

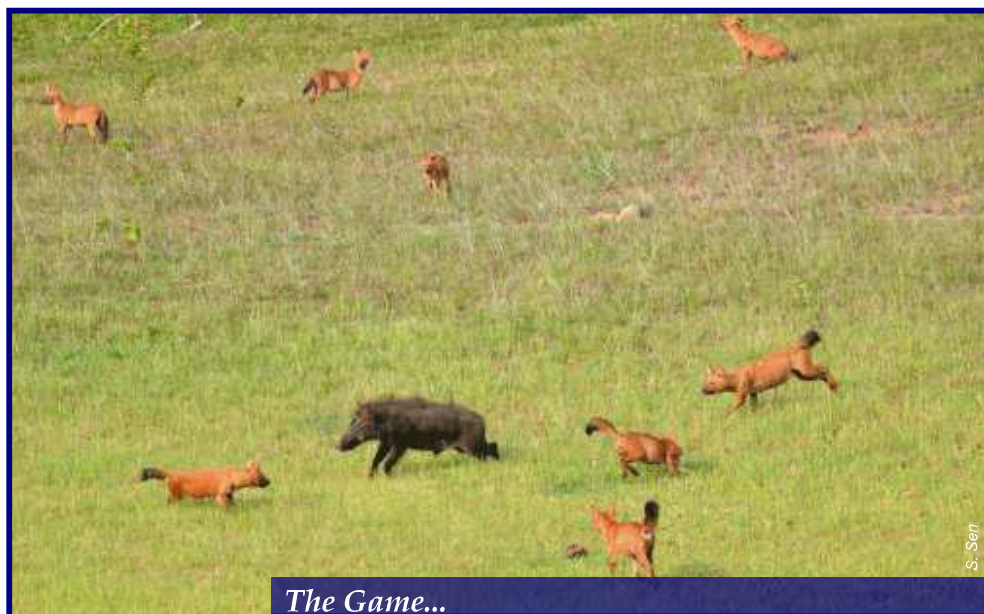
# E-NEWSLETTER OF W.I.I.

*Nature is our Password, Conservation the Creed*

Winter 2013

## IN THE ISSUE

- Picture of the Issue
- PA Network
- Around the Campus
- On the move



*The Game...*

S. Sen

## Current Protected Area Network of India

Position as on December 31, 2013

National Parks: 102; Area 40074.36, (1.22%)

Wildlife Sanctuaries: 526; Area: 124233.04, (3.78%)

Conservation Reserves : 57; Area: 2017.94, (0.06%)

Community Reserves : 4; Area: 20.69 (0.00%)

**Total Protected Areas : 689; Area: 166346.02, (5.06%)**

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## Next Issue

- XXIX Certificate Course
- Consultative workshop for National Report of the NBSAP
- Workshop on Forestry & Wildlife Conservation Issues  
*and more...*



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## Around the Campus



Tshering Dorji



Kuldeep Chauhan



Tshering Dorji

### International participants left no room in the Certificate Course

The XXIX Certificate Course in Wildlife Management commenced on November 1, 2013 for the duration of 3 months. This year 20 participants of the rank of Forest Range Officers and equivalent joined the course. Wildlife Management & Nature Conservation Division Dhaka, Bangladesh sponsored 14 participants from Bangladesh; Department of Wildlife and National Parks, Peninsular Malaysia sponsored 2 participants from Malaysia and the Global Tiger Forum sponsored one participant each from Bhutan, Bangladesh, Vietnam and Nepal.

Apart from inputs in the classroom, the Officer Trainees were taken to Kanha National Park during November 16-30, 2013 for their Techniques Tour. The objective of the tour was to provide first-hand experience of various

management practices related to habitat management for endangered species, wildlife protection, control of human activities, wildlife interface conflicts and tourism. They were taken to Rajaji National Park during December 5-7, 2013 for Wildlife Management Tour. They also visited Subir Raha Oil Museum, Dehradun; Ecotourism Centre, Dhanaulti; and Assan Conservation Reserve for Visitor Use Management Tour.

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## **2<sup>nd</sup> Training program on 'Wildlife Conservation', Dehradun, October 14-23,**

**2013.** The second training program on wildlife conservation for professionals, who do not have any formal training in wildlife science/ conservation was organized at the Wildlife Institute of India. A total of 15 participants from various walks of life participated in this self sponsored training program. The training program involved five days of classroom sessions at the institute followed by five days of camping in the forests of Lansdowne Forest Division. The participants were briefed about the science behind wildlife conservation, wildlife conservation issues in India, use of modern tools and techniques in saving endangered species, the trade in wild animals and plants and the management of forests for biodiversity conservation during the classroom sessions at WII. The participants visited Forest Research Institute and Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology during their stay at WII. As part of the field training, the participants were exposed to two protected areas (Benog Wildlife Sanctuary and Rajaji National Park) and a managed forest (Lansdowne Forest Division). The participants were taken on long jungle walks and made familiar with animal tracks and signs. The participants were also briefed about the nuances of

field conservation and issues in protected area management during the field visit.

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## **Women scientists and technologists learnt about 'Biodiversity Conservation',**

**Dehradun, November 11-15, 2013.** The one-week training workshop on 'Biodiversity Conservation' organised at the Institute was sponsored by Department of Science and Technology. In all 22 women scientists and technologists working in the various Government departments/ institutions/ organizations/ universities participated in the course. Participation in this training programme enabled the candidates aware of: (i) principles/approaches in Biodiversity Conservation; (ii) causes of decline in natural resources/habitats and species; (iii) good practices in Biodiversity Conservation; (iv) conservation issues in the field; and (v) to establish linkages and facilitate sharing of information among scientist.

The workshop was inaugurated by Ms. Mahua Pal, Pr. Accountant General (A&E), Government of Uttarakhand. She gave a keynote address on "Biodiversity Conservation - Accountability". A field visit to Rajaji National Park was organized wherein the





## Around the Campus

institute's students and faculty sensitized the participants to the field techniques related to wildlife science, including camera-trapping use of GPS and radio-tracking. Human dimensions of conservation were also discussed and the participants visited the *Gujjar* deras still located inside the forests. A visit to the *Gujjar* Relocation sites at Gandikhatta was also made and the participants could get first-hand experience of interactions with the *Gujjars* and the forest department.

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### Implementation Plan of "Kailash Sacred Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative, Pithoragarh

*November 11-16, 2013.* Wildlife Institute of India executed the Implementation Plan of "Kailash Sacred Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative (KSLCDI)" facilitated by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Kathmandu, Nepal and supported by the GIZ and DFID-UKAID, under which following three sequential workshops were organized at the Zila Parishad Auditorium, Pithoragarh:

#### (I) Project Consultation Workshop, Pithoragarh,

*November 11-12, 2013.* To initiate the process of execution of Implementation Plan – KSLCDI, the

workshop was conducted to bring the prominent stakeholders (Forest Department, Pithoragarh District Administration, Project Director, District Rural Development Agency, Heads of concerned Departments, and Partner Organizations (GBPIHED and CHEA) together for the development of the landscape. Dr. L.M.S. Palni, Former Director, GBPIHED, Kosi-Katarmal, Almora inaugurated the workshop and addressed the participants about the Kailash Sacred Landscape as a whole. The participants made a presentation highlighting developmental activities undertaken by respective departments, including the representative of Eco Task Force, Pithoragarh.

The workshop was able to establish contact with the District Administration and garner their confidence and support for smooth conduct of KSLCDI in the landscape.

#### (ii) Workshop on 'Participatory Natural Resource Management in context of *van panchayat*',

**Pithoragarh, November 13, 2013.** The second workshop in the series focused on the PNRM in context of *van panchayats*. Sarpanch and representatives of 15 *van panchayats* located across the 'horizontal transect' in KSL-India were invited along with Range Officers from Pithoragarh Forest Division. The workshop was chaired and inaugurated by Dr. Neeraj Khairwal, IAS, District





Magistrate, Pithoragarh and Dr. R.S. Bisht, Chief Conservator of Forests (Research); Uttarakhand Forest Department gave the keynote address on *van panchayats*. In all 45 villagers/*van panchayat* representatives took active part in the workshop.

District Magistrate, Pithoragarh interacted with participants one to one and assured full support from line agencies for effective implementation of KSLCDI and its synergies with the Biodiversity Conservation and Rural Livelihood Improvement Project (BCRLIP) and other similar projects implemented by the state government in the landscape.

**(iii) Workshop on 'Capacity building of forest frontline staff in field techniques and wildlife management', Pithoragarh, November 14-16, 2013.**

The third workshop was primarily focused on capacity building of frontline staff of Pithoragarh Forest Division. Field staff including 6 RFOs/Deputy Rangers and 20 Forest Guards attended the workshop besides 6 KSLCDI project biologists working with WII, 3 Project Assistants with WII and 6 newly recruited staff of BCRLIP by Pithoragarh Forest Division. A field visit to adjacent forest area was organized for the demonstration of field techniques on vegetation and animals, specially the use of modern gadgets in recording evidences of wild animals.

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## Farewell

### Dr. Karthikeyan Vasudevan

Dr. Karthikeyan Vasudevan is a herpetologist and he joined Wildlife Institute of India in 1999. He worked in the Department of Animal Ecology and Conservation Biology of the Institute. He worked on both lab and field projects that involved studies on crocodiles, freshwater turtles, agamid lizards and frogs in different parts of India since 1992. His research interests are identifying drivers of herpetofaunal endemism; ecology of endangered species; developing field techniques for the study of rare and endangered species; and developing monitoring protocols for endangered species and their habitats. He recently worked on research projects in the Western Ghats and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands studying the herpetofaunal diversity. He was involved in teaching and training in herpetology, behavioural ecology, community ecology and conservation biology. He is also presently the Co-chair of the Amphibian Specialist Group, the South Asia region.



Dr. Karthikeyan Vasudevan, Scientist-E, Wildlife Institute of India has been selected to the post of Senior Principal Scientist in CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Hyderabad. He was relieved from this Institute on 7th November 2013. The WII family wishes him a bright career and happiness.

### Brain exercise for students during Wildlife Week, Dehradun, October 5, 2013.

The XI<sup>th</sup> 'Wildlife & Environment Quiz 2013 – a collaborative activity of Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and Friends of Doon (FoD) Society was organized at WII to mark the celebrations of the Wildlife Week 2013. Thirteen schools participated in preliminary round. Five teams *viz.* Brightlands School, The Doon School, Hilton's School, Asian School and St. Jude's School qualified for the final round.



The final quiz had six rounds, *viz.* Uttarakhand; Guess who; Pictionary; Audio round; Taboo round; and Biogeographic zones & Landscapes round. Brightlands School topped the list and won the WII-FoD Rolling Trophy, Book Prize and Sameer Ghosh Memorial Nature and Wildlife Rolling Trophy. Doon School won second prize and Hilton's School won the third prize. Dr. Mahendra Shrestha, Program Director, Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, USA graced the occasion as Chief Guest and distributed the prizes to the winning team.

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*"What we are doing to the forests of the world is but a mirror reflection of what we are doing to ourselves and to one another."*

— Mahatma Gandhi