

Introduction

UNESCO C2C organized a training programme from 8th- 10th March, 2016 for capacity building training and development of skills and knowledge of wildlife habitat management, population estimation survey/ census methods in the Himalayas and wildlife crime control- forensic tools of the front line staff Great Himalayan National Park Circle. This programme was attended by 29 forest staff members including ACF, Ranger Officials and Forest Guards of GHNP circle.

Objective:

The overall **objective** of this training programme was to introduce the staff to simple wildlife monitoring techniques which they can use to assess and manage the OUV (Outstanding Universal Values) listed for the World Heritage Site.

Programme Schedule:

Tuesday, 8th March, 2016	
Class room sessions (Venue: Porta Cabin)	
0930 – 1030h	Introduction to WII activities – Dr G.S. Rawat, Dean FWS WII
1030 – 1130h	Management challenges of GHNP- Shri Ajay Shrivastava
1130 – 1300h	Habitat monitoring techniques- Dr.B.S. Adhikari
1400–1530h	Wildlife estimation techniques (transects and Point sampling) - Dr V.P. Uniyal
1600 –1730 h	Introduction to wildlife forensics and visit to lab -Dr. Sandip K. Gupta
1730-1830 hrs	Field sampling monitoring techniques (Camera trap and emerging technologies)- Dr K. Ramesh
Wednesday 9th March, 2016	
0630 – 0730 h	Nature Trail and introduction to simple field-based monitoring techniques for frontline staff- Shri Manoj Nair
0930 – 1030 h	Introduction to GHNP world heritage OUVs, reporting and outreach –Dr Malvika Onial and team
1100–1330 h	Management and Monitoring OUVs- group exercise for pilot project- Dr. Sonali Ghosh and team
Thursday 10th March, 2016	
8.00- 1730 hrs	Visit to Chilla Range, Rajaji National Park – Mr Suresh Kumar

The 3-days programme included lectures by WII faculties on topics followed by group exercise on SoOUVs and field visit to Rajaji National Park.

In group exercise on SoOUVs, the staff was asked to break the OUVs of GHNP and provide information for their current conditions whether it's same, improved or declined. They were also

asked to provide suggestions in order to improve the current conditions of OUVs in their areas. They were also informed about the wildlife crime control- forensic tools in Forensic Lab of WII.

During their field visit to Rajaji Tiger Reserve, the staff was acquainted to various wildlife monitoring techniques e.g. camera traps, transect method, census methods etc. which can help them in habitat monitoring and population estimation in Himalayas.

Results:

The training resulted in better understanding of forest staff in various field techniques. The staff was informed about importance of different aspects of OUVs and their maintenance for further evaluations reports required by UNESCO for periodical assessments.

Most of the staff was found to be already aware about the field techniques but this training enhanced their skills in precise monitoring. During group exercise it was found very less wildlife monitoring exercises took place in the area for past two years due to lack of R&M projects for GHNP and less manpower in staff.

As a result, there is a need for projects in GHNP for complete monitoring of OUVs in the area, ecosystem service of the area and the contribution of local communities towards wildlife conservation.