

As part of Ministry's efforts towards sharing India's developmental experiences with the Global South through ITEC, the second course through IBCA for Wildlife and Conservation Practitioners is being announced.

2. This course is being conducted in collaboration with the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) and will be conducted at the Nagarhole-Bandipur Tiger Reserve Landscape in Karnataka.

3. The contents of the course have been curated and will be delivered by IBCA and MoEFCC wildlife specialists, with the course participants getting a week-long stay at Nagarhole-Bandipur Tiger Reserve Landscape where the course will be actually conducted.

4. The course is tentatively scheduled for 09-13 Feb 2026. Participants will arrive & depart from Bengaluru only as the nearest international airport to the course venue is at Bengaluru only. Tentative travel itinerary during the course is attached along with the course brochure.

5. The course is being designed for a batch size of 40. Mission ITEC coordinators may please note that this course is targeted at senior-level wildlife/conservation professionals, who would be equivalent/senior to Director General levels.



ITEC-EXECUTIVE COURSE ON CAPACITY BUILDING FOR WILDLIFE & CONSERVATION PRACTITIONERS

NAGARHOLE-BANDIPUR TIGER RESERVES, KARNATAKA, INDIA

FEBRUARY 09-13, 2026





India's Biodiversity

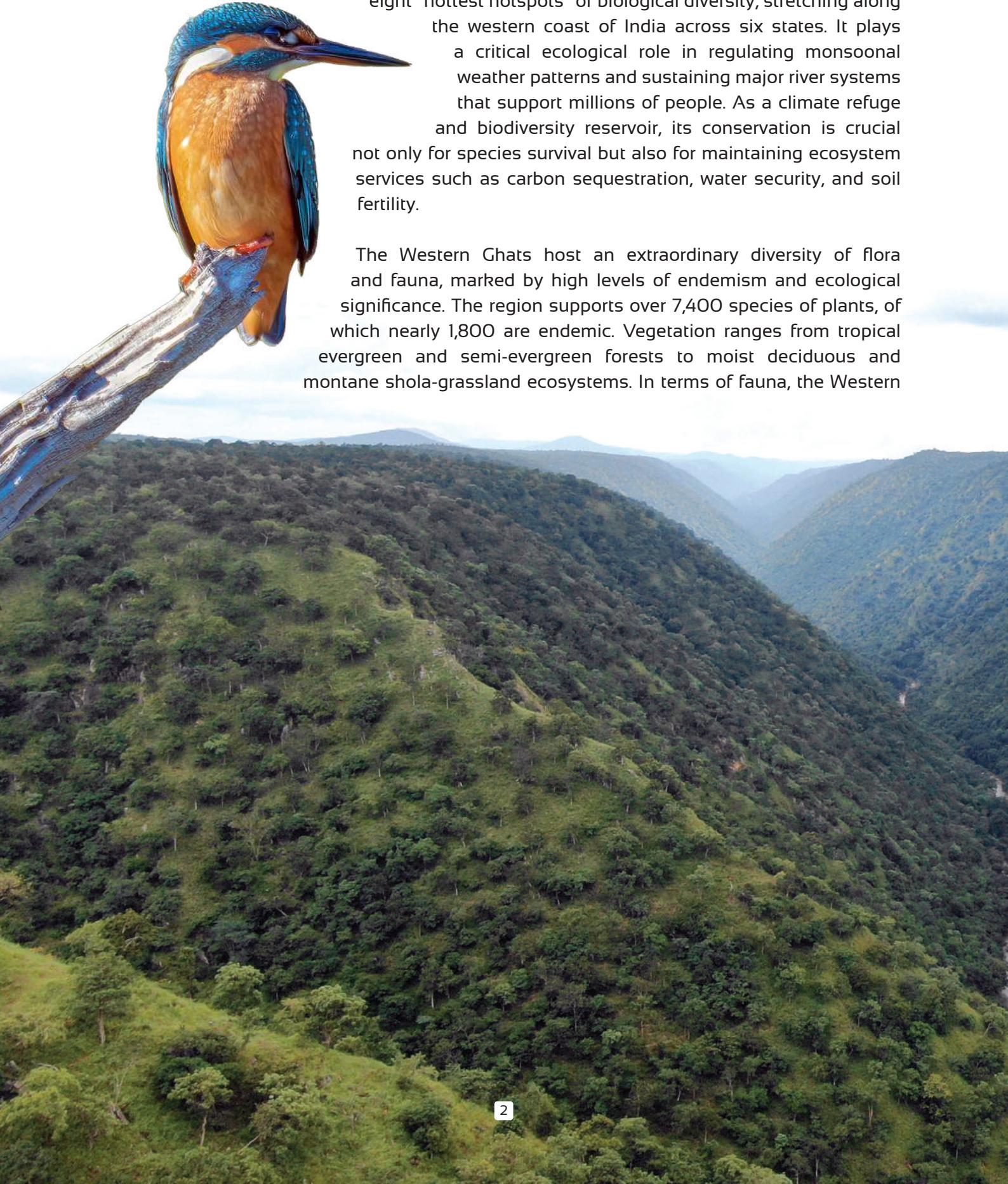
India's biodiversity is a rich tapestry of varied ecosystems, ranging from the snow-capped Himalayas to the lush Western Ghats, the expansive Thar Desert, to the long coast line rich with marine life. This incredible diversity is due to the country's vast geographical spread and varied climatic conditions, which foster a wide array of habitats. India is recognized as one of the 17 'mega diverse' countries, housing over 8% of the world's recorded species. With only 2.4% of the world's land area, it harbors around 7-8% of all recorded species, including over 45,000 species of plants and 91,000 species of animals.

The Western Ghats, Himalayas, Indo-Burma region and the Sunda are acknowledged as biodiversity hotspots in India, teeming with endemic species.

The country's forest cover, which includes tropical rainforests, deciduous forests, and thorn forests, provides a home for iconic species such as the Bengal tiger, Asiatic lion, Snow Leopard, Asian elephant, and the Indian rhinoceros. India's rich flora also includes over 15,000 flowering plant species, which is approximately 6% of the world's total.

The intricate network of rivers and wetlands across the country supports diverse aquatic ecosystems. The Sundarbans, the largest mangrove forest in the world, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is crucial for the conservation of the Bengal tiger. The coral reefs of the Lakshadweep and Andaman and Nicobar Islands are among the most pristine in the world, supporting a multitude of marine life.

Western Ghats



The Western Ghats, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is one of the world's eight "hottest hotspots" of biological diversity, stretching along the western coast of India across six states. It plays a critical ecological role in regulating monsoonal weather patterns and sustaining major river systems that support millions of people. As a climate refuge and biodiversity reservoir, its conservation is crucial not only for species survival but also for maintaining ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration, water security, and soil fertility.

The Western Ghats host an extraordinary diversity of flora and fauna, marked by high levels of endemism and ecological significance. The region supports over 7,400 species of plants, of which nearly 1,800 are endemic. Vegetation ranges from tropical evergreen and semi-evergreen forests to moist deciduous and montane shola-grassland ecosystems. In terms of fauna, the Western

Ghats are home to more than 140 mammal species, over 500 bird species, 180 amphibians, 200 reptiles, and thousands of insect species—many of which are found nowhere else in the world. Flagship species include the tiger, Asian elephant, lion-tailed macaque, Nilgiri langur, Malabar civet, Great hornbill, and numerous endemic frogs and reptiles such as the Coorg night frog and Malabar pit viper. The unique interplay of altitudinal gradients and microclimates in the Ghats contributes to its status as a globally significant biodiversity hotspot.



Nagarhole- Bandipur Tiger Reserve Landscape

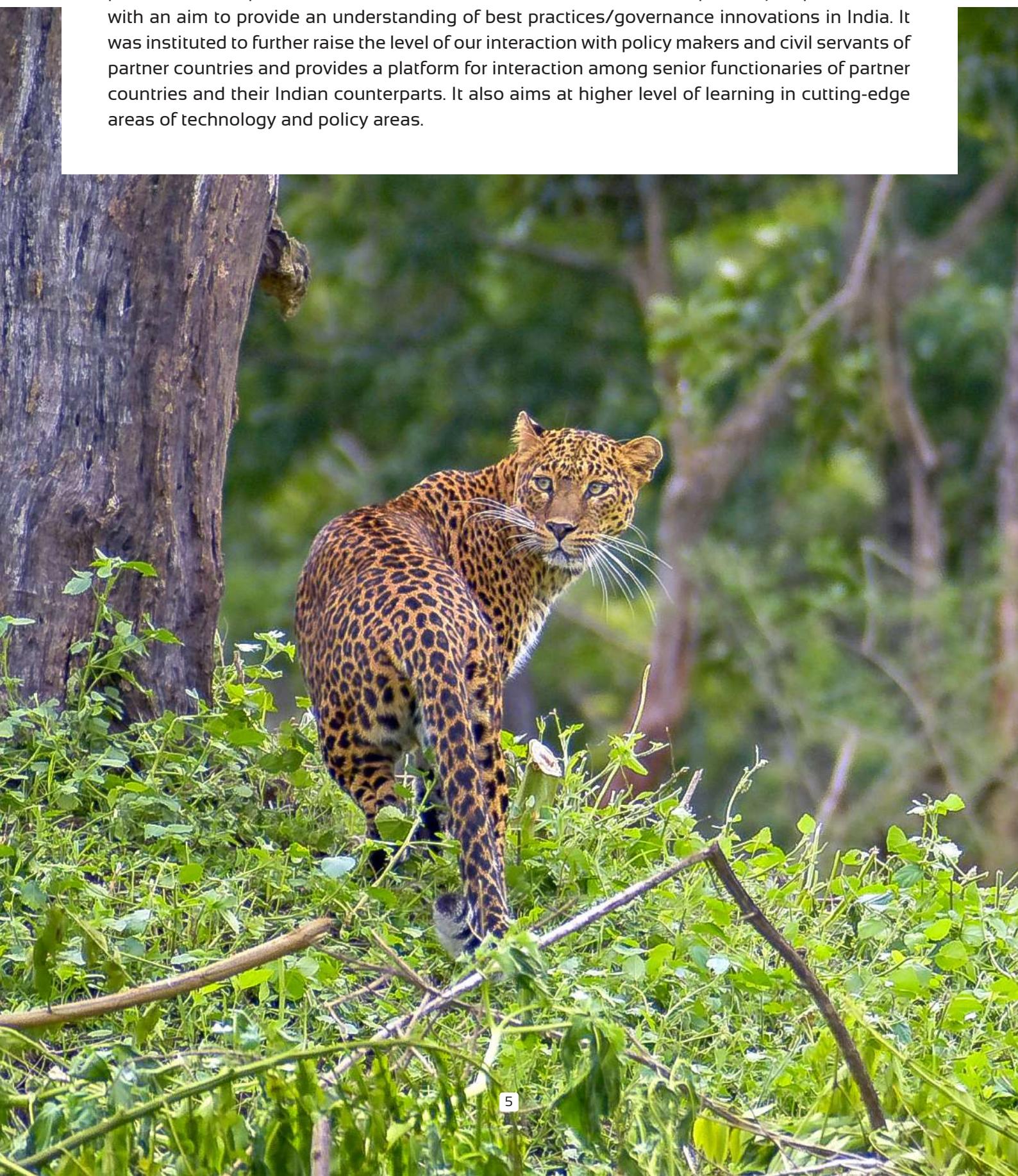


The Nagarhole-Bandipur Tiger Reserve landscape, cradled in the Western Ghats, is a conservation jewel of immense ecological and cultural importance. Spanning across Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, this region forms part of the larger Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. The Western Ghats, being a biodiversity hotspot, is home to a rich array of flora and fauna, including several endangered and endemic species. As per the latest estimations, Nagarhole is home to 141 tigers, 105 leopards and 831 elephants while Bandipur is home to 150 tigers, 138 leopards and 1,116 elephants. Nagarhole and Bandipur along with other adjoining Protected Areas in the states of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu form one of the largest contiguous habitats for tigers in the world and supports the world's largest population of Asian elephants.

The landscape is home to many iconic and endemic species such as Lion-tailed macaque, Nilgiri Thar, Nilgiri Marten, Travancore tortoise etc. The forests of Nagarhole and Bandipur play a critical role in the watershed management of several rivers, including the Kabini and Moyar. This landscape is not just ecologically significant but also rich in cultural heritage since local indigenous communities have coexisted with wildlife for centuries, contributing to traditional knowledge and conservation practices. Nagarhole and Bandipur are also well known for sustainable ecotourism providing economic benefits to local communities while promoting conservation awareness and generating funds for the park management.

About ITEC Executive Course

ITEC Executive is an exclusive programme for policy makers, senior level functionaries and professionals of partner countries which covers conferences, workshops, study/exposure visits with an aim to provide an understanding of best practices/governance innovations in India. It was instituted to further raise the level of our interaction with policy makers and civil servants of partner countries and provides a platform for interaction among senior functionaries of partner countries and their Indian counterparts. It also aims at higher level of learning in cutting-edge areas of technology and policy areas.



Objectives



- To provide and disseminate comprehensive training on the principles and best practices of wildlife management and conservation.
- To enhance the capacity of participants in the use of latest knowledge and technological interventions for wildlife conservation.
- To foster international collaboration and knowledge exchange among conservation professionals.
- To inculcate an understanding on need for sustainable management of wildlife habitats and integrate conservation efforts with Sustainable Development Goals.

Course Framework



Module 1:

Introduction to Big Cat Conservation

- Overview of big cat species and their habitats
- Importance of big cats in ecosystems
- Current threats and challenges
- Best practices of big cat conservation in India

Module 2:

Advances in Wildlife Management

- Protection strategies (anti-poaching and smart patrolling)
- Active wildlife management (translocation, augmentation, rewilding etc.)
- Use of technology in wildlife conservation

Module 3:

Ecosystem restoration and management

- Management of Biodiversity Hotspots
- Nature based solutions
- Management of unique habitats

Course Framework



Module 4: Landscape Conservation Approaches

- Delineation of wildlife corridors, Eco-sensitive zones, Conservation Reserves
- Integrating conservation with land use planning
- Sustainable development practices
- Management perspectives of wildlife corridors

Module 5: Policy and Legislation in Wildlife Conservation

- Key biodiversity legislations and policies
- Advocacy
- Judiciary in conservation

Module 6: Human-wildlife interface and management

- Perspectives of conflict and strategies to mitigate
- Technological solutions for conflict management
- Community-based conflict resolution

Course Framework



Module 7: Conservation and development

- Linear infrastructures and their conservation threats
- Mainstreaming conservation in development agenda
- Climate resilient, smart green infrastructures

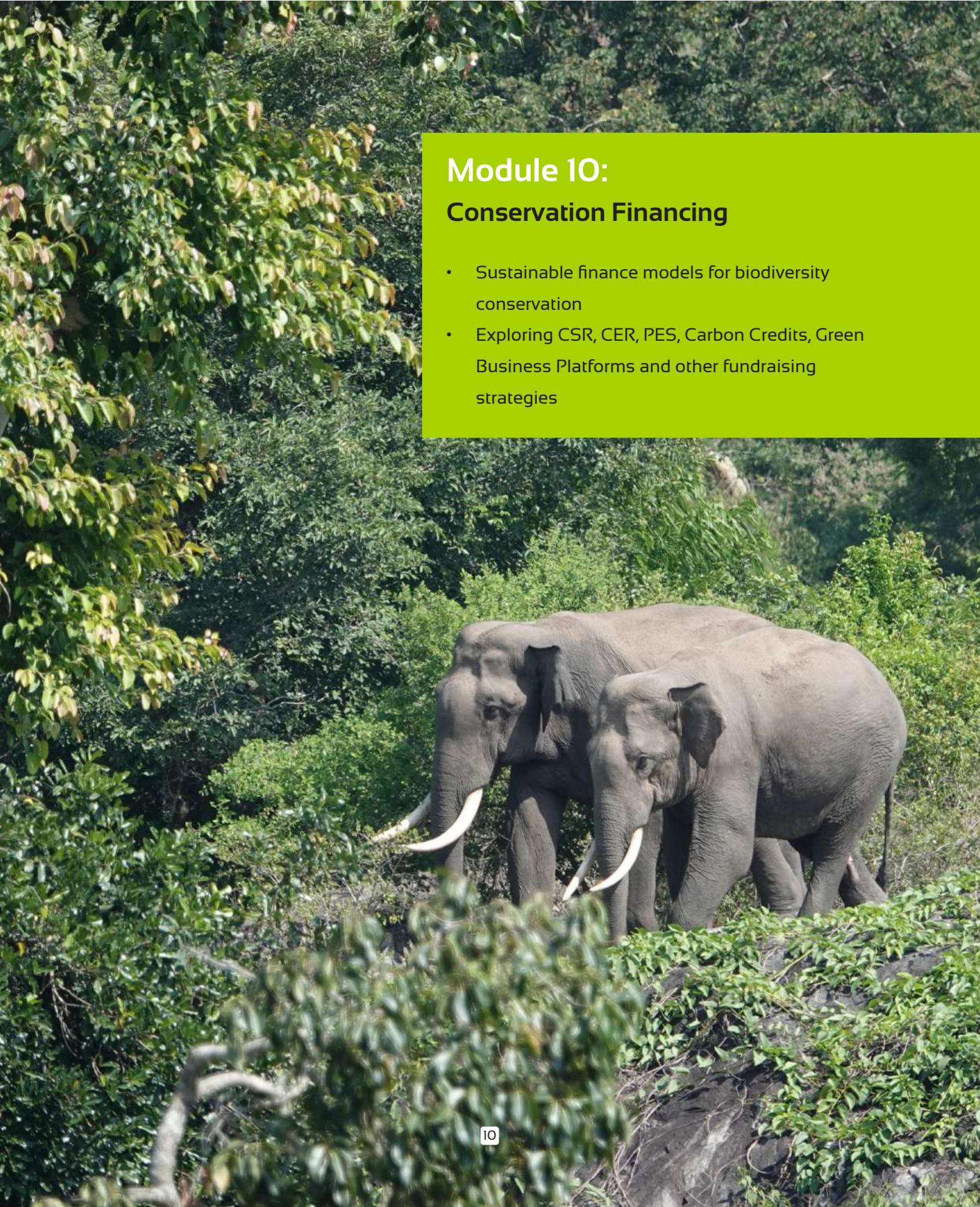
Module 8: Systematic ecotourism and sustainable livelihood opportunities

- Best practices in ecotourism
- Balancing tourism development with conservation goals
- Empowering local communities through participatory approaches
- Developing eco-tourism and nature interpretation programs

Module 9: Ecosystem evaluation and conservation education and outreach

- Framework for economic valuation
- Social and cultural values
- Promoting conservation awareness through media and outreach
- Engaging youth and local communities in conservation efforts
- Role of NGOs and civil society institutions in conservation education

Course Framework



Module 10: Conservation Financing

- Sustainable finance models for biodiversity conservation
- Exploring CSR, CER, PES, Carbon Credits, Green Business Platforms and other fundraising strategies

Macro-schedule for course

Day 0

Arrival of delegates at Bengaluru & Inaugural Function

Day 1

Travel to Bandipur/Nagarhole landscape.
Best practices for big cat conservation, active management, protection and smart patrolling and technology aided wildlife conservation

Day 2

Ecosystem restoration and management, landscape conservation approaches and Management Effective Evaluation

Macro-schedule for course

Day 3

Ecosystem valuation, human-wildlife interface, mitigation of linear infrastructures, community stewardship and sustainable ecotourism

Day 4

Visit to Nagarhole and country presentations

Day 5

Country presentations, conservation financing and valedictory function

Key Resource Persons



Mr. Soumitra Dasgupta
International Big Cat Alliance



Mr. Subhash Malkhede
Karnataka Forest Department



Mr. B.K. Singh
Karnataka Forest Department



Dr. Amit Mallick
Global Tiger Forum



Dr. K. Ramesh
Wildlife Institute of India



Ms. Harini Venugopal
National Tiger Conservation Authority



Ms. P.A. Seema
Nagarhole Tiger Reserve



Mr. S. Prabhakaran
Bandipur Tiger Reserve



Dr. Dipankar Ghose
WWF India



Dr. Madhu Verma
IORA Ecological Solution



Dr. Prabir Deshmukh
Confederation of Indian Industry



Dr. Kausik Banerjee
International Big Cat Alliance

**ITEC-EXECUTIVE COURSE ON CAPACITY BUILDING FOR WILDLIFE &
CONSERVATION PRACTITIONERS**

NAGARHOLE-BANDIPUR TIGER RESERVES, KARNATAKA, INDIA

FEBRUARY 09-13, 2026



CONTACT FOR TRAINING COURSE

**IBCA SECRETARIAT
1/13, SHANTI NIKETAN, FIRST FLOOR
NEW DELHI 110021, INDIA**

**+91 11 450633497, +91 88003 04857
Email: secretariat@ibca.world**

Tentative Travel Details for ITEC 2026

Date	Time	Itinerary
08/02/2026	By 13:00 pm	Participants should reach Bengaluru International Airport
08/02/2026	Evening	Inaugural Function in Bengaluru
09/02/2026	07:00 am	Departure for Bandipur Tiger Reserve
09/02/2026 to 11/02/2026		Stay at Bandipur Tiger Reserve
12/02/2026	Morning	Departure for Nagarhole
12/02/2026 to 13/02/2026		Stay at Nagarhole Tiger Reserve
14/02/2026	Early morning	Departure for Bengaluru International Airport and to the respective countries

NOTE:

All Participants should reach Bengaluru International Airport by 13:00 PM on 08/02/2026

Return flight to the respective countries from Bengaluru International Airport should be booked after 15:00 pm on 14/02/2026

*** All mentioned times are according to Indian Standard Time**