

C3: Issues in Conservation and Sustainable Development (2 credits)

Coordinator: [Dr. Sharachchandra Lele](#) with contributions from [Dr. Nitin Rai](#), [Dr. Bejoy K. Thomas](#), Dr. Ashokankur Datta (AAD), [Dr. M. Soubadra Devy](#) (SD), [Dr. Shrinivas Badiger](#) (SB), [Dr. Ravikanth G](#) (GR), [Dr. Seema Purushothaman](#) (SP) (and 1-2 guest lecturers from outside ATREE)

While the other core courses cover theories on the biotic or the abiotic environment (C1) and about human decision-making and social processes (C2), there is no explicit discussion of the environment and society relationship. This course addresses that gap. It has been tailored to broaden and deepen our understanding of human- environment interactions, and to challenge our conventional way of thinking about issues that we assume we are familiar with. The course will expose students to the magnitude, diversity, complexity, and inherent subjectivity in a range of environmental issues that are especially relevant in the south Asian or the developing country context.

Lecture modules

Part 1: Perspectives: Five perspectives that are most popular or common in environmental analysis and how each of these perspectives brings a particular combination of values, assumptions, and causality in ‘framing’ the problem.

1. Neo Malthusianism (Dr. Sharachchandra Lele)
2. Market Economics (Dr. Ashokankur Datta)
3. Institutional analysis (Dr. Sharachchandra Lele)
4. Political Economy (Dr. Bejoy K. Thomas)
5. Environmental ethics (Dr. Sharachchandra Lele)

Part 2: Debates around specific environmental issues: Nature of the crises in south Asia, and the different ways in which each crisis is being defined or ‘framed’, and implications for policy and action.

1. Forests (Dr. Sharachchandra Lele)
2. Wildlife (Dr. Nitin Rai)
3. Nuclear Energy (Dr. M. V. Ramana)
4. Dams (Dr. Sharachchandra Lele)
5. Air Pollution (Dr. Ashokankur Datta)
6. GMOs (Dr. G.. Ravikanth)
7. Water (Dr. Shrinivas Badiger)
8. Urban Environment (Dr. M. Soubadra Devy)
9. Climate Change (Walter Mendoza)
10. Agriculture/Biofuels (Dr. Seema Purushothaman)
11. Synthesis (Dr. Sharachchandra Lele)

Readings

- a. Part 1 will be based on five chapters in Robbins et al (to be shared beforehand)
- b. Each session in part 2 will use 2-3 readings as background material. These readings (to be assigned by different lecturers) will be announced a week beforehand and uploaded to the AT-REE repository.