



# DURRELL ENDANGERED SPECIES MANAGEMENT GRADUATE CERTIFICATE

DESMAN 13 SEPTEMBER - 3 DECEMBER 2021, JERSEY



**DURRELL**  
CONSERVATION  
ACADEMY

**DICE**  
University of Kent

Durrell Institute of  
Conservation and Ecology

**CMI** Chartered  
Management  
Institute

## COURSE OVERVIEW

The 12-week DESMAN course, run in Jersey annually, is Durrell's flagship Jersey-based training programme for conservationists from around the world. Each year, around a dozen conservation workers travel here to study and gain latest skills to maximise their effectiveness at managing or participating in conservation projects in their home country, or whilst working for their respective organisations. The training provides a broad range of current conservation theory, practical specific skills in endangered species management, and a range of transferable skills in conservation management, leadership communication and fundraising.

## QUALIFICATIONS GAINED

DESMAN is a well-respected qualification recognised internationally by potential employers, NGO's and associations.

The course is officially validated as a 'Graduate Certificate' by the University of Kent.

There is also an additional optional 'Leadership Certificate' accredited by the Chartered Management Institute.

## WHO IS IT FOR?

The course is suitable for candidates already showing great potential to become future conservation leaders. The DESMAN course is recognised as a Graduate Certificate and is intended for participants who have usually attained at least their first degree or have comparable experience of biodiversity conservation in the workplace.

To be eligible you must:

1. be employed in the field of conservation or in teaching conservation-related topics at graduate or postgraduate level, or working towards such employment
2. if employed, have the support of your employer and confirmation that, should you be selected, you will be returning to your place of employment after training
3. be sufficiently fluent in English to follow technical presentations, read scientific papers, and write short proposals

Please note that this is an intensive course with a considerable workload.



## WHAT IS THE COURSE CONTENT?

The taught component of the course includes the following main topics:

- biodiversity and drivers of species decline
- conservation planning and priority setting
- the role of zoos and captive breeding
- principles of animal husbandry
- conservation medicine and wildlife disease
- small population biology and genetics
- in-situ conservation techniques
- management and leadership skills
- facilitation and team skills
- GIS for conservation managers
- captive and field research skills
- education and community conservation
- fundraising and financial management



## COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course you will have learnt useful skills such as:

- ✓ population monitoring techniques
- ✓ radio tracking
- ✓ practical GIS and spatial analysis

The course also covers the principles of:

- ✓ research design
- ✓ data management and statistical analysis for conservation

You will also get the opportunity to:

- ✓ work with the animal and veterinary departments and keepers at Jersey Zoo
- ✓ learn practical aspects of care and maintenance of animals in a captive environment

We also put considerable weight on the importance of transferable 'human skills' as these are all vital to conservation success. In this context you will learn about:

- ✓ working with people
- ✓ understanding their needs and motivations, and trying to alter perceptions, attitudes and behaviours
- ✓ management, leadership, running effective teams
- ✓ communication skills
- ✓ facilitating workshops with multiple stakeholder groups

**DESMAN**  
changed my  
life, not only  
professionally but  
also personally

**DESMAN course participant**

## COURSE OUTLINE

The main topics covered will include the following (approximate time allocated is shown in brackets):

- Understanding biodiversity (3 days)
- Species conservation prioritisation and the IUCN Red List (2 days)
- Action planning and planning species recovery projects (2 days)
- Dealing with threats to biodiversity – invasive species, climate change, human-wildlife conflict, wildlife trade (3 days)
- Conservation genetics (½ day)
- The role of captive animal management in species conservation (2 days)
- Animal welfare and conservation (½ day)
- Key aspects of animal husbandry (1 day)
- Conservation medicine (2 days)
- Reintroduction (½ day)
- Population monitoring techniques (2 days)
- Community conservation and ecotourism (1 day)
- Conservation education (2 days)
- Facilitation and communication skills for conservation (5 days)
- GIS skills for conservation (5 days)
- An introduction to R for ecologists (½ day)
- Leadership and team development skills for conservation (4 days)
- Research design, statistical analysis, data management and scientific writing (4 days)
- Project management for conservation (5 days)
- Fundraising and grant-writing skills (1 day)
- Basic project accounting and budgeting (½ day)
- Public relations and using social media for conservation communication (½ day)
- Skills development task (your chance to spend time learning a specific topic of interest) (3 days)

## COURSE ASSESSMENT

You will be assessed through the following:

- Written examinations on data manipulation and conservation knowledge
- Written summary of skills development task
- Practical work assessment
- Written project proposal and presentation
- Written scientific abstract
- Scientific research poster design

## COURSE LEADERS

In addition to Durrell's own expert staff, you will be taught by a wide variety of highly respected international experts brought in to give greater insight into specialist topics. Over forty people help to deliver the training on this course.



DESMAN was the best experience of my life

**DESMAN course participant**

## OUR ALUMNI

We keep in touch with and continue to support our graduates through our graduate network. There are countless examples of graduates who have returned to their own country inspired by their training experience in Jersey and have gone on to make incredible achievements in biodiversity conservation. Here are just a few examples:



### LAURY CULLEN (1992)

Research Coordinator at Instituto de Pesquisas Ecológicas. Specialises in leading landscape restoration and sustainable community agroforestry work in Brazil's Atlantic Rainforest.



### KANCHANA WEERAKOON (1999)

Founder and leader of two community conservation organisations in Sri Lanka. Provides grass roots environmental and conservation awareness to children and young adults.



### RAMESH CHAND (2010)

Director of Kula Eco Park. Leads the successful captive breeding project for the critically endangered Monuriki Island crested iguana, with the reintroduction phase commencing shortly.

## ALUMNI STORIES: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

### ANNA CHOULER

I studied DESMAN in 2017. I was one of the few participants that didn't have a job on arrival, after struggling to find work I hoped this course would help me to gain that extra bit of knowledge to get the perfect job.

I learnt a lot on the DESMAN course, the communications and facilitations course was really great at helping me deal with challenging work situations, as well as meetings and interviews. Having Durrell experts on hand from a wide variety of fields was really great and everyone was more than happy to help.

Upon finishing my course I managed to get a job as Project Assistant for Coast Care. Coast Care is a HLF funded project run in partnership with Northumberland Wildlife Trust, Northumberland Coast AONB and The Seahouses Development Fund. I work with volunteers to help conserve the natural beauty of the Northumberland Coast. It is the perfect job for me as I get to enjoy land based activities such as wildlife surveys and land maintenance, as well as enjoying the beach with litter picks.

Thanks to everyone at Durrell for giving me that extra experience.



## ALUMNI STORIES: WHERE ARE THEY NOW? CONTINUED



### STEPHAN MELLIER

I have worked for the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation for more than six years now. I have had the opportunity to explore different projects eg: Pink Pigeon, Kestrel project and being an assistant warden on Round Island, the Reptile project and I'm now doing eco-tourism.

I had the opportunity to undertake DESMAN in 2016. It was a 3 month intensive course where I acquired knowledge that has helped me a lot now in my work. But the most memorable thing for me from the course was meeting and learning alongside different students from other countries and I was amazed at their contribution to conservation in their respective countries.

---

## ALUMNI STORIES: REPORTS FROM THE FIELD



### MUKHLISIN ABDULLAH

"I was born on the island of Sumatra where we have a great tropical rainforest. We also have several key species that live together in one habitat including rhinos, elephants, tigers and orangutans. One thing that makes me feel useful in my life is when I can do a little to ensure that our species wealth can be sustainable for future generations. I worked with reintroduction of orangutans for almost 9 years, always feeling happy when I saw orangutans that were previously hunted and maintained by humans after we released them back to nature to survive and breed.

I am very interested in increasing my capacity, and Durrell has given me the opportunity to take part in the DESMAN 2019 course. It has been an amazing experience and a lot of the knowledge and skills that I have gained here are very useful for me to apply where I work when I return to Sumatra. Besides that, I now have a relationship and shared experiences with friends from different countries who work in conservation. I have confidence that if we can work together to support each other in the conservation program, there will be more animals that we can save from extinction."

## ALUMNI STORIES: REPORTS FROM THE FIELD CONTINUED

### DHANU MUNASINGHE

"I am Dhanushri from the beautiful island of Sri Lanka! After my undergraduate studies in Singapore, I volunteered with several environmental organisations to maintain my passion for conservation and wildlife. However, it was my four-year volunteer experience at Wildlife Reserves Singapore (Singapore Zoo) that reignited my interest to make a mid-career switch from the oil & gas industry to wildlife conservation.

Currently, I am part of a team that manages the knowledge management and capacity building of conservation-related UNDP Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP) projects in the Colombo wetlands of Sri Lanka (which is a RAMSAR accredited wetland city). As cities undergo rapid development and more people move into cities for better opportunities, urban environments and wildlife face many threats. This is especially so in wetland cities like Colombo where environmental degradation and climate change affect all inhabitants alike. My work involves collaborating with various grantees as they implement their conservation projects in Sri Lanka, meeting beneficiary communities, and bringing together experts and other stakeholders to help achieve the GEF SGP targets in the focal areas of biodiversity, climate change and land degradation.

Having focused my postgraduate research on the transnational wildlife trade of vulnerable species of fauna and the relevance of the CITES Convention in Sri Lanka, I am currently interning with the Wildlife Conservation Society to investigate other trends in wildlife trade in the region. With limited resources and many odds



against us conservationists, it is important to be adaptable and skilled at managing conservation projects effectively. The DESMAN 2019 course was a life changing experience and a great achievement for me personally and professionally because I am still in the early stages of my conservation career. I gained a lot of confidence, knowledge, tools and a broad range of practical skills in conservation from the passionate staff at Durrell and other experts in the field. The course also helped me develop my skills in leadership, communication and facilitation. Participating in this course with fourteen other amazing conservationists from around the world was another valuable learning experience. All this and the networks I developed here will help me immensely in my ambitions."

## ALUMNI STORIES: COURSE FEEDBACK



### **JOKO GUNTORO**

Hi everyone, I'm Joko. I graduated from Indonesia Islamic University with a degree in Financial Management, and completed another degree in Social Development and Policy at Gadjah Mada University in Indonesia.

From 2007 to 2010, I worked for the Sumatran Orangutan Conservation Programme (SOCP). Then in 2011, I established the Satucita Foundation, a local foundation in Sumatra, which aims to conserve freshwater turtles and tortoises of Sumatra. Currently, our efforts focus on conserving the critically endangered painted terrapin (*Batagur borneoensis*) and conducting field surveys on other species. In 2016, I was selected as the Disney Conservation Hero and was nominated for the Kalpataru Award by Indonesia's Ministry of Forestry.

The DESMAN 2018 course has given me a broad range of new knowledge and skills that are crucial for conservation leaders and practitioners. They include skills and knowledge in population monitoring, GIS, facilitation, communication, leadership, diseases and health screening. Although I have already used some of these skills and knowledge in my work, there is always room for improvement!

After returning to Indonesia, my mission is to apply what I have learned from the #DESMAN2018 course to improve the conservation impact of the Satucita Foundation and its programmes.



### **INDI AKURUGODA**

“(Through DESMAN 2018) I have learnt the ways in which to mix the methods of natural sciences with social sciences to achieve conservation success, especially at the local community level. The policymakers will not agree with social science thinking, but if we can mix it with natural science theories and show them the results, it will be much easier to get their attention towards conservation.”

## VENUE AND ACCOMMODATION

The course will be held at Durrell Conservation Academy in Jersey, Channel Islands. Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust (Durrell) was established by the world renowned naturalist and author Gerald Durrell in 1963 with the primary aim of saving species from extinction. We now run 46 projects in 14 countries worldwide and have played a pivotal role in the recovery efforts for several species. Durrell Conservation Academy is located at the Trust's headquarters, Jersey Zoo. In 1984 Gerald Durrell formally established the International Training Centre (now known as Durrell Conservation Academy) on Jersey as a form of "mini university" designed to equip conservationists from across the world with the animal management and critical thinking skills

required to bring species back from imminent demise. Since this time the academy has taught around 6,000 people (both conservation practitioners and conservation students) from 151 countries. Our facilities include a 54 seat purpose built lecture theatre, two libraries, a computer lab and a classroom. There is 24 hour access to our computers and free Wi-Fi is available throughout. Most course participants choose to stay at our YHA accredited hostel, which is immediately adjacent to Durrell Conservation Academy. You will stay in shared rooms in our hostel-style residence right next to the Zoo. The residence includes a TV lounge and dining room, where meals are served for course participants.



## COST AND BOOKING INFORMATION

The total cost including all course fees, course materials, fieldtrip costs, university validation fees, on-site accommodation, and all meals is £9,800. This also includes a weekly cash stipend of £20 given to participants. NOT INCLUDED is travel to/ from Jersey or any Visa requirements.

If you do not have sufficient money to cover the above fee you will be required to state clearly upon application how much you can cover and where you expect to find the remaining funds.

We have a limited number of partial scholarships available to offer. Further information about these is provided during the selection process.

## HOW TO APPLY

EMAIL your application form and CV to:  
[academy@durrell.org](mailto:academy@durrell.org)

Please outline what you hope to gain from the course and **if applying for a scholarship** you must include: an institutional letter of support from a senior member of staff (Director or equivalent), plus two references which should provide further information about your suitability for the course.

Please note: To be eligible you must meet the criteria previously outlined under WHO IS THE COURSE FOR.

**CLOSING DATE: FRIDAY 14 MAY 2021**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, OR TO REQUEST AN APPLICATION FORM PLEASE EMAIL [ACADEMY@DURRELL.ORG](mailto:ACADEMY@DURRELL.ORG)**



DURRELL

### DURRELL WILDLIFE CONSERVATION TRUST

Durrell Conservation Academy, Les Augrès Manor,  
La Profonde Rue, Trinity, Jersey, JE3 5BP

**T** +44 (0)1534 860037

**E** [academy@durrell.org](mailto:academy@durrell.org)

**W** [www.durrell.org/training](http://www.durrell.org/training)

**SAVING SPECIES FROM EXTINCTION**