

Course title: Communities and Conservation				
Course code: PPS195	No. of credits: 2	L-T-P: 20-8-0	Learning hours: 28	
Pre-requisite course code and title (if any): None				
Department: Policy Studies				
Course Coordinator(s): Dr Sudipta Chatterjee		Course Instructor(s): Dr Sudipta Chatterjee		
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Course type: Core		Course offered in: Semester 2		
Course Description				
<p>The course has been broadly designed for mid-career professionals in administrative services to provide them with a broad perspective of the interface between the science, policy and community involvement in biodiversity conservation. The course shall focus on the rationale for biodiversity conservation in face of global changes, highlighting the biodiversity significance of India. Providing a basic concept of ecosystem, the course delves into an understanding of the services it provides and need for monitoring and assessment for science based decision making. The role communities play in management of natural resources is very central to the course. The course shall look into the enabling policy environment in India and the world. Course participants will identify a problem area <i>vis a vis</i> their respective area of work and develop a proposal for evaluation.</p>				
Course objectives				
Reinforce the course participants with knowledge and information on communities and conservation in India.				
Course content				
Module	Topic	L	T	P
1.	Natural History of India Natural History of Landscapes of India. The evolutionary history.	1		
2.	Biodiversity Significance of India Concept of biodiversity, its significance, types and reasons for its depletion and reasons for conservation. What do we lose when we lose biodiversity? Global priorities for biodiversity conservation. Protected area network, Global trends The Living Planet Index, Global Biodiversity Outlook and biodiversity significance of India. Trends in Forest Cover in India.	2		
3.	Ecosystems The concept. Types, Natural and man-made (Artificial), Terrestrial and Aquatic. Functioning of ecosystems. Prioritization of biodiversity conservation in India. Ecosystem services, need for assessment, monitoring and management.	2		
4.	Communities and Ecosystems Community dependence on natural resources and strategies for natural resource conservation in different biogeographic zones of India. Community Conserved Areas in India including sacred forests. Community institutions including Traditional institutions.	2	2	
5.	Threats to Ecosystems The development vs. conservation debate. Case studies on threats to ecosystems. Climate Change and Ecosystems and role of communities.	2	2	
6.	Community strategies for Conservation Role of communities in Conservation of Protected Area Network and Community Conserved Areas. Management Plans and Working Plans with focus on community participation in preparation of microplans Emerging approaches to conservation of ecosystems: Sustainable Forest Management, Payment for Environmental Services, Forest and Marine	2	2	

	certification, REDD+ and Forest Landscape Restoration. Communities and Conservation of Trans boundary landscapes. Global Financial Mechanisms promoting communities and conservation. Initiatives in India: Learning experiences.			
7.	Domestic legislations and Global Conventions for Sustainable Ecosystem Enabling Policy environment in India for community participation in conservation. Village Forests, Joint Forest Management, Community Reserves and Conservation Reserves in Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. Litigations under the India's Biological Diversity Act, 2002. Forests Rights Act, 2006, Wildlife Action Plan (2017) and Wetland Rules 2010 and Draft rules 2016.. Enabling Global Policy Environment for Community Conservation: The Convention on Biological Diversity(CBD), The Ramsar Convention, Ecosystems and the UNFCCC, Land degradation and UNCCD, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), Convention on Migratory species (CMS). Role of communities in achieving Global Biodiversity targets.	3	2	
8.	Challenges to community participation in conservation of Ecosystems Proposal development and presentations on the same.	6		
	Total	20	8	0
Evaluation criteria:		Weightage (%)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2 Minor Examinations ▪ Presentation ▪ Report 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50% 30% 20%. 		
Learning outcomes: The course participants would be able to integrate the learning in their respective areas of work and influence decision making.				
Pedagogical approach: The approach shall be to emphasize on Ecosystem approach to conservation and role of communities therein. Basic concepts and updated information on conservation and communities shall be complemented with relevant case studies for enhanced class room discussions.				
Materials: Suggested readings: Module 1: Natural History of India. Pranay Lal Module 2: Biodiversity significance of India : Setting priorities for biodiversity conservation in India. Ed (Shekhar Singh et al. 2001, WWF India. The Living Planet Index, International, The Global Biodiversity Outlook and Forestry Outlook, FAO Module 3: Ecosystems. Ecology by E.P Odum, Ecology by Begon Module 4: Communities and Ecosystems: Community Conserved Areas , Neema Pathak Broom (Ed), Kalpavriksha, Pune. Publications of Kalpavriksha, New Delhi. Module 5: Threats to Ecosystems; Through case studies. Module 6: Community strategies for conservation: Vishwas and Savarkar (2005) Planning for Management Plans , National Working Plan Code (2014). Planning a Protected Area Network of India (2005) by Allen Rodgers and HS Panwar				

Module 7: Domestic Legislations: Wildlife Protection Act (1972), Indian Forest Act (1927), Forests Right Act 1206, National Biodiversity Act 2002 and National Biodiversity Rules, 2014, National Wildlife Action Plan (2017), Draft National Wetland Rules, 2016.

Case Studies: Biodiversity significance of North East India.

Piloting REDD+ in Garo Hills Meghalaya

National initiatives on conservation of sacred groves, Payment for Environmental Services and communities and conservation.

Eco-development at Periyar Tiger Reserve, Kerala.

Piloting Forest Plus in implementation of REDD+ in India

Websites: www.cbd.int; www.ramsar.org; www.unccd.org

Journals: The Indian Forester, Conservation Biology, Biological Conservation, Science

Other readings: The Global Biodiversity Targets (Aichi), Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management (Bhopal India Process), Principles, Criteria and Indicators of Forest and Marine Stewardship Councils

Additional information (if any): None

Student responsibilities:

Course Participants shall actively engage in classroom discussions and design a proposal on involving communities and conservation in a landscape they are familiar with. The proposal should provide the rationale and should be able to highlight urgency of its implementation and draw the attention of competent authorities.

Course reviewers

1. Prof Anand Kandya, HSG Sagar University, Madhya Pradesh
2. Ms Visheish Uppal, Livelihood Officer, WWF India, New Delhi
3. Dr Ram Prasad, Ex VC Barkatullah University and ex PCCF, State Forest Department, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh