

Concept Note

Building Sustainability and Climate Resilience into Decision-making for Policies, Programs, Actions

A joint 4-day program by YASHADA and Ecological Society

Why a program on Sustainability and Climate Resilience?

Every effort to provide quality life and livelihood is challenged today by tensions between the current development model and ways of sustainable living. This situation is expected to be seriously aggravated by global warming and the changing climatic conditions (Richardson et al., 2023)¹. The frequency of disasters such as flash floods, forest fires, and cyclones is rising. Long-term and permanent changes to geo-bio conditions such as sea level and temperature rise, island submergence, and desertification are likely to directly affect habitation, water, air quality, food, and health.

Leaders in every walk of life are indirectly the ones who will ultimately steer their organizations, businesses, and people through these turbulent times towards either a sustainable future or a dire one!

In this context, what do the leaders want to know, to take wise decisions and actions for the near and far future? This short program is designed as an opportunity to engage with these questions with the help of experienced experts. It will develop the appropriate perspective and build capacity of the leaders to find their own path in diverse specific contexts.

About the program

In an era marked by rising climate risks and environmental degradation, integrating sustainability and resilience into policy and planning is no longer optional; it is essential. This four-day course is designed to equip professionals, planners, and decision-makers with the tools and frameworks to incorporate environmental, social, and climate-related considerations into their day-to-day decisions. Participants will explore real-world case studies and policy frameworks that support adaptive, inclusive, and forward-looking governance. The program will also foster systems thinking, helping participants anticipate climate impacts and build long-term resilience across sectors.

¹ Richardson, K., Steffen, W., Lucht, W., Bendtsen, J., Cornell, S. E., Donges, J. F., ... & Rockström, J. (2023). Earth beyond six of nine planetary boundaries. *Science advances*, 9(37), eadh2458.

Who is the program for?

The program is designed for officers, from the state and central government departments, PSUs, NGOs, the corporate sector, CSR, and researchers from higher education institutions, who lead projects or influence policies, decisions, actions within their organizations, or are doing active research on the ground. These include, but are not limited to the following:

- Senior government administrators
- Town planning officers
- Heads of training institutes
- Heads and managers of companies and CSR
- Academicians from universities

Participants will receive a joint certificate from YASHADA and Ecological Society on successful completion of the program.

Course fee

The program will be held at Yashada, and will offer both the residential/ non-residential options. The participation fee will be as per the accommodation option selected by the participant, as follows.

- Single executive option: Rs. 19000/-
- Twin-sharing executive option: Rs. 14000/-
- Non-residential option: Rs. 9000/-

Learning Objectives

What will the program endeavour to do?

- To create informed awareness about the global framework of SDGs, climate change, and India's policies and position
- To develop a sensitivity towards the interconnected socio-ecological-economic nature of sustainability and climate action goals
- To explore approaches/ strategies to implement locally relevant holistic interventions for sustainability and climate action
- To empower the participants to take informed decisions

Expected Learning Outcomes

What will the participants of this program be able to do?

- See at a deeper level the hidden connections between land, water, air, biodiversity, and human actions.
- Notice the global and local hazards, risks, and vulnerabilities associated with climate change and inculcate the understanding within their organizations.
- Collect and validate authentic information related to SDGs, climate change, and India's commitments.

- Commission expert studies to understand local problems/impacts related to climate change. Develop and use the indicators of climate change for a better appreciation within different contexts.
- Strategize, execute, and support appropriate interventions at local level for a just climate action, in tune with the state and national policies and commitment.
- Bring sustainability and climate resilience into their own program, policies, and actions in the light of the socio-ecological interconnections.

Highlights of the Program

- Global frameworks: Commitments, Legalities, Action plans.
- Interconnections and Indicators: Climate change impacts in diverse contexts.
- Strategies at the local level: Approaches to implement locally relevant holistic interventions.
- Active Learning: Field visit, case studies, group work, and interactive sessions.

Program Details

The program is to be conducted at YASHADA Pune campus for four days. There will be four 1.5-hour sessions each day, with some additional time for a short local field visit on the first-day evening or the second-day morning.

Dates: June 25-28, 2025

Timing: 09.30 am - 6:00 pm

Venue: YASHADA, Pune

Outline of the Sessions

- History of environment, humankind, and economics
- Models of development
- Ecosystems, biodiversity, nature's services
- Climate change: socio-environmental vulnerabilities
- Group work: UN 2030 Agenda, NAPCC
- Challenges to sustainability transitions
- Re-framing the problems for root cause solutions
- Case studies: adaptation, mitigation, resilience
- Legal environmental regime & ESG
- Group work: Strategies for local climate action

Resource Persons

Interactive sessions will be facilitated by experts from the domain, experienced academicians, and practitioners.

- Ajay Phatak: Ajay is an alumnus of IIT-Bombay and an IT professional. He was the Head of Harman Connected Systems, a Samsung group company. Ajay's current work is in the domain of sustainability, specifically energy and renewable energy, and

he has also contributed several articles on these subjects. He is a trustee at Ecological Society and TERRE Policy Centre.

- Dr. Gurudas Nulkar: Gurudas is a Professor and Director of the Centre for Sustainable Development, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune. He is a post-doc Endeavour Executive Fellow 2018 of the Government of Australia. He is also a Visiting Professor at IIT-Kanpur. Gurudas's research domain is sustainability and ecological economics, and he has published five books and several academic papers. He also contributes regularly to vernacular magazines. Gurudas is a trustee at Ecological Society.
- Ketaki Ghatge: Co-founder of Oikos for Ecological Services, Ketaki has a double B.Sc. in Chemistry and Botany. She has been involved in ecological restoration for the last 15 years and has worked closely in many of Ecological Society's research projects. She has several publications and has co-authored books with Manasi Karandikar. She was a member of Pune Tree Authority of PMC and is currently the member of the JFMC.
- Manasi Karandikar: Co-founder of Oikos for Ecological Services, Manasi is an Instrumentation engineer and has done her MSc in Environmental Sciences from Pune University. She has been involved in ecological restoration for the last 15 years and has worked closely in many of the Ecological Society's research projects. Manasi was a member of the Matheran Conservation Committee. She has written several articles and has co-authored books with Ketaki Ghatge.
- Dr. Priyadarshini Karve: Founder Director of Samuchit Enviro Tech and a Co-Founder of OrjaBox LLP. She is currently also the National Convener of Indian Network on Ethics and Climate Change (INECC) and CEO of Clean Energy Access Network (CLEAN). She has a Ph.D. in Physics from University of Pune, and works on rural cooking energy solutions, decentralised organic waste to fuel technologies, and strategies for low carbon, sustainable urbanisation. She developed an easy-to-use Samuchit Carbon Footprint Calculator for Urban Indians, and conducts workshops and courses focused on climate change literacy. She serves on the Governing and Advisory Bodies of several national and international organisations. Her work has been honoured by national and international awards and recognitions.
- Adv. Amogh Paralikar: Amogh is a practicing advocate and his core capabilities include environmental litigation and social causes. Amogh has helped in several major environmental causes and helps NGOs and citizens in their fight against environmental injustice.
- Dr. Kedar Bhagwat: Director at Ecological Society, and alumni of the 2022-23 batch, Kedar has a Ph.D. in Economics. Kedar's specialisation is transportation and mobility. He worked in the transport infrastructure industry for 20 years before moving into academics. His areas of interests are sustainability and mobility.
- Dr. Geetanjali Date: Geetanjali looks after Learning Experience Design at Ecological Society. She is an education researcher by training, and an alumnus of Ecological Society (2010-11). She received her Ph.D. in Science Education from Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education, TIFR, Mumbai, India. Her doctoral research focused on characterization of technology design practice to reorient engineering design education towards sustainability. Her empirical research is published in international peer-reviewed journals. Prior to joining ES, Geetanjali contributed to design and implementation of capacity-building programs of higher and technical education faculty in Maharashtra.