

E-NEWSLETTER OF W.I.I.

Nature is our Password, Conservation the Creed

Spring 2016

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Advanced Wildlife
Management
- World Environment Day



Ajaz Hussain

Colours of Spring...

Current Protected Area Network of India

Position as on March 31, 2016

National Parks – 103; Area 40500.13 km² (1.23%)
Wildlife Sanctuaries – 535; Area 118004.92 km² (3.59%)
Conservation Reserves – 66; Area 2334.53 km² (0.07%)
Community Reserves – 26; Area 46.93 km² (0.001%)
Total – 730; Area 160896.51 km² (4.89%)

* New Conservation notified in Tamil Nadu

Megamalai (Area: 269.11 sq km);

Theerthangal (Area: 0.29 sq km);

Sakkarakottai (Area: 2.30 sq km)

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Around the Campus

XXXI Certificate Course in Wildlife Management concluded

The XXXI Certificate Course in Wildlife Management commenced on 1st November 2015. This time 24 candidates joined this course, of which 9 foreign nationals (3 from Malaysia and 6 from Myanmar including one lady officer) and among Indian participants 10 from Madhya Pradesh, one each from Maharashtra, Uttarakhand, Goa and Telangana Forest Departments, while a trainee officer from Tamilnadu Agriculture University inducted to the course for the first time.

During the reporting period, the trainee officers visited various protected areas of Gujarat, starting from GEER Foundation, Wild Ass Sanctuary, Gulf of Marine National Park, Khijadia Wildlife Sanctuary, Narara Wildlife Sanctuary, Pirotan Wildlife Sanctuary and Okha Wildlife Sanctuary for their management tour from 7-24 January, 2016. They visited to Reliance Refinery, Gir

National Park, Sakarbagh Zoo, Velavadar National Park to understand the practices. The focus of field visit and interaction on habitat fragmentation; wild animal conflict with human societies; conservation breeding and zoo management, management of grasslands and plantations; population management, protection strategies; staff deployment and amenities and involvement of local communities in conservation. In addition to lectures, there were short exposure visits to Forest Research Institute and Asan Conservation Reserve for exposure towards water birds identification and wetland conservation. The trainees were taken to Rajaji National Park and briefed about the vegetation succession, wildlife and recovery of forests and wildlife following relocation programme.

All the officer trainees have successfully completed the course.

The trainees received medals for their outstanding performances are as follows:

Dr. K. Baranidharan received Institute's Gold Medal for the "Top Trainee"; Institute's Silver Medal for the "Best All Round Wildlifer"; and Institute's Silver Medal for "Wildlife Management" and Institute's Silver Medal for the "Best Foreign Trainee" was awarded to Mr. Zaw Min Htun.

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Attachment of Officer Trainees of Indian Revenue Service (Customs & Central Excise) Group-A 66th Batch with Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, 4-15 January, 2016 and 18-29 January, 2016. The training module basically aimed at sensitizing the young officers of Indian Revenue Service (Customs & Central Excise) of 66th batch towards wildlife trade in the country and their role in checking it. The course was divided into two parts to cater the participation of 192 Officer Trainees.

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, wild animal hides, and tiger bones had been facilitated during the courses. Inputs were also provided

on the role of wildlife forensics in dealing with wildlife crime cases. Officer trainees were also given basic information on the implementation of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, CITES and other important international conventions. Most of the inputs were given by the senior faculty members of the institute as well as guest speakers from other 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, which will definitely prove fruitful in their professional careers. A visit to Forest Research Institute was also arranged for the officer trainees to expose them to various facets of forestry.

Apart from providing classroom inputs, the officers were also taken to Corbett Tiger Reserve. Jungle safaris in the Dhikala, Bijrani and Jhima tourism zones of Corbett Tiger Reserve sensitized them towards conservation of 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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Meeting of Senior Officers of Tiger Range Countries at Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, 20-21 January, 2016. The Global Tiger Forum (GTF), along with the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), Government of India is organizing the 3rd Asia



Ministerial Conference (AMC) on tiger conservation in New Delhi from 12-14th April, 2016, which is likely to be inaugurated by the Prime Minister of India. As part of preparation for this meeting, a senior officers' meeting was organized at the Wildlife Institute of India with the objective to finalize the agenda and likely outcomes.

The meeting was attended by senior officers from five tiger range countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar and Nepal) as well as senior representatives from the GTF, Global Tiger Initiative Council (GTIC), NTCA, Uttarakhand Forest Department and the Wildlife Institute of India.

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Three Week International Field Course – Interventions in Wild Animal Health, Field Sites in Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, 6-27 February, 2016. A 21-day long field course on 'Interventions in Wild Animal Health' was jointly organized by Wildlife Institute of India, Zoological Society of London and the University of Edinburgh at various field sites in Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. The course was specially designed for wildlife health professionals. The course provided practical knowledge and learning on interventions required to address human-wildlife conflict issues; to carry out effective meta-population management through translocation; to reduce the risk from disease in reintroduction and translocation programmes; to carry out investigations in disease outbreaks in free-living and captive wildlife; and to understand the role of disease in the decline of species. The entire programme was carried out in





the field to develop skills in human-wildlife conflict management, disease risk analysis and translocation techniques, disease outbreak investigation and the monitoring of the health of declining species and included techniques for field monitoring of wildlife (using range of techniques from animal tracks and signs surveys to camera trapping and radio telemetry), biological management, visual health monitoring of free-living animals, best practice of wild animal anesthesia techniques, demonstration and hands-on practice, clinical examination in the field, sampling techniques for infectious disease screening, pathological examination in the field, and scanning disease surveillance scenarios.

The field inputs in the course were provided by faculty members from Wildlife Institute of India, University of Edinburgh and Zoological Society of London. The field sites included Sariska Tiger Reserve, Ranthambore National Park, Elephant Conservation and Care Centre, Agra (Wildlife SOS Rehabilitation Centre) and Keoladeo National Park. The course was attended by 12 wildlife health professionals from abroad representing 8 countries namely United States of America, United Kingdom, France, Nigeria, Spain, Switzerland, South Africa and Rwanda and 9 Indian participants nominated from forest departments of Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir.

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Three-day Training Programme on 'Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Road and Rail Transportation Projects for Promoting Smart

Green Infrastructure', Dehradun, 17- 19 February

2016. The training programme was jointly organised by Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), New Delhi at WII. This special training course has also been endorsed by the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA), the largest association of professionals engaged in impact assessment. A total of 43 participants including road and rail planners, transportation engineers, decision makers, wildlife managers and impact assessment professionals attended the course. The participants represented National Highway Authority of India (NHAI); Indian Railways; Forest Departments and NGOs.

This three-day course was designed to provide an opportunity to become abreast with the recent developments in the field of road ecology and to upgrade technical skills for responsible planning of roads to balance growth and mobility of people with the security of habitat connectivity and permeability for wildlife species.

Speaking on the occasion, Director of Wildlife Institute India, Dr. V.B. Mathur said that India is on the fast track of development. 'The responsibility to develop an eco-friendly guidance document for planning and implementing wildlife mitigation measures has been assigned to WII by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India and this document is being currently validated by experts' he said.

NHAI's DGM (Environment), Dr. B. Mukhopadhyay said that such a course has been organised for the first time in India and





his organization has nominated 10 officers to participate in this course to gain insights into how development and conservation could be harmonized. Dr. Rodney van der Ree, a well-known road ecologist & Deputy Director of Australian Research Centre for Urban Ecology, University of Melbourne, Australia explained the relevance of road ecology as an emerging discipline for planning smart green roads. The representatives of both Highway and Railway Departments stressed on the need for having professional inputs from wildlife biologists while preparing the detailed project reports (DPRs) of linear infrastructure projects.

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Release of ENVIS Bulletin on 'Ecology and Management of Grassland Habitats in India' in National Interaction-cum-Evaluation Workshop for ENVIS Centres, New Delhi, 17-19 February, 2016. ENVIS Bulletin on 'Ecology and Management of Grassland Habitats in India', Volume 17, brought out by the ENVIS Centre of Wildlife Institute of India "*Wildlife & Protected Areas*", Dehradun was released by Shri Prakash Javadekar, Minister of State (Independent Charge), Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India in presence of Shri Ashok Lavasa, Secretary, MoEFCC, Ms. Anandi Subramanian, Senior Economic Adviser, MoEFCC and Shri Ravi Singh, Secretary General & CEO, World Wildlife Fund India at the Inaugural function of the National Interaction-cum-Evaluation Workshop for ENVIS Centres at The Ashok, New Delhi on 17 February, 2016.

Before Inaugural function of workshop the Hon'ble Minister visited exhibition stall of information/ publications produced by all ENVIS Centre. Dr. S.A. Hussain represented the WII-ENVIS Centre and briefed him about center's activity/ publications, which were well appreciated.

This special ENVIS issue was edited by Dr. G.S. Rawat, Dean, Faculty of Wildlife Sciences and Dr. B.S. Adhikari, Scientist-F. This issue can be downloaded from the WII-ENVIS Centre's website www.wiienvis.nic.in.

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International Consultation Workshop on 'Enhancing Capacity for Effective Management of Coastal and Marine World Heritage Sites of the Asia-Pacific Region', Sunderbans World Heritage Site, West Bengal, 26-28 February, 2016. The workshop was jointly organized by newly established UNESCO-WHS Category 2 Centre (C2C), Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun, GIZ, New Delhi and West Bengal Forest Department at Sunderbans World Heritage Site. A total of 27 participants from Asia-Pacific Region including Natural World Heritage Sites Managers, Protected Areas Managers, and professionals engaged in conservation of coastal and marine biodiversity, decision makers, NGOs, experts on coastal and marine biodiversity, and fisheries attended the workshop. Resource Persons from IUCN, Secretariat of Pacific Region Environment Programme (SPREP), UNESCO-WHS C2C, GIZ, WWF-India, WII, West Bengal Forest Department, etc provided inputs in this three day training workshop.

The main objectives of the workshop were to (a) sensitize the participants to the existing policy and legal issues, international guidelines and framework of management planning concerning Coastal and Marine World Heritage Sites (WHS), (b) equip the site managers to deal with disaster events and adopt risk reduction strategies, (c) Introduce the concept of 'climate proofing', management of climate change and adoption of mitigation measures, (d) Share of experiences and best practices in Coastal & Marine WHS management in the region, and (e) Evolve a road map towards effective management of Coastal & Marine WHS in the region.

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Training Course on “Landscape Management Approach for Biodiversity Conservation and Human Well-being”, Kanha Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh, 29 February - 4 March, 2016.

A World Bank assisted project of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India is being implemented in partnership with concerned State Forest Departments. Wildlife Institute of India (WII) is one of the implementing partners in this BCRLI project for enhancing capacities of the project implementers and as a knowledge management centre on landscape approach to biodiversity conservation. A training course on “Landscape Management Approach for Biodiversity Conservation and Human Well-being” was organised at Kanha Tiger Reserve for Range Officers and frontline professionals of other line departments. In all, 60 officials of Forest Departments of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, Handicraft Departments, Zila Panchayats of Chhindwara and Mandla, National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), Wildlife Conservation Trust and Non-Governmental Organisations participated in the training course.

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Dr. Alejandro von Bertrab, Advisor – ValuES, GIZ, Germany were the instructors for the training. The training programme was well received by 25 participants representing reputed national institutions and international agencies. These participants included scientists, professionals, foresters and researchers having diverse background from applied to social sciences.

Dr. V.B. Mathur, Director, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun chaired the concluding session of the course. He highlighted the importance of maintaining the continuity of such programmes for building capacity of trainers to support conservation efforts.

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Training Programme on Economic Valuation of Ecosystem Services, Dehradun, March 14-17, 2016.

The training programme was jointly organized by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH* at Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun. The objective of the programme was to familiarize the participants with the basics of economic valuation of ecosystem services through modules of ValuES project and Conservation Strategy Fund (CSF). Kim Bonine, Training Director - Conservation Strategy Fund, California and

Workshop on “Biodiversity Concerns and Human Well Being: Towards Landscape Approach”,

Dehradun, 16-17 March, 2016. A workshop for senior forest officers was organised. A total of 25 officials of Forest Departments of Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala and Maharashtra and trainee officers of P.G. Diploma Course from WII took part in the workshop.

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67th Republic Day celebrated

The 67th Republic Day of India was celebrated with great enthusiasm at Wildlife Institute of India. Unfurling the national flag Dr. V.B. Mathur, Director, Wildlife Institute of India said that this day is significant in the nation's calendar as on this day we celebrate the establishment of free India as a Republic, based on the ideology of justice and equality. He further said that on this day we also recall with gratitude the sacrifices of our freedom fighters for giving to us a country, where our dignity and individual freedom is guaranteed by an enlightened constitution. He further stated that what we will do now and in the coming years in terms of leveraging our resources and addressing the shortcomings will shape the destiny of the institution.

On this occasion, certificates and cash prizes were given to high achievers in the field of sports and academics. The children of the staff, who had performed well in the Class X and XII Board Examination were given certificate of merit : Master Raghav Aggarwal, Ms. Bandana Pal, Master Anuj Balodi, Ms. Anushka Uniyal, Ms. Aarti Chauhan, Ms. Priya Mary Wilson, Master Swastik Sharma, Ms. Tanishka Aggarwal, Master Aman Singh Dhamanda, Ms. Priyanka Aswal, Master Deepak Sharma & Master Shikhar Chhibber. Mr. Harendra Kumar & Mr. Anant Shankar received certificate and cash prize for their performances during the All India Forest Sports Meet.



Farewell



Dr. K. Sankar

Dr. K. Sankar joined Wildlife Institute of India as a faculty member in 1986. He did his M.Sc. in Wildlife Biology from Bharatidasan University, Tamil Nadu, and obtained Ph.D., researching on herbivore ecology in Sariska Tiger Reserve, Rajasthan. With assistance from Dr. Salim Ali's Conservation Fund, he had worked on ungulate food habits for the M.Sc. project. His M.Phil. work was on the Shore birds of Point Calimere Sanctuary, Tamil Nadu. Before joining the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), he was a Field Biologist at Bharatpur in B.N.H.S.

Hydrobiology Project. He has worked on several large ungulates (chital, sambar, nilgai, gaur and yak), endangered primates and large carnivores (tiger, leopard, wild dog). He also worked on sympatric carnivores in different landscapes across the country, tiger re-introduction in Sariska Tiger Reserve, Rajasthan and gaur reintroduction in Bhandhavgarh Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh. At the Institute, Dr. Sankar was also coordinating research activities as Research Coordinator and was the Nodal Officer of research laboratory. In addition, he was the designated Nodal Officer for WII Center of Forest Research Institute University, Dehra Dun and Saurashtra University, Rajkot, Gujarat. Dr. Sankar is a member of IUCN Deer Specialist Group and Asian Wild Cattle Specialist Group. He has 100 scientific publications, 3 books, 2 manuals and 15 popular articles published to his credit.

Dr. K. Sankar, Scientist-G has taken voluntary retirement from WII services on 4th March, 2016 consequent upon his appointment as Director, Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON), Coimbatore.

Shri N.P. Sai



Shri N.P. Sai joined the Institute in 1984 as Chowkidar. He worked for more than 31 years in many sections of the Institute. Shri Sai superannuated on February 29, 2016.

A farewell function was held at the Institute on 4th March, 2016 to bid farewell to both of them.

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>

The views expressed in this e-newsletter are not necessarily those of the editors or of the Wildlife Institute of India.