

## Next Issue

- MSTRiPES Workshop
- XV WII-FODS "Wildlife and Environment Quiz"



Vivek Sarkar



Rohan Bhagat

*The monsoon wait...*

## Current Protected Area Network of India

(Position as on 30 September, 2017)

National Parks: 103; Area 40500.13 sq km, (1.23%)  
Wildlife Sanctuaries: 544; Area 118931.80 sq km, (3.62%)  
Conservation Reserves: 73; Area 2547.19 sq km, (0.08%)  
Community Reserves: 45; Area 59.66 sq km, (0.002%)  
**Total Protected Areas: 765; Area 162038.78 sq km, (4.93%)**

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## Around the Campus

### XXXIX P.G. Diploma Course in Advanced Wildlife Management commenced, Dehradun,

*September 1, 2017.* The 10-month P.G. Diploma Course in Advanced Wildlife Management commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2017 at this Institute with ten officer trainees of the rank of Deputy Conservator of Forests/ Assistant Conservator of Forests and equivalent levels. Among them, six officers represented Indian States (two from Himachal Pradesh, one each from Meghalaya, Madhya Pradesh Assam and Odisha). In addition, four foreign nationals from Myanmar have also joined the course.

The Orientation Tour to Koluchaur, Chowkhamb, Lansdowne Forest Division, Pauri Garhwal and its adjoining areas of was conducted from 25-29 September, 2017. The objective of this tour was to introduce the concept of conservation values, unique features, orientation to flora and fauna, identification of bird species and guilds in different forest ecosystem. This opportunity was also used to familiarize trainees with different habitats, wildlife values of area, animal sightings and eco-tourism and human-wildlife interface situations.

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### Training Program on 'Application of Very High Resolution Satellite Data in Natural Heritage Management' Dehradun, July 11-14, 2017.

The UNESCO Category 2 Centre (C2C) on World Natural Heritage Management and Training for Asia and the Pacific Region at Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun in collaboration with Digital Globe, a leading provider of high-resolution Earth imagery, data and analysis organised a three-day course at WII. The overall objective of the course was to build capacity of world heritage stakeholders by providing critical understanding of high resolution satellite imagery in the field of natural heritage management. A total of 42 participants from seven countries of Asia-Pacific, *i.e.* Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal and Sri Lanka attended the course representing World Heritage Site managers, practitioners, academic professionals and researchers for this training programme.

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### Training programme on 'Advances in Wildlife Research and Conservation', Dehradun, August



*10-14, 2017.* The Wildlife Institute of India organized a five-day training programme for the newly recruited scientists of Zoological Survey of India (ZSI). The objective of the training programme was to build capacity of 35 newly recruited scientists in the field of wildlife biology, conservation and management, field techniques for data collection and quantitative and exploratory data analysis. The programme had a blend of both theory and practice and received excellent feedback from the participants.

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**Consultative Meeting on 'Preparation of the Zonal Master Plan for Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) around Protected Areas', Dehradun, August 28-30, 2017.** A Consultative Meeting on 'Preparation of the Zonal Master Plan for Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) around Protected Areas' was organised by the Wildlife Institute of India from 28-30 August, 2017. 40 representatives from ten States viz. Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh



participated in the programme. Dr. Amita Prasad, Additional Secretary, MoEFCC was the Chief Guest of the inaugural session. She reiterated the commitment of the MoEFCC in building capacity to prepare Zonal Master Plans by the States. A visit to the Eco-Sensitive Zones of the Rajaji National Park, Uttarakhand and Kalesar National Park, Haryana was also organised as part of the meeting.

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### **Ten-day Orientation Workshop on 'Wildlife & Health Management' for Veterinary Officers of Uttarakhand State, Dehradun, September 11-20, 2017.**

A ten-day orientation workshop was organized by Wildlife Institute of India for Veterinary Officers of Uttarakhand with the objective of providing an exposure on various aspects of wildlife. Inputs ranged from basics of species biology, behaviour and ecology to conservation challenges in Uttarakhand, dimensions of human wildlife conflicts, wildlife forensics, emerging zoonoses, *ex-situ* management, rescue and rehabilitation as well as legal issues for relevant field investigations.

The field component included visit to Chidiyapur Wildlife Transit Rehabilitation Centre, Haridwar and Chilla Elephant camp, Rajaji Tiger Reserve. The participants subsequently visited the Wildlife S.O.S's facility (Elephant Conservation & Care Centre and Bear Rescue Facility) at Agra. A field excursion at Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur was also undertaken followed by visit to Sariska Tiger Reserve, Alwar. The workshop was attended by 26 field veterinary officers including seven lady officers. The workshop was sponsored by Uttarakhand Forest Dept. and CAMPA, Uttarakhand.

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**MSTriPES Workshop, Dehradun, September 11-13, 2017.** Monitoring System for Tigers – Intensive Patrolling and Ecological Status (MSTriPES) is a scientific tool to acquaint field staff to modern field techniques and patrolling protocols useful for wildlife conservation especially in tiger landscapes of the country. This software tool would also be used for the upcoming All India Tiger Estimation exercise during 2017-18 and annual intensive monitoring of tiger, co-predator, prey and their habitat. In order to assist in the implementation of MSTriPES and data entry operations for the All India Tiger Estimation exercise in 2017-18, a workshop was conducted at WII. During this three-day workshop, 20 participants from 10 Tiger Reserves were provided hands-on training in both MSTriPES Mobile Application and Desktop Version. The participants were showcased the implementation of MSTriPES application in reducing the response time towards detrimental events like poaching or habitat degradation and as a comprehensive tool to keep an oversight on tiger reserves.

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### **World Ozone Day celebrated at the Institute, Dehradun, September 15, 2017.**

The World Ozone Day is observed every year on 16<sup>th</sup> September to mark the adoption of the Montreal Protocol in 1987. The Wildlife Institute of India-ENVIS Centre on "Wildlife and Protected Areas" celebrated the World Ozone Day 2017 and 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Montreal Protocol. As part of the celebrations, a video film titled "2048 – a futuristic prediction on ozone layer depletion" on the science behind Ozone layer depletion and subsequent efforts to protect it, was screened. Awareness posters on the 30-year anniversary of Montreal Protocol were also displayed at the institute. The event was attended by faculty members, researchers, students and staff of the Institute.

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### **"Special Course in Wildlife Protection, Law and Forensic Science, Dehradun, September 18-23, 2017.**

A one-week special course for the 68<sup>th</sup> batch officer trainees of Indian Revenue Service (Customs and Central Excise), as part of their training programme, was organized by the Institute. A total of 75 Officers Trainees from the National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes and Narcotics, Faridabad participated in this course. The main objectives of this training were to (i) provide basic knowledge of wildlife and their conservation

## Around the Campus

### 71<sup>st</sup> Independence Day Celebration at WII, August 15, 2017.

India's 71<sup>st</sup> Independence Day was celebrated at the Wildlife Institute of India with enthusiasm. Hoisting the national flag, Dr. V.B. Mathur, Director recalled the sacrifices of the countrymen during the freedom struggle that finally led to India's Independence.

He said that Government of India had assigned several new responsibilities to the Institute for planning and implementing species recovery programmes in respect of 4 critically endangered wild animal species *viz.* Great Indian Bustard, Gangetic Dolphin, Dugong and Manipur Deer and the Institute had taken up the challenge of 'field conservation' in many States of the country, where these species occur. Similarly, under the National Mission for Clean Ganga the Institute has established a 'Ganga Aqualife Conservation and Monitoring Centre' in the campus. He urged the Institute's scientists, researchers, students and staff for their continued support in successfully meeting the various challenges and new responsibilities assigned to the Institute.



perspectives in India; (ii) provide knowledge on relevant laws and policies to protect wildlife and prevent its illegal trade at National as well as International levels; (iii) introduce to Wildlife Forensics; and (iv) provide hands-on training of identification of certain wildlife products and parts that are in illegal trade.

A field tour to the Corbett Tiger Reserve was organised to sensitize the trainees towards protection and management of a wildlife protected area and issues related to illegal trade and poaching. Eminent experts from WII, Uttarakhand State Forest Department, NBA, Ministry of Environment, Forest and

Climate Change, and Bombay Natural History Society provided inputs in this course.

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### First Meeting of the Independent Regional Expert Committees for Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) of National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries in India in 2017-18, New Delhi,

September 19, 2017. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India has initiated Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) the evaluation of 125 National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries in India in 2017-18 and has entrusted the responsibility to

Wildlife Institute of India (WII) for technical backstopping. WII organized the first meeting of 13 Regional Expert Committees which was chaired by Shri Siddhanta Das, DGF and Special Secretary, MoEFCC and co-chaired by Shri Soumitra Dasgupta, IGF-Wildlife, MoEFCC. The 13 RECs include retired PCCFs, NGOs and academia. The evaluation of sites will be carried out between October, 2017 and March, 2018.

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### **Presentation on Work Environment for the Women Employees: Statutory and Organizational Aspects, Dehradun, September 25, 2017.**

Dr. Arvind Kumar Jha, Former PCCF & DG (Social Forestry), Maharashtra State and Managing Trustee of Global Enviro-legal Services Foundation (GELSEF) delivered a Guest Lecture on "Work environment for the women employees: Statutory and Organizational aspects" at the Institute. In his session Dr. Jha discussed the provision of appropriate environment to the women staff in view of the fact that the Act and Rules related to sexual harassment at workplaces cast a special responsibility on the employer. Dr. Jha made three presentations viz. (a) The Sexual Harassment of Women at the Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013; (b) Sexual Harassment of Women (PPR) Rules 2013; and (c) Roles and Responsibilities- Women's Safety at Workplace. The talk was attended by faculty, researchers and students of the Institute.

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### **II Himalayan Research Seminar (HRS),**

**Dehradun, September 1, 2017.** The HRS was chaired by Dr. Shrikant Chandola, Former PCCF & HoFF, Uttarakhand. A total of 23 presentations were made in five technical sessions, viz., Diversity and Distribution; Habitat Ecology; Landscape Ecology & Climate Change; Human Dimension & Ecosystem Services; and Monitoring Strategies.



The following were adjudged as the three best oral presentations by a panel of 3 external evaluators and the research personnel were awarded book prizes:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title of Presentation</b>
I Ranjana Pal	Seasonal variation in mammalian assemblages in different climatic zones of Bhagirathi Basin, Uttarakhand
II Ankita Sinha	Discerning patterns of river bird distribution using species-traits and environmental variables
III Meghna Bandhopadhyay	Importance of riverine system for conservation management: preliminary insights on small carnivores from Great Himalayan National Park

### **XIII Internal Annual Research Seminar (IARS),**

**Dehradun, August 30, 2017.** The IARS was chaired by Shri Vinod Rishi, Former ADG (WL), MoEFCC. A total of 23 presentations were made in five technical sessions viz., National Mission on Clean Ganga; Conservation Biology; Species Recovery, Status Survey & Monitoring; Species-Habitat Relationships; and Conservation Genetics. The presentations were based on recently initiated and ongoing research studies and were made by faculty members and research fellows of the Institute.

The following were adjudged as the three best oral presentations by a panel of 3 external evaluators and the research personnel were awarded book prizes:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title of Presentation</b>
I Shrutarshi Paul	Predicting swamp deer distribution in the upper Gangetic plains using a combination of survey and molecular approaches
II Leela Prasad	River Dolphin oil-bait fishery in lower Assam – A preliminary assessment
III Dr. Rashid Raza	Multi-sectoral use of river water and Ganges river dolphin conservation: issues engagement with key stakeholders and the way forward

## Around the Campus

### XXXI Annual Research Seminar (ARS),

**Dehradun, September 5-6, 2017.** The XXXI ARS of the Institute was conducted at WII. Five publications were also released during the inaugural session of the ARS: (i) Wildlife Watch in the Indian Himalayan Region – Series III (2016-17); (ii) ENVIS Bulletin: Diversity and Ecology of Amphibians of India; (iii) Flowering Plants of Kedarnath Wildlife Sanctuary: A Field Guide; (iv) Ecological Assessment of Siswan Reserve, Punjab; and (v) Ecology, Taxonomy, and Conservation of Fish Diversity in ubansiri River basin of Arunachal Pradesh, North East India.

A total of 21 presentations were made in six technical sessions, *viz.*, Species Recovery Programme; Landscape Management and Climate Change; Large Carnivore Ecology; Wildlife Monitoring and Management; *Ex-situ* Conservation and Molecular Genetics; and a session of 14 Three Minute Talks (TMT) based on M.Sc. dissertations. A special session on New Frontiers 'Science Express – Climate Action Special (SECAS)' train was also conducted during the ARS. The presentations were based on the ongoing/completed research studies and were made by research fellows and faculty members of the Institute. In addition, the poster presentations were also made by the researchers and project teams.

A panel of eminent scientists and wildlife managers evaluated the relevance and quality of research presented through oral and poster presentations. Both oral and poster presentations made by the following researchers and oral presentations by M.Sc. students were adjudged the 'best presentations' during the XXXI ARS and the winners were awarded the book prize.



#### Name Title of Presentation

- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| <b>I Vishnupriya Kolipakam</b> | Genetic structure of tigers in India and its conservation implication         |
| <b>II Stotra Chakrabarti</b>   | Joining the dots: Lessons learn from a long-term research on Gir lions        |
| <b>III Anant Pande</b>         | Life at the extreme: understanding seabird ecology and genetics in Antarctica |

#### Name

**I Naman Goyal**

#### Title of Three Minute Talks

Patterns in avian assemblages on two islands of the Central Nicobar with emphasis on interactions between the endemic Nicobar bulbul and Red-whiskered bulbul

**II Monisha S Mohandas**

Free ranging dogs: population status, ranging patterns and resource utilisation

**III Ashwin Warudkar**

Community organization of spiders in Central Nicobar Islands: Influence of habitat structure and island heterogeneity

**III Sultan**

The Serpentine Devil: Roads in the Woods- A study on the impacts of a National Highway on wildlife in Haridwar Forest Division





### Name Title of the Poster

- I Tanvi Gaur** National Mission for Sustaining Himalayan Ecosystem: An overview of Landscape Ecology and Visualization Laboratory
- II Preeti Sharma** Indicator species approach for assessment of Outstanding Universal Value of Sahyadri sub-cluster, Western Ghats World Heritage Site
- III Swapnali Gole** Saving the Island Mermaids: Current status of Dugong conservation in the Andaman-Nicobar archipelago
- III Predit MA** Understanding population characteristics of Nilgiri Tahr for landscape genetics

More than 500 delegates attended the ARS that included the members of the Institute's Training, Research and Academic Council (TRAC), 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 and probationers undergoing training at the Central Academy for State Forest Service.

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### भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान में हिन्दी पखवाड़े का आयोजन, 22 सितम्बर, 2017.

भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान में हिन्दी दिवस के उपलक्ष्य में दिनांक 14 से 28 सितम्बर 2017 तक हिन्दी पखवाड़ा मनाया गया। हिन्दी पखवाड़े के दरम्यान कुलसचिव महोदय द्वारा संस्थान के अधिकारियों एवं कर्मचारियों से अधिकाधिक कार्य हिन्दी में किये जाने का अनुरोध किया गया। इस दरम्यान 22 सितम्बर 2017 को संस्थान के अधिकारियों, कर्मचारियों एवं शोध छात्रों के लिये श्रुतलेख एवं सामान्य ज्ञान प्रतियोगिता का आयोजन किया गया। डा. जी.एस. रावत, डीन महोदय द्वारा "जैवविविधता, पारितंत्रीय सेवायें और मानव-कल्याण" विषय पर ज्ञानवर्धक व्याख्यान हिन्दी में दिया गया।

इसके अलावा एक हिन्दी कार्यशाला का भी आयोजन किया गया। कार्यशाला में लगभग 50 कर्मचारियों ने उत्साहपूर्वक भाग लिया और जानकारियां प्राप्त की।

कार्यशाला को डा0 दिनेश चमोला, अध्यक्ष, हिन्दी एवं भाषा विज्ञान विभाग, उत्तराखण्ड संस्कृत विश्वविद्यालय, हरिद्वार ने मुख्य वक्ता के तौर पर सम्बोधित किया। इस अवसर पर संस्थान के निदेशक, डा0 वी0बी0 माथुर ने कहा कि शासकीय कार्यों में राजभाषा के प्रयोग को बढ़ाने के लिये संस्थान में प्रयास किये जा रहे हैं। इस अवसर पर संस्थान के डीन, डा0 जी0एस0 रावत, संस्थान के विभागीय राजभाषा कार्यान्वयन समिति के अध्यक्ष एवं संस्थान के कुलसचिव, श्री अजय श्रीवास्तव एवं समिति के सदस्य श्री ए0के0 दुबे, श्री वाय0एस0 वर्मा, डा0 मनोज अग्रवाल एवं श्री पी0एस0 धमान्दा भी उपस्थित थे। कार्यक्रम का संचालन संस्थान के वरिष्ठ तकनीकी अधिकारी व अकादमिक अधिकारी, श्री के0के0 श्रीवास्तव ने किया।



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## Farewell

### Dr. Anil Kumar Bhardwaj

Dr. A.K. Bhardwaj is an Indian Forest Service Officer of Kerala cadre 1985 batch. He worked as a Scientist-G and headed the Department of Ecodevelopment Planning and Participatory Management in Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun. He had coordinated and provided technical inputs in many important projects of the institute. These include Mapping of Protected Areas of India; Management Effectiveness Evaluation of Tiger Reserves in India; Assessment of Biosphere Reserves in India; WII-UNDP Project of PA Management for Jaldapara, West Bengal; FORD Foundation assisted project "Building Partnerships for Biodiversity Conservation in Rajaji National Park and Management, Regional Planning for different sites under World Bank GEF supported India Ecodevelopment Project and up-gradation of Protected Area (PA) Data Base of India. He had been actively involved in training programmes of institute for PA/Wildlife Managers and providing technical inputs for management planning of PAs to different states.



Wildlife Institute of India is steering an important World Bank sponsored project entitled "Biodiversity Conservation and Livelihood Improvement Project (BCRLIP)", in which he looked after the responsibility of National Training coordinator for this project and a site coordinator for Agasthyamalai landscape of Southern Western Ghat. Dr. Bhardwaj was repatriated to his parent cadre on completion of his deputation tenure in WII in July 2017.

### Dr. Sonali Ghosh

Dr. Sonali Ghosh has more than 17 years of work experience in the field of forest and wildlife conservation. She has completed her master's in wildlife science from Wildlife Institute of India in 1997. Subsequently she worked as a research fellow with WWF-India and Indian Institute of Remote Sensing and joined the Indian Forest Service in Assam-Meghalaya cadre. In 2014, she completed her Ph.D. from Aberystwyth University, Wales UK in the field of Physical Geography wherein she used remote sensing and GIS tools to analyse habitat suitability for Tigers, *Panthera tigris* in the Indo-Bhutan Manas Landscape.



Dr. Sonali joined the UNESCO-C2C at Wildlife Institute of India in December 2014 and has been entrusted with the primary task of capacity building and strengthening the network of Natural and Mixed World Heritage Sites in Asia-Pacific region.

Dr. Sonali Ghosh, IFS and Scientist-F has been prematurely repatriated from the Institute in August, 2017 to join the new assignment as Director in the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation under the Central Staffing Scheme at New Delhi.

### Shri M.D. Gupta

Shri M.D. Gupta, Academic Officer has taken voluntary retirement from WII services. Shri Gupta has worked in various sections of the Institute during his long career. Shri Gupta provided his services to the Institute for approximately 32 years on different positions. He was working as Academic officer since last two years. On this occasion, a farewell function was organized at the Institute on 31 August 2017 to bid farewell to him.



Patron: Director, WII  
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*I believe sustainable use is the greatest propaganda in wildlife conservation at the moment.*

- Steve Irwin

Source: <https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/keywords/wildlife.html>