

Registration

There are only 20 seats per workshop. To register you need to fill out an online form available from this web-site:

<<http://www.feralindia.org/moodle>>

under the course entitled "Building Capacities for Conservation Planning"

Note that individuals from agencies already supported by the CEPF programme in the Western Ghats will be given a priority. There will be a minimum of 5 additional seats made available for the host institute.

Requirements

CEPF grantees will be given preference followed by persons from conservation backgrounds working in the Western Ghats.

This is NOT a course for computer illiterates. In fact, you'll get more from it if you are familiar with GIS and remote sensing.

Please bring your own laptop computers for the course. We will provide support for Linux and Windows systems but will not be able to help with Mac laptops.

Bring your own GPS units along if you want us to show you how to use them.

Summary

Introductory knowledge of GIS and remote sensing is now an essential component for any practitioner in conservation or natural resources management.

The increasing power and refinement of open source software for GIS and remote sensing has made it possible to adopt these technologies at a wider scale. Availability of data from online sources opens up even more opportunities for conservationists.

This course will cover the basics of vector GIS, provide an introduction to basic raster and image manipulation and demonstrate the use of spatial statistics over a period of five days.

The course is designed around a series of hands-on sessions with software such as Quantum GIS and GRASS.

We will utilise real data made available by the Western Ghats portal and during the course you will be introduced to this new but rapidly developing resource of spatially explicit data for the Western Ghats.

Building Capacities for Conservation Planning

Five day introductory workshop for conservationists and researchers on GIS and remote sensing using open source software.



Conducted by the Foundation for Ecological Research, Advocacy and Learning (FERAL) and hosted by the Dept. of Ecology and Environmental Sciences, Pondicherry University. Supported by the CEPF-ATREE Western Ghats Small Grants Program and the Dept. of Science and Technology, Pondicherry.



Objectives

Many small and emerging agencies actively involved in conservation in India lack a working knowledge of GIS and remote sensing. This greatly limits their work, both as researchers and as activists. The emergence of open source tools and technologies and the concerted efforts being made in making spatial data available for the conservation community presents a unique opportunity to overcome this limitation.

This course intends to provide the stepping stone for such agencies to move into applications of spatial technologies for conservation decision support, evaluation and planning. It will primarily provide working knowledge of vector GIS, GPS use and remote sensing applications, and secondarily, introduce spatial statistical and landscape tools to more advanced users, on user friendly open source software.

What We Hope to Achieve

To train 60 to 80 individuals from a conservation background in:

- The use of GIS, GPS and remote sensing applications for conservation planning using open source tools.
- To introduce spatial statistics and landscape ecology applications which can be built upon further by these institutions for their conservation agendas.
- To create a group of GIS-enabled resource persons who will provide local support for GIS/RS.

To do this we have created a course site to serve as a resource for tutorials, quizzes, reading materials and exercises. This site will be operated for a year and participants will receive support on GIS/RS related queries for that period.

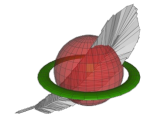
What Will be Covered

Software:

- Quantum GIS and some of its plugins for geo-processing, database management, geo-rectification and statistical analysis.
- GRASS, under the Q-GIS system, for raster and image classification, with a quick introduction to landscape ecology modules.
- R for spatial statistics.

Topics:

- Installing Software on Windows and Linux systems. Sorry Mac is not supported.
- Introduction to vector GIS through Quantum-GIS
- Using a Global Positioning System for mapping and navigation.
- Basics of Geoprocessing and Data Manipulation using Q-GIS
- An Introduction to Remote Sensing using GRASS and Q-GIS plugins
- An overview of spatial statistics and landscape ecology modules and interfaces.
- Contributing to the Western Ghats portal - an initiation into the open spatial data community.



*Foundation for Ecological Research,
Advocacy and Learning (FERAL)*
No.27, 2nd Cross Appavou Nagar, Vazhakulam
Pondicherry - 605 012
Tel: +91 413 2671566, 2225441
Email: feral@feralindia.org

*Pondicherry University,
R.V. Nagar, Kalapet,
Puducherry - 605 014.
Tel: +91 413 - 2655179*