



CONSERVATION GEOGRAPHY

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Department of Indian Forest Service
IIT Kanpur

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

INDUSTRY SUPPORT: Tourism industries, Education industries, Green energy industries, Renewable energy / materials industry, Construction industries

COURSE OUTLINE :

Geography is the study of areal differentiation. It examines three questions - 1. What features (say mountains) and processes (such as volcanism) are found in different locations? 2. Why are they located where they are? 3. Where else on Earth do we find these specific features and processes? This governs several developmental decisions, such as location of mines, factories, towns, cities, and infrastructure. After all, mining will be economically feasible in areas that have a concentration of ores. Factories can easily be set up where we have availability of land, labour, capital and infrastructure. Towns and cities require land, infrastructure, water, etc. But at the same time, areal differentiation also governs the localisation of biodiversity - forests, wildlife, etc. - which need to be conserved to provide us with ecosystem benefits like food, water, disease control and employment. Past experience shows that if we are not careful, hasty developmental decisions harm biodiversity and conservation - especially when, say, developing mines in biodiversity-rich areas. This ultimately affects all of us - destruction of ecosystems, water flows and pollution wreck havoc to food and water security, health and economic development. The present course examines these concepts, beginning with the basics of Geography and Conservation, and looking at their interplay through several case studies to help reach conservation-oriented development.

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: Introduction to Conservation Geography

Week 2: The Earth

Week 3: Lithosphere and landforms

Week 4: Atmosphere

Week 5: Hydrosphere

Week 6: Physical Geography in the Indian context

Week 7: Biosphere

Week 8: Conservation of biodiversity

Week 9: Human population and conservation

Week 10: Resources and conservation

Week 11: Economic Geography and conservation

Week 12: Special topics in Geography and conservation