

E-NEWSLETTER OF W.I.I.

Nature is our Password, Conservation the Creed

Spring 2014

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Flamingo Colony...

Aseem Srivastava

Current Protected Area Network of India

Position as on March 31, 2014

National Parks – 102; Area 40074.46 km² (1.22%)

Wildlife Sanctuaries – 527; Area 124738.85 km² (3.79%)

Conservation Reserves – 57; Area 2017.94 km² (0.06%)

Community Reserves – 4; Area 20.69 km² (0.00%)

Total – 690; Area 166851.84 km² (5.07%)

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Zafar

Around the Campus

XXIX Certificate Course in Wildlife Management concluded

The XXIX Certificate course in Wildlife Management began on November 1, 2013 with 20 officer trainees. The course was unique as this was the first ever certificate course conducted by the Institute, which was fully international. Also it was the first certificate course with maximum 6 female participants. It was also one of the youngest batches, the Institute received so far. Of

the three months duration, the participants spent 52 days in classroom and 40 days in field.

During the reporting period, the participants were taken for Wetland Tour during January 4-11, 2014. During the tour, the participants visited Bhitarkanika, Chilika, Rushikulya and Nandankanan Zoo in Odisha. The objective of the wetland tour was to expose the participants about various management practices of coastal wetlands & mangrove habitat management, salt water crocodiles and Olive Ridley Sea Turtle population management.

The management tour was conducted at Sunderban Tiger Reserve in West Bengal and Kaziranga National Park, Pygmy Hog Breeding Centre and Rescue Centre in Assam during January 12-20, 2014. The objective of the tour was to familiarize the participants with management activities, population management, visitor use management and socio-economic activities undertaken by the protected areas. The participants got an opportunity to see the best practices and take home the experience and a message. They returned back and made presentations sharing their learning from wetland and management tour.

The participants were evaluated through written exam, assignments, presentations, classroom and field interaction and *Viva Voce*.

The valedictory function was organised on January 31, 2014 at the Institute. Shri Vinod Rishi, former Additional Director General (Wildlife), MoEF, Government of India, chaired the function. He presented the awards and certificates to the successful candidates. All the participants have successfully completed the certificate course. Thirteen of them were awarded the honours certificate for securing 75% or more marks in aggregate. The following participants received the awards:

Wildlife Conservation Gold Medal and Institute's Silver Medal for Wildlife Management & Tour were awarded to Md. Golam Rabbi. Institute's Silver Medal for Best All Round Wildlifer was bagged by Sheikh Mohammed Rabiul Alam.

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Attachment of Officer Trainees of Indian Revenue Service (Customs & Central Excise) Group-A 64th Batch with Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, January 6-17, 2014 and January 20-31, 2014. The young officer trainees of Indian Revenue Service got the opportunity to join the course held at the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun. The training module aimed at sensitizing the young officer trainees of Indian Revenue Service (Customs & Central Excise) of 64th Batch towards wildlife trade in the country and their role in checking it. The course was attended by 87 Officer Trainees in two groups.

Various inputs included introduction on importance of biodiversity and its conservation, status of endangered species and special inputs on illegal trade in wildlife articles including butterflies, *shahtoosh*, rhino horn, skins and tiger bones. Inputs were given on the role of wildlife forensics in dealing with wildlife cases. Officer Trainees were also given basic information on the implementation of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, CITES and other international conventions. The Officer Trainees were provided an opportunity to interact with the IFS Officer Trainees at Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy, Dehradun to improve inter-service coordination.

Apart from providing classroom inputs, the participants were also taken to Rajaji National Park and Corbett Tiger Reserve. Jungle safaris in Dhikala and Bijrani area of Corbett Tiger Reserve sensitized them towards flagship species. The young



and enthusiastic officer trainees had the privilege of interacting with the top officials of the Tiger Reserve.

Though this small module was not sufficient for them to complete the journey in wild, it was just a window towards wildlife but will definitely sensitize them in not only becoming



a part in conservation but also as ambassadors in spreading this message everywhere. All the officer trainees took keen interest in understanding various aspects of wildlife conservation both during classroom and field activities.

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One-week refresher training course for Indian Forest Service Officers on “Management of Coastal and Marine Biodiversity in India: Challenges and Prospects”, Port Blair, January 20-24, 2014. The training course was conducted by the Wildlife Institute of India at Port Blair in collaboration with Andaman & Nicobar Forests Department, Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy, Dehradun and GIZ-India on behalf of the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India.

In India, there are multiple governance frameworks and structures that administer the coastal and marine environment. While these are intended to have positive outcomes, overlapping jurisdictions, contradictory mandates and limited coordination hinders multiple agencies from working effectively in coastal India. Management agencies in India are still having limited understanding about management of multiple use coastal and marine areas. Given this scenario, the challenge lies in reconciling livelihood needs and development *vis-a-vis* conservation. Therefore, this special capacity building course was conducted to address the following issues: (a) How



effective are administrative/ governance/ legal frameworks for conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity and are these frameworks promoting integration of biodiversity conservation and livelihood enhancement? (b) What are the existing and potential threats for conservation of coastal and marine biodiversity? and (c) What are the current policy and governance challenges to coastal and marine biodiversity conservation? What is the role of community in the governance and management of marine protected areas and ecologically sensitive coastal areas?

A total of 19 participants in the rank of Conservator of Forests to Additional Principle Chief Conservator Forests from all over the country have participated in the course, which was highly commended by them. *ksivakumar@wii.gov.in*



Training programme on 'Forest and Wildlife Conservation for Senior Defence Officers', Corbett Tiger Reserve, Uttarakhand,

February 7-9, 2014. The course was organized by the Wildlife Institute of India and sponsored by the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India. A total of 11 officers including 7 from Indian Army and 4 from Indian Air Force attended the program. All the officers were of Brigadier/ Air Commodore level.

The participants were sensitized about the issues and challenges in the management and conservation of wildlife. The program consisted of classroom sessions and field visits. They were given an overview of various habitats in the country and their flagship species. Several unique, rare and endangered habitats as well as species were portrayed to the participants, while briefly discussing about the issues related to their conservation. They visited Dhikala and Bijrani zones of the Corbett Tiger Reserve as part of the field visit. They could observe the forest in its pristine form and appreciated the difficulties in conserving forests and wildlife.

Shri A.S. Negi and Dr. H.S. Pabla, both retired eminent forest officers provided inputs to the participants and accompanied them to the field.

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Regional workshop on 'Forestry and Wildlife Conservation Issues' for Media Personnel, New Delhi, February 24-25, 2014.

In the current scenario, the media has not only kept the concern for environment in lime light, but has also influenced policy makers to chart out appropriate conservation strategies. The more recent are Kedarnath tragedy and the tiger crisis in the country, where the media has not only highlighted the issue but has also done investigative journalism related to the issue. The Wildlife Institute of India made an attempt to share the concerns in environment conservation in India and provided a platform to generate ideas on informative news reporting about current environment crisis. The Wildlife Institute of India organised the workshop at the India Habitat Centre to enable the participants to articulate the wildlife and forests issues to



people in a manner, which contributes to the cause of wildlife and forest conservation in the country.

The workshop has the following objectives: (i) A comprehensive understanding of the subject and getting information on the current situation and challenges. (ii) An opportunity to interact face to face with the experts and exchange of information and ideas to foster media involvement in raising awareness about wildlife and forest conservation issues. (iii) Networking and developing specialised wildlife journalism group.



The workshop was divided in 7 sessions, i.e. Conservation in India: A new way forward; Managing human wildlife conflicts; Defending nature with moving images; Panel discussion on the relocation agenda: The implementation of the Forests Rights Act and the challenges ahead; Emerging issues in forest conservation in India; Climate Change REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation & Forest Degradation): Challenges for India; Panel discussion on illegal wildlife trade: Issues and challenges; and Panel discussion on conservation and media. Eminent resource persons included senior officials from the Ministry of Environment & Forests; Supreme Court Lawyer; wildlife conservationist, writer; naturalist, scientists from Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Forest Research Institute (FRI); WWF – India; Bharti Vidyapeeth Institute of Environment Education & Research, Pune; and tiger conservationist and wildlife campaigner from Wildlife Protection Society of India (WPSI) etc. A total of 27 participants attended the workshop. They included senior correspondents from TV channels, Indian Information Service probationers, editors, media professionals and freelance journalists.

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Golden Jubilee International Seminar on 'Integrated Natural Resources Management (INRM) Issues, Challenges and perspectives'

Raipur, January 27-31, 2014. The international seminar was organised at School of Regional Studies and Research, Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur, Chhattisgarh. It was jointly organised by Pt R.S. University, Raipur and Council for Tribal & Rural development, Bhubaneswar. More than 100 delegates participated in the seminar. Dr. Pranab Pal, Field Technical Officer participated in the seminar. He presented a paper on “Biodiversity Conservation for Sustainable Use: Challenges for Future”.

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Shri Rajwar participated in sports activities

Shri H.C.S. Rajwar, stenographer participated in the following Table Tennis Championships as Coach, Manager, and Umpire, respectively during this period: (i) 75th Senior Nationals and Inter-State Table Tennis Championships held at Patna, Bihar during January 7-12, 2014; (ii) 75th Junior & Youth and Inter-State Table Tennis Championships at Guwahati, Assam during January 15-20, 2014; and (iii) 75th Cadet and Sub-Junior Table Tennis Championships, Ajmer, Rajasthan during January 24-29, 2014.

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**Dr. Anil Kumar Bhardwaj, IFS**

Dr. Bhardwaj is a 1985 batch Indian Forest Service officer of the Kerala Cadre. Since 1988, he has worked as a manager in different protected areas (PAs) of the southern Western Ghats. Periyar Tiger Reserve has undertaken an innovative initiative to involve local communities in protected area management, and was associated with the planning and implementation of this important programme. Maintaining an interest in this subject, he undertook his doctoral work on "Assessment of ecodevelopment initiatives in Periyar". He was involved in many action research projects of the Institute on Protected Area and wildlife management.

His special areas of interest include community participation in biodiversity conservation and ecotourism. He was involved in training field managers, providing technical support for management planning of PAs to states and upgrading the WII database. He was a member of the IUCN Sustainable Use Specialist Group.

He joined the Wildlife Institute of India for the third tenure on deputation on February 7, 2014.

**Shri Pratap Singh, IFS**

Shri Pratap Singh is an Indian Forest Officer belonging to 1985 batch of AGMUT Cadre. He has served in the State of Arunachal Pradesh and in Andaman & Nicobar Islands, besides on deputation to Indian Institute of Forest management, Bhopal and Wildlife institute of India. He was involved in bird studies during his earlier tenures in this Institute. His research interest is in studying birds particularly bird songs. Bird song recording is his hobby and he has helped in producing a few bird song products for education and awareness.

Before joining Wildlife Institute of India for his third tenure, he was working on his Ph.D. thesis titled "Study of altitudinal and geographical song variation, and inter-specific interaction among *Phylloscopus* warblers in the Himalayas", which he has submitted to FRI University, Dehradun recently.

Shri Singh joined the Institute on February 21, 2014.

**Shri Ajay Srivastava, IFS**

Shri Ajay Srivastava is an Indian Forest Service officer of 1988 batch. After obtaining his master's degree in Physics from Lucknow University, he joined the Indian Forest Service and was allotted Himachal Pradesh Cadre. He had served as Divisional Forest Officer; Working Plan Officer; District Tourism Officer; Director Great Himalayan National Park; Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) and Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) in Himachal Pradesh.

Shri Srivastava joined Wildlife Institute of India as a faculty member on February 10, 2014.

Welcome



Appointment of Dr. V.B. Mathur as Director, Wildlife Institute of India

There is a saying, 'Reward of work is more work'. It suits to many colleagues in the Institute and is perfectly fit for Dr. V.B. Mathur as he has been appointed as the Director of Wildlife Institute of India by the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Govt. of India. Dr. Mathur took over the position from Shri R.K. Goel, Director, Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy, Dehradun on February 18, 2014.

Speaking during the special event organized by the Institute's faculty, staff, researchers and students he said that his endeavour would be to make WII an institution, which is liked and coveted by researchers, students and academics as an institution to conduct research and acquire knowledge and skills; sought after by policy makers and administrators as an institution to seek

advice and build capacity; and an institution that is respected by national and international peers, as a world class institution not only in the field of wildlife conservation but also in natural resource conservation. He said that in order to achieve the above vision, the priorities would be to enhance institutional infrastructure and research environment so as not only to retain talent but also to attract talent from outside and to build a high performance work environment that generates both enthusiasm and nurtures talent.

After obtaining M.Sc. degree in Zoology with top honours followed by two years of post-graduate teaching, Dr. Mathur joined the Indian Forest Service in 1983. He topped the IFS Course (1983-85) and was allotted to West Bengal cadre.

Dr. Mathur joined the Wildlife Institute of India in 1986. In 1991, he was awarded a doctorate degree from the University of Oxford, U.K. on his thesis 'Ecological interaction between habitat composition, habitat quality and abundance of some wild ungulates in India'. Dr. Mathur's fields of interest are Protected Area Management, Computer/GIS Applications in Natural Resource Conservation, Environmental Impact Assessment and Natural Heritage Conservation.

Dr. Mathur has worked as UN-FAO Protected Area Management Consultant in Sri Lanka. He also worked on UNEP consulting assignments on project evaluation. He is the Regional Vice-chair of IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)-Asia and member of the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM). He is also currently serving as member of Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF) Committees on World Heritage Conservation and Expert Appraisal Committee for Coal and Thermal Power projects. He has worked as an FAO International Training and Protected Area Planning Consultant in the GEF Project of the Department of Wildlife Conservation, Sri Lanka and prepared the management plans of eight Protected Areas. He is currently the member of the United Nations Inter-governmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (UN-IPBES).

The WII family members congratulate and welcome Dr. Mathur as he joined for his new assignment.

Patron: Director

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Some people talk to animals. Not many listen though. That's the problem.

— A.A. Milne

(<http://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/animals>)

The views expressed in this e-newsletter are not necessarily those of the editors or of the Wildlife Institute of India.