

How can I participate in this unique program?

The courses are taught online, and access to the internet is required. This makes the courses accessible to a large number of students around the world. Each course takes about seven weeks to complete.

Registration is simple, Contact the nearest office of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature for specific information on course requirements, registration, fees and time table.

Building Capacity: The Need is Great

In a world characterized by change, uncertainty and conflict, the future of protected areas as a cornerstone of conservation of natural heritage remains as uncertain as ever. Confronted by the needs of a growing human population, rising impacts of human activity on biodiversity and expanding expectations of protected area functions, managers need new conceptual and practical skills to make decisions to sustain not only natural heritage but human life itself.

Building problem solving skills is fundamentally one of the greatest needs and also one of the greatest challenges of the 21st century for reserves and protected areas.

Build your skills in this innovative program!

Protected Area Distance Education Program Launches

Royal Academy for Nature Conservation - The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature in cooperation with the University of Montana & the U.S. Forest Service.



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RSCN

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Academy



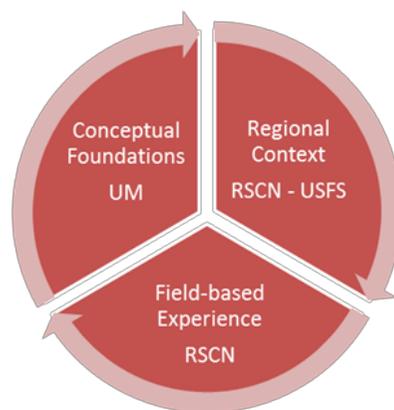
Building Protected Area Capacity to Confront the Opportunities of the 21st Century

A unique, globally significant partnership, comprised of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN), the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the University of Montana (UM) in the U.S. have launched a graduate level Protected Area Distance Education Program.

The program is designed to qualify mideastern protected area professionals in providing stewardship of the region's precious biodiversity and to prepare them for dealing with the rapid pace of global and regional social and environmental change, addressing the rising demand for ecosystem services provided by protected areas and natural reserves, and working with the complex relationships between protected areas and local communities.

The Program is the result of a number of meetings and workshops involving the three partners that have occurred over the last several years. The program involves three major components:

- (1) developing the foundation necessary to managing reserves and protected areas in the 21st century's context of complexity and change—led by the UM courses;
- (2) creating understanding of the local and regional context—provided by RSCN with FS participation; and
- (3) a field based learning experience—led by RSCN.



The Courses

Students completing the graduate level courses provided by UM will be awarded a graduate certificate in Protected Area Administration.

The students complete the courses by reviewing and reflecting on reading materials, conducting assignments, and participating in a once in a week seminar discussion over the internet with the course instructor.

All students will take the following courses:

Foundations of Protected Area Management

Protected Area Planning in an Era of Turbulence and Complexity.

Tourism and Protected Area Management: Striving for Sustainability

Global Ecology, Conservation and Natural Resource Management in a Changing World.

A field experience/research project is also required.

The program puts participants in contact with globally recognized leaders who have experienced protected area management through technical assistance, research and collaborative efforts.

Successful completion of these requirements leads to a Graduate Certificate in Protected Area Management awarded by UM.

