 60% in each module.

Course Weightage

Each module carries different weightage (credits) based on its scope and complexity, contributing proportionately to the overall score.

Reattempts

Students are permitted one reattempt per assignment to improve their scores based on feedback, in line with the programme's emphasis on learning and progression. For certain assignments that are structured differently, reattempts may not be possible.



PROGRAMME FEES & SCHOLARSHIPS

Course fee: INR 1,05,750/- + applicable GST

INR 84,600/- + applicable GST*

*includes tuition, round-trip travel, food and accommodation for the in-person bootcamp, certification, and administrative costs.

To support wider participation in the programme, participants of the second edition will receive a 25% reduction in programme fees.

Scholarship

As part of **The Habitats Trust's** commitment to ensuring accessibility, **need-based scholarships are available to help reduce financial barriers to participation.**

Eligibility and the level of support awarded will be determined through a review of financial documents submitted during the application process.

CERTIFICATE DETAILS

Students who achieve a minimum overall score of 75%, along with at least 60% in each module, will receive a certificate upon completion of the course from the Academy of Continuing Education at the Shiv Nadar Institution of Eminence.



CONTACT US

For any queries, write to us: thtcourse@thehabitatstrust.org

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