NATIONAL CONSERVATION TRAINING PROGRAMME

Fauna & Flora International, in partnership with the International Centre for Protected Landscapes, UK, the University of Central Asia, the Institute of Zoology and Parazitology at the National Academy of Sciences, and the Institute of Professional Development in Tajikistan, are working together on a Darwin Initiative project entitled "Building capacity and resilience within the conservation sector in Tajikistan".

The objective of this project is to improve conservation impact in Tajikistan by increasing the capacity of current and future conservation professionals through establishing a conservation skills training programme and promoting applied conservation research.

This programme is based on discussions and consultation with many people and organisations. It is aimed at conservationists, protected area, wildlife and forest managers, and people working with rural communities. It aims to **increase people's ability to conserve biodiversity and ecosystems** and to **help people living in isolated rural areas to benefit from biodiversity conservation**.

The full programme contains **six modules** that have been chosen to reflect Tajikistan's priorities for biodiversity conservation. Each module will be ten days long, and will consist of formal lectures, discussion groups, group activities and a field-based exercise, and will be assessed by a written activity.

I   Biodiversity monitoring and surveying; information management
   As a result of this module you will be able to:
   - Gather, manage, analyse and use data and information
   - Develop techniques for surveying and monitoring, including the use of indicator species, and sampling a range of environmental conditions
   - Carry out basic statistical analysis
   - Observe and record a range of animal and plant species and habitat types in the field
   - Monitor trends resulting from natural events and human impacts

II   Protected Area systems and management, including community involvement
   As a result of this module you will be able to:
   - State the management purposes of the six IUCN protected area categories and how these relate to Tajikistan's system
   - List and describe Tajikistan's international biodiversity obligations

- State and summarise Tajikistan's national laws on biodiversity and protected areas
- Design and implement area and site based management plans
- Evaluate the effectiveness of protected area management in specific cases
- Describe the relationships between communities and protected areas, and how these relationships can support protected area management
- State how different techniques can be used (such as zoning and use rights) can be used to manage protected areas effectively

III Sustainable livelihoods and participatory and approaches to conservation
As a result of this module you will be able to:
- Describe the benefits and challenges of taking a participatory approach to conservation
- Explain the key elements and principles of sustainable livelihoods approaches and their application to conservation
- Apply a range of skills and tools/methods to facilitate a participatory approach to conservation
- Describe the importance of monitoring and evaluating the impact of conservation activities on local livelihoods

IV Ecosystem approach and integrated landscape management
As a result of this module you will be able to:
- Describe the concept of ecosystem services
- Describe and discuss the ecosystem approach and the need to manage natural resources and wildlife at the 'landscape' level
- Classify landscape according to relevant criteria
- State how ecosystems are valued according to market and non-market criteria
- Describe the concept of 'limits of acceptable change' and how it can be applied to ecosystem management

V Sustainable forest use and management
As a result of this module you will be able to:
- Describe the ecology of Tajikistan's forest systems
- Identify and describe the main species in Tajikistan's forest habitats
- Be familiar with the Forest Code and other relevant legislation
- Summarize the market and non-market values of forest products and services
- Describe the inter-relationship between Tajikistan's forests and local communities and other stakeholders

- Design and implement forest user management plans in collaboration with forest stakeholders

VI Project planning, management and funding

As a result of this module you will be able to:

- Understand and use project management tools such as the project cycle, stakeholder analysis, problem analysis, logframe etc
- Develop criteria and objectives for measuring success in project management
- Develop project proposals
- Describe basic business planning and carry out basic budgets and financial management systems
- Keep records and write reports
- Evaluate the social, environmental and economic impacts of projects

(Please note that the outcomes listed above are subject to change as UK experts involved in developing the modules will be seeking assistance and input from qualified Tajik specialists, and the modular outcomes may subsequently be modified.)