

Workshop on “Zoo- Forest Department Linkages for Biodiversity Gains”

Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling, conducted a two days training programme from 5th February to 6th February 2015 for IFS officers on “**Zoo Forest Department Linkages for Biodiversity Gains**”. The training programme was funded by Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change, Government of India. Twenty four participants from 14 states of India in the programme were senior and middle level officers from diverse educational and work backgrounds.

The programme coordinators were Mr. Piar Chand IFS Director, Ms. Upashna Zoo Biologist and Mr. Bhupen Roka, Education Officer of the Park. The Chief Guest of the programme was Mr. P.T. Bhutia IFS. Other officials included Mr. M.R. Baloch IFS and Mr. Kamalakant IFS. The inaugural function began with a welcome address by the Director of the Park followed by a keynote address by the chief guest, lightning of the diya and declaring the training workshop open.

The technical session included two lectures from Mr. Sitendu Goswami, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun. Mr. Goswami in his presentation highlighted about the “**Importance of Zoo Forest Linkages and the one plan approach**”. The second presentation gave an insight on “**Enclosure design and enrichment**”. A tour of the Park and the Conservation Breeding Centre was done in the afternoon. The participants were taken round the zoo where they were explained about the animal collection plan and the enclosures. The queries of the participants during the tour were well attended by the Research and Education wing of the Park.

The second day included visit to Senchal Wildlife Sanctuary to know about the biodiversity and the in-situ managerial practices of the sanctuary. The second visit was made to the Conservation Breeding Centre for Red Panda and Snow leopard at Topkeydara 3rd Mile. The participants were made aware of the need of off display facilities for any conservation breeding programme, criteria for selection of suitable sites, developing husbandry practices through scientific interventions and the need of intensive research in all aspects of ex-situ management of these endangered species. Mr. Bhupen Roka, Educational Officer of the Park after lunch in his deliberation highlighted **the Conservation Breeding Programme of Red Panda in Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park (1990-2014)**. A discussion followed concerning the two days programme that ended with a valedictory function.

The training programme was very much appreciated by the participants and assesses the course to be structured. The participants found the training to be useful in their jobs or shall be useful whenever given an opportunity to work for wildlife or conservation works. The participants also felt that they had

benefitted considerably from the interaction that they had with the fellow participants during the course. The participants also rated the resource persons delivering lectures, sessions and demonstrations that ranged from excellent to very good to good to fair.

The Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Govt. of India vide its memo **No. 19-6/2012-RT/T dated 13.03.2015** intimidated the office of the park an evaluation report of the training course which is as follows.

Structure & Org. of the course	Training faculty	B/L	Usefulness of training	Overall impression of the course	Quality of reading material	Extent to which guidelines issued by MoEF &CC have been followed	Weighted Average
89%	83%	B: 79% L: 81%	81%	89%	89%	100%	88%



Lightning of Diya by Mr Piar Chand, IFS Director



Keynote address by Mr . P.T. Bhutia, IFS



Technical Session





Group Photo