



Scholarship Opportunity

*Course “Herramientas Económicas para la Conservación de la
Naturaleza en México y Centroamérica*

Latin America and Caribbean (LACA) Section

The Society of Conservation Biology throughout the Latin American and Caribbean Section (LACA) announce a scholarship opportunity for a LACA Section member in support to attending the Course “Herramientas Económicas para la Conservación de la Naturaleza en México y Centroamérica”. For more details see the information below and to apply visit <http://conservation-strategy.org/en/course/herramientas-economicas-mex-2015#.VY3MEs3pjA> Deadline is **May 22nd**. If you have any questions regarding the course please contact Eduardo Ponce (eponce@ecologia.unam.mx).

We hope this information is of your interest and we would greatly appreciate your support sharing the invitation with potential SCB members and encourage more people to become part of the SCB-LACA Section.

COURSE ANNOUNCEMENT

Conservation Strategy Fund (CSF) in partnership with the National University of México (UNAM) is offering its 2nd annual training course in Mexico, Herramientas Económicas para la Conservación de la Naturaleza en México y Centroamérica, June 15-26, 2015 in the Chamela Biological Research Station located in the Pacific coast of Jalisco, México. This course, created by CSF has become recognized as the premier applied economics training event for conservation professionals from around the world.

During the comprehensive two-week session, participants will learn to use economics to be more strategic and successful in their conservation work, and experience a transformational shift in how they view environmental issues. The course covers economic fundamentals, natural resource and environmental economics, and negotiation techniques, and hands-on experience with cost-benefit analysis. These skills are crucial at a time when global-scale environmental changes are being driven by a diversity of economic factors, and when conservation leaders are striving to harness opportunities to reward the preservation of ecosystem services.

BENEFITS

Participants gain:

- An essential foundation in basic economic concepts and language.
- Insight into the drivers of environmental problems.
- The ability to formulate more effective solutions and policies for conservation.
- Skills to evaluate the costs and benefits of natural resource management and development decisions, and the ability to identify the best opportunities to apply economics to conservation.
- Invaluable practice using communication and negotiation techniques to articulate environmental values in a language that communities, businesses, and governments can understand.
- A close network with fellow conservation professionals through the unique CSF Residence.

COST

The Scholarship provided by LACA Section is to cover the total cost for the two-week course (US\$2,500 per participant). This fee covers the following:

- Instruction by economic experts
- CSF course facilitators and residential staff
- All course materials and supplies
- Exclusive access to CSF online workspace with course reading and materials
- 13 nights lodging in the Biological Research Station on the Jalisco coast.

- All meals and coffee breaks during course, with the exception of lunch on day off
- Access to Biological Research Station facilities
- Laundry facilities
- Assistance planning day-off activities in Chamela and surrounding area
- Lifetime membership in CSF's global Alumni Network

Accepted applicants are responsible for seeking their own funding from employers, government, sponsors or other funding sources to cover their course fees and travel expenses.

PARTICIPANTS

This course is for people at the forefront of conservation challenges, including managers of conservation programs and protected areas, directors of non-governmental organizations, and representatives of government agencies. Applicants from a variety of disciplines such as biology, forestry, law, anthropology, or economics are encouraged to apply. Previous training in economics is beneficial, but not essential. Course will be imparted in Spanish, however applicants must be proficient in reading English since most of lectures are in English.

PROGRAM

Microeconomics

- Market theory: Supply, demand, market equilibrium, and competition.
- Externalities, market failures and public goods: Why markets are inefficient when it comes to environmental protection.

Natural Resource Economics

- Capital theory: The time value of money, interest rates and how they influence the use of natural resources.
- Renewable resource extraction: Forestry and fishery economics, optimal harvesting and policy options.
- Exercises and instruction focused on game theory and forest policy negotiation skills.

Environmental Policy

- An overview of various environmental policies to correct the problems of externalities, public goods and market failures, and the role of property rights.
- An overview of the role of environmental policies such as command and control legislation versus economic instruments for conservation such as taxes, subsidies, and tradable permit systems.

Environmental Valuation and Ecosystem Services

- Environmental values, the methods used to calculate them, and how these methods are best used in various countries.
- Exercises to identify relevant ecosystem services and appropriate valuation methods.

Cost-Benefit Analysis

- Case studies evaluating the economic feasibility of small-scale and large-scale projects, including incorporation of externalities and sensitivity analysis.

Thanks in advance,

Saludos desde la Ciudad de México

Eduardo Ponce

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Chapter Director

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