



**TRAINING CUM SENSITIZATION WORKSHOP ON 'BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND  
GANGA REJUVENATION' FOR THE OFFICIALS OF THE UTTAR PRADESH FOREST  
DEPARTMENT AT ARANYA VIKAS BHAWAN IN LUCKNOW, UTTAR PRADESH ON 19<sup>TH</sup>  
NOVEMBER, 2016**

**DETAILED REPORT**

The project 'Biodiversity Conservation and Ganga Rejuvenation' is an integral part of the *Namami Gange programme* under the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) initiative taken up by the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation. The one day 'sensitization-workshop' was organized as a part of the capacity building and stakeholder involvement initiative in order to apprise the Uttar Pradesh Forest Department personnel about the aims, objectives and importance of the aforementioned project and to develop a partnership.

**Date and Venue**

The 'Training cum sensitization-workshop' took place on 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2016 at the Parijat Conference Hall, Uttar Pradesh Forest Corporation – Aranya Vikas Bhawan in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. The team from the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun, arrived at the venue two days prior, on 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2016, in order to fine-tune the agenda, to coordinate with the concerned parties and to oversee the final preparations for the workshop.

**Team**

The WII team included Dr. V. B. Mathur, Director, Dr. Ruchi Badola, Scientist G, Dr. S. A. Hussain, Scientist G, Dr. Gautam Talukdar, Scientist D and six research scholars Dr. Pariva Dobriyal, Mr. Aftab Usmani, Ms. Amanat K. Gill, Ms. Michelle Irengbam, Ms. Aditi Dev and Mr. Narendra Mohan.

**Participants**

The 'Training cum sensitization-workshop' was attended by the officials of the Uttar Pradesh Forest Department: Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF), Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (APCCF), Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF), Conservator of Forests (CF), Divisional Forest Officers (DFO) and Forest Range Officers (FRO), who came as representatives of the senior officials that were unable to make it to the workshop. Shri Umendra Sharma, PCCF and Head of Forest Force (HoFF), Forest Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh, graced the workshop as the Chief Guest and addressed the gathering in the 'Inaugural Session'; post which he exited the workshop. Dr. V. B. Mathur, Director, WII, also addressed the gathering during the 'Inaugural session'. Shri. Sunil Pandey, Secretary (Forest and Wildlife), Govt. of Uttar Pradesh, was unable to take part in the

workshop due to last minute work-related duties that he had to attend to. A total of 48 officials from the Uttar Pradesh Forest Department attended the workshop (Annexure 2 (a) – 2 (e)).

### **The Sensitization-Workshop**

Ms. Aditi Dev, the ‘master of ceremony’, hosted the ‘Training cum sensitization workshop’. The ‘inaugural session’ commenced with the welcome address by Dr. Ruchi Badola wherein she welcomed the participants and set the tone of the workshop by talking about the relevance of the Ganga River. She spoke about how the Ganga River, endearingly referred to as “*Ganga Maa*”, occupies an integral and sacrosanct place in India’s past, present and future. Shri. Umendra Sharma, Dr. Prabhkar Dubey, Shri. Sanjay Singh, Shri. Anjani Acharya and Dr. Sandeep Behera were formally welcomed with bouquets of flowers.

Dr. V. B. Mathur, director, WII, welcomed all the participants on behalf of WII and expressed gratitude for their presence. He provided a brief introduction to the project entitled ‘Biodiversity Conservation and Ganga Rejuvenation’, which is a part of the Namami Gange programme under the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) initiative of the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation. He gave a clarification regarding the two type interventions, namely, forestry and wildlife, and about WII’s role in the Namami Gange programme. He stated that the success of the project is contingent upon the roles played by WII as the knowledge partner, the state Forest Departments as the implementation authority and the involvement of the local communities.

Dr. Sandeep Behera, Consultant Biodiversity, NMCG, Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, spoke about the expectations from NMCG. He reiterated the distinction between the forestry and wildlife interventions of the Namami Gange programme and described how different institutes and ‘*Centres of Excellence*’ across India had been given distinct responsibilities pertaining to the diverse aspects of cleaning the Ganga River. He stressed upon the need for a coordinated effort by all the entities involved, directly or indirectly, in order to ensure that duplicacy of work between agencies is avoided. With transparency as a mandate of the Government, he highlighted the importance of a strong system of reporting and monitoring and timely deliverables.

Shri. Sanjay Singh, APCCF, State Zoo Authority, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh, spoke about the work done by the Uttar Pradesh Forest Department in conducting the Gangetic Dolphin census, mentioning that it would be regular feature in the upcoming years.

Shri Umendra Sharma, PCCF and HoFF, Forest Department, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh, spoke about the significance of the Ganga River in the social, cultural and religious beliefs of the people of not only northern India but throughout the country as well as the neighbouring countries. He also stressed about the importance and the role of biodiversity conservation in rejuvenating the Ganga River and how the project taken up by WII is not only innovative and scientific but also reliable and self-sustaining.

Shri. Umendra Sharma, Shri. Sanjay Singh, Shri. Anjani Acharya, Dr. Prabhkar Dubey and Dr. Sandeep Behera were presented with mementos. The vote of thanks was given by Shri. Anjani Acharya, CCF, projects, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh.

The workshop consisted of two technical sessions on overview of the project Biodiversity Conservation and Ganga Rejuvenation and Way forward respectively.

The chair and co-chair of both the sessions were Mr. Sanjay Srivastav, Director Lion Safari, Etawah and Mr. P.P. Singh, CF, Allahabad, Government of Uttar Pradesh respectively.

The first technical session comprised of three main speakers i.e. Dr. Ruchi Badola, Dr. S.A. Hussain and Shri. S.C. Yadav and a session on suggestions from the participants on biodiversity conservation and Ganga rejuvenation.

### **Technical Session 1: Overview of the Project**

Reconvening after the tea break, the technical session 1 started by a presentation on overview of the project “Biodiversity Conservation and Ganga Rejuvenation” presented by Dr. Ruchi Badola. In her presentation, she highlighted on the social, ecological, cultural and economic importance of the Ganga River. She also pointed out the challenges that the Ganga River is facing such as construction of hydropower projects, water abstraction, changes in ecology of river and diversion of water. Dr. Badola also emphasized on the significant role of the different stakeholders at international, national, state and regional level in this project. For the successful implementation of the project, an interdepartmental approach wherein all the departments are working in synergy as well as the various policies and Acts are undertaken. A basin level approach can be used wherein different aspects like- waste water, solid water, industrial fluid abatement and restoration of biodiversity can be worked out together. Dr. Badola emphasized on strengthening of the community participation in this project. She stressed that being the facilitators and key players we have a significant role in achieving the main goal of the project that is planning a scientific aquatic species restoration plan by involving multiple stakeholders. She gave an overview and expected outcome of the six components of the project that WII has undertaken i.e. (i) Establishment of Ganga Aqualife Conservation Monitoring Centre, (ii) Planning Aquatic Species Restoration for Ganga River, (iii) Capacity Building of Forest Department and other Stakeholders, (iv) Establishment of Rescue and Rehabilitation Centres, (v) Community Based Conservation Programmes for Species Restoration in Ganga River and (vi) Nature Interpretation and Education for Biodiversity Conservation of Ganga River.

She ended her presentation by giving a brief overview on the main launch of the projects under *Namami Gange programme* that took place in Haridwar (Uttarakhand) on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2016, where the various projects under the *Namami Gange* programme were successfully launched by Shri Harish Rawat, Honourable Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, in the chairmanship of Shri Nitin Gadkari, Honourable Minister of Road Transport, Highways and Shipping of India, GoI and in special presence of Sushri Uma Bharti, Honourable Union Minister of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, GoI, Shri Mahesh Sharma, Honourable Minister of Tourism and Culture, GoI and other dignitaries.

The next presentation of this session was by Dr. S.A. Hussain on ‘Rare and endangered fauna of Ganga River: Conservation issues’. He discussed about the biogeographic zones i.e. Western Himalayas, Upper Gangetic Plain, Lower Gangetic Plain, East Coast that come under the mainstream Ganga River. He highlighted the representative habitats and fauna of the Ganga River i.e. Gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*), Golden Mahseer (*Tor putitora*), Gangetic Dolphin (*Platanista gangetica gangetica*), Otter (*Lutrogale perspicillata*), Turtle (*Batagur kachuga*), Resident and migratory birds, Mugger (*Crocodylus palustris*), Saltwater Crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*). He stressed on the

conservation status of aquatic mammals in which the status of Gangetic dolphin is endangered whereas smooth coated otter is vulnerable. In case of obligate breeding birds *Sterna acuticauda* (Black bellied tern) is under endangered category whereas in case of reptiles *Batagur kachuga* (Red-crowned roofed turtle) and *Batagur baska* (River terrapin) fall under critically endangered species. In case of fish, Golden Mahseer is under the endangered category. He highlighted about the protected areas along the Ganga River in five states (Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal). He discussed about the factors affecting the biodiversity of the Ganga River i.e. reduced water availability, water pollution, unsustainable resource extraction, habitat loss, decline in prey-base, poaching of wildlife. He ended his presentation on stressing upon one point that is lack of appropriate actions might result in permanent loss of the conservation dependent species.

The session was resumed after the lunch break. Shri. S.C. Yadav (IFS, Member Secretary, Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board), gave a presentation on the Ganga and Pollution: Experience from Uttar Pradesh. He spoke about the assessment and abatement of pollution in Ganga. He also discussed about the environmental flows which contributes in the water quality assessment and monitoring network. He also said that the issue of e-flow has become a political and social matter. He discussed about the sources of pollution for Ganga river i.e. domestic (waste water, organic food) and industrial (effluent discharge, organic food). He emphasized on the major contributors of pollution in Uttar Pradesh i.e. paper industries being the most polluting source, followed by agro based industries, sugar industry, distillery, dye industries and tanneries. He also spoke about no black lacquer discharge in the Ganga River. He also showed a video shot by him and his team members showcasing the entrance of sewage and industrial pollution in the freshwater leading to contamination and deterioration of the quality of the water. He stressed on the proposed monitoring network and real time monitoring of the Ganga River and its tributaries.

The session was concluded by questions and suggestions from all the participants on the biodiversity conservation and Ganga Rejuvenation and the ways to strengthen the project in Uttar Pradesh with their active involvement. Proper conduction of socio-ecological studies, encouragement of more awareness generating activities, gaining social support especially from eastern Uttar Pradesh, polluted water from tanneries should be treated and used from irrigating the agricultural fields nearby were few suggestions given by the participants at the workshop.

### **Technical Session 2: Way Forward**

Technical session 2 was the concluding session for the sensitization workshop. Mr. Sanjay Srivastav (Chair) and Mr. P.P. Singh (Co-chair) were presented momentos for chairing the two sessions. Outcomes of the sensitization workshop were discussed in this session. Dr. V.B. Mathur gave the concluding remarks by first applauding the efforts and active participation of the Uttar Pradesh Forest Department in this workshop. He laid emphasis on the need and the vital importance of the sensitization about the project at larger level starting from Forest Department to local level and channelizes the efforts of the Uttar Pradesh Forest department and Wildlife Institute of India in successful implementation of the project. He stressed on meticulous planning and mapping of the activities and involvement of the Forest department in the project.

The session was ended by a vote of thanks by Shri. Sanjaya Singh. He appreciated the efforts and active involvement of the Uttar Pradesh Forest Department and the team from WII to be able to carry out the sensitization workshop successfully. He also encouraged and showed full support from

the Uttar Pradesh Forest Department to WII in the NMCG-WII initiative on Biodiversity Conservation and Ganga rejuvenation.

### Programme Schedule

9:00 – 10:00	Registration	
Inaugural Session		
10:00 – 10:10	Welcome by Dr. Ruchi Badola, Scientist G, Wildlife Institute of India	
10:10 – 10:20	Address by Dr. V. B. Mathur, Director, Wildlife Institute of India	
10:20 – 10:30	Expectations from National Mission for Clean Ganga, Dr. Sandeep Behera, Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation	
10:30 – 10:40	Address by Shri. Sanjay Singh, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, State Zoo Authority, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh	
10:40 – 10:50	Address by Shri. Sunil Pandey, Secretary (Forest and Wildlife), Govt. of Uttar Pradesh	
10:50 – 11:00	Address by Shri. Umendra, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh	
11:00 – 11:10	Presentation of Momentos	
11:10 – 11:20	Vote of thanks by Shri. Anjani Acharya, Chief Conservator of Forests, Projects, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh	
11:20 – 11:40	Tea break	
Technical Session 1: Overview of the Project		
11:40 – 12:00	Overview of the project “Biodiversity Conservation and Ganga Rejuvenation”	Dr. Ruchi Badola
12:00 – 13:00	Rare and endangered fauna of Ganga River: Conservation issues	Dr. S. A. Hussain
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch break	
14:00 – 14:30	Ganga and Pollution: Experience from Uttar Pradesh	Dr. S. C. Yadav
14:30 – 15:30	Suggestions from the participants on biodiversity conservation and Ganga rejuvenation	Shri. Sanjay Singh, Dr, Prabhkar Dubey, Dr. Ruchi Badola, Dr. S. A. Hussain
Technical Session 2: Way Forward		
15:30 – 15:40	Concluding remarks	Dr. V. B. Mathur
15:40 – 15:50	Vote of thanks	Shri. Sanjay Singh
15:50 – 16:00	Tea	

### PHOTO GALLERY



**Participants of the Sensitization Workshop**



**Team members of Wildlife Institute of India at the workshop venue**



**Dr. V.B. Mathur talking about the aim and approach of the project**



**Dr. V.B. Mathur, Director, WII presenting memento to the PCCF UPFD Shri Umendra**