

## Course: English for Environmentalists

### Communication & Language Skills

20 – 25 July 2026

International Academy for Nature Conservation  
Isle of Vilm



### Why should you attend?

English is the common language of understanding for nature conservation and related issues in many parts of the world. Conservationists need to be able to communicate in English when they talk to colleagues from other countries, contact the European Commission, take expert groups from abroad on a guided walk or consult English literature. Yet, the corresponding vocabulary has not always been taught in schools or universities.

This course will provide participants with an opportunity to develop their vocabulary in relation to key points of interest in the fields of nature conservation, landscape management, environmental education, interpretation, tourism, through both language training in the field and indoor language workshops.

Participants will use various techniques to develop their language skills in a different subject area each day. The general format of each day will include vocabulary and grammar workshops, activities, group discussions and feedback.

The tutor, Mark Sixsmith, is a native speaker and trainer on environmental English.



## What will you gain?

- Opportunities to practice oral and written English in a variety of situations
- A wider knowledge of the specialist vocabulary associated with protected area and landscape management, nature conservation, environmental interpretation, sustainable tourism and planning
- Individual vocabulary and grammar tuition from an experienced language teacher
- Appreciation of the importance of effective communication in environmental management
- Opportunities to share experiences with colleagues in nature conservation

## Who should attend?

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This course is designed for people working in conservation, environmental education, landscape management or nature-based tourism who want to improve their existing English language skills. The course will be conducted in English. Basic knowledge of English is therefore required. The maximum number of participants will be 18.

## Course Details

(possibly subject to minor changes)

### Monday, 20 July 2026

16.10, 17:10 Departure by boat from Lauterbach to Isle of Vilm; arrival to Vilm and registration; dinner, welcome and introduction

### Tuesday, 21 July 2026

Learning and organising vocabulary; environmental dictionaries; language workshops on topics such as biodiversity, habitats, biomes

### Wednesday, 22 July 2026

The language of sustainable tourism; grammar workshop; language workshops on endangered species and conservation and species reintroduction; personal presentations

### Thursday, 23 July 2026

Field visit; the language of protected area management; personal presentations

### Friday, 24 July 2026

Natura 2000 and environmental legislation; the language of environmental education and interpretation; renewable energies: wind farms, bioenergy and climate change; personal presentations

### Saturday, 25 July 2026

Language workshop on sustainability; course evaluation;  
13:00 Departure to Lauterbach

## Accommodation

Accommodation will be arranged by the International Academy for Nature Conservation Isle of Vilm. Participants will be accommodated in the guesthouses of the Academy.

## Organisation

This course has been developed by the Alfred Toepfer Academy for Nature Conservation (NNA) in cooperation with the International Academy for Nature Conservation.

## Location

The International Academy for Nature Conservation is part of the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation and is based on the Isle of Vilm. The small island is located adjacent to Rügen Island in the Baltic Sea.



## Travel

Participants make their own travel arrangements to Lauterbach.

- By train via Stralsund and Bergen/Rügen to Lauterbach/Mole (Rügen)
- By car via Stralsund, Garz and Putbus to Lauterbach

The ferry trip from Lauterbach to the Isle of Vilm takes 10 minutes and is free of charge. The ferry is run by the Academy and operates according to a fixed timetable which is coordinated with the train timetable. More details will be provided prior to the course.

### Course Fee

828 € incl. accommodation (single room), full board and all language training, field visits, excursion and course material. Details will be given after registration. Minor changes of the board and accommodation costs are still possible. A late cancellation of your registration within 30 days prior to the start of the seminar will imply a cancellation fee of 80% in case no substitute can be found. No discounts are available. Before applying, please ensure that all costs (incl. travel) will be covered by the applicant or his/her organisation.

### Contact

#### International Academy for Nature Conservation Isle of Vilm

Federal Agency for Nature Conservation

<https://www.bfn.de/en/international-academy-nature-conservation-isle-vilm>

#### Organisation

**Svenja Krispien**

Email: [svenja.krispien@bfn.de](mailto:svenja.krispien@bfn.de)

## Registration

Please register online [https://www.bfn.de/en/bfn-events/logon/ina\\_praesenz/12391..](https://www.bfn.de/en/bfn-events/logon/ina_praesenz/12391..)

**Deadline for registration:  
1 May 2026  
Confirmation will be sent by 5 May 2026.**