



## Information and Announcements

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### The Cutting Edge of Conservation

*Ankila Hiremath and Kartik Shanker*

*Editors, Current Conservation*

Mention the word ‘conservation’ and for most people the mental images evoked are of tigers, elephants, giant pandas, marine turtles, or of imposing liana-festooned tropical rain forests. But conservation is as much about these iconic creatures and habitats as it is about other, less photogenic things: the tribal forest-dweller who depends on wild fruits for her livelihood and subsistence; the hill farmer deciding between growing an organic apple orchard or selling his land to a developer wanting to build a mountain-view resort; the decision-makers sitting in far-off cities amending the wildlife protection act, or formulating policies about land use.

Despite the complex cross-scale linkages involved in conservation and environmental stewardship, the field has traditionally been the realm of biologists and natural scientists. Yet clearly, conservation and environmental stewardship are as much about people, communities, societies, and their choices, perceptions, and decisions, as they are about animals and forests.

Today more than at any time in the past, we are undergoing both environmental and societal change at a rate, and at a scale, that is unprecedented. Thus, the urgency to enlarge the constituency for conservation and environmental stewardship has also never been greater than it is today. How do we do this? One of the biggest challenges for conservation in our times is communication. Not just communication amongst biologists, but communication amongst a wider cross-section of civil society stakeholders. And not just communication about the threats to conservation – the doom and gloom – but also communication about the research, the successes, and the stories.

*Current Conservation* is a new conservation magazine that attempts to do just that. It is a publication brought out by an informal alliance of natural and social scientists who are interested in interdisciplinary research in conservation, and in fostering communication amongst scientists, natural resource managers, educators, and policy makers. *Current Conservation* is published 4 times a year. It is attractive and accessible (in an online version that is open access, and in an affordable hardcopy version). And it carries original articles, conservation and management news and stories from around the world, book reviews, and relevant research articles from a variety of academic



publications translated into language that is accessible to a wider readership. Recent issues have featured perspectives on the Forest Rights Act, and a debate on relocation for conservation. Upcoming issues contain special sections on the role of field assistants in wildlife and conservation biology, and on the roles and actions of big international conservation NGOs.

Visit us at [www.currentconservation.org](http://www.currentconservation.org).

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## Networking Resource Centre

*(Funded by the University Grants Commission)*

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NMR School (October 19–31, 2009)

The Centre is organising an NMR School (Theory and Practice of Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy for Research Students) from October 19–31, 2009. The training school will consist of lectures, tutorials and practice sessions. Students pursuing a research program (MPhil, PhD, Post doctoral) are invited to apply. Participation is limited to 20 students. Traveling as well as a maintenance allowance will be paid by the Centre. There is no registration fee. Selection will be made based on academic record and research experience. Preference will be given to applicants from colleges and universities.

The application form may be downloaded from the Centre's website.

**The completed form may be sent by post or by email, not later than September 30, 2009.**

