



**MANIPAL**  
ACADEMY of HIGHER EDUCATION  
BENGALURU

(An Institution of Eminence Deemed to be University)



MANIPAL CENTRE FOR DESIGN WITH ENVIRONMENT  
THROUGH EDUCATION, PLANNING & ADVOCACY



# BE AN AGENT OF CHANGE

A TRANSDISCIPLINARY CERTIFICATE COURSE IN  
**DESIGN FOR CONSERVATION  
AND JUST FUTURES**  
IN COLLABORATION WITH UNEP INDIA





# REAL CRISIS. REAL RESPONSE.

## ABOUT THE CENTRE

**Manipal Centre for Design With Environment through Education, Planning & Advocacy (DWEIPA)** is a world-class space for practice-based research, environmental education, and local action. It responds to environmental concerns and conflicts through transdisciplinary approaches and situated practices, working to build and restore nature–culture synchronicities. The centre is a pioneer in **design research for sustainable and resilient futures**, in line with the SDGs including 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 17. The centre will **drive change by engagement on the ground through new eco-pedagogies, policy propositions, consultations, and planning and design.**

Today, we are faced with complex issues in human habitats that are entwined with climate change. The

limited extent of human knowledge of nature and the nonhuman world has precipitated a crisis. We need new imaginations and design thinking to better understand the complexities and multi-layered issues, and respond with greater rigour and sensitivity.

**We believe design research and creative practices create transdisciplinary modes to read and respond with and through engagement, generating new knowledges and possibilities.**

Along with place-based activities, there is a need to internationalise our thoughts and ideas, through scholarships, projects and events. Due to the intense and rapid alienation of humanity from the environment and climate, it is imperative to study environmental socio-climatic conditions, particularly in the Global South.









# REDESIGN THE FUTURE

## CERTIFICATE COURSE IN CONSERVATION AND JUST FUTURES

Join a groundbreaking certificate course **‘Design for Conservation and Just Futures’** that redefines how we understand and engage with the environment. This **immersive, transdisciplinary journey** takes you beyond the classroom into real-world, place-based explorations of ecology. You will tackle pressing global issues like **climate change, environmental justice, and the anthropocene**, uncover everyday **sustainable practices and master the art of systems thinking** in a changing world. From immersive fieldwork to big-picture reflection, you’ll develop the critical skills to interpret, critique, and creatively intervene in the complex relationships

between people and the environment. The course culminates in a powerful capstone project that challenges you to turn insight into real-world action.

**Offered in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme, India**, this course is your opportunity to become an agent of change equipped with the tools, insights and imagination to help shape a more sustainable and just future.





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THIS ISN'T  
JUST  
EDUCATION.  
IT'S A **DEEP,**  
**GROUNDED**  
**PRACTICE**  
**FOR A WORLD**  
**IN CRISIS.**

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## CREATED FOR YOU

This certificate course lies at the intersection of Environmental Humanities, Design and Practice Research.

“Design for Conservation and Just Futures” is for you if you are:

- Passionate about change-making in the field of environment and ecology.
- Tying with the idea of doing a PhD in this field.
- Looking to upskill by integrating design thinking and creative practice into conservation work.
- Preparing for a Master's and want to explore participatory and inclusive responses to environmental crisis.

## CURATED FOR YOUR FUTURE



### Engaging in Landscapes

Explore ecologies through immersive, place-based experiences that begin on the ground and grow through reflection.



### Learning beyond Disciplines

Integrate design, ecology, humanities, and policy to act with clarity, creativity, and purpose.



### Balancing Theory and Practice

Engage with faculty who combine practical insight with academic depth.



### Imagining New Futures

Build critical tools, systems thinking and a capstone that connects your learning to real-world challenges.



## LEARN FROM THE BEST



### Dr. Meera Baidur

Meera has over twenty years of teaching experience and over fifteen years of research experience. She has been deeply involved in humanities and social science education in India and is passionate about the environment and philosophy. Her teaching and research interests are interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary. She is interested in Indian Philosophy and environmental humanities, such as the conceptualization of nature in Indian thought, ecological and environmental ethics, religion and environment, and sustainability issues. More broadly, her research currently is around lived concepts of Indian philosophy, including place, aesthetics, decoloniality, ecofeminism, and gender issues. She is also a published fiction author, and artist.



### Dr. Deepta Sateesh

Deepta is a design researcher, educator, architect and planner, working in sensitive wetscapes. Her transdisciplinary research is focused on creating new pathways in practice, education and policy. The approaches she works through gathers diverse ontologies, situated practices, movement, and the politics of the colonial eye, seeking new ways of engaging in and reading shifting terrains. She is entangled in art and design, environmental humanities and philosophy, to build new futures. She approaches design as a responsive, inclusive, and participatory practice - engaging with more-than-human beings, material processes, practices, and phenomena through immersive primary research. She is also a dancer, photographer, and equestrian.







### **Dr. Mohan Seetharam**

Mohan was born in India, and has lived and worked in Africa, the Caribbean, Australia, the United States, and the South Pacific islands. He was awarded a doctorate from Clark University's Graduate School of Geography in 2007 for research that examined the effects of environmental and social geographical factors on human development. Mohan has received fellowship, grants and award support from sources including the George Perkins Marsh Institute, US National Science Foundation and the University of Colorado PERISHIP dissertation fellowship, US National Academy of Science fellowship, and a postdoctoral research fellowship from the Global Institute of Sustainability at Arizona State University.



### **Malvika Tewari**

Malvika Tewari is a designer and illustrator who uses visual narrative as a medium and form to tell stories of and through the environment. She is an alumnus of Srishti Institute of Art, Design and Technology, Bangalore. Her design process is inspired by her collaborations with scientists, educators, lawyers, government bodies, and local communities working in wildlife and environment conservation. Her projects are based in fragile landscapes such as Agumbe, North-East India, and Lakshadweep. A sensitive artist at heart, Malvika has also explored theatre and shadow puppetry as a way of storytelling.



## WORKSHOPS & MASTER CLASSES

Workshops and masterclasses will be delivered throughout the course by trained professionals in **ecology, policy, political ecology, environmental management, creative practices, and advocacy**. These sessions will feature experienced facilitators from the Manipal Centre for DWEEPA and its networks, alongside experts from UNEP India.

## COURSE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Minimum criteria is a Bachelor's Degree in any of the following or other fields related to environment: **Law and Policy, Humanities, Natural and Field Sciences, Architecture, Planning, Design, Environment Studies, Urban Studies, Social Work, Economics, Geography, Journalism, and other** related fields and disciplines.

The course will run for **6 months** (24 weeks), and will be **in-person, full-time**. The course is in two sessions of 12 weeks each.

Session 1	Begins mid-September 2025
Session 2	Begins mid-January 2026

## COURSE FEES

INR 1,25,000 / person



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DESIGN BEGINS  
WHERE **THE LAND**  
**SPEAKS AND WE**  
**CHOOSE TO LISTEN.**

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**Manipal Centre for Design With Environment through Education,  
Planning & Advocacy (DWEIPA)** Manipal Academy of Higher Education  
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