

Conservation Proficiency Course: An initiative to build future conservation leaders

Zooreach began the first batch of the Conservation Proficiency Course (CPC) 2026–27 on 29 August 2026, welcoming 10 Fellows from eight states across India. The inaugural session on 30 August brought together Zooreach family, Fellows, mentors, alumni, and well-wishers, both in person and online, to mark the beginning of a 10-month journey to build future conservation leaders. The 2026–27 cohort brings Fellows from different backgrounds, from psychology, art, commerce, science, medicine, and animal welfare.

The CPC is part of the Sally Walker Centre for Conservation, Climate and Community (SWC3C), a larger program by Zooreach built on the vision of its founder, Sally Walker, seeks to provide knowledge, skills, education, and opportunities tailored to students, professionals, and



zooreach
Zoo Outreach Organisation

conservation enthusiasts to build practical skills creating real-world impact.

The CPC, brainchild of Dr Sanjay Molur, is a 10 month residential course to build ecology supported conservation knowledge in leaders of tomorrow. A network of more than 75 mentors and resource persons from across India supports the Fellows through





Journal of Threatened Taxa team conducting Research and Publication Ethics Workshop.



Dr Sanjay Molur giving Fellows the history behind Nilgiri Biosphere Nature Park.



Dr Sanjay Molur conducting conservation biology session for Fellows.



Fellows interacting with RHATC alumnus, Maitreyi Hegde.

theoretical learning, hands-on workshops, field exposure, and professional mentoring. The programme combines foundational and advanced conservation biology with practical skill development and culminates in a six-month paid internship, allowing Fellows to gain first-hand experience of working in the conservation sector.

The first two days psychologists Priya Vijay and Bhavna Vijay from The Halcyon Experience conducted sessions on the Welfare of Wildlife, encouraging Fellows to reflect on the emotional and psychological dimensions of conservation and climate crisis. This was followed by an intensive introduction to conservation science led by Dr Sanjay Molur, covering topics like fundamentals

of conservation biology, human evolution, science and facts, ecosystem conservation, basic physics, and the origins of life. Classes were a mix of lectures with assignments, debates, and group discussions, encouraging Fellows to question, analyse, and think beyond what's taught. Payal Molur explored different approaches to conservation education, while RHATC alumnus Maitreyi Hegde introduced them to avifaunal conservation. S.R. Ganesh covered herpetofaunal ecology, taxonomy, and conservation, and Dr L.A.K. Singh introduced conservation breeding, gharial conservation, and melanism in wild cats. During this time, the Fellows also attended the first Hands on Training workshop on Research and Publication Ethics conducted by the Journal of Threatened Taxa team.

Zooreach Activity Update

The Fellows also visited Nilgiri Biosphere Nature Park in Anaikatti, Western Ghats, a Zooreach restoration initiative with nearly three decades of efforts and success. The field visit provided an opportunity to understand restoration beyond planting trees, including ecological processes, challenges, and its impact on wildlife interactions.

CPC 2026-27 visions to give opportunity to the Fellows to explore what it means to build a career and contribute meaningfully to conservation and climate crisis mitigation.

Mansukhani
family

Coromandel
FUTURE POSITIVE

murugappa

Sally Walker
Conservation Fund

Sanjay Manohar
family & friends

Trisa Bhattacharjee

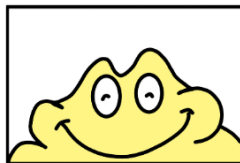
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ENABLING CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP IN AN IMPERILED WORLD



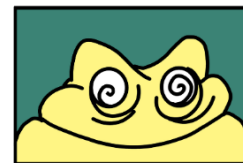
When you first
come to CPC



Getting to know
the people here



Unlearning starts



Unlearning
setting in



Reaching the 'oh
yeah!' stage



More unlearning



Unlearning max



Now you are a pro



Native, Non-
native phase



'Let's apply
this' stage



Loopholes in the
system??!!!



Hands-on
training



Field trips



Things settling



Now you know



CPC Graduation