

# Wetland Health and Vitality Course

## West Africa

*Learn skills today to protect the  
future of wetlands for all*



Wetland  
Learning  
Hub



Partenariat Régional pour la Conservation  
de la zone côtière et Marine  
en Afrique de l'Ouest



Financé par le gouvernement  
britannique dans le cadre de  
l'initiative Darwin.

# Why take this course?

**Wetlands are one of the most vital habitats in the world. They provide shelter, food and water with 40% of the world's plants and animals calling them home.**

Wetlands are highly productive and extremely efficient environments. They store more carbon than rainforests, provide natural flood protection and support communities all over the world.

**A staggering 35% of global wetlands have been lost since 1970.** Today they're one of the world's most threatened habitats, being destroyed at an alarming rate. Wetlands are disappearing three times faster than forests.

Existing wetlands need protecting and restoring if we're to prevent more catastrophic loss. New wetlands also need to be created to redress the huge historical losses and restore balance.

**This is a global challenge and one we can't solve alone.**

Working with professionals from across the global wetland community, WWT has completed an **in-depth review of the need for building know-how, skill and experience on wetland conservation.** Stakeholders in 14 countries have been engaged, including governments, practitioners, academic institutions, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), IUCN, and Ramsar.

The review has shown that there is an urgent need for easily accessible, good quality and up-to-date training content on wetland science and communication.

Public knowledge about wetlands is poor, and governments undervalue the contributions that healthy wetlands make not only to wildlife but to communities too. Alongside this there is no central place to access wetland-specific training, networking and resources for wetland managers and key decision-makers. To build capacity and capability for wetland protection globally, it is crucial that this gap is filled.

West Africa has been chosen as a focus area for delivering our wetland training. Many of the region's wetlands are threatened with conversion to agricultural land or development. Furthermore, climatic changes, oil exploration, pollution and invasive species pose additional risks to wetlands in the region.

**This course aims to build capacity for wetland conservation in West Africa to help address these threats.**



# Course overview

## What to expect

This course will equip you with the key theory and essential skills to feel confident in understanding wetland management characteristics and strategies. The course will bring together expert knowledge and experience from across the world as well as local case studies, delivered in an engaging and varied way by a group of international experts in their fields.

## Who is this course for?

This course is for professionals and volunteers who are new to working in a wetland related role, or may have little theoretical education in wetland management. You may be working for an NGO, a government organisation, an academic institution, a private company or a community group. We ask that participants are age 21 or over, with some existing background knowledge in a relevant field. For this West Africa course, we will be prioritising participants from Mauritania, Senegal, The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Cape Verde.

## Course structure and content

The course will consist of online lectures and assignments as well as an optional in-person element, held in Senegal in September 2025.

The online course consists of 4 modules. Each module consists of 2 hours of recorded lectures, an assignment to put your new knowledge into practice, and the opportunity to discuss the course content in an online forum. There will also be additional time for self-study. Expect a time commitment of 9 hours per module. Students will have 3 weeks to complete each unit. A certificate will be awarded to all those successfully completing the online course.

The in-person element of the course will be open to 15 successful participants of the online course and enhance knowledge and skills obtained in the online course. More information and a separate expression of interest form will be sent to participants throughout the online course. In-person course attendees will be selected by the Wetland Learning Hub team.



# Course details in one glance

## Format:

- Online: cohort-based
- Face-to-face (optional): as chosen by the teaching team

**Language:** English, French and Portuguese

**Start date:** 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025

**Duration:** 14 weeks

**Time commitment:** 36 hours in total (2-3 hours per week)

**Price:** FREE for selected participants (including certificate)

## Course structure:

- Module 1 - Introduction to wetlands
- Module 2 - Socioeconomic and cultural values of wetlands
- Module 3 - Introduction to wetland management and monitoring strategies
- Module 4 - CEPA: Communication, Capacity building, Education, Participation and Awareness



# Ready to apply?

Register now via the link below:

<https://wetlandlearninghub.org/application-wetland-health-and-vitality-course-for-west-africa/>

The deadline for applications is **Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> April 2025**.

There are limited spaces available on the course. Participants will be selected based on their application form.

**For more information:**

Email:

- [wetlandlearninghub@wwt.org.uk](mailto:wetlandlearninghub@wwt.org.uk) (English)
- [prcmarine@prcmarine.org](mailto:prcmarine@prcmarine.org) (French)

Website: <https://wetlandlearninghub.org/courses/regional-courses/wetland-health-and-vitality-west-africa/>



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