



Nature is our Password, Conservation the Creed

Monsoon 2015

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Veiled in Mist...

Current Protected Area Network of India

(Position as on 1 October, 2015)

National Parks: 103; Area 40500.13 sq km, (1.23%)
Wildlife Sanctuaries: 531; Area 117607.72 sq km, (3.58%)
Conservation Reserves: 66; Area 2344.53 sq km, (0.07%)
Community Reserves: 26; Area 46.93 sq km, (0.001%)
Total Protected Areas: 726; Area 160499.31 sq km, (4.88%)

A total of 22 new Community Reserves in Meghalaya were notified during the reporting period.

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Around the Campus

XXXVII Post Graduate Diploma in Advanced Wildlife Management commenced, Dehradun, 1 September 2015 to 30 June 2016. The 10-month Post-Graduate Diploma Course in Advance Wildlife Management for IFS officers of State Forests Department and equivalent foreign nationals commenced on 1st September, 2015 at the Institute. A total of 13 officer trainees joined the course from Indian states and foreign countries, of them, 11 candidates are from Indian states (two each from Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Tripura and one each from Manipur, Nagaland, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana) and two foreign nationals are from Myanmar. Five officer trainees joined the course as Hari Singh fellows.

During the reporting period, the Orientation Tour was conducted during 25-30 September, 2015 to Corbett National Park.

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Workshop on “Master Planning for Zoo Education”, Ahmedabad, 27-30 July, 2015. The Wildlife Institute of India was entrusted with the task of organizing training-cum-plan development workshops for identified zoos in the country. This was the second workshop in this series, which was attended by 30 managers and personnel from identified zoos. The first workshop was organised at Dehradun in December, 2014. The course was inaugurated by Smt. Meenakshiben Patel, Mayor of Ahmedabad. She welcomed the

participants and stressed on the importance of education in zoos. Dr. C.N. Pandey, IFS, PCCF & Chief Wildlife Warden, Gujarat Forest Department graced the occasion as the guest of honour. Dr. Pandey emphasized the need for a visitor use plan for the zoos.

The workshop was planned in such a way that every aspect pertaining to zoo education could be discussed during the workshop. The technical sessions on 'Elements of zoo education; Discussion on zoo education plan format, and setting of goals and objectives of the plan; Understanding visitor motivations & profiling zoo visitors; Development of a visitor survey questionnaire; Critical review of interpretative signages in Indian zoos; Range of effective communication techniques in conservation education and interpretation, including use of online media; Zoo beyond boundaries; Marketing of zoos & practicality of media management; Major consideration in designing of interpretive facilities for zoos; Targeting urban audience in a zoo – Case study of Indroda Nature Park; and Formulation of working groups for preparation of master plan on zoo education and interpretation were organised. The participants were taken for a visit to Indroda Nature Park and Kamla Nehru Zoological Park.

The participants prepared the master plan on zoo education of their respective zoo and after discussion they consolidated the plan.

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Two-day Training Workshop for Indian Forest Service Officers on "Management Effectiveness Evaluation of Protected Areas", Dehradun, 27-28 July, 2015. The training workshop was conducted by the Wildlife Institute of India for the IFS officers sponsored by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC), Govt. of India, New Delhi. A total of 17 participants attended the workshop. Six participants made group presentations during the workshop. All sessions of the course were attended by all the participants with high level of contribution.

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6th Asia Regional Conservation Forum, Bangkok, 10-12 August, 2015. The 6th Asia Regional Conservation Forum (RCF) was held in Bangkok where 500 representatives of NGOs, Government and business sector from across Asia gathered together to discuss how they can work together to deal with Asia's environmental issues and share their experiences. Twenty participants from India representing NGOs & Government participated in the RCF. An exhibition depicting the publications, posters and films of the members of the Indian National Committee of IUCN was set up during the RCF.

The Indian National Committee of IUCN produced an Annual Report of the activities of its members for the year 2014-15. The Annual Report was released on the first day of the RCF by Mr. Zhang Xinsheng, IUCN President, Professor Youngbae Suh, Former Chair of the

IUCN Asia Regional Member's Committee in the presence of Ms. Meena Gupta, Vice Chair of the Governance and Constituency Committee, Shri Vinod Ranjan, ADG (WL) and Dr. Bitapi C. Sinha, Coordinator, INC-IUCN.

Mr. Zhang Zinsheng, IUCN President, met the members of the Indian National Committee of IUCN. IUCN President appreciated the efforts of the Indian National Committee and discussed issues which required focus during the World Conservation Congress at Hawaii in 2016.

RCF organized a photo contest. Shri Nilanjan Chatterjee of the Wildlife Institute of India won the first prize in the individual category for his picture. The award was received on his behalf by Dr. Bitapi C. Sinha from Thailand's Minister of Natural Resource.

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Around the Campus

XI Internal Annual Research Seminar, 30 August 2015 and XXIX Annual Research Seminar of WII, Dehradun, 3-4 September 2015. The XI Internal Annual Research Seminar (IARS) was chaired by Shri Vinod Rishi, Former, ADG (WL), MoEF, Govt. of India, New Delhi. During the IARS, a total of 13 presentations were made in four technical sessions. The presentations were based on recently initiated and ongoing research studies and were made by research fellows of the Institute. Also, 10 e-posters were presented and evaluated during the IARS.

The following were adjudged as the 'three best' oral and e-poster presentations and were awarded book prizes:

Oral Presentation Awards for IARS

- I Stotra Chakrabarti - Ecology of Asiatic lions in Gir using telemetry- achievements & way ahead.

- II Dibyendu Mandal - Assessment and monitoring of current status and future scenario of reintroduced tiger population in Sariska Tiger Reserve, Rajasthan.
- III Ashutosh Singh - Understanding the causes of diversity gradients along the Himalaya in flycatchers.

e-Poster Presentation Awards for IARS

- I Pallavi Ghaskadbi - Ecological status of leopards in Kalesar National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary, Haryana, India: Preliminary Results Preliminary Results.
- II Chongpoi Tuboi - Evaluation of ecosystem services of Munnar High Range Mountain Landscape - A review.
- III Tanveer Ahmed - Human-wildlife conflict and incentive based management in and around Rajaji-Corbett Forest Corridor.

Celebration of Librarian's Day, Dehra Dun, 12 August, 2015. The Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and Central Govt. Library Association (CGLA) jointly organized the Librarian's Day on occasion of Dr. Rangnathan's Birthday (Father of Library Science) with a technical session on "New Frontiers in Digital Library" at WII. The librarians of various organizations/academic institutes e.g. Survey of India, Forest Survey of India, Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy, Central Soil and Water Conservation Research & Training Institute, Welham Girls School, St. Joseph Academy, University of Petroleum and Energy Studies have participated to celebrate this day. The function was attended by 35 participants from different Institutes.



In his opening remarks, Dr. V.B. Mathur, Director, WII emphasized on the importance of information technology in the growth of any institution. He also talked about the need of consortia and the challenges before libraries. Dr. P.K. Mathur, Dean expressed his views on the need to develop hybrid library system i.e. with both print and digital media in modern era. Sh. K.P. Singh, President, CGLA shared the activities and updates of CGLA with the participants.

A keynote address on 'Digital Library of India (DLI) project at Banasthali University' was delivered by Dr. M.S. Rana, University Librarian from HNB Garhwal University. A technical session was organised to discuss the existing library situation and to evolve plans to meet the challenges of planning and management of digital resources by the libraries. Ms. Sunita Agarwal gave a presentation on "Open Educational Resources (OER) & Creative Commons" in the technical session.

The XXIX Annual Research Seminar (ARS) of the Institute was conducted at WII under the Chairmanship of Shri P.R. Sinha, Former Director of the Institute and present Chairman of WII-Training, Research and Academic Council. A total of 24 presentations were made in seven technical sessions. The presentations were based on the ongoing/completed research studies and were made by research fellows and faculty members of the Institute. In addition, 15 e-poster presentations were also made by the researchers. The oral and poster presentations were evaluated by a panel of judges.

About 300 delegates attended the ARS that included the Principal Chief Conservators of Forests, Chief Wildlife Wardens and other senior officials representing State Forest Departments, delegates representing NGOs, scientists, wildlife experts, faculty members, researchers, M.Sc. students and officer trainees of the Post-Graduate Diploma Course in Advanced Wildlife Management.

A panel of eminent scientists and wildlife managers evaluated the relevance and quality of research made through oral and e-Poster presentations. Both oral and e-Poster presentations made by the following researchers were adjudged the 'best presentations' during the XXIX Annual Research Seminar of the Institute and researchers were awarded the book prize.

Oral Presentation Awards for ARS

- I Ankita Sinha - Studying riverine ecosystems through riverine birds: a case study of the upper Ganges.
- II Sutirtha Dutta - Shifting sands: yardstick to monitor the status of bustard, associated wildlife and habitat in Thar landscape.
- III Anita Devi - Preliminary findings on the food habits of large herbivores in Kaziranga Tiger Reserve.
- IV Indranil Mondal - Characterization of human-tiger conflicts along probable movement pathways in human dominated areas of East Vidarbha Landscape.
- V Ajaz Hussain - Patterns of human-wildlife conflicts in and around community forests of Pithoragarh District, Western Himalaya.

e-Poster Presentation Awards for ARS

- I B. Navaneethan - Home range, habitat use and food habits of reintroduced gaur, *Bos gaurus gaurus* in Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh.
- II Pallavi S. Ghaskadbi - A whistle amongst growls: Dholes in a multi-predator system in dry deciduous forests of India.
- V. Vijayaraghavan - New Insights on the movement and ranging behaviour of critically endangered Great Indian Bustard in Maharashtra, India.
- III Giridhar Malla - Ecology and conservation perspectives of the fishing cat, *Prionailurus vivverinus* in Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary, Andhra Pradesh.



Around the Campus



“Himalaya Day” celebration at the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, 9 September 2015.

Over 250 members of WII, including eminent scientists, wildlife managers, researchers and students of wildlife sciences gathered to celebrate 'Himalaya Day' in the Institute. The state government has officially declared September 9 as 'Himalaya Diwas' – a day which will be celebrated across the State to spread the message of conservation of the Himalayan ecosystems. The focal theme for the year 2015 is "*Sab ka Himalaya*".

Dr. V.B. Mathur, Director, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, stated that the institute has been observing the Himalaya Day every year since 2011 and for this year the Institute invited Prof. Shekhar Pathak, a noted historian, writer, orator and naturalist for a talk on '*Kailash- Manas Prakruti and Sanskriti*'. In his elaborate talk, he mentioned about '*Kailash-Mansarovar Yatra*' and the natural and cultural values of this landscape. Taking this into consideration, the governments of India, China and Nepal have come together to work towards the common conservation and sustainable development goals in the Kailash Sacred Landscape that is coordinated by ICIMOD said Dr. P.K. Mathur, Dean, WII. The unique floral and faunal wealth of the Himalayas is undergoing structural and compositional changes due to climate

change. The increase in temperature is shifting various species to higher elevations. There are reports of early flowering and fruiting in some plant species said Dr. G.S. Rawat, Senior Scientist, WII.

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Training Programme on “Landscape Management Approach for Biodiversity Conservation and Human Well-Being”, Thekkady, Kerala, 13-17 October, 2015. The training programme for frontline professionals under Biodiversity Conservation & Rural Livelihood Improvement Project (BCRLIP) was conducted at Periyar Tiger Reserve, Thekkady, Kerala. This training programme was a part of national capacity building component of the project. The objectives of this training programme were: (i) to understand the importance of biodiversity, Protected Areas (PAs) and potential threats to PA Network; (ii) to disseminate the core concept of landscape approach for biodiversity conservation and human well-being; (iii) to share the existing experience of linking biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods; and (iv) to discuss on a frame work for mainstreaming conservation in development for landscape management.

The training was conducted by Wildlife Institute of India in association with Kerala Forest & Wildlife Department, Tamil Nadu Forest Department, Periyar Tiger Conservation Foundation (PTCF) and Kalakad–Mundanthurai Tiger Conservation Foundation (KMTCF). Officers of other developmental departments/agencies working in Agasthyamalai Landscape as well as other areas were deputed for this training programme. The programme also included one-day interactive workshop with representative of developmental departments/line agencies. In total, 30 participants attended the training programme.

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Welcome...

Dr. G.S. Rawat, Dean, Faculty of Wildlife Sciences

Dr. G.S. Rawat joined Wildlife Institute of India in 1986 in the erstwhile Faculty of Wildlife Biology. He completed his M.Sc. (1980), Ph.D. (1984) and D.Sc. (2007) degrees in botany from Kumaun University, Nainital and was a Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences, India (Allahabad, 2004). He is a member of the IUCN/SSC Orchid and Medicinal Plant specialist groups and a life member of the Association for Plant Taxonomy. Prior to joining WII, Dr. Rawat served in the Botanical Survey of India, Dehradun and in the departments of botany of Kumaun and Garhwal universities in various capacities.



In 1988, he was awarded an FAO fellowship to undergo six months' on-the-job training in habitat evaluation procedures at Colorado State University, Fort Collins. Later in 1993, he also underwent training in alpine plant ecology at the Institute for Arctic and Alpine Research, University of Colorado at Boulder, USA. His current research interests include long-term ecological monitoring of high altitude ecosystems; ecology and management of alpine rangeland/alpine meadows; and orchid systematics and ecology. Besides performing his routine duties at WII, he works as the Secretary, Uttarakhand Chapter of the National Academy of Sciences, India and Associate Editor, Tropical Ecology in honorary capacities.

His areas of specialization are angiosperm taxonomy; wildlife habitat ecology; mountain ecosystems ecology. Currently, he is working on the research projects on 'Habitat ecology and conservation status of wild ungulates in northern parts of Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary, Ladakh'; 'Global experiments on savanna tree seedlings in Sariska Tiger Reserve, Rajasthan'; and 'Taxonomy, distribution and conservation management of Orchids'.

Dr. Rawat took over as Dean, Faculty of Wildlife Sciences of the Institute on October 1, 2015.

Farewell...

Dr. P.K. Mathur

Dr. Pradeep Kumar Mathur joined WII's faculty in November, 1986. During this period, Dr. Mathur has supervised a number of research projects. Dr. Mathur has also successfully completed a study on the 'Genetics of rhino in West Bengal using DNA technology' in collaboration with the National Institute of Immunology. Dr. Mathur also served as the Institute's first 'Research Coordinator' from 1988 to 1995.



His fields of specialization and interests included 'Ecology, Rangeland Management, Protected Area Management, Landscape Ecology and Landscape Approach to Forest and Wildlife Management'. Dr. Mathur served as Scientist-G (Education) at the Institute from March, 1999 to March, 2001. Later, he was assigned responsibility of the newly created Department of Landscape Level Planning and Management in his capacity as a Professor and Head of the Department. In addition, Dr. Mathur also served as the Nodal Officer for the major WII-USDA Forest Service (USFS) collaborative project during 1996-2006 which dealt with the management of forests in India for biological diversity and productivity at four field demonstration sites using the landscape level planning approach. Dr. Mathur served as the Nodal Officer, WII-HPFD Project assigned by the Himachal Pradesh Forest Department. Dr. Mathur was given the responsibility of the Dean, Faculty of Wildlife Sciences from February, 2014.

Dr. Mathur superannuated on 30th September, 2015 after a long service at the Institute.

Farewell...

Dr. B.K. Mishra

Dr. B.K. Mishra has been involved in conducting and supervising applied research in natural resource assessment and analysis leading to sustainable development planning of park side communities for over 30 years. His research interests included human ecology of forest based communities, simulation modelling of village ecosystem functioning, evaluation of environmental and socioeconomic impacts of development projects, and socioeconomic reconstruction of displaced communities.

He was involved in teaching, training and designing competency based curriculum in human dimensions of wildlife management, ecodevelopment planning and community based conservation. Being a member of the Expert Appraisal Committee (mining) of the Government of India, he was contributing to the technical appraisal of mining projects.



Dr. Mishra was superannuated on 31st July 2015 after completing a long and illustrious career at the Institute.

Shri M. Suryanarayana

Shri M. Suryanarayana was appointed as a Lower Division Clerk at Central Crocodile Breeding and Management Institute, Hyderabad on November 21, 1978. After the transfer from Hyderabad to Wildlife Institute of India, he worked in different sections. He worked as Hostel Superintendent for a long period. At the time of superannuation, he was working as a Section Officer in Finance Section.

Shri Suryanarayana superannuated on August 31, 2015 after a long service period of more than 36 years.



The WII community wishes good health and happiness to all the superannuating members of the Institute for their future.

Patron: Director, WII
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Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better.

- Albert Einstein
 (http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/topics/topic_nature.html)