



CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP FOR UTTARAKHAND STATE PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT GROUP (SPMG) ON “BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND GANGA REJUVENATION” ON 29TH JANUARY, 2018 AT WILDLIFE INSTITUTE OF INDIA

DETAILED EVENT

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” at Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun on 29th January, 2018. Various departments working at the state level, senior scientists and researchers from WII –NMCG team took part in the workshop. The programme commenced with a small tour of the Wildlife Trail at WII campus. Dr. B.S.Adhikari, Scientist-F, Wildlife Institute of India and Dr. Niladri Dasgupta (Project Scientist), enlightened the participants about various flora and fauna of the campus. After which, Dr. Ruchi Badola, Scientist-G and senior professor welcomed the participants from various organizations. This was followed by a presentation by Dr. S. A. Hussain, Scientist- G and coordinator of the Ganga Biodiversity project at the Wildlife Institute of India. Dr. Hussain gave an overview of the project objectives, six components under it, project activities and the progress made so far. He also talked about the biodiversity profile of the Ganga River, status of the major species found in it and the principles of restoration that needs to be adapted for Biodiversity Conservation and Ganga Rejuvenation. Thereafter the six components of the project were explained individually by WII team members. Dr. Niladri Dasgupta (Project Scientist) outlined the objectives and outputs of the first component i.e Establishment of Ganga Aqualife Conservation Monitoring Centre. The second component, Planning Aquatic Species Restoration for Ganga River was

explained by Dr. Arvind Dwivedi (Project Associate). Dr. Dwivedi spoke about the rapid biodiversity assessment that was conducted along the stretch of the Ganga river, and explained the methodology adapted (the stretch was divided into six zones and thirty two sampling sites) and results obtained. He also spoke about GIS mapping being done to study the distribution and abundance of the various species along the stretch of the Ganga. Afterward Dr. Sangeeta Angom (Training Coordinator) gave a brief summary of the third component, Capacity Development of Forest Department and other Stakeholders. She emphasized on the importance of why capacity development of Forest department and other stakeholders like youth, religious group, local communities, industries etc is necessary for Biodiversity Conservation and Ganga Rejuvenation. Dr. Animesh Talukdar (Project Associate) talked about the fourth component Establishment of Rescue and Rehabilitation centres. He gave a brief summary of the activities that is being carried out at the two rescue and rehabilitation centres that have already been established at Narora and Sarnath. Subsequently Dr. Ruchi Badola (Scientist G) explained the fifth component i.e Community based Conservation programmes for species restoration. Dr. Badola emphasized on the convergence of various organisations and institutes towards the conservation and rejuvenation of Ganga River, highlighting the role of local communities in the success of these efforts. She talked about a cadre of volunteers from the five Ganga states. These young volunteers have been named as *Ganga Praharis*. Through this forum she appealed to the organisations to involve these foot soldiers in various activities related to the clean Ganga mission. Ms. Dimpi Patel (Project Fellow) outlined the objectives, activities and progress of the sixth component, Nature Interpretation and Education for Biodiversity conservation. She spoke about the importance of conservation education amongst the local people and different methods like organizing Exhibitions and Puppet shows, distribution of posters, leaflets and fact sheets being done to achieve this. A small visit to the Forensic, GIS and Ecotoxicology laboratories was also arranged. This was followed by a group discussion with the participants wherein they agreed to take up one stretch of Ganga and create it into a model stretch through the convergence of various departments and agencies working there. The workshop concluded with certificate distribution to the participants.

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

29th Jan. 2018		Resource persons
0900-0930	Registration & Pre-Training Assessment	Ms. Monika Sharma /Ms. Monika Mehralu
0930-1030	WII Nature Trails Walk	Dr. B.S Adhikari, Dr. Amit Kumar, Dr. Niladri Dasgupta and Mr. Neeraj Mahar
1030-1040	TEA	
1040-1050	Welcome address	Dr. G.S. Rawat, Dean WII
1050-1150	Project Biodiversity Conservation and Ganga Rejuvenation: River Ecology and Wetland Management	Dr. S. A Hussain
1150-1205	Component 1: Establishment of Ganga Aqualife Conservation Monitoring centre (Objectives and Outputs).	Dr. Shivani Barthwal
1205-1220	Component 2: Planning aquatic species restoration for Ganga river (Objectives and Outputs).	Dr. Niladri Dasgupta
1220-1235	Component 3: Capacity Development of Forest Department and other Stakeholders (Objectives and Outputs).	Dr. Sangeeta Angom
1235-1250	Component 4: Establishment of Rescue and rehabilitation centres (Objectives and Outputs).	Dr. Animesh Talukdar
1250-1305	Component 5: Community based Conservation Programmes for species Restoration (Objectives and Outputs).	Dr. Ruchi Badola
1305-1320	Component 6: Nature Interpretation and Education for Biodiversity Conservation (Objectives and Outputs).	Dr. Bitapi Sinha
1320-1430	LUNCH	
1430 -1530	Forensic Lab session: Biological Sample Collection and Genetic Monitoring	Dr. Ajit Kumar and Dr. Prabhakar Yadav
1530-1600	TEA	
1600-1630	GIS Lab session: Geospatial tools for riverine system	Dr. Gautam Talukdar and Dr. Zeeshan Ali
1630 - 1700	Group Discussion/Post training assessment	Ms. Monika Sharma /Ms. Monika Mehralu
1700 -1710	Vote of Thanks	Dr. Ruchi Badola

PHOTO GALLERY



