

Amphibian Biodiversity Conservation ABC- South Asia 2007

ABC- South Asia 2007 Amphibian Biodiversity Conservation. A short course for amphibian conservationists managing the species in captivity & the wild

10th-16th December 2007



केन्द्रीय चिड़ियाघर प्राधिकरण
Central Zoo Authority



भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान
Wildlife Institute of India



What is ABC?

Amphibian Biodiversity Conservation ABC-South Asia is a 7 day course designed for amphibian species managers in South Asia who want to learn more about the theory and practice of managing species recovery. Launched in Jersey, British Channel Islands, UK in 2006 ABC India is the first tailored version of the course to be run in regions of high amphibian biodiversity and concern. Participants will be challenged by a multidisciplinary team of experts in amphibian species conservation through lectures, discussions & practical activities. They will generate ideas & actions for conserving amphibian populations within South Asia.

Amphibians have been saved from the brink of extinction, but more work needs to be done; attention in the course will focus on proven and practical approaches to managing endangered species in the wild and in captivity. Equipped with new knowledge, understanding & skills participants will return to their organizations better able to determine the next course of action to conserve their amphibian species. Amphibian conservation requires collaboration; partnerships fostered during the course, between field and captive-based species managers will provide an important & ongoing vehicle for facilitating species recovery *in-situ*.

Who is it for?

ABC-South Asia is designed for amphibian biologists working in the field, managers working in captive breeding centres (curators, senior keepers) and university lecturers developing conservation-related courses. Trained individuals can make a difference but only with the support of their organisations; this course is for staff working for organisations that can demonstrate how the skills acquired by the participants will further their conservation work. By adopting a regional focus we intend to help develop a team of amphibian conservationists able to work together for the future conservation of species within their region.

Where is ABC being run?

ABC-South Asia will be run within the Periyar Tiger Reserve, Kerala State, South India. This venue has been selected as it provides for both an excellent training venue and opportunities for evening field trips to investigate amphibian life within the reserve. Website is : <http://www.periyartigerreserve.org/> for details. The course will be led by staff from the International Training Centre (ITC) of the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust (Durrell), based in Jersey, British Channel Islands, UK. The ITC has trained over 1500 conservationists in endangered species management and conservation from 118 countries over the last 20 years. Durrell has extensive experience of managing amphibian recovery both locally and internationally, making the link between *ex-situ* and *in-situ* conservation action.

Who will you learn from?

International amphibian experts and their local peers will provide main course content including practical hands-on sessions as well as lectures. Most valuably, participants will learn from each other and will develop professional linkages which will allow for ongoing conservation action within the region.

What topics will be covered?

The course is divided into three modules with associated themes:

Mod 1: Understanding amphibian decline Themes:

- Patterns of amphibian biodiversity & change
- Threats to amphibian biodiversity
- Problem-solving tools for diagnosing threat

Mod 2: Prioritising & planning for action Themes:

- Priorities for amphibian conservation in South Asia-GAA and beyond

- Identifying stakeholder groups

- Ingredients for effective species action planning

Mod 3: Research techniques for amphibian conservation Themes:

- Research project design
- Studying amphibian ecology
- Monitoring amphibians
- Preparing pathology specimens in the field
- Hygiene in fieldwork- managing risk

How much does it cost?

The course will cost £500 or about Rs. 50,000 only. In addition participants will be expected to pay for their accommodation and food during the course. Organising travel is the responsibility of the participant. There will be a number of full scholarships available, though preference will be given to participants from within the region. A list of potential funding sources and a letter of support are available on request. NB: the course will be run subject to level of interest.

How do I apply for the course?

You need to complete an application form yourself. You must also ask a senior member of staff from within the organisation for which you work (Director level or equivalent) to write an institutional letter of support. You will need to submit a recent C.V. providing more details on your experiences, qualifications and interests.

What should I do next?

Download application form & deadline details at www.durrellwildlife.org. Or contact the ITC by:
Phone: 44-1534 860037 Fax: 44-1534 860002 E-mail: itc@durrell.org

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