



लक्ष्यं विद्वमानम्

West Bengal State University



Scottish Church College

WEST BENGAL STATE UNIVERSITY, SCOTTISH CHURCH COLLEGE & SHER

PRESENT

• **A CERTIFICATE COURSE** •

WILDLIFE & BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION IN CHANGING CLIMATES

Decades of ignorance and denials have pushed Nature towards an acute ecological crisis and that has been enough to jeopardize our existence on this planet. Forests are being removed mercilessly, wildlife are being killed, biodiversity is being destroyed, the air that we breathe in is getting polluted like never before, rivers are being poisoned and so on. Climate patterns are changing and becoming unpredictable with every passing day. Global temperatures are rising fast to make glaciers and pole caps melt. Sea levels are on the rise, surface and ground waters are waning fast, natural resources are depleting due to our rapacious consumerism, plastics are choking the ecosystems, human-wildlife conflicts are increasing manifolds. We have done enough damage that has pushed the earth towards its extreme limit and that eventually may force both humans and millions of other species go the dinosaur's way.

The present situation is of an emergency and unless we act together without further delay, we will end up failing the future generations and ourselves. We must realize that there is no magic wand that will stop and reverse this catastrophe. What only can work is our will and wise actions. The wellbeing of nature, environment and people are all interconnected. Sufficiently aware, effectively sensitized, motivated to act, every citizen has to join the battle of our own survival by reducing our unsustainable consumption habits and changing our actions from destructive to restorative. These we can do either by joining the battle directly as professionals or volunteering as activists, or by extending the support to those who are fighting in the frontiers to save our forests, wildlife and biodiversity. What we can do is raise our voice to force the decision makers to adopt pro-environment policies and act accordingly. Natural climate solutions prioritized, effective actions for the conservation, restoration and management of wildlife, forests, woodlands, grasslands, wetlands, rivers, oceans, deserts, mountains and forest dwelling indigenous communities, etc. can only make us reach a climate-safe future.

The Certificate Course - 'Wildlife and Biodiversity Conservation in Changing Climates' had been conceptualized from the above perspective. The West Bengal State University, the Scottish Church College of Kolkata and the Society for Heritage and Ecological Researches (SHER) collaborated to execute the course. Season-I of the course was conducted during the later half of the year 2019 with 45 registered participants chosen from over 100 applications. The array of lecturers varied from veteran forest officers, eminent scientists and distinguished educators from different parts of the country. The demand and success for the course have encouraged the announcement of Season-II with its scopes and applications widened further. The pandemic had compelled a two-year gap for rolling out the Season-II, which is finally being announced now.

Season-II of the Certificate Course - 'Wildlife and Biodiversity Conservation in Changing Climates' as an improved edition of the first is setting out from May 13th 2022.

The present course is designed for and to be delivered to the students (UG/PG/PhD), teachers, business personnel, professionals, government officials, policymakers, supporters of conservation, researchers, writers, civil society groups, advocates, CSR & PR officers and others.

The participants will be made well aware of the complex nature of the problems and challenges of conserving our natural resources like wild habitats and wildlife along with other biodiversity components threatened by the climate crisis. They will be given orientation to find out ways to join the battle for our survival - as a researcher, professional, volunteer or as a communicator, whatever befitting.

A chosen pool of most eminent foresters, scientists, researchers, activists from around the country and abroad with expertise in the fields of wildlife, forests, biodiversity, conservation and climate change will be the faculties.



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Course highlights

- Climate Change: the current scenario of our wildlife and biodiversity
- Status of different biodiversity elements in the face of climate changes & other anthropogenic challenges – lower plants like Mosses & Liverworts, Pollinators, Orchids, Herpetofauna, groups of Invertebrates & others
- Eastern Himalayan biodiversity hotspot and climate changes - forest structures and regenerations in Neora Valley National Park
- Human-Wildlife Conflicts and its mitigations: Conservation management of endangered species & mega fauna
- Development Vs. Conservation: how much of coexistence is required and is possible?
- Management of wildlife reserves: the unique challenges of Sundarbans
- Mangrove and intertidal fauna of Sundarbans in the age of climate change
- Status of different biodiversity landscapes: the Himalayan foothills, Terai plains, Andamans
- Ex-situ Conservation in saving a species from potential extinction
- Living with wildlife: our traditions of conservation
- Living with the forests: Local traditions of sustainable forest use
- The Wildlife and Forest Acts of India and its implementations
- Wildlife Crimes: patterns and controls
- Role of media as an effective tool in raising citizen's understanding of the importance, challenges and policy actions on conservation of wildlife & the biodiversity
- Application of GIS tools in mapping & assessing forest, biodiversity in the wake of climate change

In-class lectures

Duration of the course: 9 Saturdays afternoon classes (>36 hrs) including a daylong field class.

Course Fee: INR 4000/- (*Rupees four thousand only*)

Venue: Smart classroom at Scottish Church College, Kolkata

Application Form: <https://forms.gle/Vk8RP7SRfTRLkMfH6>

Last date of application: Duly filled up application form has to be submitted electronically on or before 22nd April, 2022 by 6 pm to wildlifecertificatecourse@gmail.com

Selection of candidates is fully at the discretion of the organising committee of this certificate course. Priority will also be based on the application's date and time.



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Course Director:

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Course Coordinators:

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Associate Professor, Department of Zoology, Scottish Church College

MR. JOYDIP KUNDU
General Secretary – SHER
Member – State Board for Wildlife, West Bengal

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Senatus Secretary, Scottish Church College

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Founder Member – SHER

Jt. Treasurers:

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