

Registration

There is an upper limit of 25 seats for this workshop. We expect the participants to bring along their lap-top computers. While "pairing-up" of two persons per computer is allowed, we don't encourage it.

Please register with Dr.P.V. Karunakaran, principal scientist Landscape Ecology and provide him your name and email id.

This will allow us to create an account for you on the course management site. We will revert back to you with the confirmation and your login and password on the course site.

Requirements

This is NOT a course for persons new to computers. In fact, you'll get more from it if you are familiar with GIS and remote sensing.

The course is technical in nature and will involve extensive use of coding including SQL statements and if time permits R scripts.

Software support will only be provided for Linux (Ubuntu/Fedora) and Windows OS (preferably not Vista). Mac users are on their own.

There is no course fee, however participant will need to bear their own travel and accommodation costs. Tea and lunch will be provided at the venue.

Summary

Introductory knowledge of GIS and remote sensing is now an essential requirement for any researcher in the area of ecology or environmental sciences.

The increasing power and refinement of open source software for GIS and remote sensing has made it possible to adopt these technologies at a wider scale. Availability of data from online sources opens up even more opportunities.

This course will introduce the basics of vector GIS and GPS on the Quantum-GIS package over a period of five days.

The course is designed around a series of hands-on sessions and participants must bring their own computers with Quantum GIS installed and those who have a GPS unit should bring it along with necessary cables and software drivers.

We will utilise real data made available by the Western Ghats portal and during the course you will be introduced to this new but rapidly developing resource of spatially explicit data for the Western Ghats. The final day of the workshop will include an interaction with the team behind the Western Ghats Portal for a first hand introduction to this promising collaborative platform.

Building Capacities for Conservation Planning

18th to 22nd June, 2012.
Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History.

Five day introductory workshop for researchers on GIS and GPS using open source software. The workshop is for those familiar with GIS and GPS technologies and would like to use it for organisation, presentation and analysis of spatial data.



Supported by the Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON) and CEPF-ATREE Western Ghats Small Grants Programme. Conducted by Foundation for Ecological Research, Advocacy and Learning (FERAL).



Objectives

Researchers and development professionals involved in conservation and NRM often lack a working knowledge of GIS and remote sensing which can limit their effectiveness. This is largely due to the lack of formal training in these technologies as part of "course work" in degree leading to these professions.

The emergence of open source tools and technologies and the concerted efforts being made in making spatial data available for the conservation community presents a unique opportunity to overcome this limitation.

This series of courses intends to provide the stepping stone for such people to move into applications of spatial technologies for conservation decision support, evaluation and planning. It will primarily provide working knowledge of vector GIS and GPS use with a brief presentation on remote sensing applications.

This effort is one component of a collaborative movement to build a collaborative platform for conservation and conservation related research around the Western Ghats. It is closely linked to the ongoing work on the Western Ghats Portal and we hope that by attending it, you will become an active member of this growing online community.

What We Hope to Achieve

To train 60 to 80 individuals from a conservation background in:

- The use of GIS, GPS and remote sensing applications for conservation planning using open source tools.
- To introduce spatial statistics and landscape ecology applications which can be built upon further by these institutions for their conservation agendas.
- To create a group of GIS-enabled resource persons who will provide local support for GIS/RS.

To do this we have created a course site to serve as a resource for tutorials, quizzes, reading materials and exercises. This site will be operated for a year and participants will receive support on GIS/RS related queries for that period.

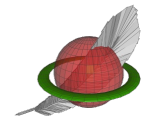
What Will be Covered

Software:

- Quantum GIS and some of its plugins for geo-processing, database management, geo-rectification and statistical analysis.
- GPS-Babel and associated GUI components for GPS data manipulation.
- DNR Garmin for Garmin GPS management on Windows OS.
- The R-package for statistical computing.

Topics:

- Installing Software on Windows and Linux systems. Sorry Mac is not supported.
- Introduction to vector GIS through Quantum-GIS
- Using a Global Positioning System for mapping and navigation.
- Basics of Geo-processing and Data Manipulation using Q-GIS.
- An Introduction to vegetation indices on Q-GIS.
- Contributing to the Western Ghats portal - an initiation into the open spatial data community.



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