



GREEN SKILL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME GSDP

CERTIFICATE COURSE:

**Nature Conservation & Livelihood:
Ecotourism**

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Prepared by,
**ENVIS RP on “Ecotourism”,
Sikkim State Council of Science & Technology,
Government of Sikkim.**

In partnership with
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Forest Environment & Wildlife Management
Department, Government of Sikkim.**





COURSE CONTENT

CERTIFICATE COURSE:

Nature Conservation & Livelihood: Ecotourism (Level 4-NSQF)

Duration: 2 months (200 hours)

Syllabus Structure

- I. Tourism, Ecotourism, Sustainable Tourism Development (50 hrs)
- II. Biodiversity, Ecotourism products, Tourism related Entrepreneurship, Activities/Site visits in Ecotourism (80 hrs)
- III. Nature guide, Homestays, Waste Management (50 hrs)
- IV. Markets - Marketing, Homestay hosting, Basic computer skills and GIS Theory and Practice (20 hours)





(Level 4-NSQF)

CERTIFICATE COURSE: Nature Conservation & Livelihood: Ecotourism

Duration: 2 months (200 hours)

Background: “Ecotourism is the responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and improves the well being of the local people”. That being said the changing face of ecotourism presently includes adventure, culture and ecotourism. Under the above said programme, a candidate who has not undergone higher education beyond Class X/XII will be inculcated with basic skills to manage and entertain ecotourists and maximize his or her ecotourism experience. This will be a basic course for 1 month. This course is designed to help youth with ecotourism employment in the mountain areas. The candidates are expected to hone the following skills at the end of the basic course.

1. To be employed as Nature guide, eco-tour guide, trekking guide
2. To be employed in homestay, ecolodge, national parks, travel agencies
3. To be able to manage and operate one’s own homestay independently
4. To be able to understand Sustainable Tourism Development and its significance to the environment
5. To be able to inculcate interest in ecotourism related entrepreneurship.
6. To be able to pursue ecotourism activities, like bird - butterfly watching guides, ecotourism travel agencies, adventure tourism activities.

Syllabus Structure

I. Tourism, Ecotourism, Sustainable Tourism Development (50 hrs)

1. Tourism [10 hours]

- Introduction to Tourism
- Why every country is interested in development of tourism?
- Socio-economic benefits of tourism.
- Who is a tourist?
- Types of tourism
- Concept of responsible tourism.
- Importance of Tourism Guide, body language, communication skills.
- Scenario of tourism in Sikkim, India, Rest of the world
- Economic importance of tourism in Sikkim, why?





2. Sustainable Tourism Development [10 hours]

- i. Sustainable Development
 - background, concept and definition
- ii. Dimensions of sustainability – social, economic, environmental
 - Global warming and sustainable development
- iii. Sustainability and climate change issues in tourism
- iv. Sustainable tourism meaning, definition
 - Benefits and issues of sustainable tourism development
- v. Approaches in sustainable tourism;
 - Ecotourism, Responsible tourism
 - Eco friendly practices and energy waste management
- vi. Benefits of Sustainable Tourism Development

3. Ecotourism: Concept and definition, components and principles [15 hours]

- How to identify a potential Ecotourism area
- Benefits of Ecotourism
- Community based development and Ecotourism, Case study and scenario
- Conservation and Community: benefits and costs
- Sikkim as an Ecotourism Destination
- Ecotourism Zones in Sikkim
- Code of conduct for ecotourist
- Ecotourism potential at Regional level
 - Northeast, East, North, Northwest, Central, South
- Sikkim Ecotourism Policy

4. Tourism system [5 hours]

- Market – Destination – Connectivity, (social, economic, practical environment)
- Kolkata customers motivation, 50 % tourists come to Sikkim from Kolkata, why? What is their motivation?
- Ecotourism System
- Carrying capacity of an Ecotourism Site, how is it measured, its effects to a particular ecotourism site; Case study or scenario discussion
- Advantages of Ecotourism.

5. Importance of Tourism Guide in the tourism system. [10 hours]

- Skills and traits required for being a successful tourist guide
- Who is a tourist guide?
- Role of a tourist guide and their functions
- Categories of tourist guide,
- Ecotourism guide, Ecotourist Profile
- Personal conduct with the visitors





- Interaction with the visitors
- Maintaining daily record of Visitors/ Activities/Queries/Feedback/Observation

Note: Tourism Interpretation is to be demonstrated during site visits where trainers have to interpret birds, butterflies, biodiversity, plants, monasteries, heritage sites, etc.

II. Biodiversity, Ecotourism products, Tourism related entrepreneurship, Activities/Site visits in Ecotourism (80 hours)

6. Biodiversity [20 hours]

- Introduction to Biodiversity: Definition of biodiversity-Taxonomy and its relevance to biodiversity studies- Role of Para taxonomists
- Biodiversity profile of India (with special focus to Sikkim)
- Biogeographic regions
- Vegetation types
- Major ecosystems (Terrestrial, Wetlands, Desert, Coastal/Mangrove.)
- Biodiversity hotspots in India and endemism
- Protected Areas and their relevance in conservation of biodiversity in India (Sikkim specific)
- Biodiversity in Sikkim,
- Ecotourism Zones in Sikkim
- Flora and fauna at different regions of Sikkim
- Joint Forest Management Committee (JFMC)/Eco-development Committee (EDC)
- Biological Diversity Act and rule
- Biodiversity laws (Sikkim, India, CBD) – WPA poster/handbook can be provided
- People’s Biodiversity Register (PBRs)
- Himal Rakshak
- Ecotourism Zones in Sikkim

Field visit and practical exposure to various Ecotourism sites.

7. Ecotourism Products [60 hours mainly site visit and interpretation]

- What are ecotourism products?
 - Levels of products
 - Destinations – climate , terrain, people, food, indigenous food
 - Geography of destination
 - History and Culture of tourism destinations
- Eco-tourism:
 - Variety of ecotourism products,
 - Visits to ecotourism sites, videos to be shown
 - Agro forestry in Sikkim, a preview, -> *site visit*
- Heritage ; meaning, types of heritage sites of India
 - Monasteries, festivals
- Nature Based Products
 - Island and beaches





- Deserts and Hill Stations
- Protected Areas: wildlife sanctuaries, national parks
- Special interest tourism products
 - Handicrafts, Lepcha Hat, thanka painting, IPR, bamboo, bamboo lamps, thankas, large cardamom, kiwi, tea, seasonal exotic vegetables like Nakeema (edible wild orchid)
- Tangible and Intangible Ecotourism products.
 - *Site visit to Botanical Tours, Birds & Butterfly*
- History of Sikkim,
 - *Site visit to Namgyal Institute of Tibetology*
- Cultural Heritage of Sikkim, fairs and festivals,
- Khangchendzonga National Park, A mixed world heritage site.
- Introduction to bird watching, butterfly watching, naturalist with
 - *Site visit to Dzongu, Mayallyang Homestay*
- Indigenous traditional knowledge, tourism merchandise

8. Adventure tourism – definitions and forms

- Issues and challenges. Case studies: Sikkim, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand
- Eco-adventure products
 - Hill based adventure tourism
 - Organisations involved in planning and management of Eco and Adventure Tourism in India.
- Disadvantages of Ecotourism
 - a. Biopiracy.
 - b. Intellectual Property Loss
 - c. Conservation Ethics
- *Site visit to Chemchey to know about Adventure tourism, opportunities, mountaineering*
- *Site visit to various in-situ, ex-situ conservation sites*
- *Site visit to National Park, Protected Areas, high altitude wetlands, nature walks and trails*
- *Site visit for introduction to crafts and bamboo, bee keeping, mushroom cultivation, kitchen gardening*
- *Site visit to ecotourism entrepreneurs, local products, local delicacies, handicrafts, tourism merchandise*
- *Site visit to local resources PBRs, through the local BMC*
- *Site visit to homestays in Sikkim and Kalimpong*

Note: Site visits should be focused on interpretation of a particular site by a trainer with proper interpretative techniques and body language in order to teach the trainee the art of interpretation of an ecotourism site, how to conduct an ecotour.





III. Nature guide, Homestays, Waste Management training (50 hrs)(Theory and practical)

9. Capacity building on Nature Guides [5 hrs]

- Basic Campsite materials required, Gear, Safety measures,
- Who is an Eco Trekker?
- Campsite management
 - i. Environmental aspects
 - ii. Physical aspects
 - iii. Management considerations
- *Safety measures. **Demonstration** to be organized by STNM hospital on the below subjects*
- High altitude sickness (Theory and Practical)
 - i. Prediction
 - ii. Prevention
- Safety Measures during trek (Theory)
 - i. First and tips
 - ii. Common Medical Problems
 - iii. Medications
- Maintaining daily record of Visitors/Activities/Queries/ Feedback/ Observations

10. Waste Management[10 hours]

- Understanding waste issues;
- Case studies on zero waste trails
- Garbage Management and trash Disposal
- Concept of Bio Toilets
 - i. Biodegradable and non biodegradable waste
 - ii. Trash and inorganic waste
 - iii. Eco friendly bins
 - iv. Proper toilet tent
 - v. Pollution management
- *Field Visit and hands on training on nature guide, waste management by experts and resource persons/ECOSS/WWF*

11. Capacity building for trek cooks [5 hrs] (Theory and practical demonstration, videos, presentation)

Note:

In this module, focus will be on indigenous food, presentation and preparation basics. Theory should include concept of plant based food for our diet and why due to commercialization





and globalization, processed foods, meat are a bane to our diet and the environment and contributes directly/indirectly to many unnecessary diseases. Thus the concept of Organic food, whole foods, seeds, indigenous food, exotic vegetables like nakeema, Shinphing, large cardamom, kiwi, mandarin, tea, protein based indigenous pulses, rice varieties and concept of land races. Disadvantages of processed global foods and how local foods are the future.

- Introduction to Cookery, Aims and Objectives
 - i. Basic raw materials required.
 - ii. Essentials nutrients
 - iii. Hygiene and sanitation
 - Menu Planning
 - i. External factors
 - ii. Internal factors
 - iii. Essentials for a good menu
 - Menu Compilation
 - i. Dinner
 - ii. Breakfast
 - iii. General rules of frying.
 - iv. Methods of cooking
 - Costing and Control (Elements of Cost)
 - i. Food cost
 - ii. Labour cost
 - iii. Overhead cost
 - iv. Nutrition and food value
 - v. Essentials of control
 - Packaging of Food Materials
 - Serving Technique
 - Fuel and Energy use
 - i. Gas
 - ii. Solar energy
- *Field visit and practical exposure on cooking by experts and resource persons/ ECOSS*

Homestays/ Eco Lodges (Theory and practical demonstration, site visits) [30 hrs]

12. Homestay management [12 hours]

- What is a homestay? What is an Eco-Lodge?
 - Traditional Lodge VS Eco-Lodge.
 - Ecotourism Accommodation Spectrum
- i. Introduction to lodge, eco-lodge and homestay
 - lodge, homestay and eco-lodge
 - difference between hotel and homestay
 - most important things in homestay
 - why do tourists come to a homestay
 - ii. Services
 - Good service in homestay “good service means good business”





- iii. Setting up standards
 - Requirements for standard bed-room
 - Requirements for standard bath and toilet
- iv. Value for money
 - Hospitality model
- v. Welcoming and farewell
 - check-in and check-out, welcome
 - Details of traveler or guest
 - Welcome by host of homestay
- vi. Attributes of homestay host
 - check-out, farewell
 - handling complaints
- vii. Hygiene and sanitation
- viii. Menu planning
- ix. Methods of cooking
- x. Service sequence
- xi. how to serve a meal
- xii. Bed making
- xiii. Cleaning a room
- xiv. Kitchen atmosphere

13. Homestay construction (Theory and field visit to Ranka/Otherside homestay, Pali Ghar Kalimpong, Lonely planet homestay, Phamlagang homestay, Pelling) [8 hours]

- Vernacular architecture
- Rain Water harvesting
- Natural/ traditional building architecture
- Green building concepts
- Concrete building and its disadvantages
- Balance between natural and concrete architecture
- Earth and bamboo architecture
- Imbibing creativity for homestay building and construction
- Hygiene and disadvantages of natural building

IV. Markets- Marketing, Basic Computer Skills, Homestay Hosting, GIS Theory and Practical. [20 Hours]

14. The Ecotourism Market. [10 hours]

- Ecotourism Market for Sikkim. Potential? Issues and Challenges
- Marketing of Eco and Adventure Tourism in Sikkim
- Tourism Promotion – career opportunities in Tourism Industry
- Billing and feedbacks
- reviews by the guest

Homestay marketing (case study, practical and internet/ ENVIS RP)[5 hours]





- Registering Homestay in Tourism Department, Government of Sikkim
- Registering your homestay (online & offline)
- Advertise your lodge
- Details of your lodge (description)
- OTAs (Online travel agents)
- Identifying an ecotourist (potential online)
- Using the internet to feed information of your homestay
- Photos and pictures of homestay
- Handling customer reviews and feedback, expecting reviews
- Rates and itineraries of homestay
- How to make money

15. Fundamentals of Computer, MS Office, Internet, Email (Remote Sensing centre)[10 hours]

- Introduction to Geographical Information Systems, GPS coordinate
- Introduction to Google Earth and GIS Software – [ArcGIS, QGIS and Google Earth].



