

# E-NEWSLETTER OF W.I.I.

*Nature is our Password, Conservation the Creed*

Winter 2015

## IN THE ISSUE

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



*Falconeria himalaica* (Endemic to Himalaya)

B.S. Adhikari

## Next Issue

- XXXI Certificate Course in Wildlife Management concluded
- Meeting of Senior Officers of Tiger Range countries



Tanvir Bashir

*For the sake of research...*

## Current Protected Area Network of India

Position as on February, 2016

National Parks: 103; Area 40500.13, (1.23%)  
Wildlife Sanctuaries: 535; Area: 118004.92, (3.59%)  
Conservation Reserves : 66; Area: 2344.53, (0.07%)  
Community Reserves : 26; Area: 46.93 (0.001%)  
**Total Protected Areas : 730; Area: 160896.51, (4.89%)**

\* 2 Protected Areas in Tamil Nadu State

**Theerthangal** (Area: 0.29 sq km)

**Sakkarakottai** (Area: 2.30 sq km)

[jsk@wii.gov.in](mailto:jsk@wii.gov.in)



भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान  
Wildlife Institute of India

Post Box # 18, Chandrabani, Dehra Dun - 248 001 (Uttarakhand)  
Tel.: +91-135-2640114 -115, 2646100; Fax: +91-135-2640117;  
E-mail : [wii@wii.gov.in](mailto:wii@wii.gov.in) ; Website : <http://www.wii.gov.in>

## Around the Campus

### XXXVII P.G. Diploma Course in Advanced Wildlife Management commenced

The XXXVII P.G. Diploma Course in Advanced Wildlife Management commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015 for the duration of 10-month at the Institute. The course is meant for in-service Indian Forest Service and State Forest Service Officers of the rank of Deputy Conservator of Forests (DCF)/ Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF) and equivalent. A total of 13 officer trainees including four lady officer trainees joined the course. The objectives of the course are to: (i) provide a foundation on modern concepts in wildlife science; (ii) provide an understanding of the relevant global, regional, national and state level conservation policies and legislation and enforcement; (iii) provide knowledge and first-hand experience of conservation issues and practices under varied ecological, socio economic, political and administrative situations in the field including the vulnerability of species of wild plants and animals and their protection; (iv) provide hands-on experience in using modern scientific methods, techniques and tools that are essential contributors to

conservation practices in the field; (v) develop skills of writing scientific documents, project formulation and making persuasive presentations; (vi) develop skills for preparation of an integrated scientific wildlife management plan; and (vii) prepare the participant for addressing various conservation challenges in managing protected area network in an effective manner.

The course is designed in such a way that sufficient time is given to classroom teaching as well as field exercises. The officer trainees were taken to the field for various field-based programmes, such as Orientation Tour to Kalagarh, Corbett Tiger Reserve from 25-30 September, 2015; High Altitude Techniques Tour to Kedarnath Wildlife Sanctuary and Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve from 24-30 October, 2015; and Techniques Tour to Rawasan, Chilla and Gohri Ranges of Rajaji Tiger Reserve from 15-28 November, 2015.

*ajay@wii.gov.in*

### XXXI Certificate Course in Wildlife Management

The XXXI Certificate Course in Wildlife Management commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2015. A total of 24 candidates joined the course, of which 9 were foreign nationals (3 from Malaysia and 6 from Myanmar including one lady officer). Among Indian participants, 10 from Madhya Pradesh, one each from Maharashtra, Uttarakhand, Goa and Telangana Forest Departments joined the course.

Theory inputs in classroom situation at the head quarter have allowed them to equip with concepts and approaches relevant to principles of wildlife biology, ecology, wildlife management, and management planning, captive management, GIS and remote sensing, wildlife health, conservation education, nature interpretation, wildlife tourism and ecodevelopment for biodiversity conservation.

The Orientation-cum-Techniques Tour was conducted in Panna Tiger Reserve from 22 November to 4 December, 2015; wherein the officer trainees learnt various techniques, such as vegetation sampling techniques, point count and line transect methods, radio-telemetry, prey and predator sign survey, habitat mapping, use of water hole by ungulates, recording of sex, age and behavioural observations, health condition of wild ungulates, dung/pellet count to study the relative abundance of ungulates and vehicle based transects for animal density and use of various equipments. Several Faculty members were involved in this techniques tour and provided their inputs.

*adhikaribs@wii.gov.in*





### **XIII WII-Friends of the Doon (FoD) "Wildlife & Environment Quiz 2015", Dehradun, 1 October 2015.**

The XIII WII-FoD Wildlife & Environment Quiz 2015 — a collaborative activity of WII and Friends of Doon Society was organized on 1 October 2015 at WII to mark the celebrations of Wildlife Week 2015. Twenty two schools participated in the preliminary round. The quiz was prepared and hosted by the M.Sc. students with the help of two faculty members of the Institute. Five teams qualified for the final round. The final quiz had six rounds: Know our Uttarakhand; Biogeography; Acronym; *Pancha-mantra*; League of Legends; and Rapid Fire.

Ann Mary School topped the list and won the WII-FoD Rolling Trophy and cash prize of Rs. 2000.00 per participant whereas Scholar's Home School won the second prize. Shri Jairaj, Additional PCCF, Environment, Uttarakhand graced the occasion as the chief guest and distributed the prizes to the winning teams. Shri S.K Mukherjee, Former Director, Wildlife Institute of India and Dr. G.S. Rawat, Dean, Faculty of Wildlife Sciences were also present on the occasion. [anju.baroth@wii.gov.in](mailto:anju.baroth@wii.gov.in)

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Special Certificate Course on Coastal and Marine Biodiversity and Protected Area Management, Havelock, Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, 1-18 December, 2015.**



The Certificate Course for field-level staff of the Forest Departments was inaugurated on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015 at Havelock Island, Andaman with 13 participants comprising largely Range Forest Officers representing Gujarat, Maharashtra, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The first part of the course included the open water scuba diving training and the under-water biodiversity monitoring. The course was organized jointly by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit* (GIZ) GmbH. The course was the part of project titled "Conservation and Sustainable Management of Coastal and Marine Protected Areas (CMPA)" of the Indo-German Biodiversity Programme of GIZ that aims at strengthening capacities of key



## Around the Campus

training and learning organizations relevant to Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).

This course was intended to enable the participants to have a sound understanding of the concepts and issues related to managing coastal and marine biodiversity, coastal and marine protected areas, ecological and socio-political context, conservation approaches and legal-policy framework between terrestrial and coastal marine Protected Areas, as well as to acquire necessary skills to conduct assessment and monitoring of coastal and marine habitats and species and prepare field reports, and develop-under supervision-operational plan for MPAs based on management effectiveness guidelines.

*ksivakumar@wii.gov.in*

### **3<sup>rd</sup> School in Herpetology (II Phase), Dehradun, 1-15 October 2015.**

An intensive course in Herpetology (study of amphibians and reptiles) sponsored by Department of Science and Technology, Science Engineering Research Board, called the "School in Herpetology" was conducted at the Wildlife Institute of India (WII). It was the third time that school was organized at WII. The course targeted masters' students, doctoral students and young faculty members from India. The course was designed to assist students who pursue careers in Herpetology. In all, 24 participants from various parts of the country were selected for the course.



Shri S.K. Mukherjee, Former Director, WII was the chief guest on the occasion. The course had five modules, viz. Taxonomy, Systematics and Biogeography; Ecology and Behaviour; Biostatistics and Science Communication; Reproductive and Developmental Biology; Conservation Biology. Invited faculty included reputed scientists and academicians from within India and abroad. Alumni of the course were also invited to give inputs and interact with students. The students were also trained in laboratory techniques, such as preservation, curation, morphometry, behavioural observation of larvae and regeneration experiments.

A field trip was organized in Dhanaulti and Benog Wildlife Sanctuary. The participants were exposed to field techniques in herpetology and photo-documentation. During the field trip, the participants used various field techniques and recorded amphibians and reptiles in the field. Field work was organized at Dhanaulti and Benog Wildlife Sanctuary, Mussoorie Wildlife Division to demonstrate herpetofaunal sampling techniques, such as stream transects acoustics search, stream characterization and visual encounter survey. A workshop on field photography was also organized. The participants were asked to prepare one poster on their own research work.

*abhijit@wii.gov.in*





## Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) Capacity-Building Forum, Dehradun, 19-22 October 2015.

Governments, organizations and other stakeholders met in India to discuss opportunities for aligned investments in ecological knowledge for sustainable development. A key international initiative for addressing concerns over threats towards biodiversity and ecosystem services, IPBES was established in 2012 and currently consists of 124 member States.

The first IPBES Capacity-Building Forum was organised in India, Dehradun, at the Wildlife Institute of India. A total of 75 participants attended this training programme. The first meeting of the Forum aims to promote dialogue amongst receivers, implementers and funders of capacity-building activities. The meeting explored opportunities for cooperation on aligned investments in capacity-building needs; further partnerships for piloting and delivering the IPBES capacity-building programme; and plan further action, including preparation for future meetings of the forum.

Shri Hem Pande, Special Secretary, Union Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change said on the occasion, "The only way to conserve our ecology is making local people accountable for flora and fauna. If Biological Act is followed religiously, we won't need to



spend 2 billion dollars to maintain to maintain our ecology". Dr. Zakri Abdul Hamid, IPBES Founding Chair and Science Advisor to Malaysia's Prime Minister and member of the UN Secretary-General's Scientific Advisory Board graced the occasion. Director, WII Dr. V.B. Mathur, is a member of IPBES Multidisciplinary Expert Panel. Mr. Ivar Baste, IPBES Bureau-member; Co-chair and Director of the Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity and Senior Adviser, Norwegian Environment Agency was also present in the Forum.

[dwii@wii.gov.in](mailto:dwii@wii.gov.in)

## One-week Compulsory Training Programme of IFS Officers on "Ecodevelopment for Biodiversity Conservation: Assessment and way forward", Dehradun, 7-11 December 2015.





The course conducted by Wildlife Institute of India (WII), was sponsored by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India. The inaugural and keynote address on 'Human dimensions of protected area management and eco-development' was delivered by Chief Guest Dr. H.S. Pabla, Retd. PCCF & CWLW, M.P. A total of 13 officers participated in the course.

The course was planned keeping in mind the requirements of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change. Some important topics discussed were 'Origin and evolution of eco-development programme for PA management in India; Panel discussion on Eco-development for PA management- Achievement, issues and way forward; Role of institutions and institution building process in eco-development; Eco-development an approach for PA – story of Periyar Tiger Reserve; Linking ecosystem services with PA management; GHNP- a story of biodiversity conservation, women empowerment and livelihood security; and Ecotourism for biodiversity conservation in PAs: Issues and challenges.

There were three panel discussions during the course, which provided opportunity of interaction among the participants and experts in related subject areas. The group was taken to Rajaji Tiger Reserve for a field visit on 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2015. The objective of the field visit was to provide hands-on experience to the participants on different eco-development aspects of Rajaji Tiger Reserve as well as relocation programme carried out by the Tiger Reserve for *Gujjars*. anilbhardwaj@wii.gov.in

### WII bagged medal in All India Forest Sports Meet

Wildlife Institute of India's contingent participated in the 22<sup>nd</sup> **All India Forest Sports Meet** (AIFSM) held at Bengaluru from 19–23 December 2015. AIFSM is an annual event, where all the state forest departments and institutions under Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change were invited to compete at a national stage. Karnataka hosted the event this year with professionalism and hospitality.

The Institute participated with relatively small contingent of only 15 players lead by Shri S. Dalal, Registrar and Chief De Mission of WII contingent for the event. The players participated with great enthusiasm and spirit in Tennis (4 categories), Table Tennis (4 categories), Badminton (2 categories), Rifle Shooting and Golf. WII bagged a **bronze** medal in Tennis Men Doubles (Mr. Harendra Kumar and Mr. Anant Shankar). In other events too, the players have done well.

*salvador@wii.gov.in*

Patron: Director, WII

Editors: Bitapi C. Sinha and K.K. Shrivastava

Layout & Design : Kuldeep Chauhan

Photo credits: Chandan Jani (WII Building), S. Wilson, Vinod Verma & K. Sivakumar

**I feel like I'm nothing without wildlife. They are the stars. I feel awkward without them.**

**- Bindi Irwin**

Source: <http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/keywords/wildlife.html>