



**TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR OFFICIALS OF NARORA ATOMIC POWER STATION (NAPS) AND
FRONTLINE STAFF OF FOREST DEPARTMENT ON “AQUATIC SPECIES CONSERVATION AND
GANGA REJUVENATION” ON 1ST AND 2ND FEBRUARY, 2018**

DETAILED REPORT

The Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun under the project “Biodiversity Conservation and Ganga Rejuvenation” conducted two days training workshop for officials of the Narora Atomic Power Station, under its Environmental Stewardship Program (NAPS-ESP) and frontline forest staffs of Uttar Pradesh forest department (UPFD), Bulandshahar Division on “Aquatic Species Conservation and Ganga Rejuvenation” emphasizing the role of rescue and rehabilitation of species of conservation significance, in the biodiversity conservation of Ganga River.

Under the Chairmanship of Mr. Subhasis Patra, Maintenance Superintendent, NAPS and the gracious presence of Shri. Virendra Kumar Jain, DFO, Bulandshahr the 2-days training workshop started on 1st February, 2018 at NAPS Guest House, Narora. The workshop was attended by 14 participants from NAPS and 8 from UPFD. The session started with a brief description of the 2-days program by Ms. Monika Sharma. The participants and presenters introduced themselves.

Mr. Subhasis Patra, formally welcomed the participants and WII-NMCG team members and briefly described NAPS and its activities under Environment Stewardship Programme. Emphasizing the contribution of NAPS-ESP towards biodiversity and ecosystem conservation for more than 10 years, he told that the technical input by WII will strengthen the conservation efforts of NAPS. He also told that the association with WII will be of long term and the rescue centre established at NAPS under NMCG-WII Ganga Project will continue to contribute in species restoration program in Ganga River. He also promised to designate a place for an interpretation centre at NAPS. During the technical session, Dr. Niladri Dasgupta, Project Scientist, introduced the WII-NMCG project and briefly described the project progress so far. Elaborating the ecological significance of rivers and wetlands he described the technicalities of river ecosystem conservation to sustain its ecosystem service values. Afterward Dr. Rajeev

Chauhan, Conservation Officer, gave an overview of different techniques of rescue and rehabilitation of crocodile and turtles. Using different case studies, he also shared his experience of rescue operations. He also discussed the collaborative rescue efforts of WII and NAPS at the Ganga Aquatic Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre (GAWRRC) established at NAPS remises.

This was followed by a brief description about the “Husbandry Practices for turtles and crocodiles” by Dr. Niladri Dasgupta. He pleaded to NAPS officials and forest staffs to follow scientific protocols for rescue and rehabilitation operations and told that greater collaboration and coordination is needed for rapid respond to emergency situations. Emphasizing the fact that community participation is elementary in any conservation programme, Ms. Shashi Joshi, Community Officer, briefly described the activities done in the NMCG-WII project to ensure long-term association of riverside communities of 17 villages of Dibai block and 3 villages of Anupshahr block in the Ganga Rejuvenation. She also explained how communities are coming forward in the mission of biodiversity restoration and Ganga rejuvenation process, after developing linkages and livelihood opportunities for them. She concluded that, the cadre of *Ganga Prahari*, volunteers from the local communities, established under the project are dedicated to the mission and will also be helpful as informers and aqualife rescue operations. Thereafter Dr. Niladri Dasgupta presented a talk on the topic “Biodiversity Monitoring of Aquatic Species in Ganga River”. He explained different techniques used in monitoring of aquatic mammals, waterbirds, crocodiles, turtles and fishes. Briefly stating the river variables and their monitoring techniques, he explained the importance of habitat conservation in species restoration process.

In the concluding session a group discussion was held on how effectively the aims of NMCG-WII project for rescue and rehabilitation of aqualife of the Ganga River may be implemented in the western Uttar Pradesh in collaboration with NAPS and UPFD. The workshop was concluded by Shri. Virendra Kumar Jain, DFO, Bulandshahr. He appreciated the efforts initiated by the WII-NMCG team and NAPS officials towards conservation programmes. Recognizing the fact that there is a dire need of protection of sandy river banks and islands from being exploited for agriculture, which are habitats for freshwater turtles and nesting waterbirds. He suggested designation of such areas upstream and downstream of the Narora barrage, through a joint survey by WII and UPFD. He offered his full support for this and encouraged all the participants to continue the conservation efforts.

On the occasion of World Wetlands Day, 2nd February, 2018 a field training was conducted at Narwar Ghat from 8:30 am till 12:30 pm with 26 participants, with 30 students from Rajghat Inter-college and 7 *Ganga Prahari*.

Dr. Niladri Dasgupta, and Mr. Aftab Alam Usmani from WII and Mr. Raja Mandal, NAPS-ESP formally introduced the Ghat characteristics and the floral and faunal diversity of that area.

After that participants were divided into 4 groups. Each group was headed by two researchers from WII-NMCG team. Each group was taken for a 2 km walk along the Ganga River. The participants were trained on monitoring of river and wetland variables, identification and counting of waterbirds and freshwater turtles and anthropogenic activities like agriculture and dumping of solid waste.

The staffs UPFD and NAPS-ESP visited the Ganga Aquatic Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre and Dr. Niladri Dasgupta gave a brief description of the ecology and identifying features of different rescued turtles at the centre. He also described the operational features of the husbandry ponds at the centre.

In conclusion, the participants from UPFD and NAPS-ESP pledged to collaborate and coordinate more in future for all conservation and rescue works to conserve the aqualife in the Ganga River.

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

February 1	Technical session	Resource Person
09:30-10:00	Registration and Pre-Training Assessment	Ms. Aditi Dev, Ms Monika Sharma, Ms. Monika Mehralu
10:00-10:10	Welcome address	Ms Monika Sharma
10:10-10:30	NMCG-WII project "Biodiversity Conservation and Ganga Rejuvenation" : An Overview	Dr. Niladri Dasgupta
10:30-11:00	TEA	
11:00-12:00	Techniques of Rescue and rehabilitation of Aquatic species (Crocodile and turtles)	Dr. Rajeev Chauhan
1200-1300	Husbandry Practices for turtles and crocodiles	Dr. Niladri Dasgupta
13:00-14:00	Lunch	
1400-15:00	Monitoring of Aquatic wildlife (turtles, crocodiles, birds and mammals)	Dr. Niladri Dasgupta
1500-16:00	Community Participation in Conservation of Ganga River-The Narora experience	Ms. Shashi Joshi
16:00 -16:30	TEA	

16:30-17:00	Training Feedback	Ms. Shashi Joshi, Ms. Aditi Dev, Ms. Monika Sharma, Ms. Monika Mehralu
17:00-17:30	Valedictory Function	
February 2nd 2018		
09:00-12:00 hours	Bird watching at Narora Barrage to commemorate World Wetland Day	Dr. Rajeev Chauhan, Dr. Niladri Dasgupta, Ms. Aditi Dev, Ms. Monika Sharma

PHOTO GALLERY



