



TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR TOURIST GUIDE OF HAIDERPUR WETLAND,

MUZAFFARNAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH

VENUE: SHEESH MAHAL, BIJNOR, UTTAR PRADESH

DATE: 24TH - 26TH SEPTEMBER 2020

DETAILED REPORT

As a part of the management plan to develop Haiderpur wetland as an inclusive conservation model where conservation is reconciled with communities through stakeholder involvement and develop it as a centre for conservation science, education, and ecotourism, a training workshop was organized for local youth of Muzaffarnagar and Bijnor districts in which they were trained to be tourist guides to guide the visitors to improve their experience and increase livelihood opportunities for the local villagers. The identified Ganga Praharis , boatmen, and helpers of the selected nine villages participated in the workshop. A total of 39 participants attended the workshop.

TEAM MEMBERS

Resource persons and WII team comprised of following persons: Mr. Aftab AlamUsmani (Project Associate), Ms. Ekta Sharma, Ms. Amanat Kaur Gill (Project Fellow), Ms. Priti Kumari Research Scholar, Ms. Manisha Bisht (Project Intern).

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

| Day 1: 24th September, 2020 | | |
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| Time | Session | Resource Person |
| 1000-1015 | Registration | Ms. Manisha Bisht |
| 1015-1030 | Welcome Address | Ms. Ekta Sharma |
| 1030-1130 | An introduction to NMCG Project Phase II- "Planning & Management for Aquatic Species Conservation & Maintenance of | Ms. Amanat Kaur Gill |

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| | Ecosystem Services in the Ganga Basin" | |
| 1130-1240 | Introduction to Ecotourism | Ms. Ekta Sharma |
| 1240-1300 | Group Discussion | |
| 1300-1400 | Lunch | |
| 1400-1500 | About Haiderpur Wetland | Mr. Aftab Usmani |
| 1500-1530 | Group Discussion | |
| Day 2: 25th September, 2020 | | |
| 1000-1100 | Birds and Mammals of Ganga Basin | Mr. Aftab Usmani |
| 1100-1200 | Turtles of Ganga Basin | Ms. Priti Kumari |
| 1200-1300 | Boating Instruction | Mr. Rajkumar, Ganga Prahari |
| 1300-1400 | Lunch | |
| 1400-1600 | Practical Session | Mr. Aftab Usmani, Ms. Priti Kumari, Ms. Manisha Bisht, Ms. Ekta Sharma, Ms. Amant Kaur Gill |
| Day 3: 26th September, 2020 | | |
| 1000-1200 | Field Visit to Haiderpur Wetland | Mr. Aftab Usmani, Ms. Priti Kumari, Ms. Manisha Bisht, Ms. Ekta Sharma, Ms. Amant Kaur Gill |
| 1200-1230 | Certificate Distribution | |
| 1230-1245 | Vote of Thanks | |
| 1245-1330 | Lunch | |

Summary of the programme:

A brief report on the three days of training is as follows:

Day 1

The workshop started with the registration of the participants. Ms. Amanat Kaur Gill started the training with a brief introduction to the WII- NMCG project Phase-II *"Planning and Management for Aquatic species conservation and maintenance of ecosystem services in the Ganga basin"* and Ganga Prahari's concept. Later on, a session on ecotourism was conducted by Ms. Ekta Sharma in which the participants were introduced to the components of ecotourism and also, they were briefed about the basic etiquettes that need to be adopted by the boatmen and guides while guiding the visitors. Followed by this, Mr. Aftab Usmani presented the geographical characteristics of Haiderpur Wetland and briefed them on the role of local communities in wetland conservation.

Day 2

The 2nd day started with a talk by Mr. Aftab Usmani on the turtles of the Ganges along with the species present in and around Haiderpur wetland in which participants learned about the different species of turtles and their habitat. They were briefed about the identification techniques and their expected response in case of any exposure to the turtle species. The participants were educated and trained on the measures to be undertaken for the injured turtle species. Later on, Ms. Priti Kumari gave a brief presentation on the birds and mammals of the Ganga basin in which they learned about the identification techniques for bird species followed by the characteristics of dolphins and otters. She also highlighted the importance of aquatic biodiversity for wetland and river ecosystems. After this, the Ganga Prahari Mr. Rajkumar shared his experience and give them boating instructions that need to be considered during jalaj safari in the Ganga River. In the last session, the experience of the boatmen from the area was shared and discussed among all the participants.

Day 3

On the last day, an exposure trip *via* Jalaj safaris was organized for all the participants from the bank of the Ganga river to the nearest island to demonstrate the steps to be undertaken as a tourist guide. Besides, the team briefed about the measures and precautions that need to be undertaken by the tourist guide and boatmen while receiving the tourists. The workshop was concluded with a vote of thanks and certificate distribution to all the participants.



A) Project overview by Ms. Amanat Kaur Gill



B) An overview of Haiderpur Wetland workshop



C) Lecture on Turtles of Ganga River Basin



D) Field visit to Haiderpur Wetland