



DURRELL WILDLIFE CONSERVATION TRUST

International Training Centre Course Details

The International Training Centre is a unique learning institution situated in the grounds of the world renowned Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust. Described by Gerald Durrell as a 'mini university', the ITC is dedicated to training conservationists in the management of endangered species recovery in a changing world.

Our courses are aimed at enthusiastic conservationists from all backgrounds, who are interested in developing their critical problem solving skills for the advancement of biodiversity conservation. As global awareness of conservation issues increases, so does the realisation that progress cannot be made without personnel who are sufficiently trained in research skills, species management techniques and have a solid foundation in conservation biology.

The ITC approach focuses on problem based learning. Students are encouraged to explore what needs to be known in order to understand act to recover threatened species. Combining our 20 years experience in training with the Durrell's globally recognised in-situ species conservation programmes, course participants are challenged to think creatively and critically about future directions in biodiversity conservation.

Biodiversity conservation concerns the management of change, primarily at the species level; participants on all of our courses will leave better equipped to respond to this change and guide their threatened species along the road to recovery.

Courses

- Durrell Endangered Species Management Graduate Certificate (DESMAN-GCert)
- Facilitator Skills Workshop
- Amphibian Biodiversity Conservation (ABC)
- Endangered Species Recovery
- Island Species Led Action

'The world is as delicate as a spider's web. If you touch one thread you send shivers running through all the other threads. We're not just touching the web, we're tearing great holes in it...' Gerald Durrell

The Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust

History of Durrell

Established by Gerald Durrell in 1963 as the Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust and known to many as Jersey Zoo, the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust has been working to save species from extinction for over 40 years.

Unique from the outset, Durrell has led the way in endangered species recovery, applying intensive species management skills to their conservation in the wild, in doing so it demonstrated that zoos could play an important role in biodiversity conservation, as centres of research, skills development and species conservation. By applying knowledge of captive animal husbandry to species in the wild Durrell has been able to bring some of the world's most critically endangered species back from the brink of extinction. Such species include the Mauritius kestrel, echo parakeet, pink pigeon, the ploughshare tortoise of Madagascar and the St Lucia whiptail lizard.

In conjunction with its expanding in-situ conservation programme, Durrell set the benchmark in standards of care at its zoological park in Jersey winning awards in enclosure design and animal welfare and care. Durrell has enabled the general public to experience remarkable fauna in a naturalistic environment, profiling some of the world's least known species often for the first time.

Durrell Today

The Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust continues to keep some of the world's most threatened and intriguing species at its headquarters in Jersey, the largest of the UK's Channel Islands. Its mission to 'save species from extinction' has driven Durrell to develop new conservation programmes, now totalling more than 30 projects in 18 countries worldwide. Durrell continues to evolve in line with a changing world and has now developed a comprehensive toolbox of skills and understanding in the management of endangered species recovery.

The ever-increasing threats to biodiversity have required us to think more critically about where we act in the system to have the most significant impact. This has enabled us to develop the scientific basis of our conservation work and to strengthen our species status assessment skills. Led by our Madagascar programme Durrell now also has a solid foundation in community conservation and education; invaluable skills in a human dominated world.

This ever expanding toolbox has been capitalised upon by the ITC to develop its capacity-building programme, thereby continuing the original vision of Gerald Durrell.

'Thus the Trust would become a form of university...where people can get the correct training...and then take their talents back to form conservation units throughout the world' Gerald Durrell, 1976, 'The Stationary Ark'

The International Training Centre



The International Training Centre (ITC) is committed to providing effective training to conservation scientists and managers; both at its Jersey teaching headquarters and overseas. We believe that offering our courses to a wide range of pioneering conservationists from all over the world is the most effective long-term means of placing endangered species and their habitats in safe hands.

Since it was opened in 1984 over 1600 conservationists from more than 120 countries have attended courses in endangered species management and recovery. The courses were initially designed to develop skills in captive species management but now have a much broader scope to equip conservationists with the skills to manage species recovery in the wild.



The ITC training courses aim to develop students' competence in a range of skills by means of effective cognitive and affective tuition. We focus on problem based learning, enabling students to learn through enquiry.

The ITC training courses revolve around four competences.

- 1) Work within context
- 2) Development of professional competences and values
- 3) Work within organisations
- 4) Promotion and enablement of partnerships

All of our courses are designed to develop skills which are vital in creating successful conservation projects. In a field that is constantly changing, a variety of skills are essential in ensuring a proposal has a promising outcome. We offer a multi-disciplinary approach that enables trainees to further the knowledge they already have whilst also gaining proficiency in areas such as species recovery management and facilitation.

Courses Based in Jersey

- Due to our position in the grounds of Durrell and our close associations with the experts working there we are able to offer students an unparalleled learning experience.
- We have purpose built learning facilities including a 50 seat lecture theatre, a reference library containing over 11000 volumes and subscriptions to over 60 journals, a computer lab and a video workshop.
- In addition to tuition from our own experts, we frequently have guest lecturers from other organisations to add further benefit to taking part in one of our courses.

Courses Based Abroad

- By conducting courses in some of the worlds 'hottest' conservation hotspots, we are able to provide practical training to conservation scientists who might not otherwise have the opportunity to study effective means of conservation management.

We encourage applications from all over the world and we are able to offer scholarships for a small percentage of our students. However, as we are a charitable trust we cannot guarantee this and ask all applicants to seek funding from other sources.

Courses

Durrell Endangered Species Management Graduate Certificate

What is the Durrell Endangered Species Management Graduate Certificate?

The Durrell Endangered Species Management Graduate Certificate is an innovative new course designed to challenge conservationists to think 'outside the box' equipping them to manage species recovery in a changing world.

Who is it for?

The graduate Certificate is designed for mid- to high- level personnel working primarily in the field but also in captive breeding facilities, such as zoos, and universities. Field staff appropriate for the course would include mid-level Forestry Officers, research biologists, community-based conservationists and educators, and protected area managers. Wildlife veterinarians, senior zoo keeping staff and university lecturers would also be ideal for this course. Participants are expected to have completed an undergraduate degree course or equivalent or be able to demonstrate significant practical experience in the field of biodiversity conservation.

What is the course content?

The 12 week course is divided into two modules:

- Application of conservation biology theory
- Transferable skills for conservation managers

The modules are designed to fuse current thinking in species conservation with the practice of endangered species management and the systems on which they depend.

The course begins with the intellectual component focussing on current thinking and evidence from conservation practice on how to achieve endangered species recovery. The practical section of this module provides intensive exposure to hands on species management techniques working with senior animal staff to develop husbandry skills.

The transferable skills module has been designed to provide conservation managers with the confidence and ability to adopt an inter-disciplinary approach to species recovery management.

How will you benefit?

The course is designed to develop the skills required to plan, manage and execute a successful conservation project.

PHVA Facilitation Skills Workshop

What is the PHVA Facilitation Skills Workshop?

The 7-day PHVA facilitation Skills Workshop is designed to develop the skills needed to facilitate a scientifically based conservation management training course or workshop, involving diverse stakeholders with conflicting interests.

Who is it for?

The Facilitation Skills Workshop is a week-long course aimed at people working in zoos and conservation organisations who wish to develop their management skills. The workshop is held in Jersey and is incorporated into the 12 week DESMAN-GCert. The course offers participants the opportunity to improve their ability in getting conservation plans developed and implemented, while also giving them the chance to work with conservationists from around the world.

What is the course content?

During the course you will learn and practise essential workshop facilitation skills including:

- Decision making
- Conflict management
- Cross-cultural Sensitivity
- Group Dynamics
- Active Listening
- Consensus building

These skills are essential in workshop facilitation. Negotiation, meeting organisation, and additional group communication skills will also be covered.

This facilitation training is intended to supplement your individual strengths and expert knowledge as a scientific wildlife manager, biologist or captive population specialist.

How will you benefit?

The training you receive will enable you to organise and conduct management-oriented conservation workshops and train others in the application of small population biology tools for wildlife conservation management. Acquiring these skills will allow you to participate in the advancement of scientifically developed recovery plans for threatened species. Gaining these key facilitation skills will enhance your abilities as a manager and help you to handle many different kinds of problem situations in a constructive and creative manner.

Amphibian Biodiversity Conservation

What is the Amphibian Biodiversity Conservation course?

Amphibian Biodiversity Conservation (ABC) is a 12 day course designed for amphibian species managers concerned with the conservation of the species and who want to learn more about the theory and practice of managing species recovery.

Who is it for?

ABC is designed for amphibian managers working in captive breeding centres (curators, senior keepers) with the species in the wild (senior forestry officers, field researchers) or as a trainer in this field (university/college lecturer)

Trained individuals can make a difference but only with the support of their organisations; this course is for staff working for organisations that can demonstrate how the skills acquired by the participants will further their conservation work.

Participants from high amphibian endemic countries will be encouraged to attend this course, both to learn, and to contribute their experiences of the realities of working in the field to conserve some of the world's most endangered species.

What is the course content?

The course is divided into five modules with associated themes:

Module 1: Understanding amphibian decline

Module 2: Prioritising and planning for action

Module 3: Research techniques for amphibian conservation

Module 4: Establishing survival assurance programmes

Module 5: Supporting recovery in the wild

How will you benefit?

Attention in the course will focus on proven and practical approaches to managing endangered species in the wild and in captivity. Equipped with new knowledge, understanding and skills participants will return to their organisations better able to determine the next course of action to conserve their amphibian species.

The course will be facilitated by ITC staff with lectures and practical sessions run by senior animal staff. Guest lectures will be given by world class amphibian experts from the fields of disease management, captive breeding, reintroduction and field conservation. Most valuably, participants will learn from each other.

Amphibian conservation requires collaboration; partnerships fostered during the course, between field and captive based species managers will provide an important and ongoing vehicle for facilitating species recovery in-situ.

Summer Course in Endangered Species Recovery

What is the Summer Course in Endangered Species Recovery?

The aims of this three-week course are to provide an introduction to practical aspects of animal management both in captivity and in the wild and to encourage a critical understanding of current and future needs of biodiversity conservation. The course is taught by people who have first hand experience of working within the sphere of conservation.

Who is it for?

The course is suitable for university students, zoo and veterinary staff who have an interest in conservation and/or captive animals.

What is the course content?

The course will consist of morning and afternoon lectures, discussion sessions and supervised research exercises. The course and its associated project work are flexible to suit most abilities and backgrounds.

The training approaches adopted are:

- Discussions on how the Trust and other organisations have integrated captive and wild conservation and where to go next.
- Lectures mixing the fundamentals and provocative appraisals encouraging you to formulate your own views about the conservation role of zoos, based upon an are given by visiting professionals and specialist staff by the Trust
- Study projects providing an opportunity for you to gain first hand experience of carrying out research and analysing data. Projects are tailored to suit your capabilities and interests and include topics such as visitor an understanding of the issues involved. The lectures surveys, studbook analysis, behavioural research, management planning, bibliographic reviews and nutritional studies.
- Practical workshops on experimental design, data analysis and demonstrations of captive and field management skills. These sessions will include:
 1. Visits with keepers to each animal section
 2. Visits with Trust biologist to the laboratory and Veterinary centre
 3. Introduction to animal records systems and population modelling in the ITC computer suite
 4. Field visit to a local nature area

How will you benefit?

In addition to being taught by our expert staff here at Durrell, two internationally recognised scientists will also play an active role in course content and presentation, in the past this has included Dr Ruth Cromie of the Wildfowl and Wetland Trust, Prof. David Houston, Division of Environmental & Evolutionary Biology and Gen Broad from the Essex Biodiversity Project. It is an excellent opportunity for those who are already working in conservation or who are thinking about a future career in conservation to make the next step and further their knowledge in this field.

Island Species Led Action

What is Island Species Led Action?

This is a 12 day course for conservation practitioners and educators working to save species from extinction in some of the world's hottest hot spots.

Who is it for?

ISLA is designed for island species conservationists from the public and private/charity sector and academic staff from island universities and colleges.

Participants from tropical and sub-tropical islands will be the primary focus for the course as a consequence of the relatively higher endemism encountered in such islands. However as threats facing biodiversity are common to most islands the course is also relevant to those working on more temperate islands.

What is the course content?

Participants will be challenged by a multi-disciplinary team of experts in island species conservation through lectures, discussions and practical activities to generate ideas and actions for conserving islands' endemic species.

The course is divided into three modules:

Module 1 – Islands out on their own

- Patterns and processes in island species composition and evolution
- Island species vulnerability and threats
- Small population biology as a conservation tool

Module 2 – Endemic action

- Research skills for conservation managers
- Managing species in the field – Conservation practice
- Captive breeding for reintroduction – when and where
- Introduced species and island extinctions
- Introduced species control – assessment, monitoring and evaluation

Module 3 – The human dimension

- Patterns and processes in Island human communities
- Techniques for engendering public and political support
- Fund-raising for island species conservation

How will you benefit?

Equipped with new knowledge, understanding and skills participants will return to their islands better able to determine the next course of action to conserve their endemic species. Partnerships fostered during the course will provide an important support mechanism to assist participants in adapting their species management strategies as new challenges arise.

Higher Education Conservation Programme

What is the Higher Education Conservation Programme?

This is a flexible programme designed to take full advantage of the exotic animal collection on-site and the conservation work being conducted on "the wilds" of Jersey itself to convey a holistic picture of the issues, problems and solutions facing modern-day conservationists as they endeavour to slow the rate of global species loss.

Who is it for?

The programme has been designed to target the post-18 age range of students following Certificate up to Undergraduate level courses in Animal Management, Animal Science and more conservation-oriented courses. Colleges and Universities from both within the British Isles and Europe are the primary audiences for this programme, though groups from further a field are encouraged to apply.

What is the course content?

As this is a programme designed to suit the needs of the groups that attend, each course is different. However common topics include:

Animal Management

- How do we design an enclosure to meet the needs of the species, the keepers and the public?
- Zoo evolution - How has the welfare of animals and their conservation importance changed over time?
- How do we manage the reintroduction of animals back into the wild

Reproduction health and Genetics

- What is small population biology and what makes small populations special

Animal Health and Disease

- What is the role of a veterinary biologist in managing endangered species health?
- What techniques can we use to monitor parasites and pathogens in populations?

Animal nutrition

- How do we plan a diet for an unknown species

Animal behaviour

- Should we manage animals to maintain natural behaviours in captivity?
- How do we conduct a study to determine if animal welfare needs are being met?

How will you benefit?

By the end of a conservation programme students will have a greater knowledge of the role zoos play in conservation projects, along with greater understanding in animal husbandry techniques. They will also be able to appreciate the importance of understanding animal behaviour in captivity for potential re-releases in the wild.

On site facilities

Libraries - The libraries have provided a service to staff, course participants and visiting personnel (research workers and volunteers). There are 3,363 authored publications and 6,104 serial items which include peer-refereed journals newsletters and popular magazines. Material is organised by the dewey decimal system and catalogued electronically using Procite. It is therefore possible to do author, title and keyword searches on books and locate individual issues of journals using the computers. We have current subscriptions to 25 journals and receive numerous others and newsletters on various arrangements. The journal and serial collection is housed in the Sir William Collins Memorial Library whilst the books, current issues of journals and reprints are housed in the Phillips Reference Workshop.

There is also a video archive containing more than 750 recorded programmes.

Computer Lab – equipped with 14 computers running Windows XP. They are networked with fast internet connection, Office 2003 and a range of specialist software relevant to zoo and field based conservation. A colour printer/scanner, slide scanner and OCR capability are also available. The room can be used for live demonstration of software for teaching purposes using a projector and screen.

Classroom – A bright room with tables and chairs for up to 16. The room is available for teaching and meeting purposes. Whiteboard/ flipchart, projection screen and LCD projector are available.

Hastings Lecture Theatre – purpose built lecture theatre with tiered seating and desk space and a capacity for 51. Incorporating a white board, ceiling mounted LCD projector, projection room with dual 35mm slide projectors and video projection capability.

Photocopier – a copier is available during the week should anyone utilising the libraries require this facility. Copies are charged at a competitive rate.

Location

The International Training Centre occupies Les Noyers a traditional Jersey farm house and buildings (a site of more than 3 hectares) in the North Western corner of the Zoo grounds. Les Noyers was purchased in the early 1980's with the express intention of developing a residential programme of training in Captive Breeding in Endangered Species.

Accommodation - The Les Noyers residence is dedicated to providing the trainees with comfortable living quarters conducive to good morale and study. We have ten study bedrooms on the 2nd and third floors of the property and can accommodate 18 people. Six of these are single occupancy the other four are shared when we are running at capacity. Rooms are comfortable hostel or student style with bed, desk and some cupboard space. Showers and toilets facilities are shared and are on the 2nd floor.

Meals - Accommodation is available on a B&B, Half board or Full board basis depending on time of year. Anne our live in housekeeper prepares a variety of meals and caters for vegan, vegetarian and religious requirements wherever possible. Meals are presented on a self service basis and enjoyed in our Dining room.

Recreation - A lounge (TV room) is available for those relaxing moments. Microwaves and kettles are available in the dining room should one want to brew a coffee or heat up a snack. Les Noyers has a mature garden regularly visited by resident red squirrels and is only 10 minutes walk to costal cliff paths. There is a bus stop at the zoo entrance which makes St. Helier easily accessible and there is ample parking.

Clothes Washing facilities - We have 2 washing machines and 2 tumble driers for use by residents. An iron and ironing board are also available on request.

Communication - There is a coin phone which accepts incoming calls in the hall and other methods of electronic communication are available if required.