

Importance & Benefit of studying Conservation Biology

This is to bring everyone's attention and interest towards studying Conservation Biology at Post Graduation level. This is a unique interdisciplinary course which is being taught in Durgapur Government College under this esteemed University since 2015. The University of Burdwan initiated MSc in Conservation Biology in Durgapur Government College for the first time in the eastern region of India in 2007. The goals of the Department are to promote an understanding of ecology and conservation biology through research, education and outreach.

This course was designed to promote discourse, interest and research in the field of conservation, wildlife, forestry and biodiversity. The importance of this field cannot be justified enough in these times and especially in India. **Dr. Ullash Karanth**, a Senior Scientist with the international NGO, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), a world-renowned wildlife biologist, in an interview, said *"Nature has been battered by us, humans, over thousands of years, ever since we invented agriculture and animal husbandry. We have compounded these traditional pressures through modern commerce, industry and cultural changes, and even through "eco-tourism" and "habitat management". Nature is now like a patient in an intensive care unit, thanks to our actions"*.

This course is being taught at various institutions outside West Bengal like National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bangalore , Amity Institutes of Wildlife Sciences (AIWS), Amity University Campus, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, UP , Wild Life Institute of India and Saurashtra University, Rajkot, Gujarat, The Forest Research Institute Dehradun , Kuvempu University, Karnataka, University School of Environment Management Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, New Delhi , University of Kota, Rajasthan etc.

As you can see that there are really no such Universities or Programs in the eastern part of the country and we really need to promote this course to the people.

Career in Conservation Biology and options for students include work with:

- Research Labs
- Central and state natural resource agencies
- Conservation groups
- Forest industries
- Forest research institutes
- Wildlife research institutes
- Zoological parks
- Sanctuaries
- Private consulting companies
- Other govt. services
- Agencies that provide healthy habitat to the animals in artificial environment like BNHS.

Many successful students from our department have got involved in organizations of International repute including IISc, SACCON and BNHS, Jadavpur University etc.