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Kuldeep Chauthan

Colours of Spring...

Current Protected Area Network of India

Position as on March 2015

National Parks – 103; Area 40500.13 km² (1.23%)
Wildlife Sanctuaries – 528; Area 117230.76 km² (3.57%)
Conservation Reserves – 65; Area 2334.51 km² (0.07%)
Community Reserves – 4; Area 20.69 km² (0.00%)
Total – 700; Area 160096.09 km² (4.87%)

* New Conservation notified in Uttarakhand
Naina Devi Himalayan Bird Conservation Reserve
Area - 111.90 sq km & District - Nainital
Date of Notification - 9.03.2015

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Ridhima



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Around the Campus

XXX Certificate Course in Wildlife Management concluded

The 3-month Certificate Course in Wildlife Management concluded on 31st January 2015 with 21 officer trainees including six officer trainees from Malaysia. The entire course has been divided into 6 modules. Out of entire 90 days training curriculum, 35 days were spent in the field and rest of the time was used for classroom training sessions.

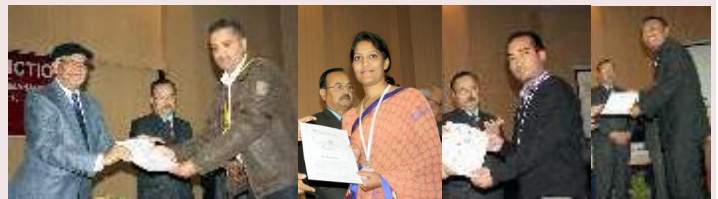
During the management tour, the officer trainees were taken to several Protected Areas and Zoological Parks in Gujarat during 11-24th January, 2015. The objective of the tour was to study the range of wildlife management strategies and practice related to habitat management for endangered species, wildlife protection and human-wildlife conflicts. Additionally, the trainees also visited Corbett Tiger Reserve, Uttarakhand and also nearby areas. The assessment of the officer trainees was undertaken

for each module. The respective module coordinators assessed each trainee's performance through a combination of class interaction, small assignment and formal tests.

On 29th January 2015, the *viva-voce* examination was held at this Institute. It was followed by an open feedback session. All the officer trainees have successfully completed the course and 16 of them were awarded honours certificate for securing 75% and above marks. The following trainees received medals for their outstanding performances:

Institute's Gold Medal for the "Top Trainee" was given to Shri Praveen Sharma; Institute's Silver Medal for the "Best All Round Wildlifer" to Ms. Monika Mandloi; Institute's Silver Medal for "Wildlife Management" to Shri Shanbormiki Law; and Institute's Silver Medal for the "Best Foreign trainee" was awarded to Mr. Abdullah Zawawi Bin Yazid.

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XXXVI P.G. Diploma Course in Advanced Wildlife Management is in progress

The course began at WII on 1st September 2014 with course participants from India and Bangladesh. The course is delivered in 16 in-house course modules. During the reporting period, reputed guest speakers were invited to give input in various modules.

The course has high field component with as many as eight field tours. The officer trainees have undertaken six field tours. The first tour *i.e.* Orientation tour was undertaken at Corbett Tiger Reserve; followed by High Altitude tour to Kedarnath Sanctuary and nearby areas; Techniques tour to Rajaji National Park; Wetland tour to Keoladeo Ghana National Park and Chambal area in Morena district of Madhya Pradesh; Management Tour to Sundarbans Tiger Reserve, Kaziranga National Park, Jaldapara Wildlife Sanctuary and Darjeeling Zoo; and the Term Paper tour was conducted at Melghat Tiger Reserve.



Visit to Kedarnath Wildlife Sanctuary under the guidance of Dr. G.S. Rawat and Dr. V.P. Uniyal exposed the participants to flora, fauna and conservation issues of Himalayan ecosystem. Techniques tour to Rajaji National Park was coordinated by Dr. Bivash Pandav. The trainees carried out various field exercises pertaining to census of wild animals using various methods including camera traps, habitat analysis, restraining and capture of wild animals.

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Attachment of Officer Trainees of Indian Revenue Service (Customs & Central Excise) Group-A (65th Batch) with Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, 5-16th January, 2015 and 19-30th January, 2015.

The training module basically aimed at sensitizing the young officers of Indian Revenue Service (Customs & Central Excise) of 65th batch towards wildlife trade in the country and their role in checking it. The course was attended by a large batch of 111 officer trainees in two groups.

Various inputs including introduction on importance of biodiversity and its conservation, status of endangered species including flagship species like tiger and its monitoring, special inputs on illegal trade in wildlife articles including butterflies, *shahtoosh*, rhino horn, skins, and tiger bones. Inputs were given on the role of wildlife forensics in dealing with wildlife cases. Officer trainees were also given basic information on the implementation of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, CITES and other international conventions. Most of the inputs were given by the senior faculty members of the institute as well as guest speakers from esteemed organizations.

The officer trainees were provided an opportunity to interact with the IFS Probationers at Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy to improve inter-service coordination. A visit to Forest Research Institute was also arranged for the officer trainees. Apart from providing classroom inputs, the officers were also taken to Corbett Tiger Reserve. *Jungle safaris* in Dhikala and Bijrani area of Corbett Tiger Reserve sensitized them towards flagship and keystone species. The young and

enthusiastic officer trainees had the privilege of interacting with the top officials of the Tiger Reserve.

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Special Certificate Course on Coastal and Marine Biodiversity and Protected Area Management, Tarkarli, Malvan, Maharashtra,

12th January - 6th February, 2015. Conservation and Sustainable Management of Coastal and Marine Protected Areas (CMPA)" project of the Indo-German Biodiversity Programme of GIZ aims at strengthening capacities of key training and learning organizations relevant to Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). In this context, the special certificate course for field-level staff of the Forest Departments at the Indian Institute of Scuba Diving and Aquatic Sports (IISDA) at Tarkarli in Malvan, Maharashtra was jointly organized by the Wildlife Institute of India and *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit* (GIZ)



GmbH. 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 PAs, 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.

A total of nine participants from Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Lakshadweep Islands, and Andaman & Nicobar Islands have participated in this one-month course. The course curriculum and training methodologies developed exclusively for this course were pilot tested and refined for future courses.

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Three-week Compulsory Training Course on 'Wildlife Management for Indian Forest Service Officers', Dehradun, 16th February - 5th March 2015.

The course was conducted by Wildlife Institute of India for the IFS officers. It was sponsored by the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi. A total of seventeen participants attended the course.

This course was designed to meet the following objectives: (i) to provide an exposure on current scenario in wildlife and biodiversity conservation; (ii) to provide a foundation of modern concepts in wildlife science; (iii) to facilitate the understanding of various conservation approaches and good wildlife management practices; (iv) to enable participants to appreciate the conservation challenges and the strategies to be

developed for effective wildlife and biodiversity conservation; and (v) to enhance skills in latest tools and techniques of wildlife management that are essential contributors to conservation practices in the field.

The course was divided into the following sessions: Restraint & Immobilization of Wild Animals; Demonstration of Drug Delivery Systems; Long-term monitoring of tigers, co-predators & prey; Conservation of Large Carnivores; Eco-tourism; Wildlife Management in Managed Forests: Case Studies; Linking conservation & development: Attapady Project; Hydro-electric project on wildlife value on wildlife value of Alakananda and Bhagirathi Basin etc. The course included 37 classroom sessions of total 56 hours and field visits to Rajaji National Park and Corbett Tiger Reserve for five full days.

Three-day Techniques Tour was organized at Rajaji National Park during February 26-28, 2015 to expose the officers to a range of techniques such as line transects, sign survey, camera trap etc. A two-day Management Tour was organized during March 2-5, 2015 to Corbett Tiger Reserve, Ramnagar to expose the participants to various management issues and practices such as habitat management, water regime management, fire management, protection measures etc.

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National Mission on Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE) Project Inception Workshop, Dehradun, 23-24th March, 2015.

Under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), eight National Missions have been launched by the Government of India to study and monitor impacts of climate change. The NMSHE is being coordinated





by the Department of Science and Technology (DST). WII has been identified as the Task Force Coordinator on 'Fauna and Micro-flora'. WII's project "Assessment and Monitoring of Climate Change Effects on Wildlife Species and Ecosystems for Developing Adaptation and Mitigation Strategies in the Indian Himalayan Region" has been recently initiated. The project inception workshop was held at the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun to discuss the process of networking for research and data sharing to enable finalising the research plan. This workshop was attended by academicians, managers, scientists and researchers related with the conservation of Himalayan biodiversity and sustainable management.

The workshop began with the welcome address by Dr. P.K. Mathur, Dean, WII, who mentioned the importance of the NMSHE project to sustain the Himalayan biodiversity. Dr. V.B. Mathur, Director, WII described the wonders of the Himalayan ecosystem and their importance in his opening remarks. Dr. S. Sathyakumar, Nodal Scientist, NMSHE introduced WII-NMSHE project including the objectives, proposed study areas, tentative methodologies, project deliverables and project monitoring framework with specific outputs within specified timelines.

The first session of the workshop was on 'Climate change impacts on fauna and their habitats in the Indian Himalayan region'. It included five presentations on various fauna groups, (*i.e.* mammals, birds, herpetofauna, fishes, and invertebrates), each covering the state of knowledge on climate change impacts, and approach and methodology for investigation. This session concluded on a common note that studies needed to be planned and converged for the success of this project. Next session consisted of three presentations from the remaining faunal groups, (*i.e.* micro-flora, landscape ecology, and human ecology). The workshop consisted of a group exercise. The participants were divided into four different groups, (*i.e.* mammals, birds and insects; micro-flora and fauna; aquatic ecosystem and herpetofauna; and landscape ecology and human ecology). Each group was involved in a three-hour long discussion regarding the methodologies that could be adopted during the field work. The brief description of the presentations and the detailed discussions were presented for improving the methodological approach.

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Dr. V.B. Mathur on UN Expert Panel

Dr. V.B. Mathur, Director, Wildlife Institute of India was selected to serve the multidisciplinary expert panel (MEP) of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (UN-IPBES) in the recently conducted Plenary meeting of the UN-IPBES in Bonn, Germany during 11-17th January, 2015 for tenure of 3 years. Dr. Mathur competed with 123 experts in the run. After a rigorous selection process – based on academic prowess and contribution to biodiversity conservation and keeping in mind the geographic, gender and disciplinary balance – the 123 member countries of the UN-IPBES selected 25 experts for the MEP. His inclusion will help the country address issues pertaining to biodiversity and sustainable development.





66th Republic Day celebrated

The 66th Republic Day of the nation was celebrated at the Wildlife Institute of India campus with participation of faculty, staff, researchers and students. Officer trainees of the Indian Revenue Service, Postgraduate Diploma Course in Advanced Wildlife Management and Certificate Course in Wildlife Management currently undergoing training at the Institute also participated in the event, which began by unfurling of the national flag by Dr. V.B. Mathur, Director of the Institute. Speaking on the occasion, he said that 26th January is a very significant date in our nation's calendar, on which we celebrate the establishment of free India as a Republic, based on the ideology of justice and equality. It is a day when we recall with gratitude the sacrifices of our freedom fighters for giving to us a country, where our dignity and individual freedoms are guaranteed by an enlightened Constitution. Dr. Mathur said that the strength of an institution is not determined by the challenges it faces, but by its responses to these challenges and therefore what actions the Institute will take now in terms of leveraging the advantages and addressing the shortcomings, will shape the destiny of the institution.

On this occasion, awards were given to staff, officer-trainee and researchers for excellence in games and sports. Four Institute's drivers were felicitated for showing valour and saving the life and property, which got endangered due to an accidental fire which broke out during night in a camp of officer-trainees in Rajaji National Park.



Patron: Director

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"If we can teach people about wildlife, they will be touched. Share my wildlife with me. Because humans want to save things that they love."

— Steve Irwin

Source: <http://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/wildlife>