



Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Kashmir

Main Campus, Shalimar, Srinagar Kashmir (J&K) India-190025

3 DAYS

CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM

Date
1-3
September
2026

Venue
SKUAST-K
Shalimar
Campus

ECOTOURISM IN FOREST AND WILDLIFE REALMS: PROSPECTS & CHALLENGES INDIAN FOREST SERVICE (IFS) OFFICERS

CHIEF PATRON

Prof. (Dr) Nazir Ahmad Ganai

Honourable Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Kashmir

PATRON

Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth

Dean/Director Extension, SKUAST-Kashmir

CO-PATRON

Mr. Irfan Rasool Wani (IFS)

Chief Conservator of Forest, Kashmir

COURSE DIRECTOR

Prof. Javeed Iqbal Ahmad Bhat

Prof. & Head, Division of Basic Sciences & Humanities

COORDINATOR(S)

Dr. Mudasir Manzoor Kirmani

Dr. S. A. Shameem

CONTACT

javidiqbal@skuastkashmir.ac.in (M) +91-7006170776

mmkirmani@skuastkashmir.ac.in (M) +91-9622848411

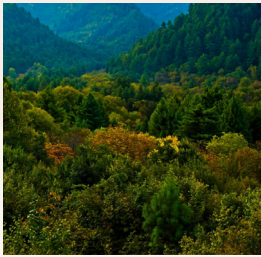
drshameem777@gmail.com (M) +91-9622502290

Organized by Division of Basic Sciences and Humanities, Faculty of Horticulture, SKUAST-Kashmir.

In collaboration with Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (Research & Training Division), Government of India.

About Training Course

Ecotourism in Forest & Wildlife Realms: Prospects & Challenges



Ecotourism is a strategic approach for conservation of forest and wildlife while promoting sustainable livelihoods, environmental education, and climate resilience. Aligned with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), UNESCO, and IUCN principles, it supports biodiversity conservation through responsible tourism, community participation, ecosystem restoration, and science-

based management. However, challenges such as climate change, habitat degradation, unsustainable visitor pressure, and weak governance require integrated policies, technological innovation, and adaptive conservation strategies to ensure long-term ecological integrity and sustainable development. Addressing these issues requires integrated landscape management, ecosystem-based conservation, science-informed policy frameworks, community-led stewardship, sustainable financing, and continuous ecological monitoring. By aligning with the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Paris Agreement, ecotourism can serve as a powerful catalyst for conserving natural capital, enhancing ecosystem resilience, supporting local economies, and ensuring the long-term sustainability of forest and wildlife landscapes.

The training course will focus on achieving the following objectives:

- Understanding the role of ecotourism in biodiversity conservation, ecosystem protection, and sustainable management of forest and wildlife landscapes.
- Evaluating the potential of ecotourism in promoting climate resilience, ecosystem services, environmental education, and sustainable livelihood opportunities for local communities.
- Exploring emerging scientific and technological approaches and addressing key challenges for strengthening conservation-oriented ecotourism management, including GIS, remote sensing, AI-based tools, biodiversity monitoring, climate impacts, and human–wildlife interactions.

Field-Based Learning and Hands-on Exposure:

The training programme integrates intensive field-based modules to provide hands-on exposure to diverse ecosystems and Ecotourism in Forest & Wildlife Realms: Prospects & Challenges:

Wular Lake | A Ramsar Wetland & Ecotourism Hotspot



located in the Kashmir Himalaya (Bandipora district, Jammu & Kashmir), is one of Asia's largest freshwater lakes and a globally significant wetland designated as a Ramsar Site in 1990. It forms a critical ecological component of the Jhelum River basin, providing flood regulation, groundwater recharge, fisheries resources, biodiversity habitat, livelihood support to local communities and climate resilience. The lake is also an important ecotourism destination, supporting birdwatching, nature interpretation, and community-based tourism. Sustainable ecotourism can strengthen wetland conservation, biodiversity protection, and local livelihoods while enhancing climate resilience.

Gulmarg | A Himalayan Paradigm of Ecotourism, Ecosystem Resilience and Sustainable Development



Nestled in the Pir Panjal range of the Kashmir Himalaya, Gulmarg represents a remarkable model of mountain ecotourism, integrating alpine meadows, coniferous forests, and the Gulmarg Wildlife Sanctuary to support Himalayan biodiversity conservation. Its iconic Gulmarg Gondola and

high-altitude golf course highlight the potential of sustainable recreation while emphasizing the need for ecosystem protection. Gulmarg exemplifies the balance between ecotourism prospects and the challenges of conserving fragile Himalayan ecosystems while advancing sustainable development

Zabarwan Hills | A Sustainable Forest & Wildlife Ecotourism, Biodiversity Conservation & Ecosystem Resilience



The Zabarwan Hills Protected Forest Landscape of Srinagar represents a unique blend of Himalayan biodiversity, forest ecosystems, and cultural heritage. Encompassing the iconic Mughal Gardens—Shalimar Bagh, Nishat Bagh, Chashme Shahi, and Pari Mahal, it offers opportunities for sustainable

ecotourism, nature interpretation, and environmental education. The landscape highlights the importance of balancing tourism, biodiversity conservation, and ecosystem protection through science-based management and community participation.



About SKUAST-Kashmir

SKUAST-K Cultivating Innovations, Harvesting Excellence



Established in 1982

SKUAST-K is a multi-campus institution with 6 campuses, 14 KVKS, and 11 research stations.

Ranked 7th

in Agriculture & Allied Sectors and 1st in Startups among SAUs.

Secured 118 patents

and supported 100+ startups with TRL levels 5–8 in the last 5 years.

Shalimar Rice-4

achieves 110 quintals/ha vs national average 25 quintals/ha.

Horticulture

productivity increased from 10 to 60 tons/ha through high-density farming.

Holistic Agricultural

Development Project approved at Rs 5,013 crores.

Recognized 1st

in Innovation & Startups among 11 universities in J&K.

Driving agri-tech

adoption with AI, IoT, CRISPR, and precision agriculture.

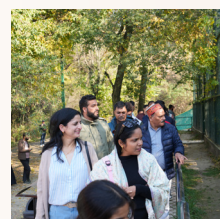
Glimpses of 2026 Capacity Building Programme of Indian Forest Service (IFS) Officers

(A) One Week Training Course on “Smart Conservation: Technological Solutions for Forest & Wildlife Protection” 20-24 July, 2026



Glimpses of 2025 Capacity Building Programme of Indian Forest Service (IFS) Officers

(B) One Week Training Course on “Forest Landscape Rebuild-An Integrated approach to Climate Mitigation & Adaptation” 27-31 Oct, 2025



Glimpses of 2025 Capacity Building Programme of Indian Forest Service (IFS) Officers

(C) Three days workshop on “Climate Mitigation & Biodiversity Conservation” 17-19 September, 2025

