PROTECT

Protected-area Operational & Tactical Enforcement Conservation Training (PROTECT) is a comprehensive training package for defenders of protected areas which can be tailored to the specific needs of rangers, parks and protected areas, and governments. PROTECT is designed to dramatically improve the security of remaining forest reserves through enhanced patrolling and law enforcement training courses. The program also builds the capacity of agency leaders and instructors, providing them with the tools to replicate training. Working in cooperation with governments, Freeland has trained more than 2,200 front-line protected area and wildlife law enforcement officials in Asia from over 40 agencies in 15 countries since the year 2000.

PROTECT Courses

A comprehensive training package that includes presentations, handouts and manuals, PROTECT can be tailored to meet the needs of protected-area staff of all levels, from first-time rangers to park managers. These manuals, based on the ASEAN Center for Biodiversity's competency standards, have been translated into several Southeast Asian languages and can be tailored to each country's requirements. All the manuals have also been digitized and are often given to participants via tablets.

PROTECT Managers
Course provides protected area managers with best practices in administration and resource management, leadership, instruction methods, threat assessments and operational planning. The PROTECT Managers course has also a received ACE recommendation for college credit as part of Criminal Justice programs.

PROTECT Team Leaders Course
Teaches patrol commanders how to plan, implement and lead long range counter poaching patrolling, safely and confidently.

PROTECT Enforcement Ranger Course
Provides rangers with the skills to safely and confidently patrol a protected area. Mock operations focus on first-aid, navigation, arrest methods and patrols.

PROTECT Marine Course
Focuses specifically on marine protected areas. Courses include patrolling and enforcement in coastal and riverine waters. The course also includes modules of navigation, patrolling, apprehension and smuggling detection techniques.

PROTECT Special Response Team Course
An intensive, specialist course which combines each of the PROTECT courses into one extended period of study. The course is designed to teach the skills to conduct all marine and terrestrial enforcement operations to counter wildlife trafficking and poaching.

PROTECT Border Course
Provides border-specific enforcement ranger training to officers tasked with enforcing the laws in the forest along international borders.

PROTECT Monitoring Course
Instructs patrol staff how to collect patrol and wildlife in a standardized manner for inclusion in park-based monitoring databases used in adaptive management.

Photos by Freeland.