

NCF is pleased to announce 7 courses on conservation capacity and leadership from mid-December 2019 to March 2020.

The courses are meant for conservation practitioners and span basic conservation skills including wildlife research, effective stakeholder engagement, and monitoring and evaluation.

## BACKGROUND:

Nature is complex and closely connected with the lives of people. Understanding how humans and natural systems are linked needs an inter-disciplinary approach that transcends ecological science and is informed by socio-political realities. Being effective in conservation is a nuanced undertaking, requiring stakeholder engagement, negotiation, diplomacy, and collaborative spirit. Conservation practitioners come from various fields and backgrounds. They work from a deep passion and commitment, often through trial and error. To create a strong cadre of well-trained and motivated conservation leaders and practitioners, there are few places or resources that do justice to the inter-disciplinary nature of conservation research and practice.

These courses aim to provide just that to practitioners who may be asking themselves:

- How do I raise funds for conservation and research?
- What skills do I need to cultivate to deal with diverse stakeholders?
- How can I monitor and evaluate conservation projects?
- What are the steps for good conservation planning?
- How do I communicate conservation?

The courses to be conducted in 2019-20 aim to assist conservation practitioners in finding the best solutions to help them in their work.

## WHO CAN APPLY:

The courses are open to Indian researchers/students/local community members/conservation practitioners/government officials. They are meant for people who are engaged in conservation action on-ground. The courses will be taught by NCF faculty and faculty/resource people from other institutions.

Individuals may choose to apply for one or more courses. Participants will be selected based on order of application and potential applicability of the course content to their conservation efforts. Please make sure that you emphasize this in your application.

*Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. Please apply at least 10 days before the start date of each course.*

## HOW TO APPLY:

[Please click here and fill in this online form to apply.](#)

The courses are offered free and will be held at the NCF offices, either in Bangalore or Mysore between mid-December to March 2020. Limited travel and/or accommodation support will be available for a few candidates.

*Funded by:  
Portescap India Pvt. Ltd. and  
ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Co. Ltd.*

## 1. FUND-RAISING FOR RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION

**Course description:** Raising managing and reporting on funding is a critical aspect of doing conservation. This course, conducted in a workshop mode, will facilitate knowledge and experience sharing amongst participants and instructors with the aim of helping us improve our fund-raising skills. The course will cover aspects such as identification of funding opportunities, strategies for fund-raising from different kinds of sources, writing funding proposals, grant writing tools and introduction to log-frames, and the ethics of fund-raising.

**Resource people:** Charudutt Mishra & Kulbhushansingh Suryawanshi

**Duration:** 2 days

**Dates:** 16–17 December, 2019

**Capacity:** Ideally not more than 10, up to 15

**Location:** NCF office, North Bangalore

## 2. MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

**Course description:** How do we decide whether a conservation project was successful or not? How do we know when to tweak, boost or stop the project? This module will establish the need to build-in monitoring and evaluation into the design of the conservation project. We will understand the difference between monitoring and evaluation and discuss important monitoring and evaluation study designs that are especially suitable for conservation projects. We will discuss case-studies with effective monitoring and evaluation components. Finally, we will discuss the conservation projects of the participants and design monitoring and evaluation for them.

**Resource person:**  
Kulbhushansingh Suryawanshi

**Duration:** 2 days

**Capacity:** 10-15 People

**Dates:** 18–19 December, 2019

**Location:** NCF office, North Bangalore

### 3. WRITING ABOUT CONSERVATION

**Course description:** The workshop's main aim is to instruct participants on how to tell stories about conservation effectively through the written word.

The course will focus on the basics of writing about conservation: from the science that informs conservation, to field reporting and the importance of human interest elements. It will feature hands-on, activity-based modules that will require participants to write parts and entire news articles (some of which will require field reporting) during the sessions. It will also include guest lectures by practising conservation writers.

The course is targeted at individuals who are currently involved in conservation (they should have a good idea about current conservation issues in the country) and researchers who work on conservation science, who also have an interest in writing to communicate conservation stories to the public through online and print media.

**Resource people:** Aathira Perinchery  
(Environmental Journalist)

*Other guest faculty to be decided*

**Duration:** 5 days (10 am to 5 pm)

**Capacity:** up to 15 participants.

**Dates:** 20–25 January, 2020

**Location:** NCF office, Mysore

### 4. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND EFFECTIVELY MANAGING PEOPLE AND TEAMS

**Part 1: Stakeholder engagement (Ajay Bijoor)**  
**Language:** English and Hindi

**Course description:** The need for engagement with local communities is widely seen as being critical to the success of conservation efforts. Although this need is clear, as practitioners we often have little formal training in how we should engage with local communities and how we can recognize the pitfalls and opportunities provided by developing genuine partnerships.

**Resource people:** Ajay Bijoor & Vena Kapoor

**Duration:** 3 days (Vena: 1 day; Ajay: 2 days)

**Capacity:** 12-15 participants

**Dates:** 30 January—1 February, 2020

**Location:** NCF office, Mysore

A set of principles and guidelines for community-based conservation, called the 'PARTNERS principles for community-based conservation' has been created based on our extensive community-engagement experiences.

This has now been developed into a workshop for training a wide range of potential stakeholders that includes frontline conservation practitioners, local community champions, members from local youth, participants in ongoing conservation programs, government frontline staff, and other local and global conservation agencies.

At the end of this module we hope you will have further improved your skills to engage communities in conservation, and strengthened your ability to reflect on the challenges faced in community-based conservation.

## **Part 2: Effectively managing people and teams (Vena Kapoor)**

**Course description:** Whether you are a researcher, part of or leading a conservation project, you have to work with people. For the kind of work, we do, we often prefer to work in isolation. We often resort to using our own experiences and common sense when working with people. Often this can be a bewildering or stressful experience.

It helps to know some common issues that arise while working with people, and to learn the basic concepts of team dynamics, management and behaviour.

The course will introduce basic concepts like motivation, teamwork and group behaviour, the art of negotiation, dealing with difficult supervisors, individual attitudes and values in the context of teams.

This workshop is designed to be interactive with discussions. It will use case studies (including the participant's own experiences) and role-playing exercises to interact, engage, debate and highlight the relevance of these concepts in your work life.

## 5. PROJECT PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

**Course description:** As a conservation biologist, we are almost always part of or leading a project. Depending on the duration, budget and magnitude of work, the project could be of a small or large scale. Whatever the scale of the project be, the principles of design and execution remain the same. In this module of project planning and management I will cover design, project components, execution, evaluation, reporting and closure.

**Resource person:** Erika D'Souza

**Duration:** 2 days

**Dates:** 13–14 February, 2020

**Capacity:** 10

**Location:** NCF office, Mysore

## 6. FOUNDATIONAL IDEAS IN CONSERVATION

**Course description:** The course will introduce and interrogate the foundational ideas that have shaped modern conservation. It will provide a brief historical overview of conservation from its roots in resource management, the environmental movement and the 'science' of ecology, exploring the role of the state, academia, civil society and markets in shaping conservation trajectories across the world. In doing this, it will unpack the dominant world views and foundational assumptions that have guided these trajectories and juxtapose them with other ways of conceiving the human-nature relationship.

The course will put under the scanner the implicit power relations modern conservation works with, and discuss issues of ethics and justice that conservation has to engage with. The course will be structured around lectures, reading and discussions. Participants will be evaluated based on participation.

**Resource people:** Rohan Arthur & Suri Venkatachalam

**Duration:** 5 days

**Capacity:** 10-15 participants

**Dates:** 9–13 March, 2020

**Location:** NCF office, Mysore

## 7. FACILITATING CONSERVATION PLANNING

**Course description:** Planning for the recovery of threatened species or ecosystems is a complex process. Often multiple stakeholders and interests need to be balanced, alongside those of the biological units we value. Navigating through this socio-cultural 'minefield' takes a suite of skills which are rarely covered within existing degree or post-graduate biology course programmes.

As conservation professionals, we can find ourselves in the challenging position of having to manage inter-stakeholder disagreements over how best to respond to a given conservation problem. Likewise, we may end up in a deadlock with other colleagues over what the 'right' decision is, to resolve a conservation issue. Facilitation skills can provide us with the confidence and competence we require to work through such situations and often end up with good decisions that are endorsed by everyone.

These skills can be particularly valuable for various aspects: species conservation planning processes or site-specific projects/problems.

In fact, wherever problems are complex or decisions require the collaboration of multiple individuals or organisations, facilitation skills will help improve the outcome.

**Learning outcomes:** By the end of this course participants will be able to:

- Demonstrate how to facilitate effective workshops and meetings
- Apply the 'One Plan Approach' to species conservation planning processes
- Deal with conflict under different circumstances
- Demonstrate effective listening skills
- Describe how to provide feedback to individuals to improve relationships and work effectively

**Resource people:** Jamie Copsey (Director of Training, IUCN Conservation Planning Specialist Group), Sanjay Molur (Convener, CPSG South Asia/Executive Director Trustee, Zoo Outreach)

**Co-ordination:** Aparajita Datta

**Duration:** 4 days

**Capacity:** 20 participants

**Dates:** 23–26 March, 2020

**Location:** NCF office, Mysore

**Course format:** This will be a blended course, mixing pre-course online lectures and knowledge checks with a four-day face-to-face taught workshop in which participants spend much of their time in facilitated scenarios to develop their skills.

# COURSEWORK SCHEDULE

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1. Fund-raising for Research and Conservation	16–17 December, 2019	NCF office, North Bangalore
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3. Writing about Conservation	20–25 January, 2020	NCF office, Mysore
4. Stakeholder Engagement and Effectively Managing People and Teams	30 January–1 February, 2020	NCF office, Mysore
5. Project Planning and Management	13–14 February, 2020	NCF office, Mysore
6. Foundational Ideas in Conservation	9–13 March, 2020	NCF office, Mysore
7. Facilitating Conservation Planning	23–26 March, 2020	NCF office, Mysore

# *Courses in* **CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP**

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*Please apply at least 10 days before the start date of each course.*

*Please click on the link for more details.*

# Conservation Leadership

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**nature  
conservation  
foundation**

*Courses in*

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