

The Conservation Practitioners' Course 2025

Upskilling Conservationists in Interdisciplinary Practice



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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 have launched a Conservation Practitioners' course. This course will cover 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 course will be taught by some of India's leading experts.

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

This course is designed in a way that practitioners can continue to work and be able to learn. Designed to enhance skills in study design, data management, and intervention strategies, 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.



Objectives

The Practitioners' Course will upskill practitioners with the knowledge, skills, and tools required to address conservation issues using an interdisciplinary approach. The course has been thoughtfully developed and aims to be comprehensive and relevant to the current needs of conservation practitioners.



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, conservation psychology, and other disciplines of the social sciences. Understand the institutions, laws, and policies that govern conservation efforts. Address the gap between academic theory and conservation practice.



Development of Technical and Practical Skills

Improve the technical abilities needed for efficient conservation practices, like understanding the tools and devices used for data collection, monitoring, and detection; gain expertise in managing, organising, and communicating projects effectively, and understand stakeholder involvement, proposal drafting, fundraising, and media relations.



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.



Course Format

DURATION

9 months,
split into two terms
starting from
March 2025

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

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

COHORT SIZE

20 students

METHOD

Online classes

Evening classes with 4-6 hours of teaching per week, conducted after 6 PM to accommodate working professionals.

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 hold **an undergraduate degree in any discipline**
- Applicants need to have **more than two years of work experience** in the conservation sector to be eligible for the course
- Applicants are required to have **working proficiency in English**, as it will be the language of instruction for the course

Admission Process

December 2024

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Submission of Application Forms						
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Submission of Application Forms						
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
Submission of Application Forms						

January 2025

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1	2	3	4	5
Submission of Application Forms						
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
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
Selection of Applicants						

February 2025

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
					1	2
Selection of Applicants						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Interviews of Selected Applicants						
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Interviews of Selected Applicants						
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Announcement of Final Selection List						
24	25	26	27	28	1	2
Admission and Fee Payment						

March 2025

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
					1	2
Admission and Fee Payment						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Admission and Fee Payment						
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Course Launch						
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Summary

- 4th Week of December, 2024 to 3rd Week of January, 2025 – Submission of Application Forms
- Final Week of January, 2025 – Selection of Applicants
- 2nd and 3rd Week of February, 2025 – Interviews of Selected Applicants
- 4th Week of February, 2025 – Announcement of Final Selection List
- Final Week of February 2025 to 2nd Week of March, 2025– Admission and Fee Payment
- 4th Week of March, 2025 – Course Launch



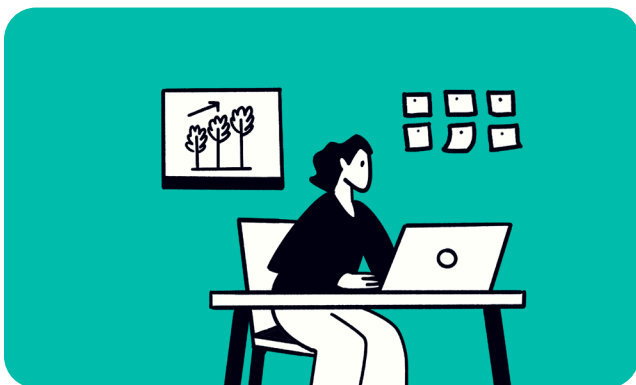
Modules



01 Conservation and Society

Explore ideas from economics, sociology, and psychology that have a close bearing on conservation. From focusing on the fundamentals of psychology to looking at qualitative, quantitative, and mixed research methods, this module is designed to equip conservation practitioners with a robust interdisciplinary toolkit.

- What is an Economy?
- Introduction to Markets
- Market Failure, Externalities, and the Environment
- Introduction to Methods of Environmental Goods and Services
- Climate Change Mitigation Strategies and Economics
- Fundamentals of Psychology
- Essentials of Social Psychology
- Essentials of Conservation Psychology
- Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Research
- Psychological aspects of Commons



02 Ecology, Study Design and Statistics

Develop a comprehensive understanding of organisms in their environments, species distribution and abundance, and ecosystems as integrated units of biotic and abiotic factors. This module enhances skills in selecting study designs, methods, and analyses crucial for effective on-ground conservation.

- Ecosystem & Ecosystem Services
- Species, Population: Principles and Concepts
- Research Design and Analysis
- Application in Conservation Sciences



03

Environmental Law and Policy

Explore the legal and policy frameworks that shape conservation practice. Understand formal and informal institutional structures, constitutional provisions, laws, policies, and international conventions governing the conservation landscape.

- Understanding Site Based Conservation
 - Decoding Legal Terms and Definitions
 - Conservation Legislation and Policy
 - Legal Procedures and Advocacy
 - The Anatomy of a PIL
-

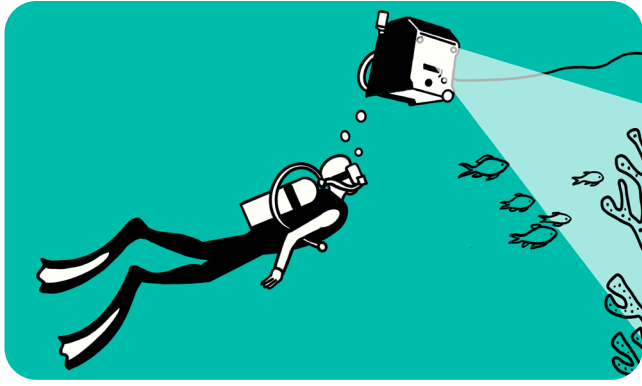


04

Intervention Design and Project Implementation

Understand project design and intervention strategies in conservation, with an emphasis on networking and collaboration. This module equips practitioners with essential skills in project planning and management — focusing on the effective design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of conservation initiatives.

- Introduction to Project Planning and Management
 - Networking and Collaboration in Conservation
 - Project Design and Intervention
-



05

Technology for Conservation

Learn how to employ technology in conservation, including selecting, comparing, and deploying diverse technologies for data acquisition and analysis. This module enhances skills in evaluating and integrating relevant technologies while exploring the philosophy guiding their use in conservation efforts.

- Philosophy of Technology in Conservation
 - Deploying Technology for Conservation
 - Tools for Data Collection
 - Practical Exercises Using Various Technologies
-



06

Communication in Conservation

Effectively communicate with diverse audiences and stakeholders, such as decision-makers, authorities, peers, media, and the public. This module covers communication essentials, including defining key messages, templates for various types of communication, crisis management strategies, and tailored approaches for different audiences.

- Communication Strategies
 - Organisational Communication
 - Writing in Conservation
 - Media Outreach
 - Fundraising
 - Academic Writing
-

Faculty

Around **30 conservationists and experts** from diverse organisations are collaborating to teach the first cohort of the Conservation Practitioners' Course.

Dr. Neeraj Hatekar – Economics and Conservation

Praveen Bhargav – Environmental Law, Policy and Governance

Dr. Sanjay Gubbi – Ecosystems and Conservation Practices

Dr. Vivek Belhekar – Psychology and Conservation

Dr. Suhel Quader – Statistical Methods for Conservation Sciences

Dr. Advait Edgaonkar – Statistical Methods for Conservation Sciences

Dr. Divya Vasudev – Population Ecology: Concepts and Applications

Dr. H.S. Sudhira – GIS and Remote Sensing

Santhosh Pavagada – Technology for Conservation

Isha Bopardikar – Bioacoustics

Dr. Robin Abraham – Ecosystems and their Functioning

Dr. Ashwin Viswanathan – Citizen Science

Abhishek Jamalabad – Marine Ecosystems and their Functioning





Dr. Parag Deka – Project Planning and Management

Rushikesh Chavan – Networking, Collaboration and Intervention Design

And many more...

Grading and Assessment

The grading system ensures comprehensive evaluation of students' understanding through various assessments, promoting interdisciplinary learning and continuous improvement.

 Assessment Methods	 Minimum Requirements	 Module Weightage	 Reattempts
Faculty will choose methods such as MCQs, assignments, written exams, viva voce, and open defence, depending on each module.	To receive the certificate, students must achieve a minimum overall score of 75%. They must also meet the minimum score requirement in each module.	Each module will have different weights reflecting its complexity in the overall score.	Students can reattempt their assessments multiple times to achieve a score above 75% or equivalent on alternative grading scales to be awarded their certificate. Each reattempt will incur a fee.

Certificate Details

Students who receive **75% and above** will receive a certificate upon completion of the course from the Academy of Continuing Education at the Shiv Nadar Institution of Eminence.



Course Fees & Scholarship

~~INR 1,12,218/- (inclusive of GST)~~

INR 84,163.5/-* (inclusive of GST)

***includes tuition, travel, food and accommodation for the bootcamp, certification, and administration costs**

To support the inaugural cohort of the Conservation Practitioners' Course, a special provision has been made, extending a 25% discount to all participants.

Additionally, as part of The Habitats Trust's commitment to ensuring accessibility, need-based scholarships are available.

Eligibility for scholarships will be determined through a review of financial documents submitted during the application process.





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Contact Us

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