# Courses in Conservation Leadership 2021

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

Individuals may choose to apply for one or more courses. Please refer to details provided on individual course posters to help you decide. 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.

These courses are offered free and will be conducted online owing to the ongoing pandemic.

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

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.
Engaging and partnering with local communities is critical to the success of conservation efforts. The practical challenges of achieving effective engagement are considerable and conservation practitioners often learn from trial and error.

A set of principles and guidelines for community-based conservation, called the ‘PARTNERS principles’, have been developed based on the extensive experience of snow leopard conservation practitioners. They comprise a set of eight key principles for effectively taking forward community-based conservation programs. The principles have evolved into a workshop and an online toolkit to allow for practitioners to gather and discuss experiences and conservation issues. We hope that these principles will help us reflect on our work and think of how we can work towards developing stronger and more resilient relationships with community partners. If you are a conservation practitioner; or are preparing to work in conservation, the Partner Principles may help you explore, discuss and share different perspectives and approaches to community-based conservation. This module was developed in partnership with the Snow Leopard Trust.
Conservation Entrepreneurship

This short course introduces the idea of conservation entrepreneurship through case studies and participant projects. Participants bring an idea they want to work on to the course and engage with questions around the theory of change for a conservation enterprise, including when is the ripe and ready state for such interventions. Participants deep dive into the conservation and business logic behind enterprise ideas and explore what it means to sell goods and services in a marketplace, including questions of ethics. Participants apply these ideas to their own enterprise ideas thinking about the scale of the enterprise and its stated goals and how might success of the enterprise be evaluated. Finally, we use a systems-thinking approach to understand positional and informal power of different stakeholders, points of leverage and values, loyalties and losses within the system.

SESSIONS: 5

DATES: 8, 12, 15, 19, 22 FEB

CAPACITY: 15 PEOPLE

Resource Person:
Arshiya Bose
Interpreting Conservation Science

Description: Conservation policies and action are usually claimed to be based on evidence, where the evidence comes from scientific studies. For this reason it’s important for those interpreting these studies to be familiar with the nature of scientific evidence in the context of conservation research. How can we better understand the enterprise of conservation, the enterprise of science, and how they combine? What are some basic principles of scientific evidence? How can one separate the learnings from the limitations of any particular piece of conservation research? These are some of the main questions that will be addressed in this course.

Audience: The course is not for researchers (or those training to become researchers) but rather for journalists who ‘consume’ the results of conservation science and communicate it. Other conservation practitioners may also apply, but the course will be most relevant for journalists reporting conservation news and stories.

Structure: The course will consist of a combination of lectures, readings and discussions. Evaluation will be based on written assignments.

Sessions: 5, each 1.5 hours

Dates: 15, 17, 19, 24, 26 Feb

Capacity: 10–15 people

This course will be co-taught by:
Sandhya Sekar
MD Madhusudan
Suhel Quader
with help from Mayuresh Gangal
Writing about Conservation

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 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 are interested in communicating conservation stories to the public through digital and print media.

The five-day course will be full-time, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and will take in a maximum of 20 participants. It will requires attendees to work on assignments, reading material and active participation in class activities.

SESSIONS: 6 DAYS, 2 PER DAY

DATES: 15–20 MAR

CAPACITY: 15–20

Resource Person: Aathira Perinchery
Working effectively with people and teams

Whether you are a researcher in a lab, part of or leading a field conservation project, you will have to work with people. As a community though and especially for the kind of work (research or otherwise) that we do, we are notorious for preferring to work in isolation. We often resort to using our own experiences and common sense when we have to deal with people working with or reporting to us. Often this can be a bewildering experience and in some cases stressful to say the least! It therefore helps to know and discuss some of the common issues and problems that arise while working with people and in teams.

I will introduce and discuss with you basic concepts like motivation, teamwork and group behaviour, the art of negotiation, dealing with difficult supervisors including difficult conversations, individual attitudes and values in the context of teams. This workshop is designed to be very interactive with case studies and lively discussions. It will go beyond theory and I will use a combination of theory, case studies (including the participant’s own experiences) and role-playing exercises to interact, engage, debate and highlight the relevance of these concepts when working with people. This workshop will be in English and suitable for early-mid career conservation students.

SESSIONS: 2, 4–5 HOURS EACH

DATES: 26–27 MAR

CAPACITY: 10 PEOPLE

Resource Person: Vena Kapoor