

ANNOUNCEMENT

“8th Field Course in Conservation Biology & Global Health”

in Gibbon Conservation Centre, H.Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary, Assam, India, from **11th to 15th December 2017**, *A Collaborative Program of University of Washington, USA, Gibbon Conservation Centre at Aaranyak, and Assam Forest Department (Jorhat Forest Division)*

This course provides an introduction to the disciplines of Conservation Biology and Global Health – with a focus on the Human-Environment Interface. A wide range of related topic areas are covered including, field study methods, management and conservation strategies, wildlife conservation in ASSAM, primate behavior and ecology, the human-wildlife interface, issues in global health and biomedical research and translational science. This course is intended to provide participants with an initial understanding of the basic principles of Conservation Biology, experience with the methods and techniques used in field research, an appreciation of the need for population and ecosystem management and conservation, and an understanding of the complex relationship between environmental health and global health- at the human-environment interface. The course consists of daily lectures, field exercises, and community outreach education.

LECTURES: The lectures will focus on a variety of topics relating to Conservation Biology and Global Health including field study methods, population assessment, biodiversity of ASSAM, primate behaviour and ecology, management and conservation strategies, tiger conservation, vulture conservation, Turtle conservation, human-wildlife interaction and conflict, conservation medicine, emerging infectious disease, avian influenza, health concerns of local people, natural disasters and mental health, ethnobotany and traditional medicine, biomedical research and translational science. The lectures will be informal and should provide good opportunity for discussion. There will be time for more detailed questions and discussion after each lecture. The lectures will be supplemented with readings from handouts and journal articles that will be made available during the course.

FIELD EXERCISES: Several field exercises will be conducted during the course. These activities are intended to help illustrate concepts discussed in lecture and allow participants to obtain “hands-on” experience with the basic techniques of field observation and data collection. The exercises will focus on field observation techniques, equipment and technology (e.g., use of GPS, radio telemetry, trap cameras, etc.), behavioral sampling methods, line-transect sampling, biological sample collection techniques, insect sampling, vegetation sampling methods, and visits to local health clinics.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH: Participants will be required to assist in community outreach education. This outreach program is intended to help educate and involve the local school children from surrounding villages on issues related to the importance of conserving biodiversity and the implications for global health. At least one assembly will be organized at one of the local schools.

GRADES: Grades will be based on a single test given at the end of course and performance during the field exercises and community outreach program. The test will represent 50% of the final grade; the field exercises, 30% and the outreach, 20%.

Recommended Equipment for the Field Course: binoculars knife compass watch canteen clipboard insect repellent 2-3 pads of paper pens and pencils, comfortable hiking shoes small pack.

Course Fee

A course fee of Rs. 3000.00/- (Rupees Three Thousand only) only for each participant that includes course materials, simple food and accommodation in field. Participants have to manage their travel and other expenses themselves..

Mode of payment:

Course fees can directly deposit in the accounts department of Aaranyak along with the application or one can send the course fees in the form of demand draft of any nationalized bank payable to “Aaranyak” Guwahati.

Seat Capacity: Twenty (20)

Interested individuals can send the CV along with letter of interest to:

dilip@aaranyak.org and cc to gibbonconservationcentre@gmail.com on or before 20th November, 2017.

Note: Partial scholarship will be there for the selected participants.