



CONSERVATION ECONOMICS

PROF. ANKUR AWADHIYA

Department of Forest, Indian Forest Service

IIT Kanpur

PRE-REQUISITES : Should have done 10+2 with Science or Economics

INTENDED AUDIENCE : Officers and staff of Forest departments, Students of Forestry, Wildlife

conservation, Economics, Developmental Studies and allied disciplines, Policy makers, Aspirants of Civil Services Examination

INDUSTRIES APPLICABLE TO : Tourism industries, Education industries, Green energy industries, Renewable energy / materials industry, Construction industries

COURSE OUTLINE :

The times are changing: we live in an era when issues such as climate change, over population, pollution, habitat loss and mass extinction of species are no longer just academic concepts; we are witnessing them in our daily lives and suffering their consequences. We are continuously trashing our planet and harming ourselves in the process. And this is when we know so much about what the issues are, how and why they arise, and how they can be solved. We have the technological solutions; and still we're largely unable to actually solve the problems. This is largely because these problems require not just a technological solution – they also require reworking of national and global policies. And solving the problems will entail costs and require money – such as for treating waste water before disposal, for increasing the efficiency of resource utilisation to reduce overconsumption of resources, for shifting to greener sources of energy that don't emit greenhouse gases, for shifting to green chemistry that doesn't pollute, for making infrastructures that do not harm the wildlife, and for incentivising more research to make better technologies. It is these costs, and not just a lack of technology, that prevent us from solving the problems. Thus, the need of the hour is to understand the Economics of Conservation to create an environment where we can use technologies to solve our problems. In this course, we shall look at the processes of Conventional Economics that have led to the destruction of the environment by putting profits above everything, and how we can solve these issues of Conventional Economics with a better understanding of Economics – Green Economics.

ABOUT INSTRUCTOR :

Prof. Ankur Awadhiya (B. Tech IIT Kanpur 2009, Ph. D IIT Kanpur 2015, AIGNFA IGNTA Dehradun 2016, PGDAWM WII Dehradun 2018) is an IFS officer borne on the Madhya Pradesh cadre. His interests include photography, tourism, research, instrumentation and creative literary pursuits.

COURSE PLAN :

Week 1: What is Economics?

Week 2: What is Conservation?

Week 3: Modern impacts necessitating conservation

Week 4: Threats to wildlife

Week 5: How can Economics help?

Week 6: Markets: Places where Economics works

Week 7: Markets, welfare and conservation

Week 8: Public sector and conservation

Week 9: Industrial organisation and conservation

Week 10: Labour market economics and conservation

Week 11: Practical issues in Economics and Conservation

Week 12: Case Studies