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Kuldeep Chauhhan

Current Protected Area Network of India

Position as on March 31, 2018

National Parks – 103; Area 40500.13 km² (1.23%)
Wildlife Sanctuaries – 544; Area 118931.80 km² (3.62%)
Conservation Reserves – 76; Area 2567.95 km² (0.08%)
Community Reserves – 46; Area 72.61 km² (0.002%)
Total – 769; Area 162072.49 km² (4.93%)

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Around the Campus



XXXIII Certificate Course in Wildlife Management concluded

The XXXIII Certificate Course in Wildlife Management was successfully completed on 31st January, 2018. In all, 13 officer trainees of the rank of Range Forest Officers and equivalent levels underwent the training course.

During the reporting period, the Wildlife Management Tour was conducted during 1-20 January, 2018 at various parts of Gujarat viz., Gujarat Ecological & Educational Research Foundation, Gulf of Kutch Marine National Park, Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary and Centre for Environment Education, Nalsarovar Wildlife Sanctuary & Dasada Wild Ass Sanctuary, Marine National Park, Jamnagar, Okha, Pirotan, Sakkarbagh Zoo, Junagarh and Gir National Park. Beside this, certificate class has also visited to Pence Tiger Reserve (M.P), Kanha Tiger Reserve (M.P) and Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur. The objective of this tour was to provide first-hand experience of various management practices related to habitat management, endangered species management, wildlife protection, captive management, eco-development, wildlife interface conflicts and tourism. The Management Tour Journal presentation was conducted on 25 January, 2018.

The Valedictory Function was organized on 31 January, 2018. All the officer trainees have successfully completed the course. Dr. Rajendra Dobhal, Director General, Uttarakhand State Council for Science & Technology (UCOST), Govt. of Uttarakhand graced the occasion as the chief guest. He presented the certificates and awards to the following officer trainees:

Institute's Gold Medal for the Top Trainee; and Silver Medal for the Best All Round Wildlifer were awarded to Dr. A.A. Kazi from Gujarat. Institute's Silver Medal for Wildlife Management was bagged by Mr. Fauzul Azim Bin Zainal Abidin from Malaysia; and Institute's Silver Medal for the Best Foreign Trainee was awarded to Ms. Siti Nur Azimah Abdul Wahab from Malaysia.

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2nd Ten-day Orientation Workshop on Wildlife & Health Management, Dehradun, 15-24 January, 2018.

A ten-day workshop was organized by the Institute for veterinary officers of Uttarakhand at the Institute with the objective of providing an exposure on various aspects of wildlife management and included topics ranging from basics of species biology, behaviour and ecology to conservation challenges in Uttarakhand, dimensions of human wildlife conflict, wildlife forensics, emerging zoonoses, *ex-situ* management, rescue and rehabilitation as well as legal issues for relevant field investigations. The field component included the visit to Chidiyapur Wildlife Transit Rehabilitation Centre, Haridwar; Wildlife S.O.S's facility (Elephant Conservation & Care Centre and Bear Rescue Facility) at Agra; Keoladeo Ghana National Park; and Sariska Tiger Reserve. Hands-on training on variety of immobilization equipment besides physical capture techniques was carried out. The workshop

was attended by 25 veterinary officers including nine lady officers. The workshop was instrumental in providing an insight into the ethical, scientific and professional management of wild animals. The workshop was supported by Uttarakhand Forest Dept. and CAMPA, Uttarakhand.

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5th Course on Wildlife Conservation for Wildlife Enthusiasts, Dehradun, 15-24 January, 2018.

The Wildlife Institute of India conducted a course on Wildlife Conservation for wildlife enthusiasts. A total of 20 participants (16 men and four women) attended the course, who had no formal education, training and experience of wildlife biology/conservation. The participants came from varied backgrounds and included an Indian Air Force officer, three IT professionals, four management consultants, a retired bank manager, a homeopathic doctor, accountant, environmental educators and three students. The participants were taken on a day visit to Asan Conservation Reserve, followed by a visit to the museums in Forest Research Institute and Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology. Following the class room sessions the participants were taken on a five day field tour to the Kotdi Forest Range of the Lansdowne Forest Division adjoining to Corbett TR, and Jhilmil Conservation Reserve. The course received excellent feedback from the participants.

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Two-day Training Programmes, Periyar Tiger Reserve, 19-20 January, 2018 and Parambikulam Tiger Reserve, Kerala, 22-23 January, 2018.

Western Ghats is one of the eight Natural World Heritage sites in India. With the view of imparting the knowledge to field managers and frontline staff, two-day training programmes were organized by the UNESCO C2C for Asia and Pacific Region in Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

The first training was organized for the Agasthyamalai and Periyar sub cluster at Periyar Tiger Reserve with support from the Kerala Forest Department. 20 Range Forest Officers from various protected areas within the sub-clusters participated in the training. The outstanding universal values based on which the sites were inscribed and the management actions required to conserve them were discussed in the course. The training for site managers and frontline staff of Anamalai and Nilgiri sub-clusters of Kerala was conducted at Parambikulam Tiger Reserve, Kerala. Twenty Range Forest Officers from sites within Anamalai and Nilgiri sub-clusters participated in the programme.

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Highlights for the project “Biodiversity Conservation and Ganga Rejuvenation”, January 2018.

A meeting was held with Hon'ble Swami Chidanand Saraswati Ji at Parmarth Niketan Ashram, Rishikesh, Uttarakhand to discuss the programme for the workshop for Ganga Prahari. A total of 188 *Ganga Praharis* have been identified across the five-Ganga states (Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal). At Varanasi, a batch of *Ganga Praharis* participated in a sensitization-cum-training workshop organized by WII-NMCG team at Village Jalhupur, Block Chiraigaon, Varanasi. A sensitization session was conducted for villagers in Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Pashu Aarogya Mela, Tikari Village, Kashi Vidhyapeeth Block on 19th January, 2018 in which the veterinary doctors vaccinated 950 cattles.

The Wildlife Institute of India organized a one-day consultative workshop for the Uttarakhand State Programme Management Group (SPMG) and volunteers of Ganga Vichar Manch, Uttarakhand on “Biodiversity Conservation and

Ganga Rejuvenation” 29th January, 2018. Various departments working at the state level, senior scientists and researchers from WII-NMCG team took part in the workshop. During the workshop, the participants were given an insight by WII-NMCG team on the rich biodiversity of the Ganga River. The objectives of the six components and their outputs were explained to the participants.

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Training Workshop on Animal Census, Wildlife Forensics, and Wildlife Health, Spiti Wildlife Division, WII, Dehradun, 2-4 February, 2018.

A “Training Workshop on Animal Census, Wildlife Forensics, and Wildlife Health for Field Staff of Himachal Pradesh Forest Department, Spiti Wildlife Division” was organized by the Institute. This was focused on designing as well as development of a survey protocol for mammals in the trans-Himalayan landscape of Spiti, Himachal Pradesh, India. The workshop will be useful in the long-term as a monitoring strategy for mammals in the trans-Himalayan Landscape. This landscape is characterized by cold desert habitat in most of its extent. The presence of wild animals is rare, constrained by the availability of food resources and suitable habitat. The workshop focused on health issues, forensic and also incorporated a field visit in RTR for exposure of 15 foresters from the Spiti Wildlife Division.

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Short Course for the Project Personnel of the All India Tiger Monitoring Programme (2017-19)', Dehradun, 15-28 February 2018.

With the commencement of the 4-year country-wide assessment of tigers, co-predators, prey and their habitat, a total of 55 project personnel were recruited for the All India Tiger Monitoring Programme. To orient the newly recruited biologists regarding the estimation exercise, and to refresh their basic ecological and field skills, the project personnel underwent a two-week orientation course at the Wildlife Institute of India, followed by a field course at Rajaji Tiger Reserve.

They were trained on the methods of abundance and density estimation, like distance sampling, mark-recapture frame work, spatially explicit mark recapture methods, and genetic



sampling. Further, all biologists were also trained to collect data using the latest MSTRIPES android application. The field orientation trip in Rajaji Tiger reserve consisted of on-ground training and collection of data using distance sampling, sign surveys, camera trapping and genetic sampling.

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Training Programme on Monitoring of Outstanding Universal Value of Natural World Heritage Sites for Frontline Staff, Dehradun, 6-8 February, 2018 and Manas Wildlife Sanctuary, Assam, 16-17 February, 2018.

A training programme was organized by UNESCO Category 2 Centre (C2C) for World Natural Heritage Management and Training for Asia and the Pacific Region at Wildlife Institute of India (WII), in which 12 participants including Range Forest Officers from Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Maharashtra and Karnataka, one Architect from Maharashtra and one researcher from Jaipur University participated.



The second training programme was conducted at Manas National Park, Assam in which 40 frontline staff of the site along with local NGOs and EDC members participated. The overall objective of the training programmes was to build capacity and sensitize frontline staff and other stakeholders of World Heritage Sites with the best Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) monitoring techniques, such as wildlife monitoring, use of GIS application and socio-economic tools to assess and manage the OUV of the natural World Heritage Sites.

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Consultative Workshop on Preparation of India's Sixth National Report to Convention on Biological Diversity and Progress Achieved on India's National Biodiversity Target-6 (NBT 6), Dehradun, 19th February, 2018.

Biodiversity encompasses the variety of all life on earth. Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), one of the key agreements adopted during the Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, is the first comprehensive global agreement which addresses all aspects relating to biodiversity with 193 parties globally including India as a party since 1994.

As per Article 6 of the CBD, each Party has to prepare National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) as a principal instrument for implementing the Convention at the national level. In this regard, on behalf of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India, the Wildlife Institute of India organised one-day consultative workshop on reporting requirements of National Biodiversity Target-6 (NBT-6) in collaboration with National Biodiversity Authority, India and UNDP-India under the Chairmanship of Dr. Amarjeet Ahuja, Former Secretary, Govt. of India.

The objectives of this consultative workshop were: (i) Introduction to the Convention on Biological Diversity, National Biodiversity Action Plans and its reporting requirements; and (ii) Progress made towards the National Biodiversity Target - 6 as well as national contribution towards the achievement of the Global Aichi Biodiversity Target - 11 & 12. Twenty-five representatives from Central Government Organisations participated in this workshop.

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Study Tour of Wildlife Officials from Sri Lanka, Dehradun, 8-22 March 2018.

Wildlife Institute of India (WII) organised a study tour of 25 frontline staff of the rank of Range Forest Assistant in the Department of Wildlife Conservation, Government of Sri Lanka. The objective of this study tour was to provide first-hand experience of various management practices related to habitat management for endangered species, wildlife protection, control of human activities, wildlife interface conflicts and tourism. The classroom lectures at WII and field visit to Rajaji National Park and Kanha Tiger Reserve helped the visiting officials to understand the scientific ways of protected area management. Daily patrolling, elephant camp, grassland management, tourism regulation and community involvement in conservation were discussed during the field visit.

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One-Week Training Workshop on Advances in Wildlife Conservation, Dehradun, 12-16 March 2018.

The Department of Science and Technology sponsored one-

week training on the theme of 'Wildlife Conservation' for the scientists and technologists working in Government Sector. In total, 16 participants from the Government Institutions participated in the workshop. The inputs were provided on management of invasive and alien species in PAs; techniques used in ecological study of wildlife fauna; landscape context of wildlife conservation; conservation of large carnivores and all India tiger estimation; conservation in a changing world; molecular approach to biodiversity conservation and wildlife; conservation and monitoring of aquatic species with special reference to water birds and crocodiles; challenges in wetland conservation. Excellent feedback was received from the participants.

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Training of Trainers Workshops on 'Wildlife Estimation along with All India Tiger Estimation 2018', Palamau Tiger Reserve, 12-28 February, 2018.

About 300 officials, newly recruited frontline staff and GIS technicians from Palamau Tiger Reserve and 32 territorial and wildlife divisions of Jharkhand state were imparted training by the Tiger Cell and Monitoring System for Tigers - Intensive Protection and Ecological Status (MSTriPES) team of the Wildlife Institute of India on Phase I and patrolling exercises using MSTriPES applications and software. The training workshops held at Betla, Palamau Tiger Reserve had following technical activities: (i) Introductory talk on tiger and wildlife conservation with emphasis on importance of Phase I exercise; (ii) Talk on functionalities of MSTriPES, applications, desktop software, computer specifications needed to support MSTriPES software; (iii) Detailed talk on Phase I – sign survey, genetics scat collection protocol, line transect, habitat plots, human disturbance parameters, dung counts, vulture form; (iv) Field session on use of GPS, compass, range finder, mobile apps; (v) Practical training on sign survey and line transect; (vi) Patrol exercise using MSTriPES mobile app for Palamau TR staff; (vii) Classroom discussions (individual level) on issues encountered during the field sessions; (viii) Detailed demonstration on manual data entry and import of patrol data and sign survey, line transect & Forms 3 A, B, C and 4 on MSTriPES desktop software; and (ix) Discussions on modus operandi for Phase I exercise for Jharkhand state – training schedule, mock exercise, data compilation, data & sample communication protocol to NTCA and WII.

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UNESCO C2C New Building Inauguration at Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, 10th March, 2018.

Acknowledging the demonstrated capability of WII in the field of wildlife, biodiversity, and natural heritage conservation, UNESCO and Government of India decided to establish the Category 2 Centre for World Natural Heritage Management and Training for Asia and the Pacific Region at Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun with a formal signing of the agreement on 2nd September, 2015.

The new building for the Centre was inaugurated by Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India at an event organized in the premises of the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun. After inaugurating and taking a tour of the new building, the Hon'ble Minister addressed the large gathering by lauding the capacity and competence of WII to have achieved this prestigious recognition. Dr. Harsh Vardhan noted with pleasure that this Centre had the unique distinction of being the first Centre in the world on natural heritage conservation. On this occasion, he planted a sapling of Magnolia champaca. He reiterated the Government's commitment not only to strengthen the Category 2 Centre but also to take forward the proposal for designating Wildlife Institute of India as an Institute of National Importance (INI) to its logical conclusion. Shri Siddhanta Das, the Director General of Forests & Special Secretary to Government of India graced the occasion as Guest of Honour.

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National Training Workshop on “Biodiversity Conservation” for Women Scientists/ Technologists, Dehradun, 19-23 March, 2018.

Department of Science and Technology (DST) has launched a scheme “National Training Programme for Scientists & Technologists working in Government Sector”. As a part of this scheme, the DST has initiated training programmes exclusively for women scientists/technologists. As a part of this scheme, the Wildlife Institute of India organized a one week training workshop on Biodiversity Conservation at the Institute. A total of 25 participants of which 19 women scientists and technologists working in the government departments/institutions/ organizations/universities and six women scientists from Ganga River States participated in the

course. Prominent resources persons from the institute and outside were invited to deliver lectures and deliberate upon the various aspects of wildlife conservation.

A field visit to Rajaji National Park was organized wherein the institute's students and faculty sensitized the participants to the field techniques related to wildlife science, including camera trapping use of GPS and radio tracking. Human dimensions of conservation were also discussed and the participants visited the Gujjar deras still located inside the forests and the participants could get first-hand experience of interactions with the Gujjars and the forest department. The course participants celebrated the World Water Day at Parmarth Niketan Ashram, Rishikesh. Excellent feedback about the course was received from the participants.

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69th Republic Day celebrated

The 69th Republic Day was celebrated at the Wildlife Institute of India with enthusiasm. Addressing the gathering of Institute's faculty, staff, researchers, officer trainees and students Dr. V.B. Mathur, Director emphasized on the need to uphold the constitution of India in both letter and spirit and to promote peace, equality and justice for all through inclusive governance. He recalled the Institute's

contribution in securing the natural assets and unique heritage of the country through capacity building initiatives of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and of State Forest Departments and other stakeholders. He informed that Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has agreed to lead the process for designating WII as an 'Institute of National Importance (INI)'. Certificate of Appreciation' was awarded to individuals involved in successful operationalization of the 'Science Express Climate Action Special (SECAS) train of Government of India. The Institute's staff members were awarded for their outstanding performance during 'Hindi Fortnight 2018'.

Following the flag hoisting, the Institute launched the 'Campus Solid Organic Waste Management Programme', for which technical assistance was provided by Ms. Meera Iyer, Principal Central Academy of State Forest Service (CASFOS) and her team. A volleyball match was also played between CASFOS and WII teams.

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Patron: Director

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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>