



**TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR YOUTH OF WEST BENGAL ON “BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION
AND METHODOLOGY OF BASELINE SURVEY OF INDICATOR SPECIES OF GANGA RIVER” ON
12TH TO 15TH FEBRUARY, 2018**

DETAILED REPORT

The Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun under the project “Biodiversity Conservation and Ganga Rejuvenation” conducted four days training workshop for postgraduates on “Biodiversity Conservation and methodology of baseline survey of indicator species of Ganga River” on 12th to 15th February, 2018 at Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun. A total of 20 participants from Serampore College, Hooghly attended the training workshop.

Workshop Objectives

The overall objective of the workshop was to train the youth about the biodiversity of the Ganga River, importance of aqualife conservation in the Ganga rejuvenation process, trained them different monitoring methods, rescue & rehabilitation techniques and highlight the importance of participatory management towards the conservation and rejuvenation of Ganga River.

The workshop was divided into two technical sessions on ecological monitoring and participatory management. Field visits to Asan Conservation Reserve, Uttarakhand, Himalayan Environmental Studies & Conservation Organisation (HESCO), Forest Research Institute, Dehradun and Parmarth Niketan, Rishikesh were also organized for the participants.

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

12th Feb. 2018	TECHNICAL SESSION I: ECOLOGICAL MONITORING	Resource persons
0900-0930	Registration & Pre-Training Assessment	Ms. Monika Sharma / Ms. Monika Mehralu,

		Ms. Sayantika Banerjee
0930-0940	Inaugural Address	Dr. Ruchi Badola
0940-1020	Project Biodiversity Conservation and Ganga Rejuvenation: Objectives and Output	Dr. Sangeeta Angom
1020-1030	TEA	
1030 -1100	Vibrant Ganga: Social, cultural and ecological significance	Dr. Shivani Barthwal
1100 -1130	Introduction to rescue and rehabilitation techniques (Turtles, Crocodile and Dolphin) for first responders	Dr. Gowri Mallapur
1130 (Onwards)	PARMARTH NIKETAN ASHRAM, RISHIKESH (Lunch at 1300 hrs)	
	(i) “Blessings and Inspiration”	HH Puja Swami Chidanand Saraswati Ji
	(ii) Water conservation and Wash Issue”.	Dr. Ravindra Bohra (National Wash Coordinator, Parmarth Niketan Ashram, Rishikesh
	(i) River monitoring variables (water quality, physical, properties, Detection techniques etc.	Dr. Arvind Dwivedi, Mr. Zeeshan Ali, Mr. Ravindranath Tripathi and Ms. Monika Sharma
	(ii) Ganga Arti	Ms. Monika Mehralu, Ms. Shatakshi Sharma, Ms. Sayantika Banarjee and Ms. Aishwarya R. Chandran
13th Feb. 2018	FIELD TRAINING SESSION	
0730	(i) ASAN CONSERVATION RESERVE,	Mr. Zeeshan Ali, Mr.

(Onwards)	UTTARAKHAND (BIODIVERSITY MONITORING OF AQUATIC SPECIES) (ii) VIGYAN DHAM, UCOST	Ankit Kumar, Ms. Monika Sharma, Ms. Sayantika Banerjee, Ms. Shatakshi Sharma, Ms. Monika Mehralu and Ms. Aishwarya R. Chandran
14th Feb. 2018	ECOLOGICAL MONITORING (CONTD.)	
0700 - 0830	WII Nature Trails - Monitoring of Aquatic and Riparian Vegetation	Dr. B. S. Adhikari/Mr. Neeraj Mahar/ Ms. Monika Mehralu, Ms. Sayantika Banerjee
0900 - 1000	TEA	
1000 -1030	GIS Mapping techniques with reference to Ganga Basin	Dr. Gautam Talukdar
1030 -1100	Monitoring of Fish Population	Dr. Arvind Dwivedi
1100 - 1130	Monitoring of Water Quality and Ecotoxicology	Ms. Ruchika Shah
1130 -1230	Forensic Lab: Biological Sample Collection and Genetic Monitoring	Dr. Sandeep Gupta, Dr. Ajit Kumar/ Dr. Prabhakar Yadav
1230 - 1300	Group Discussion	
1300 - 1400	LUNCH	
	PARTICIPATORY MANAGEMENT	
1400 - 1500	Community Participation in Conservation of Ganga River	Dr. Ruchi Badola /Dr. Deepika Dogra
1500 - 1530	TEA	
1530 - 1600	Team Building of "Biodiversity Conservation and Ganga Rejuvenation"	Dr. Ruchi Badola, Dr. Sangeeta Angom, Dr. Deepika Dogra, Ms.

		Aditi Dev
1600 - 1700	Group Discussion	
15th Feb. 2017	CONSERVATION EDUCATION	
0930-1030	Conservation Education: A tool for Eliciting Public Support	Dr. Bitapi Sinha
1030-1100	TEA	
1100-1200	Group Activity on Designing Education Materials	Dr. Bitapi Sinha
1200-1230	VALEDICTORY FUNCTION	
1230-1300	Post-Training Assessment	Dr. Sangeeta Angom, Ms. Monika Mehralu, Ms. Sayantika Banarjee
1300 – 1400	LUNCH	
1400 -1700	FRI AND LOCAL VISIT	Mr. Zeeshan Ali, Ms. Monika Sharma, Ms. Monika Mehralu, Ms. Sayantika Banarjee
1700-1715	Vote of Thanks	Dr. Sangeeta Angom

1st Day

The First day of the workshop started with the registration and a formal introduction of the candidates. Dr. Sangeeta Angom (Training Coordinator), commenced the workshop by welcoming the participants, followed by an introduction to the NMCG-WII project “Biodiversity Conservation and Ganga Rejuvenation”. She gave a detailed overview about the project, major objectives, the six main components under it, aquatic species biodiversity present in the Ganga and the factors affecting the aquatic biodiversity. This was followed by a talk from Dr. Shivani Barthwal (Research Associate) on the social, cultural & ecological significance of the river Ganga. She talked about the origin, flow and journey the river undertakes. She highlighted the features of upper, middle and lower stretches of Ganga and the hydrological alteration of these

stretches due to construction of dams and barrages. Subsequently, Dr. Gowri Mallapur (Subject Matter Specialist-Veterinarian) discussed about the rescue and rehabilitation techniques of turtles, crocodiles and dolphins for first responders.

After this the participants were taken for a visit to Parmarth Niketan Ashram, Rishikesh where Dr. Ravindra Bohra (National WASH Coordinator) gave a short discourse on “Water conservation and Wash Issues” in which global water crisis, recent scenario of water resources of India and the importance of water conservation. After this Dr. Arvind Dwivedi (Project Associate) talked about river monitoring variables and demonstrated different monitoring techniques. This was followed by Ganga Aarti. After which H.H Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati Ji, blessed the students and conducted a “Water Blessing” ceremony, where all the participants along with Swami ji poured water on a globe symbolizing our commitment towards water conservation issues.



2nd Day

The second day commenced with a field visit to Asan Conservation Reserve situated at the confluence of Yamuna and Asan River, Uttarakhand. The wetland comprises of an area of 4.44sq.km and is known for its terrific resident and migratory avifauna, Indian Bird Conservation Network lists Asan Conservation Reserve as an Important Bird Area. The students observed and counted migratory birds like Shelduck, Bar headed Goose, Common Pochard, Red Crested Pochard, Palla's Gull, Tufted Duck and Egrets, Cormorants, Water Redstarts, Swallows etc. They were also given a brief idea on the use of GPS and the methods

of line transect and point count at Nature Trail of Rajaji National Park. The session concluded with a visit to Vigyan Dham, Uttarakhand State Council for Science & Technology (UCOST).



3rd Day

The third day of the session started with a visit to the Nature trail at WII campus, where the participants were enlightened about the various flora and fauna of the campus. This was followed by a small visit to the Forensic and GIS laboratories. In the afternoon the participants were taken to HESCO, where Padma Shri Dr. Anil Prakash Joshi emphasized the importance of community participation towards Biodiversity Conservation.



4th Day

The technical session for the fourth day consisted of a group activity followed by a talk of Dr. Pariva Dobriyal, (Project Scientist) on community participation in river conservation. For the group activity the participants were divided into 3 groups and a box was filled with miscellaneous objects like pen, pencil, battery, flower, leaf, phone, phone cover etc. Each group had to select one group leader. The first group was called in and the box filled with items was just shaken and the members were asked to list out the items inside it based on the sound of it. The second group was asked to feel the contents of the box and make a list of it. While the third group was shown the items inside the box and were asked to make a list. The list of items submitted by each group leader, from all the three groups were then collected and compared. The result showed that the third group fared the best as they could name

most of the items inside it, and was followed by the second and first group. The inference from this group activity was then highlighted by Dr. Pariva Dobriyal, who emphasized on the importance of participatory management and approaches and interventions required to mobilize community for the conservation activities. She explained as in why the third group fared the best as they were shown all the items, which is analogous to a situation, where the frontline staff are most aware of a crisis situation in field and how the relevance of the information dies down during its passing in the hierarchical order. She accentuated that there needs to be coordination between frontline staff, higher officials and the community for better biodiversity rejuvenation process. After the technical session the students were taken to Forest Research Institute, Dehradun for a field visit. The workshop concluded with certificate distribution to the participants.

