



Jayanta

Vantage point...



Nilanjana Chatterjee

Current Protected Area Network of India

(Position as on June 30, 2018)

National Parks – 103; Area 40500.13 km² (1.23%)
Wildlife Sanctuaries – 544; Area 118931.80 km² (3.62%)
Conservation Reserves – 77; Area 2594.03 km² (0.08%)
Community Reserves – 46; Area 72.61 km² (0.002%)
Total – 770; Area 162098.57 km² (4.93%)

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In the Next Issue

- Himalayan Research Seminar
- Internal Annual Research Seminar
- Annual Research Seminar
- Training Workshop for IFS Officers on 'MEE of PAs'



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Around the Campus



XXXIX Post Graduate Diploma Course in Advanced Wildlife Management concluded

The 10-month P.G. Diploma Course in Advanced Wildlife Management concluded on 30 June, 2018 at this Institute in which ten officer trainees including four foreign officer trainees of the rank of Deputy Conservator of Forests/ Assistant Conservator of Forests and equivalent levels have participated.

During the reporting period, the Management Tour (Foreign Component: South Africa) was conducted from 12 April to 27 May, 2018. The officer trainees visited Kruger National Park, Johannesburg Zoo, South African Wildlife College, Moholoholo Rehabilitation Centre, Endangered Species Breeding Centre, Pretoria Zoo, Johannesburg in South Africa, Pretoria National Botanical Garden, Table Mountain World Heritage Site, Cape Town. The purpose of this visit was to get a regional perspective and study a wide range of wildlife and protected area management practices. Management Term Paper Exercise at Manas Tiger Reserve and adjoining places was conducted from 3-14 April, 2018. The officer trainees visited Pigmy Hog Conservation Breeding Center, Guwahati, Kaziranga Tiger Reserve and Manas Tiger Reserve, Assam. The Management Plan Exercise was organized at Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, Gulf of Munnar and adjoining places from 8 May to 2 June, 2018.

The Valedictory Function for this course was organized on 29 June, 2018. Dr. H.S. Pabla, Former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh; and Chairman of WII's Training, Research & Academic Council graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and Shri D.V.S. Khati, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) and Chief Wildlife Warden, Govt. of Uttarakhand was invited as the Guest of Honour. All the officer trainees have successfully completed the course. The following officer trainees received the awards and prizes:

'Institute's Gold Medal for the Top Trainee' and 'Top Trainee in Wildlife Biology (Book Prize)' were bagged by Dr. Ankur Awadhya; Wildlife Preservation Society Silver Medal for the Second in Merit was given to Ms. Anu P. James; Silver Medal for the Best All Round Wildlifer and NR Nair Memorial Silver Medal for Best Management Plan were received by Mr. Devinder Singh Dhadwal; A.K. Chatterjee Silver Medal for Best Management Term Paper was awarded to Mr. Nay Zar Soe; and the Silver Medal for the Best Foreign Trainees was given to Mr. Zaw Min Naing.

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Special Course on "Protected Area Management Planning and Plan Implementation" for Sri Lankan Forest Officers, Dehradun, 2-9 April, 2018.

The special course on 'Protected Area Management Planning and Plan Implementation' was conducted for Sri Lankan Forest Officers at Wildlife Institute of India. A total of eight Sri Lankan Forest Officers participated in this course. This special course was designed to aid the Sri Lankan Protected Area Managers to prepare Management Plan for Wilpattu National Park in Sri Lanka. Both classroom and field inputs were provided during the intensive module period from 2-9 April, 2018. The course inputs were provided at the Institute during 3-5 April, 2018. The participants were taken for a field tour to Rajaji Tiger Reserve, Chilla during 6-8 April 2018.

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World Heritage Day Celebrations at WII, Dehradun, 18 April, 2018.

The UNESCO Category 2 Centre for World Natural Heritage Management and Training for Asia and the Pacific Region at Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, celebrated World Heritage Day (WHD) by organizing a series of events. The school students from three UNESCO World Heritage Sites (WHS) of India namely, Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks, Uttarakhand; the Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area, Himachal Pradesh; and Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur, Rajasthan; as well as from Model School, National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (*Divyangjan*), Dehradun were the participants in this event. The primary objective of the



celebration was to raise awareness and exposure of school students through nature walk, field visit, quiz contest and cultural performances. The students visited museums at Forest Research Institute and ONGC at Dehradun as well as Nature Trail in the WII campus for exposure trips. In all 50 students, teachers and staff took part in the WHD celebration.

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Painting and Poster Making Competition and Exhibition at WII, Dehradun, 25 April, 2018.

Starting with the events lined up for celebrating World Environment Day, 2018, the ENVIS Centre on "Wildlife and Protected Areas" at Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun organized an 'On the Spot Painting and Poster Making Competition' along with an 'Exhibition' at the Institute's premises. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India hosted the World Environment Day, 2018 at global level in collaboration with UN Environment. The theme for this year's World Environment



Day Celebrations was "Beat Plastic Pollution". The event celebrated at WII had the following categories: (i) Painting Competition; (ii) Poster Competition (with Slogan); and



(iii) Exhibition of display items prepared by the students by reusing and recycling plastics. Thirty-six students from different schools in Dehradun participated in this event accompanied by their teachers. Short movies were also screened to spread awareness about the ill effects of plastic pollution and what initiatives can be taken on an individual and community level. The exhibition was attended by the faculty, researchers and staff of the Institute.

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Sensitization Workshop on "Managing Aquatic Macro-Fauna along Ganga River", Dehradun, 26-28 April 2018.

This 3-day sensitization workshop for Field Veterinary Officers of Uttarakhand State" has been organized under the WII-NMCG Biodiversity Conservation and Ganga Rejuvenation Project, Component IV- Rescue and Rehabilitation. The workshop objective was to sensitize veterinary officers to various aspects pertaining to conservation and management of Aquatic Macro



Fauna. Topics planned range from basics of species biology and ecology to conservation challenges, emerging zoonoses, *ex-situ* management, rescue and rehabilitation as well as legal issues for relevant field investigations. The workshop includes theoretical inputs at Wildlife Institute of India and field exposure at Dehradun Zoo by both internal and external experts. The hands-on training on the use of various equipments employed for physical capture techniques was carried out.

The workshop was attended by 34 field veterinary officers including 14 lady officers. The workshop was supported by the WII- NMCG Biodiversity Conservation and Ganga Rejuvenation project.

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Workshop on "Status of Tiger Habitat in High Altitude Ecosystems in Bhutan, India and Nepal", Dehradun, 27 April 2018.

Global Tiger Forum (GTF), an Inter-Governmental Organization, with the support of International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) is implementing a collaborative project involving the Governments of India, Bhutan and Nepal for understanding and conservation planning of tigers in the Higher Altitude Region (in the Himalaya). The main objectives of the project are (i) Appraisal/ground truthing of the presence of tiger, co-predators and prey along with human induced land use changes; (ii) mapping corridor connectivity and status of corridor; and (iii) roadmap for long-term conservation efforts for tigers in high altitude regions. In order to move forward with this project effectively, a consultation workshop was held in Bhutan during 3-4 April 2018 and the second meeting was held at the Wildlife Institute of India. This specific meeting was conducted to identify specific protocol and implementing strategies and was attended by 20 officers/professionals from India, Bhutan and Nepal, and partner organizations such as National Tiger Conservation Authority, World Wildlife Fund-India (WWF-India), National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC) and Uttarakhand Forest Department. The meeting has been able to develop standardized protocol for data collection and database management towards effective implementation of the project and also for future decision making related to any conservation and development issues in the Himalayan region.

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Workshop on "Integrating Precipitation Forecasts and Climate Predictions with Basin-Scale Hydrological Modelling in the Himalayas", Dehradun, 2-4 May 2018.

The workshop was organized by the India-UK Water Centre of Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune and Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun at WII. The conveners of the workshop were University of Birmingham; The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI); WII; Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, UK (CEH) and IITM. A total of 10 participants from UK and Europe and 30 participants from India including hydrologists, glaciologists, meteorologists, climate scientists, wildlife scientists and Ph.D. students participated in this workshop. The aim of this workshop was to promote the development of short, medium, and long-term hydrological predictions for Himalayan basins by specifying how integrated hydrological prediction systems for the region can be improved. The participants discussed solutions for key scientific problem gaps, including how to gain synergies by increasing cross-institutional collaboration. The status of the survey work and future prospective of the DST-NMSHE project of WII was also presented in the workshop.

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WCPA-Asia Steering Committee Meeting, Dehradun, 7-9 May 2018.

Wildlife Institute of India (WII) hosted the Steering Committee Meeting of World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) - Asia Region. Prof. Yoshitaka Kumagai (Japan), Mr. Hamzah Amran (Malaysia), Ms. Kim Minsun (IUCN, Thailand), Dr. V.B. Mathur, Regional Vice Chair for South Asia, Dr. S. Sathyakumar, Dr. K. Sivakumar and Dr. Major Nair (WII) participated in this



meeting. The foreign participants undertook field visits to Rajaji National Park and Benog Wildlife Sanctuary to get an exposure on wildlife management. Minutes of the last meeting held on 7 August 2017 at Bangkok, Thailand; brief reports from each WCPA Sub-region for 2017-18; Priorities for 2018-19; and update on SC meeting held at Lebanon were presented and discussed. Later, presentations and discussions on Beyond Aichi targets, WCPA Membership, Asia Protected Area Programme and 2nd Asia Parks Congress were held. The meeting closed after discussions with Ms. Kathy Mackinnon, Chair, WCPA and Mr. Scott Perkins (IUCN Asia Regional Office, Thailand) via skype.

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One-Week special course on Wildlife Protection, Law and Forensic Science for the Officer Trainees of 69th Batch of Indian Revenue Services (Custom and Central Excise) Group-A Service, Dehradun, 7-12 May and 14-19 May, 2018.



The National Academy of Custom, Indirect Taxes and Narcotics (NACIN) had sent 120 Officer Trainees of 69th Batch of Indian Revenue Services (Custom and Central Excise) Group-A Service in two batches for one-week special course on Wildlife Protection, Law and Forensic Science. In the first group 61 and in second group 59 Officer Trainees joined the WII for one-week course, respectively. Three-day classroom inputs were provided on 'Illegal trade of various fauna and flora; Use of modern tools for identification of species of confiscated biological samples with relevant case studies; and Hands-on exposure of contraband biological samples with simple tips for the identification of highly demanded products'. The course received excellent feedback from the participants.

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Study Tour of Wildlife Officials from Sri Lanka, Dehradun, 23 May-13 June, 2018.

Wildlife Institute of India (WII) organised a study tour of 29 Wildlife Rangers from Department of Wildlife Conservation, Government of Sri Lanka. The programme was customized by the Institute as per requirements of Sri Lankan authorities. Apart from the classroom inputs at WII, the officials were taken to Rajaji National Park, Uttarakhand; Kanha Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh; Tadoba Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra; Khijadia Bird Sanctuary, Marine National Park, Kankadia Zoo, Gujarat for further field exposure. The objective of these tours 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. Excellent feedback was received from the Sri Lankan officers.

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#WED2018



WII participated in World Environment Day Celebrations at New Delhi, 31 May-6 June, 2018.

The World Environment Day (WED) is celebrated globally on 5th June every year. The WED, 2018 was celebrated with enthusiasm across the country as India was the global host this year for this important event. The theme for the WED was "Beat Plastic Pollution". An exhibition was set up at the back lawns of Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi based on this theme. The Wildlife Institute of India joined this exhibition and performed the 'Puppet Show' on 'Conservation of Aquatic Species'. Many shows were performed by the team of WII on this occasion. A large number of visitors and dignitaries witnessed the shows and expressed their appreciation.

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#BeatPlasticPollution

Workshop on 'Public Participation in Generating Biodiversity Information', Dehradun, 20-21 June, 2018.

A workshop on 'Public Participation in Generating Biodiversity Information' was organized at Wildlife Institute of India. This workshop brought together a range of stakeholders, including those involved in such projects, conservation managers and governmental regulators. The workshop was co-funded by Foundation for Ecological Security (FES) and Wildlife Institute of India. It addressed the following questions: (i) What is the value of biodiversity information for meeting India's conservation goals and commitments; and what is the contribution of public participation in this? (ii) How can public participation in generating biodiversity information be strengthened and expanded? (iii) What are the opportunities and constraints in aggregating and sharing biodiversity data help by various institutions? (iv) What concerns exist in generating and sharing such data, and how can they be addressed? (v) How can these efforts strengthen the biodiversity strategy outlined in the National Biodiversity Information Outlook?

The workshop was attended by 49 participants from multiple agencies/institutions. They learnt about how public participation has been facilitating the discovery of new species of butterflies,

the tracking of seasonal changes, monitoring of distribution and abundance of birds and many other important outcomes.

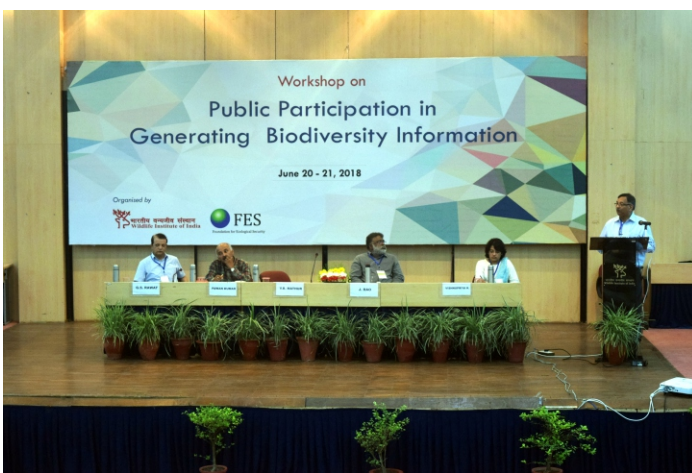
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Sensitization Workshop on "Managing Aquatic Macro-Fauna along Ganga River", Dehradun, 27-29 June, 2018.

A 3-day sensitization workshop for Veterinary Officers of Uttar Pradesh State was organized under the aegis of the WII-NMCG Biodiversity Conservation and Ganga Rejuvenation Project, Component IV- Rescue and Rehabilitation. The workshop aimed at sensitizing the field veterinary officers to various aspects of conservation and management of Aquatic Macro Fauna. Major areas of deliberations included specific sessions on species biology, ecology, veterinary and healthcare, rescue and rehabilitation needs, *ex-situ* management as well as legal provision in managing wildlife cases.

The workshop was attended by 30 veterinary officers from 9 districts along the Ganges *viz.* Sambhal, Varanasi, Allahabad, Hardoi, Bareilly, Bijnor, Kanpur Nagar, Hapur and Lucknow. It was supported by the WII- NMCG Biodiversity Conservation and Ganga Rejuvenation project.

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"I find my soul in forests..."

— Kedar Dhepe, Photographer, Maharashtra, India

Source: <https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/wildlife>