Announcement for Special Certificate Course on Coastal and Marine Biodiversity and Protected Area Management , 1-18 December, 2015, Havelock/Port Blair, Andaman Islands

A holistic capacity development system for the Marine Protected Area (MPA) Managers, addressing their knowledge, skills and values, is key to developing approaches for sustainable and effective management of coastal and marine biodiversity in the region. In this context, the Wildlife Institute of India and the *Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH* have partnered to offer a "Special certificate course on Coastal and Marine Biodiversity and Protected Area Managementò for field level staff of the State/UTs Forest Departments from December 7-8, 2015 at Port Blair/ Havelock Island in Andaman.

Further, an ñAdd-on field course in Marine Biodiversity Assessment using SCUBA Divingò During December 1st ï 4th at Havelock Island in Andaman organized jointly by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and *Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.*

GIZ

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) *GmbH* is an enterprise owned by the German Government. GIZ implements sustainable development through international cooperation, on behalf of Germany and other partners. To address the challenges in biodiversity conservation, the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) of Government of India and GIZ India- on behalf of the German Government ï are implementing the Indo-German Biodiversity Programme. The Programme consists of two projects: Incentives for Sustainable Management of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (ISBM) supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), and Conservation and Sustainable Management of Existing and Potential Coastal and Marine Protected Areas (CMPA) supported by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB).

Wildlife institute of India (WII).

WII is a pioneer Institute established in 1982 as a nodal National agency with the mission to nurture the development of Wildlife Science and promote its application in conservation, in consonance with our cultural and socio-economic milieu. In addition to that, the institute is mandated to meet the urgent capacity building needs for scientific planning, management and research in the field of wildlife conservation.

Course objectives

The main objective of the course is 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. In addition to that, conservation approaches and legal policy frame work 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 repots, and develop-under supervision ï operational plan for MPAs based on management effectiveness guidelines.

Target group

The Certificate Course is designed for field staff of Forest Department especially Range Forest Officers or equivalent or others who will work within Marine Protected Areas and natural resource management sectors with interests in marine conservation and management and take leadership role.

Eligibility

The course is meant for in-service field Officers of the rank of Range Forest Officers or equivalent.

The nominated candidates will also have an opportunity to attend the Add-on Field Course in Marine Biodiversity Assessment Using SCUBA Divingò during December 1 ï 4, 2015 at Havelock Island, Andaman. This add-on course will have a special focus on field-based activities, especially using SCUBA and other methods for under-water biodiversity surveys. This add-on Course is available only to the candidates nominated for the December 7-18, 2015 Special Certificate Course. In addition, they must qualify the following criteria to apply for this add-on course:

- Age: upto 45 yrs as on 1 December, 2015
- Swimming: Basic Swimming Ability
- Basic knowledge of Computers- Working ability in MS Word and Excel
- Should have normal BP (i.e. 120/80-140/90)

Those who qualify the above basic eligibility criteria are advised to go through the attached Medical and Risk Statement, which provides an overview of the potential risks involved in scuba diving and of the conduct required of the participants during the scuba training program. It is recommended that only after thoroughly reading these guidelines and consenting to take the risk liability, should the potential candidates be nominated for the add-on SCUBA course.

Nomination

The nomination process usually starts with the institute (WII) inviting nominations from the State Forest Departments. Application forms have already been sent along with the invitation letter to all concerned Chief Wildlife Wardens, in which applicants have to fill their details.

Duration

Duration of the courses are 1-4 December for ñAdd-on field course in Marine Biodiversity Assessment using SCUBA Divingò followed by ñSpecial certificate course on Coastal and Marine Biodiversity and Protected Area Managementò on 7-18 December 2015.

Cost

The entire cost of the training including travel, boarding and lodging for the Course duration, training material, SCUBA Course (in case of the candidates nominated for the add-on course also) etc. would be borne by WII-GIZ.

Attendance

Participation in all components of the course, tours, excursions, lectures, practical session, examinations, group discussions and symposia etc. is compulsory.

Course Contents

The broad outline of the course structure includes the following modules:

- Introduction to different marine habitat
- Functions the different habitats
- Importance of the critical habitats
- Critical Habitat Assessment & Monitoring
- Assessment Methodologies
- Identification of Fauna

Important Dates

SUBA Training: 1-4 December, 2015

Certificate Course: 7-18 December, 2015

Nominations closed on 15 August, 2015