**What is ISLA?**
Island Species-Led Action (ISLA) is a 10-day course for conservation practitioners & educators working in some of the world’s “hottest” conservation hotspots to save species from extinction.

Participants will be challenged by a multi-disciplinary team of experts in island species conservation through lectures, discussions & practical activities to generate ideas & actions for conserving their islands’ endemic species and their habitats.

Conservation action need not be costly; attention in the course will focus on proven & practical approaches to managing endangered species and habitats that can be realised with minimal resource implications. Equipped with new knowledge, understanding & skills participants will return to their islands better able to determine the next course of action to conserve their endemic biodiversity.

Partnerships fostered during the course will provide an important support mechanism to assist participants in adapting their biodiversity management strategies as new challenges arise.

**Who is it for?**
ISLA is designed for island species and habitat conservation managers from the public & private/charity sectors & academic staff from island universities/colleges.

Trained individuals can make a difference but only with the support of their organisations; this course is for staff working for organisations that can demonstrate how the skills acquired by the participants will further their conservation work. The impact of the training may be direct on the species in need or indirectly, such as through building the capacity to train the next generation of local/regional conservationists.

Participants from tropical & sub-tropical islands will be the primary focus for the course as a consequence of the relatively higher endemism encountered on such islands. However, as threats facing biodiversity are common to most islands the course will also be of relevance to those working on temperate islands.
Where is ISLA being run?
The proposed venue for ISLA 2008 is the island of Guam. This location will offer participants the opportunity for direct experience of current conservation issues in Micronesia and “real time” endangered species case studies from Guam and its surrounding islands. Visits to field sites will also allow participants to enhance their conservation research skills.

Who will you learn from?
The course will be facilitated by staff from the International Training Centre (ITC) of the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, Jersey, British Channel Islands. The ITC has trained over 1400 conservationists in endangered species management & conservation from more than 110 countries over the last 20 years. For the ISLA course the ITC will draw on Durrell Wildlife’s extensive in-house experience in managing endemic island species and habitats in-situ on islands such as Mauritius, Madagascar, Montserrat and Cuba. Combining this experience with contributions from eminent regional and other international lecturers will provide participants with a contextual understanding of the importance of action for island biodiversity conservation and an objective approach to identifying solutions. Rarely will there be such an opportunity to share ideas & skills with your peers on other islands.

What topics will be covered?
The course is divided into three modules with associated themes:

Module 1. Understanding Islands
Themes:
- Pacific island biogeography
- The ecology of the Pacific Region
- Island species vulnerability and threats
- Climate change impacts on islands

Module 2. Species-led Action
Themes:
- Managing species recovery in the wild
- Translocations and captive breeding for reintroduction - where and when
- Invasive species threats and management
- Supporting functioning ecosystems for species conservation
- How do you know if you’ve been effective? – baselines and monitoring

Module 3. The Human Dimension
Themes:
- Understanding the cultural context of the Pacific
- Managing stakeholder processes
- Conveying a conservation message
- Planning for island species conservation
- Collaboration and networking

How much does it cost?
The cost of the course is being subsidised and so successful applicants from within the region will not be charged for course attendance. However, accommodation, food and travel costs to and from Guam will need to be covered by participants. A limited number of scholarships are available covering all costs. Scholarships will be allocated in the selection process.

How do I apply for the course?
You need to complete an application form yourself. You must also ask a senior member of staff from within the organisation for which you work (Director level or equivalent) to write a letter of support. This letter is required to demonstrate that the course will be of value to the organisation as well as to the applicant him or herself. You will also need to submit a recent C.V. providing more details on your experiences, qualifications and interests.

What should I do next?
Contact the International Training Centre at the following address for application form or download them at www.durrellwildlife.org:
Phone: 44-1534 860037
Fax: 44-1534 860002
E-mail: itc@durrell.org
Post: ISLA Course Guam 2008
     International Training Centre
     Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust
     Les Augres Manor, Trinity,
     Jersey JE3 5BP
     British Channel Isles