

Interventions in Wild Animal Health Field Course 2018





Field Course Background

The Zoological Society of London (ZSL), The Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and The University of Edinburgh have been motivated to run this course in recognition of the need to conserve globally important biodiversity in South Asia and other biodiverse areas, which are also a hotspot for wildlife diseases and conflict. These wildlife diseases are relatively unstudied and unchecked, therefore is an important need for greater expertise in, and greater numbers of, wildlife health professionals to tackle them. Such wildlife health professionals are needed to undertake interventions in the health, welfare and conservation of wild animals, to investigate emerging infectious diseases and to ensure human well-being.

ZSL, WII and the University of Edinburgh, along with the support of the Thriplow Trust, have developed a field course to provide training for interventions in wildlife health.

- Interventions are required to address human-wildlife conflict issues
- To carry out effective metapopulation management through translocation
- To reduce the risk from disease in reintroduction and translocation programmes
- To carry out investigations in disease outbreaks in free-living wildlife and to understand the role of disease in the decline of species.

Eligibility

You must have a recognised veterinary qualification to attend this field course and have demonstrated your interest by September 2017 to be considered for the 2018 course. Priority will be given to South Asian participants.





What will I do?

Tuition will be carried out in the field to develop skills in human-livestock-wildlife conflict management, translocation techniques, disease outbreak investigation, forensic investigation and monitoring of the health of declining species. It will include techniques for field monitoring of wildlife (using a range of techniques including animal tracks and signs, dung/pellet identification and quantification, census techniques, camera trapping, and radio telemetry), biological management, visual health monitoring of free-living animals, best practice in wild animal anaesthesia techniques, demonstration and hands-on practice, clinical examination in the field, sampling techniques for infectious disease screening, pathological examination in the field, and disease surveillance scenarios.



Learning Outcomes

1. To gain a critical understanding in terrestrial wildlife population monitoring and biological management
2. To gain a critical awareness of best practice intervention methods at the human wildlife interface
3. To develop a systematic understanding of the planning of, and field methods in, pathological examination and disease outbreak investigation, and the practical implementation of a wildlife disease surveillance programme
4. To gain a critical awareness of health monitoring of wildlife and field methods to investigate the role of disease in the decline of species
5. A comprehensive understanding of best practice of terrestrial wild animal restraint and anaesthesia techniques



Where, When, Who?

Field Site

The course will be run at Sariska Tiger Reserve in the state of Rajasthan, about 200km from New Delhi. Covering 866km² the reserve supports a plethora of Indian wildlife species and provides opportunities for the in-field teaching of all subjects covered on the course.

When is the course run?

The course runs during the month of February for approximately 3 weeks. This includes all your teaching, field visits, travelling in country and opportunities to experience Indian culture.

Tutors

You will be taught by experienced wildlife veterinarians and ecologists from The WII, ZSL and The University of Edinburgh. Guest lecturers from relevant institutes and national parks within India will also contribute to your learning experience. All the course lecturers have recognised research and field experience in their subjects.

Costs

Course fees are £2,999 which includes your accommodation, food, travel within India and park fees for the course duration.

Flights to India, insurance and visa fees are not included.

How to apply

If you are eligible for the course and wish to apply please contact conservation.medicine@ed.ac.uk.

Alternatively, if you have any questions regarding the course please contact wildlifehealthbridge@ioz.ac.uk or visit www.iwah.org

