



**SAVE THE WESTERN GHATS  
CONCLAVE 2012  
'PRACTITIONERS'  
CONCLAVE'**

**LEARNING FROM RESEARCH: SUCCESSFUL INTERVENTIONS IN THE WESTERN  
GHATS**

**(A SESSION FOCUSING ON THE SUCCESSFUL RESEARCH BASED  
INTERVENTIONS IN THE WESTERN GHATS)**

**SLOT: 4PM TO 6PM DAY 1**

**FORMAT: PANEL DISCUSSION**

This session aims at bringing into focus the critical importance of establishing synergy between research and practice. While acknowledging the problems of a disconnect between the objectives of research projects and realities and demands on the ground, this session will try to strategize on how to bring about more cooperation between researchers and practitioners so that research findings add to the efforts on the field and do not merely add to academic understanding. Similarly, efforts on the field should also take into consideration critical inputs provided by research so as to make the efforts more sustainable and tangible. This session also aims at discussing the idea open source research information and whether civil society is prepared to handle such critical data.

Scroll down for the *Session Brief*.



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**SESSION BRIEF**

This session shall not focus on theoretical paper presentations or merely stress on research findings, but would be centered on how research findings have been used to create a difference in the lives of the communities and the conservation of the Western Ghats. Research needs to have an applied character to bring about social change and this session will focus on such individuals and agencies who have managed to do that. There is a huge disconnect between the reality and the need on the field and the type of research that is being conducted. While looking at the broader picture of conservation, the researcher and the practitioner being on different levels of understanding and lacunae in understanding each others needs and demands cannot be considered as positive news. There needs to be more synergy between what a practitioner demands on the field and what information is provided to him by the researcher. This session stresses on the importance of such synergy and cooperation between research and practice which ultimately results in a successful intervention strategy in the field furthering conservation initiatives.

This session shall also lay stress on the issues associated with open source research findings. On one account it is highly important for practitioners to get access to critical data which could shape the course o their conservation efforts. Usually many good initiatives on the field are stalled because of the inability of the practitioners to get access to research findings. More transparency in revealing findings can definitely go a long way in helping smaller organizations steep up their work and bring about more productive outcomes. But, on the other hand, there is always the fear of the data entering wrong hands and wreaking havoc. This session shall see discussions on the best way to facilitate sharing of



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knowledge for conservation practitioners and researchers while taking care of all ethical concerns.

It shall also be an opportunity for interested students to learn from successful research based interventions and plan their future strategies.

The objective behind this session is to move away from blind theorizing, value laden research and aim towards a more collaborative process between researchers and practitioners.