

E-NEWSLETTER OF W.I.I.

Nature is our Password, Conservation the Creed

Winter 2014

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- XXX Certificate course in Wildlife Management concluded
- 3-Week Compulsory Course for IFS Officers
- Training Workshop on Wildlife Health Management
- 2 week Custom Courses in Wildlife, Protection, Law...



For the sake of research...

Current Protected Area Network of India

Position as on January, 2015

National Parks: 103; Area 40332.89, (1.23%)
Wildlife Sanctuaries: 526; Area: 116259.24, (3.54%)
Conservation Reserves : 64; Area: 2232.61, (0.07%)
Community Reserves : 4; Area: 20.69 (0.00%)
Total Protected Areas : 697; Area: 158845.43, (4.84%)

* 3 Protected Areas in Rajasthan State

Gogelao Conservation Reserve (District-Nagaur; Area: 3.58 sq km)
Rotu Conservation Reserve (District-Nagaur; Area: 0.73 sq km)
Bir Jhunjhunu Conservation Reserve (District-Jhunjhunu; Area: 10.47 sq km)

* 1 Protected Area in Uttar Pradesh State

Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Bird Sanctuary (District-Pratapgarh; Area: 4.27 sq km)

jsk@wii.gov.in



भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान
Wildlife Institute of India

Post Box # 18, Chandrabani, Dehra Dun - 248 001 (Uttarakhand)
Tel.: +91-135-2640111 to 2640115; Fax: +91-135-2640117;
E-mail : wii@wii.gov.in ; Website : <http://www.wii.gov.in>

Around the Campus



Special Certificate Course in Wildlife Management

The 3-month Special Certificate Course in Wildlife Management commenced on September 1, 2014. A request from the Bangladesh Forest Department was received by the Wildlife Institute of India for conducting a 3-month certificate course. A total of 16 officers of the rank of Wildlife and Biodiversity Conservation Officer and equivalent were nominated for the course under the project "Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Wildlife Protection" by the Government of Bangladesh. The course has been tailored in order to meet the requirements of the participants.

The participants underwent the classroom sessions from 1st September to 15th October 2014. From 16th October to 30th November 2014, the class went for Wetland Tour to Bharatpur National Park and National Chambal Sanctuary;

Wildlife Techniques tour to Kanha National Park; and Wildlife Management to Marine National Park, Jamnagar, Khijadia Bird Sanctuary and Gir Lion Sanctuary in Gujarat; and Sunderban Tiger Reserve, Jaldapara National Park and Gorumara Wildlife Sanctuary in West Bengal.

The participants were evaluated for each module and tours through assignments and written examinations. All the 16 participants have successfully completed the course.

The Wildlife Conservation Gold Medal for Top Trainee; and Institute's Medal for Wildlife Management were awarded to Mr. Raju Ahmed. The Institute's Medal for the All Round Wildlifer to was bagged by Mr. Allama Shibili Sadik.

bcs@wii.gov.in



Wildlife Week Celebration, 2014

The XII WII-Friends of the Doon' Wildlife & Environment Quiz 2014'- a collaborative activity of Wildlife Institute of India and Friends of Doon Society was organized on October 1, 2014 at the Institute to mark the celebrations of the Wildlife Week 2014.

Twelve schools participated in preliminary round. Ann Mary School topped the list and won the WII-FoD Rolling Trophy, Book Prize and Sameer Ghosh Memorial Nature and Wildlife rolling trophy. Dr. Alok Saxena, Additional Director, Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy, Dehradun graced the occasion as Chief Guest and distributed the Prizes to the Winning Team.

abhijit@wii.gov.in

WII is equipped with Biometric Based Attendance Monitoring System (BBAMS), Dehradun, October 1, 2014. With a view to improve efficiency in monitoring the attendance, leave records and over all working environment, a Biometric Based Attendance Monitoring System was implemented at the Institute from October 1, 2014. Three machines have been installed to avoid queues and inconvenience during office opening and closing time for making the attendance by all officers and staff of the Institute. All officers and staff mark their arrival and departure time in the Biometric Based Attendance Monitoring System machine. The BBAMS records are maintained in web-enabled database. The rules pertaining to use the



machine were informed to all concerned and the WII family has adopted the new system as a part of their



XXX Certificate Course in Wildlife Management

XXX Certificate Course began on November 1, 2014 for the duration of 3-month. The Wildlife Institute of India received overwhelming response from various States of the country for this course. Finally, 21 candidates were selected for the course. The officer trainees were from 5 States of the country (one each from Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Telengana and two from Meghalaya and 10 from Madhya Pradesh) of India. There were also six officer trainees from Malaysia. Since it is a paid course, the entire training cost has been borne by the respective State Governments and Malaysian Government.

For the orientation-cum-techniques tour, the officer trainees were taken to Panna Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh from 23rd November to 5th December, 2014. During this tour, they learnt about the use of GPS; compass and maps; cutting and marking of line transects; selection of sites for setting up of camera trap; different methods of vegetation analysis; quantification techniques; tracks; signs of animals and birds; and data analysis. For the wetland tour, they visited Keoladeo National Park in Rajasthan to understand the various issues related to wetland.

Around the Campus

duty. All installed machines and corridors leading to these machines have been kept under 24-hour surveillance through CCTV cameras. Some more CCTV cameras have also been installed in the Guest House, Old Hostel and New Hostel to improve the campus security.

pka@wii.gov.in

Institute joined the National Cleanliness Campaign, Dehradun, October 2, 2014.

Participation of all has been called upon by Shri Narendra Modi, the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India for 'Swachh Bharat' in order to make it a campaign of mass movement. The effort aims to realize Gandhiji's dream of a clean India by the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi in 2019.



The Institute also joined the campaign and 'Swachhta Shapath' (Pledge) has been administered at the Wildlife Institute of India. A cleanliness drive led by the senior officers was undertaken at WII on 'Gandhi Jayanti'. The campaign included the cleanliness of office space, organising the files in orderly manner, cleaning of drawers, office tables and chairs. All employees, researchers, students and trainees participated in the cleanliness process in and around their respective work places. A committee has also been constituted for preparation of lists of condemnable/scrap items. The

store section would expedite the process the process so that the junk could be disposed from the campus appropriately.

pka@wii.gov.in

Workshop on Master Planning for Zoo Education, Dehradun, December 15-18, 2014.

The Wildlife Institute of India was entrusted with the task of organizing training-cum-plan development workshop for identified zoos in the country. The workshop was attended by managers and personnel from 13 identified zoos.

Dr. Bitapi C. Sinha, Scientist-G welcomed the participants and provided a brief introduction to the workshop objectives and methodology. Dr. V.B. Mathur, Director shared his thoughts on the *in-situ* and *ex-situ* approaches to conservation and deliberated on the role zoos can play in conservation. He emphasized on the importance of '4 Es', i.e. education/sensitization to conservation issues, entertainment, engagement and empowerment of visitors in supporting conservation.

Shri B.S. Bonal, IFS, delivered the keynote address. In his address he touched upon a diversity of issues ranging from continuity of personnel at zoos to financial and policy aspects of the conservation education activities of zoos.





A detailed discussion took place on finalization of the Zoo education plan format, and setting of goals and objectives of the plan. Guest speaker Shri. B.C. Choudhury gave a talk on “Vandalism and its management in Zoos”. He talked about the various kinds of vandalism in the zoos and how it can be controlled.

The participants were taken to Malsi Deer Park where various components of visitor management were discussed. Other sessions included zoo signages, outreach programs and thematic interpretation.

The workshop concluded with concluding remarks by Shri S.C. Sharma, First Member Secretary of CZA and presentation of certificates to the participants.

bcs@wii.gov.in; pctyagi@wii.gov.in

Workshop on the Wireless Sensor Networks for Protection of Wildlife and Human, Dehradun, December 20, 2014 and Follow-up Meeting, December 21, 2014. A workshop was organized at Wildlife Institute of India as efforts to enable meeting of project partners involved in the Indo-US collaborative project on 'Wireless Sensor Networks for Protection of Wildlife and Human' and for sharing the project progress and follow-up efforts with key

stakeholders *i.e.* Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and selected State Forest Department. The participants included the project team from Indian Institute of Information Technology, Allahabad; Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore; Ohio State University, USA; senior officials from Project Elephant and Project Tiger; officials from Uttarakhand Forest Department; representatives from Wildlife Trust of India and World Wide Fund for Nature – India; faculty members and researchers of WII.

Dr. V.B. Mathur, Director, WII, addressed the participants and elaborated on the relevance and challenges in wild management that require technological inputs, also keeping in view the regulations prevailing in the country. Shri Vinod Rishi, former ADG MoEF and Director of IGNFA, explained the way the technology has been used in wildlife management and provided a few cases where such options are critical requirement. During the technical session, Prof. M. Radhakrishna of IITB, Dr. Anish Arora of OSU and Mr. Raviteja and Mr. Bharat Dwivedi of IISc made presentations. The presentations were primarily focused on 'Pervasive wireless sensor network technology for forest, wildlife and human protection'. As explained, the technology is an integration of four components *viz.*, an optic fibre sensor, radar and PIR (Passive infrared sensors). Shri S.S. Bist, former Director of Project Elephant, MoEF and currently Emeritus Professor at WII, suggested that this technology could be used in captive elephant management, monitoring wild animals and warning systems for crocodiles so that people can be kept away from those places. Dr. K. Ramesh underscored that there is a need to put in place a working solution however small scale it may be, so that we can provide a realistic demonstration of the tools and plan for up-scaling the relevant technology for specific situations and species.

A follow-up meeting was held on December 21, 2014 wherein Dr. V.B. Mathur, Director of WII, Shri R.K. Srivastava, Director, Project Elephant, Prof. M. Radhakrishna, Dr. Anish Arora, Dr. Anil K. Singh and Dr. K. Ramesh participated. The primary objective of the meeting was to take stock of the situation and plan future course of action. Following the discussion, it was decided that the activities might be redefined to meet the immediate challenges such as elephant deaths and human wildlife conflict issues, while continuing the efforts in Panna Tiger Reserve and other Tiger Reserves. In order to take this forward effectively, a project may be developed to be placed for funding to Project Elephant with the following components: (i) Revisiting elephant corridors and movement patterns, involving Remote Sensing and GIS tools, GPS/Satellite telemetry and three-dimensional mapping of vulnerable sites for technological solution. (ii) Pilot implementation of Wireless Sensor Networks in Rajaji National Park and North Bengal Forest Divisions. (iii) Up-scaling of the activities for resolving human wildlife conflicts on roads, railway tracks and agricultural areas in the priority sites across the country.

The project would be submitted by Wildlife Institute of India involving all stakeholders and interested parties, and would include both technologists and biologists. The project would also include capacity building activities to integrate the technology in the field.

ramesh@wii.gov.in



Patron: Director, WII

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"Plans to protect air and water, wilderness and wildlife are in fact plans to protect man."

- Stewart Udall

Source: <http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/s/stewartuda142796.html>

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