



HUNTING THE HUNTERS - II

**A Capacity Building Programme
for the
Staff of the Forest Department, Assam**

REPORT



Capacity Building Programme on Wildlife Crimes for the Forest Department, Assam

Organised By:

TIGER TRUST

In Collaboration with

US Fish & Wildlife Services.

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Word of Appreciation

Our sincere gratitude to the Assam State Forest Department and the US Fish and Wildlife Services.

Special thanks are due to Sh. Suresh Chand, Principal Chief Conservator of Forest(Wildlife), Sh.Santosh Pal Singh, Conservator of Forest(Wildlife), Sh.Pritpal Singh, ADG(Assam Police), Mr. Manas Das, Scientist, Directorate of Forensic Research Assam, , Ms.Anjana Gosain, Mr. Manjit Ahluwalia. Ms.Kawaldeep Kour, Regional Coordinator, Assam and all trainees and volunteers from the wildlife and territorial divisions of Assam State Forest Department.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A Capacity Building Training Programme on forest offences was conducted on 10 & 11th September 2011 for the forest staff of the Assam State Forest Department. The training was organized by Tiger Trust, India and funded by a grant from the US Fish and Wildlife Service with the support of the Assam State Forest Department.

This is the second phase of the enforcement training programme in Assam with the main emphasis being placed on improving the skills of the forest officers as wardens of the wildlife flora and fauna. Tiger Trust was able to work closely with the State government in order to identify the problem areas in providing an effective prosecution which would lead to more successful convictions of poachers in court. It was necessary at the start of the training to review with all the participants the basics of the laws that protect the wildlife as well as the various pre-requisites of conducting a proper investigation. A firm understanding of the laws and their application in being able to present a strong case in court is vital for motivating the staff to make significant improvements in their enforcement monitoring and prevention of wildlife crimes in the field. Enhancing the crime enforcement in wildlife areas

adds credibility to the department as well as increasing morale of the staff who have become empowered through these trainings.

There are four structural deficiencies in the process of investigation and presentation of cases, so the training programme focused on (i) Highlighting specific legal provisions related to wildlife offences (in the Indian Forest Act, 1927 and the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972) (ii) Familiarizing the trainees with the applicability of laws to wildlife crime (iii) Understanding the components of a proper investigation and (iv) Encouraging the use of professional and scientific methods of investigations.

Evaluations of the training programme deemed it successful, expressing appreciation of the programme for empowering the forest staff. The participants were unanimous on the need of further training to enhance their skills and motivating other law enforcement officers. This stands out to be a major achievement of the goals of the enforcement trainings by Tiger Trust, India.



INTRODUCTION

Thanks to the grant from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Tiger Trust was able to continue to conduct advanced training programs for wildlife divisions of Assam who had not yet received the training in the previous phase of the Capacity building program.

The Assam state forest department was very much looking forward to follow-up trainings due to the successful outcomes of the Phase-I legal orientation workshops conducted by Tiger Trust in October 2010. In terms of the project Tiger Trust appointed Ms.Kawal Deep Kour as its Regional Coordinator.



Ms. Kawal Deep Kour

She is the Regional Coordinator for Tiger Trust appointed on 01.07.2011. Currently she is pursuing Ph.D in Humanities and Social Sciences from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Guwahati. Ms. Kour is a committed officer of the Trust handling responsibilities of organizing training programmes, liaising with the Forest Department and senior forest officers. Her rich experience in organizing Sensitization workshop for Assam Police and other organization is of immense help to the Trust. Ms. Kour has also been instrumental in organizing and conducting sensitization workshops, awareness campaigns relating to environment and health in State of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

1.1 PRELIMINARY PREPARATIONS:

In terms of the proposal a pre-visit was planned to meet the PCCF Sh. Suresh Chand and introduce the Regional Coordinator Ms. Kawaldeep Kour to the department on 21.05.2011 at Gawhati. Ms. Anjana Gosain personally made a pre-visit to discuss the new divisions, modules, proposed faculty and mutually designed course for the entire programme. Tiger Trust proposed several options for designing the programme.

A meeting was held on 21 May 2011 to obtain the necessary approval for commencing the second phase of the Capacity Building Training Programme, supported financially by USFWS. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF), Wildlife Division, Sh. Suresh Chand, on behalf of the Assam State Forest Department, expressed his appreciation for the initiative taken by the Tiger Trust to provide training for his staff. He was highly impressed with the feedback from previous trainings conducted by Tiger Trust and hence enthusiastically supported Phase II of the legal training programme. This tremendous goodwill towards Tiger Trust is a testimony of the quality of the training being provided. After thorough discussions regarding the programme, the PCCF (WL), Sh. Suresh Chand and the CCF(WL), Sh. S.P.Singh expressed their approval to Ms. Anjana Gosain's proposal for the training, wherein September 10-11, 2011 were agreed upon as the dates of the first training. However, they requested modifications in the original modules and expressed their limitations in being able to secure a dedicated batch as was requested by Tiger Trust. After careful consideration of a number of venues for holding the training, confirmation was made for the Indian Institute of Bank Management (IIBM), in Khanapara, Guwahati.

The project supported the costs of hiring the hall, boarding and lodging of trainees, facility, paying for the transportation, lodging and meals of Tiger Trust staff along with resource material. Detailed cost breakdowns will be made available with the final report after all the trainings are completed.

Following the approval of the changes, official invitations for the training was sent from the PCCF (WL) office to all Divisional Forest Officers(Territorial) of: i) Eastern Assam Circle; ii) Northern Assam Circle; iii)Central Assam Circle; iv) Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council; v) Bodoland Territorial Council, Kokrajhar, all Divisional Forest officers under Wildlife wing and the Field Tiger Project, Manas and Kaziranga National Park. Tiger Trust sought nominations of two persons from each division, preferably engaged with the work of forest and wildlife offences in the rank of Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Assistant Conservator of Forest (ACF) and Range Officer (RO). Tiger Trust was hoping to be able to provide the training for personnel who had attended the previous trainings, which would enable them to understand the finer concepts of investigation and enforcement. The DFO's were also required to bring with them to the training programmes any pending cases which could be studied and worked upon during the training programme. Such an exercise, it was maintained, would help the faculty and the trainees understand the missing gap which the officers face while conducting investigations and seeking prosecutions.

Tiger Trust established a new Regional office at Guwahati, which facilitated the entire training, including liaison between the main office of Tiger Trust and the State Forest Department, correspondence, coordination, reporting and organisation, including logistic support for the training. Tasks include sending and receiving pre-registration forms from each divisions, correspondence with the DFO's including e-mail communication was maintained to ensure updates on the progress of nomination of attendees.

The response received from all the divisions was overwhelming with many nominees that needed to be selected. Each nomination was then scrutinized by a Core Group including the PCCF (WL), Sh. Suresh Chand with the CCF (Wildlife), Sh. S.P. Singh as the Nodal officer for the programme, and Mrs. Anjana Gosain, who personally saw to it that suitable trainees were selected for the training. A total of 54 participants were finally selected for the training in keeping in view their age, educational qualification and experience. Following the selection of trainees, letters of invite were sent to all divisions via e-mail communication and post, along with the official dispatch for release of officers selected for the training was sent from the PCCF (WL) office.

Along with selection of suitable trainees, it also concerned itself with seeking well trained and experienced faculty members including a senior Police Officer from Assam and a forensic scientist from the Directorate of Forensic Research Facility in Guwahati. Considerable consultations were held with the Assam State Forest Department to incorporate their recommendations before the modules were finalized.



1.2: PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES:

The overall objective of the programme was to ensure that the trainees adequately comprehend the various provisions. In addition, the programme attempted to:

- Outline the existing legal framework against wildlife crimes along with the procedural aspects of the legal provisions, including Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 along with the Assam Forest Rules and its various amendments, the Indian Penal Code, Indian Evidence Act and Criminal Procedure Code amongst others including recognition of the rights of forest dwellers and comparative International acts on wildlife crimes.
- Emphasize the complexity and sophistication of the various forms of wildlife offences and the need for devising modalities for proper comprehension and accurate interpretation of various legislative provisions aimed at effective enforcement practice.
- Comprehend the various technical aspects of the important legislative provisions including methodology aimed at developing effective strategies to prevent wildlife offences.
- Relevance and applicability of forensic science in detection of wildlife offence and the conduct of staff in the midst of investigations.

1.3: PARTICIPANTS:

The two-day Training Programme, was attended by personnel who were being exposed to the training for the first time. Many mid-ranking and senior

officials of the Forest Department Assam, attended and participated in the sessions. There were around fifty-four officials of the Forest Department, ranging from the rank of Forester-I to the Divisional Forest Officers.

A comparative analysis of the candidates of the previous training programme in October 2010 and September 2011 highlights increased participation from previously unrepresented divisions. This is reflective of the apparent initiative of the Assam State Forest Department in empowering more of its staff in dealing with forest offences. This is particularly relevant considering increasing frequency of wildlife crimes and slight up gradation of convictions. Tiger Trust continues to stress that the only route to securing convictions is educating and imparting quality training to the frontline staff on how to conduct proper investigation and to build up a strong case with proper documentation. Increasing participation of DFO's is another welcome and positive development and strengthens our advocacy of legal training in favour of an informed forest force for efficient handling of forest offences

1.4: PROPOSED METHODOLOGY:

The facilitators conducted interactive sessions for effective percolation of the various legal aspects with exercises in participatory learning. All legal provisions were partnered with real-world examples of legal case studies decided by competent courts alongside legal case studies decided by competent courts. The trainees were given case studies to explain the judicial

decision and the applicability of the provisions after each legal provision was explained in detail. The participants were able to assimilate the information through visual presentations, discussions, relevant case studies and extensive question and answer sessions.

Case studies were given to the trainees as mock cases based on reported judgments. On the basis of the given facts of the case, the trainees were asked to give their respective legal verdicts keeping in mind the legal provisions of Wildlife Protection Act, Indian Evidence Act and the Cr.P.C. Such mock case exercises have the effect of putting the trainees to wildlife crime situations and enabling them to carry out on the spot detection, investigation and documentation. Such exercises instill confidence amongst the trainees to effectively handle situations wherein a wildlife crime has actually been committed.

It has consistently been observed by the faculty of Tiger Trust and the Forest Department that out of all the sessions, the trainees look forward to a rigorous session on case studies.



Resource Persons



Ms. Anjana Gosain:

Ms. Anjana Gosain is a practicing advocate in Supreme Court and High Court with specialization in environmental law. She has authored compilation of cases under Wildlife Protection Act (1972) and Ready Reckoner for successful prosecution of wildlife criminals. She is the main backbone in planning the modules that are largely designed on practical aspects of prosecution and emphasis on acts related to wildlife crime.



Mr. Manjit Singh Ahluwalia:

Mr. Manjit Singh Ahluwalia has an exclusive background in criminal particularly cases under the Wildlife Protection Act (1972). He has been involved in active prosecution cases in Bandhavgarh and Kanha National Park and have been imparting training at Indira Gandhi Forest Academy, Dehradun. He is responsible for organizing mock courts, detailed court procedure recording evidence to depose as witness and also in teaching the ancillary acts.

Guest Speakers



Sh. Pritpal Singh, IPS

Presently ADG(Additional Director General), Assam Police, Sh. Pritpal Singh, has been actively involved in tackling counter-insurgency operations in the state of Assam. He joined the Indian Police Service in 1984, from the Assam-Meghalaya cadre and has been highly instrumental in strengthening the infrastructure and development of training modules for specialized training of police and paramilitary forces.



Mr. Manas Das

A Forensic Scientist in the Directorate of Forensic Science, Guwahati, Assam, Mr. Das has a degree in M.Sc (Zoology) from Gauhati University with specialization in Biochemistry and Physiology. Currently, he is pursuing his doctorate degree in the field of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry from North Eastern Hill University, Shillong.

PROGRAMME PROCEEDINGS

2.1: INAUGURAL SESSION

Ms. Anjana Gosain, Honorary Secretary, Tiger Trust, welcomed all the participants to the second phase of the Capacity Building Programme of the officers of the Forest Department, Assam, supported by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Reflecting on the fundamentals of the training, she emphasised that only skilled and empowered forest staff would be contributing factors for successful prosecution. Dwelling on the complexity of the nature of forest offences and the inherent technicality of the legal provisions, it was imperative for the staff to be acquainted about the nuances of prosecution in order to secure convictions. She encouraged the trainees to make the utmost of the training programme and acquire skills and transplant them into effective action. This, as she stressed would ensure realization of the vision of the training.

Delivering the keynote address, the Chief Guest, Sh.Suresh Chand, PCCF (Wildlife), exhorted the participants to utilize the opportunity to hone their skills and ensure its implementation when on their job. Enlightening the trainees on various pertinent issues and also informing them of the new powers that have devolved on the forest officers, he stressed on the participants to become aware and seek fulfillment of their role as enforcement officers and equip themselves to face newer challenges that require more than mere knowledge of the legal provisions. This, he said, refers to practical aspects of the theoretical understanding of their legal rights and duties as the protectors of wildlife. Speaking on the transnational aspect of wildlife crimes, he reinforced the significance of the training programme as an imperative

and a great morale boost to all the participants by equipping them to face the challenges of investigation and prosecution.

Speaking on the occasion, Sh. D. Mathur, Additional PCCF, while lauding the initiative of Tiger Trust, suggested that it is only such trainings that could instill a correct balance of information and confidence as regards the legal aspects that are needed to be adhered to while conducting necessary investigations. This, as he suggested, could go a long way in ensuring which are essential in the conduct of systematic and accurate investigation. He however, also dwelled on the need of ensuring effective public support and asked the forest staff to attempt to utilize public 'either by publicity or absolute secrecy'-citing the initiative of the Delhi Police.

Sh.R.P.Aggarwal, Additional PCCF, briefly enunciated the complexities of newer dimensions of the wildlife crimes and remarked on the worthy initiative of Tiger Trust in conducting legal awareness trainings, which have assumed tremendous importance considering the proliferation of forest offences with extremely poor conviction rates which have dampened the morale of the forest staff. This as he outlined, was because of lack of proper investigation and the inability of the staff to apply the latest forensic knowledge. Citing the case of 'Redsandars', he spoke of the increased sophistication of trade with massive international wildlife smuggling rings, effective law enforcement against wildlife crimes has become imperative.

Sh.B.B.Dhar, CCF (HRD &Vigilance), reminded the trainees of the significance of the persuasion of the wildlife cases. He enjoined upon the participants to take back and ensure effective application of all that the

legal training programme had to offer to them. Regular up gradation of the forest force was a requisite and legal orientation of the trainees was part of the exercise to ensure that they are updated and informed.

Highlighting the significance of the training programme, Sh.S.P.Singh, CCF (Wildlife), analyzed that the failure to follow a due procedure was responsible for the poor conviction rates despite burgeoning levels of wildlife crime. He asked the participants to make the utmost of the training programme and utilise the opportunity to comprehend, update and finally gain in confidence to apply the training when performing their duties as enforcement officers.

Delivering the vote of thanks, Manjit Singh Ahluwalia, on behalf of Tiger Trust, was appreciative of the initiative of the Forest Department in providing their consent to ensure that their officers are empowered to tackle effectively the legal hassles while conducting investigations, preparing a case, seeking prosecutions and ensuring convictions.





Ms. Anjana Gosain offering the welcome address at the inaugural programme.



Sh. Suresh Chand, PCCF (Wildlife) delivering the inaugural address.

2.2: SESSION-I:

Brief Revision of Important provisions of Wildlife Protection Act, Forest Conservation Act, 1980, Indian Evidence Act and case studies by Ms Anjana Gosain:

Ms. Anjana Gosain facilitated this introductory session. She introduced the participants to a brief on the historical background of the various phases and outline of the enactment of legislative provisions for protection of wildlife. Reinforcing the inadequacy of the existing regulatory mechanisms in dealing with wildlife crimes, she stressed on coordinated actions, which called for building capacity for scientific and professional investigation. She then proceeded on to discuss the salutary provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act 1972 along with explaining it in conjunction with the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 which grant effective powers to the forest officials for detection, investigation and prosecution of wildlife crimes. Her presentation was an interesting exposition of the various provisions and gradually progressing from definition/provisions of the act to subsequent rules and regulations. Hailing it as a remarkable piece of legislation, she informed the participants of how vividly the act has been adopted in the wildlife provisions of various countries, including Malaysia, Nepal, Thailand, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Russia, which is a matter of great commendation and equally of a great responsibility. The officials of the forest department have a formidable and challenging task to perform as wardens of the forest, being bestowed with immense powers and great responsibilities in carrying out their duties as protectors of wildlife. Emphasizing it as imperative on the part of the enforcement officers to understand the application of the law when dealing with wildlife offences, a thorough working knowledge of the clauses in the Acts meant to ensure

protection of wildlife, as she pointed out, becomes crucial. Lamenting on the inadequacy of the existing regulatory regimes along with the poor conviction rate of 1.2%, as compared to the extensive nature and intensity of the wildlife crime, she appealed for coordinated efforts of the forest staff officials in combating wildlife crimes. She observed that despite stringent penalties violators and offenders of wildlife escape prosecutions. The reason is lack of knowledge of correct procedural aspects of successful prosecution. Hence, the legal orientation of the forest officials becomes vital.

Beginning with explaining in detail the methodology of reading the Acts which is vital to understanding the application of the various clauses in the act, she meticulously explained all the relevant provisions, which would be of practical utility to the trainees.

The emphasis was laid on limited provisions keeping in view the fact that the trainees are supposed to be aware of the pragmatic situations.

The trainees were asked to read out from the booklets on Wildlife Protection Act 1972, which were made available to each trainee prior to the session. The trainees were informed on the Legislative enactments, including the methodology of reading and interpreting the various **definitions, clauses and sub-clauses including Sec 9, 11, 26, 34, 34A, 35, 38, 39, 48, 50, 51, 51 (A), 52, 55 and Sec 64 of the Wildlife Protection Act**, including distinguishing between complex terminologies as difference between 'animal' and 'meat' etc.

The trainees were explained the basic differences of various nomenclatures under the definition clauses i.e., animal and captive animal, animal and meat, habitat and hunting, forest produce and produce, reserve forest, closed area, and protected area. The word animal includes all definitions like birds, fish etc. and meat including blood, bones etc. It was explained that while framing the complaint, it is important to use the correct words since every word has a different meaning under the definition clause. The most common definitions used are animal, animal article, meat, hunting, habitat, weapon permit, sanctuary, and national park. It has a long range of words with far reaching consequences if not applied correctly to the facts of the case.

It was also explained that Sections 9 and 51 has to be mentioned in every complaint being the prohibitory provision and penal provision respectively.

In all the cases the entry of the accused is illegal; hence Section 27 has to be mentioned since it is an offence by itself to enter without permit.

They were also informed of the essential legal provisions which are to be taken note on when preparing a case, including registering an FIR, conducting search operations, seizure and investigation process, filing complaint under Cr. P C, collection and recording of evidence and examination and cross-examination during trial.

Ms. Gosain meticulously explained the various facets and implications of loopholes in the complaint, mentioning all the finer details which are to be entered to avoid any opportunity to the defence when the case would come

up for hearing in a court of law. The reason for mentioning Section 27 was connected with Section 28 as under that the Chief Wildlife Warden is the only authority to grant the permit under certain circumstances. Any violation thereof would invite a penal consequence under the Act. In terms of Section 34 when the said Act was enacted, it was felt that the persons having arms in possession should be registered and it was made mandatory to register them within three months from the declaration of any area as a sanctuary residing in or within 10 K.M. of any sanctuary.

The Act has seen number of amendments and in terms of Section 34A inserted in 2003, the ACF has been given the power to remove the encroachments after following principles of natural justice. The removal of unauthorized structure being essential for the protection of animals was emphasized.

Section 35 was explained for the declaration of National Park and the various circumstances with the amended Section 38 where the State Government is empowered to transfer any area under its control on lease or otherwise by Notification to be sanctuary or National Park.

In terms of Section 39 it was explained that no seized property becomes the government property unless the person is convicted of the offence until such time, the court has the power to release the vehicle or any other seized article subject to certain conditions as the case law has been decided giving the above view.

Section 50 entailed various powers of the Forest Officer and the ACF in terms of Section 50 Sub-clause 8 and 9 of the Act. It was simply explained that the forest officer has all the powers for investigations, implementation and detention in comparison to the police officer. The final details of arrest and detention, inspection and production was explained. It was stated that under Sub-Clause 8 if the person has a reasonable doubt then he can ask for the production of the person for inspection of any captive animal or any other suspicious object, stop any vehicle to conduct search or inquiry or have the power to seize any animal or object as mentioned in the provisions. It also has the power to stop and detain whom the forest officer considers for producing the licence or permit etc.

However, it was explained that all the powers mentioned from 1 to 7 are investigative in nature and relates to collection of evidence prior to filing of the complaint. Any default in investigations which is transmitted in forms can lead to failure in prosecution.

The specific powers which are different are given to ACF and they are related to certain situations i.e. if required to issue the search warrant, if the witness fails to join the investigations, then ACF has the power to seek enforcement of such witnesses, discovery and production of documents to receive and record evidence. The powers were explained by giving the case study which is the part of the mock court exercise. The conditions for grant of bail were explained in terms of Section 51A. The word 'attempt' and 'abetment' were explained in relation to the Criminal Procedure Code. The residual provisions were explained in detail.

Citing her experiences of dealing with wildlife crimes and criminals, she impressed upon the participants of the need to be mentally, physically and legally prepared to tackle any hurdle which may arise in the course of cross-examinations in the Court where they could be put to great unease with a volley of questions. She asked them to prepare themselves well in advance for any contingency if they want to seek effective prosecution and secure convictions.

They were explained and also it was reinforced upon the participants to ensure that the trainees follow and keep themselves updated of the various amendments that had been effected in the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 from time to time which had armed them with adequate powers to ensure smooth conduct of their responsibilities. Ms. Gosain ensured that the session was made as interactive as possible and encouraged the trainees to put up as many queries as they could.

On occasions, the trainees were even asked to put up their experiences from the field and the lacunae were then pointed out to them. This was welcomed by the participants and they enjoyed the theory-practical orientation of the session. Increased awareness enhances as she argued, the morale and dedication of the forest staff a crucial ingredient of the successful how

implementation of the legislative provisions aimed at empowering the forest staff.

This she emphasized, assumed an imperative status considering the unique topography of the Kaziranga and the Manas National Park and the preventive staff involved in protection of wildlife. She informed the officials that successful convictions are decided upon a complete trial, therefore it is imperative to conduct professional investigation along with other measures.

Explaining each important provision in detail, of particular relevance, as she stressed was awareness of the laws, their applicability and proper enforcement. This she informed, is necessary, to ensure that the Court takes note of the application and puts it up for hearing. She offered suggestions to the forest officers on effective techniques of on the spot investigation, which is the most crucial part of the entire exercise of seeking convictions for criminal offences, including seizure of documents, tools etc., receiving and recording evidence, cross-examination of the poachers, statement of confessions and on many other relevant aspects of investigations.



SESSION-II by Ms. Anjana Gosain

Applicability of Indian Evidence Act on the Wildlife Crime.

Wildlife crimes have been in existence since the history of mankind, but have been recognized as an offence in India only in 1972 when Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 came into existence. The background of the Act with its main object was explained known as the 'preamble'. Facilitating the session, Ms Gosain explained in simple language that unless anything stated is proved or disproved, no court can come to any conclusion to decide the case. It was emphasized that definition clauses are extremely important under the said Act of the following words.

- i) **Court**
- ii) **Fact**
- iii) **Relevant**
- iv) **Facts in issue**
- v) **Document**
- vi) **Evidence**
- vii) **Proved**
- viii) **Disproved**
- ix) **Not proved**

The difference between the three have a very distinct application as fact is proved after considering the matter and evidence. Disproved is after considering the matter, the court believes, it does not exist. Not proved means, neither proved nor disproved.

In relation to these three definitions, the importance of the Chapter examination of witnesses and confession were explained. It was stated that in case the confession is made by an accused before the Forest Officer, then it has to be admitted in evidence in terms of Section 25 of the said Act. The said provision lays down that no confession made to a police officer shall be proved, whereas the person who makes the confession before the Forest Officer, need not be rejected subject to terms and conditions.

The finer details of confessions and their procedures were explained to be recorded by the designated officer, in terms of the various legal pronouncements laid down.

The other provisions which were explained in detail were with regard to documentary evidence and secondary evidence. The requirement of documentary evidence and how it is to be proved was also explained.

NOTE:

The chapter in relation to recording of statement as witness is not taken up since most of the participants nearly took one full day to go through the relevant provisions of Wildlife Protection Act alone. The matter was discussed with the CCF and deferred for the next training.



Ms. Gosain addressing the trainees.



Ms. Gosain attending to query by a trainee.

2.3: SESSION III by Mr.Manjit S. Ahluwalia:

Overview of Criminal Procedure Code in relation to Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 on Wildlife Crimes:

Co-facilitating the session, Sh. Manjit Ahluwlia focussed on the relevant provisions of the Criminal Procedure Act, 1973 in relation to Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 and the Indian Evidence Act as regards its applicability to various aspects of crime related to wildlife offences. His session was an in depth analysis of definitions, procedure of filing complaint, limitation process of warrant of arrest, summons, service of summons on persons and corporate bodies, expert witness, and above all difference of powers between police officer and forest officer.

Section 51 (A) of the WPA in consonance with the various provisions that were outlined in the Indian Evidence Act. Lamenting that nearly 70 % of the cases which come up for hearing are dismissed by the Court as 'not proved', solely because of lack of proper presentation of the evidence at hand. It is in this context that Mr. Ahluwalia highlighted, arises a pressing need of removing this serious loophole in the implementation of wildlife laws. Aimed at acquainting the participants with legal terminology, he defined and explained specific clauses to be adhered to while filing a complaint and framing charges. His session was aimed at accustoming the participants to various sections of Criminal Procedure Code and with various legal nomenclatures as apprising the participants of the legal meaning of terms as '**Fact,**' '**Relevant,**' '**Facts in Issue,**' '**Enquire**' and '**Enquiry,**' '**Evidence,**' '**Proved,**' '**Disproved,**' the meaning of an offence, the distinction between a '**cognizable**' and '**non-cognizable offence**', as also the various types

of cases as '**Summon case**' and '**Warrant Case**', along with effective illustrations. He mentioned the important stages in the preparation of a case by the Prosecution. This, as he notified made it extremely important for the forest officers to be aware and updated on legal terminologies and their application, as there are various types of complaint cases that deal with either pre-charged or post charged evidence. Explaining the role of the officer on duty, of the investigating officer, his responsibilities and powers, appreciation of the evidence and the techniques of collecting evidence, seizing documents, vehicle etc. and most important of all presenting the evidence formed important components of his session. The accurate and proper presentation of investigation, collection of evidence, preparation of complaint, with complete documents. He stressed on arming the case with relevant facts being a must and reiterated that awareness of such procedures is keys to success. The forest officers are required to be aware of laws and the action to be pursued within the ambit of the powers granted to the forest officers by the law for framing charges against the accused, ensuring that he pleads guilty. The violator if properly booked under the relevant sections and can be effectively prosecuted in a Court of Law, he explained. Manjit also focussed on the importance of understanding the psychology of the offender. He stressed on the relevance of proper documentation, which would ensure protection to the enforcement officers while securing significant terms of imprisonment and fines for the violators. The entire deficiency in securing effective convictions could be handled with ease as he pointed out, by following the procedures and guidelines as prescribed by the Court of Law.

NOTE:

In terms of the spot decision, the faculty decided to demonstrate the relevancy of these provisions by a short mock trial by the trainees on the given case study with the consent of the participants and the CCF Mr. S.P. Singh.

It was also decided to use the skilled of local language to explain certain difficulties by the Regional Coordinator Ms. Kawaldeep Kour.



Mr. Ahluwalia instructing the trainees on case preparation.

2.4: SESSION IV by Additional DGP Sh. Pritpal Singh:

Overview of Investigation Skills-Perspective of a Sr. Police Officer:

One of the biggest challenges that prevent convictions is the lack of proper investigations. More often, the investigating officer is unprepared and at many times, ignorant of the many important aspects that have to be followed when conducting investigations. With relevant case studies, Sh. Pritpal Singh, Addl.DGP, Assam Police, exhorted the trainees to imbibe and practice certain important rules that should be followed to ensure effective results.

Enlightening the participants on what really constitutes Investigation, he proceeded on to inform the participants on what really constitutes effective investigation. It is as he outlined-connecting the crime to the criminal with evidence admissible in Court. Establishing a link between the Crime and the Criminal can be ensured only through effective Investigation which can be conducted only when the IO (Investigation Officer) is aware of his legal rights and duties which can empower him to effectively pursue a case. 'Look into Yourself' is what he suggested the trainees, asking them to be both mentally and physically prepared to face the challenges that come up when pursuing a case. By illustrating the cases of Jessica Lal-Manu Sharma, Aarushi, Colin Pitch Fork, he stressed on the trainees the imperative to inculcate certain basic traits and seek the help of scientific agencies as forensic experts to build up a strong case against the accused, which can then be effectively pursued in a court of law. Elucidating on the imperative of transforming themselves into 'Specialist IO' his explanation was a meticulous discussion of the key qualities which an Investigation officer should

inculcate a) Early preparation is always in favour of the IO's
b) Importance of maintaining case diaries c) Learn to handle witnesses and evidences d) Secure reliable witnesses e) Record statements f) Preserve the scene of crime g) Seek the assistance of Forensic Experts h) Utilise the services of tracker dogs i) updated knowledge of legal procedures apart from the fundamental qualities of dedication, sincerity and patience etc.



Sh. Pritpal Singh, ADG (Assam Police) in course of his session.

2.5: SESSION V by Sh. Manas Das, Scientist:

Forensic Science-Importance and Relevance in Wildlife Crime Prosecution:

Mr. Manas Das from the Forensic Research Facility at Kahilipara, Assam, enlightened the participants on how scientific aids to investigation of crime can assist in linking the crime to the criminal, through proper scientific analysis of physical exhibit leading to the identification of organs, parts and origin of species help the judiciaries to award punishment to the offenders. Due to lack of proper methodology and lack of scientific explanation poachers and those involved in illegal wildlife trading escape without punishment. He stressed on devising a proper methodology including a data bank, which could provide strong evidence against the criminal. Elaborating on the utility of such scientific investigations, Dr. Das enlightened the participants on how examination of evidence in a forensic lab of a suspected document and any part of an animal including blood and tissue samples, carcass, teeth, bones, skin, tusks, hides, fur, feathers or viscera can reveal conclusive evidence. He also dwelled at large on the various challenges that face wildlife forensic scientists in identifying a particular species from crime scene evidence, including lack of proper preservation of sample, insufficient material exhibit, improper packaging and forwarding, lack of methodology and technique and lack of reference sample. His presentation informed the participants of how the latest scientific tools of investigation as ballistics, DNA profiling including morphology and pathology including anatomical scrutiny can be employed for scientific identification of suspected samples and ensure proper scientific analysis of visible exhibits. Such scientific validation of the crime scene evidence

would accelerate the rate of convictions and prove as a deterrent to wildlife crimes. Dr. Das stressed on exercising great caution in preservation, quantity of exhibit, selection of proper organ or proper body for example meat of wild animals and packaging. Develop and introduce new advanced technology molecular, biochemical and morphometrical technology to solve the case of wildlife related crimes and the technology should be accepted by the court of law.



Manas Das, Scientist, Forensic Research, instructing the trainees.

2.6: SESSION VI:

Application of relevant provisions of Wildlife Protection Act 1972, Criminal Procedure Code, 1973 and Indian Evidence Act, 1872 on a case study – mock trial 'State Vs Ram Lal':

Setting the agenda of the session, Ms Anjana Gosain facilitated the mock trial session based on a selected case study. She informed the participants of their role as an officer of the Forest Department was to defend the position of the state forest department. Ignorance of the legal procedures as well as of the technicalities which are to be adhered to while preparing a case could well decide the fate of the case. Hence, the necessity of understanding the procedures and their application. The participants were divided into two teams, Team A - prosecution, Team B – Defence and each was assigned the details of the case. Copies of the details of the case were distributed to each and every participant and interaction from each and every participant was encouraged. Elucidating the crime details, she introduced the participants to a few facts of a case following which the participants were to be enlightened on various facets of building up a proper case by accurate reporting, proper documentation for it (case) to be admissible in a Court of Law.

Case study for team 'A' was based on demand for compensation filed by a lady who had ventured into the periphery of a national park for the purpose of feeding her cattle. She was attacked by a black bear, a wild animal, as a result of which she sustained multiple injuries and she filed a suit for compensation before the Court of law.

The trainees were asked as a forest officer to resolve the issue either supporting the human being or the animal.

The prosecution team registered the case saying that it was an illegal entry into the park by the woman and was guilty of violating Section 27 of the Wildlife Protection Act and was not entitled to any compensation as she could not have taken the cattle into the National Park. Hence, she was liable to be punished as per the penal clause of the Act.

The defence team contested the matter by pleading that it was the wild animal who attacked her while she went to defend the cattle, hence in that process she lost her eye so the mistake was of the forest department and she was liable to receive the compensation.

It was also pleaded that in terms of the provisions of the Act in such event the liability is of the park authorities as it was the responsibility of the forest officer to protect the human being as well. The investigations presented by the prosecution led to the fact that the woman had ventured into the national park without the permit as she was neither the resident of the village inside the park nor a tourist, hence it had violated all the conditions as required under Section 27, so she entered the park illegally and was not entitled to any compensation.

The defence pleaded that the forest department could at least bear the expenses of medical treatment, if not the compensation.

CONCLUSION:

The defined jury headed by CCF decided to grant the medical expenses on the grounds of humanity but refused the compensation. The exercise of investigation was very well carried out by the participants and they happily applied all the relevant provisions which they had undergone and studied.

Case Study No.2 'State Vs Babu Lal'

The said case relates to the presence of the skin of a leopard in factory premises, for which information was received by the forest department in its forest office in the city. The information was received at 3.45p.m. and the raid was conducted, arrest was made and skin was seized by the forest officers. The accused made a confession and was produced in the court. The participants decided to nominate some of the forest staff personnel as accused as well as the witnesses.

Team of prosecution led the case by noting down the time of information received, time taken from driving from the city office to the factory premises. The entry made by the officer in the factory and raiding procedure. The search of the skin and finally the arrest of the accused on the spot, the seizure memo was prepared, the ACF was called, record the statement. The whole exercise lasted around two hours on 11.09.2011.

The defence pleaded not guilty. The entire investigations were open for discussion and the following deficiencies were pointed out in the presentation of the prosecution:-

- The departure time from city to factory premises was mentioned but not the arrival time
- The details of the vehicle was not mentioned
- The list of forest officers and their names were not complete
- No prior information to the senior officer was sent
- No information to the local police was given just in case they require any help
- No lady officer was taken along lest there could be any presence of the woman could lead the entire raiding team to be thrown out. If there is a lady present in the premises at the time of raid, lady police should be there.
- The skin was required from the room of a servant who ran away and instead of some other employee was arrested.
- The seizure memo did not have correct details of the facts mentioned herein above and only one witness had signed the memo, whereas there were more than four forest officers for the raid.
- The confession was recorded in a hurry without following the principles of natural justice and the settled law hence the confession could not be admitted into evidence.
- No statement of the persons at site were fully recorded.

These deficiencies were partly pointed out by the participants but the minute ones were pointed out by Mr. Manjit Singh Ahluwalia and Ms Anjana Gosain.

The participants rejected the case of prosecution and pledged that they would take care of these deficiencies and improve their investigation skill to file a full proof case.

The trainees were to present their approach keeping in mind the provisions of Sec 36(2) of the Wildlife Protection Act. Case study for Team 'B' involved a legal issue by an industrial concern, the Bombay Burmah Corporation, which was granted permission to ply only 24 vehicles by the Deputy Director of the Reserve Forest while the Co. challenged the order for it had sought permission for 86 vehicles, by invoking principles of Sec.27 under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. The trainees were asked to point out the validity and the reason of the Deputy Director's sanction for only 24 vehicles and point out reasons why was the passage to the Company for 86 vehicles denied. Team 'C' was presented the details of a case which seizure of six leopard skins from the possession of a person who was employed in a brush factory. The manner of conduct of investigation under the Wildlife protection Act was sought to be discussed and presented by the participants.

While the participants offered different approaches to the crisis that was presented, Anjana and Manjit teamed up to equip the participants with tips on conducting professional investigations. The outcome of the

session was ample realization that the officers are inadequately trained to handle the legal aspects due to lack of information and in most cases are completely unaware of their powers and responsibilities. They were instructed to note each and every detail of the case and frame a seizure memo. The trainees were asked to read out in turns, their entries into the seizure memo. Ms. Gosain pointed out the deficiencies so that the case could be well presented in the court. This was followed by instructions on how to frame a proper seizure memo. She recalled from her experiences on how, most of the wildlife cases that do not end up in successful convictions due to ignorance of the forest staff on the technicalities involved in the preparation of the seizure memo. They were also asked to correlate and draw in from the inputs that they had received from the faculties for the programme. One important factor which as Anjana and Manjit brought to the notice of the trainees was prior preparation before the officer presents himself for cross examination in the Court. This would entail looking into well being of his physical and mental state while ensuring that he has revised and followed up all relevant information relating to the case. Proper follow and preparation including mental and physical alertness in the Court ensures half the battle won.

As one of the most interesting phase of the programme, which usually draws voluntary participation, the mock exercise was very much appreciated by all the participants. Many of them confessed how they had been overriding due to ignorance. They were able to shed most of their inhibitions and become aware of their rights and responsibilities as protectors of wild and wildlife.



Ms. Gosain conducting the mock trial session.



Trainees participating in the mock trial session.

INTERACTIVE SESSION

The interactive session was jointly facilitated by Ms. Anjana Gosain and Mr. Manjit Ahluwalia. Many of the participants had come to realise that preparation of seizure memo was the most crucial aspect followed by conduct of proper investigations. Earlier, while each and every participant was asked to frame a seizure memo based on the case study, certain participants were also called up to frame a seizure memo on the writing board while the other trainees were asked to figure out any discrepancies. This proved a worthwhile exercise as it was found out that herein lay one of the major weaknesses of the investigating officers. The trainees enquired on many aspects of conduct of investigations including what are the immunities that they enjoy in pursuit of their duties. They mentioned of how at times, they would be accused of harassment to the female members, including forcible entry into the premises in the absence of male members, proper conduct of forest officers when searching a premises, what is the proper course of action to be followed in case a vehicle is seized, including whether it qualifies to be a Government property after it is seized on suspect of its complicity in a crime or the owner could retain the vehicle after seizure as private property.

Lack of confidence and motivation was highlighted as another major lacuna in course of interactions and in course it was revealed by both the facilitators that being aware of their rights and powers along with the responsibilities was imperative. Nevertheless, the exercise of power and the manner for conducting investigation must be justified; and the forms prescribed for investigation under Cr.P.C. and under the Forest Act may be used subject to suitable modifications that may be adopted; consistently with the peculiar facts, circumstances and the place where any person has committed an offence under the Forest Act.

Another important issue which was raised by the trainees was as regards the witnesses. Dwelling into what had been elucidated by Mr. Pritpal Singh, ADG, during his presentation, Ms. Anjana informed the participants that an employee or officer of the Forest Department may be a witness, in the absence of any other person, keeping in view the place of investigation and the provisions for restriction on entry and grant to any person a permit to enter the sanctuary especially for "investigation" and "purposes ancillary or incidental thereto" under Section 27 and Sec 28 of the Wildlife Act. It is unnecessary to involve more than one person as witness, unless the number of witnesses is prescribed under the relevant rules. It is not necessary to have the same person as witness, although care should be taken to involve minimum number of persons as witnesses in respect of several things which may be done at different time or at different places during the course of investigation; but, where outside witness may not be readily available, care should be taken to ensure that the officer(s) carrying out any part of investigation should not be taken as witness and vice-versa in any given case. Any instance of this kind may adversely affect the concerned person's credibility as a witness and also the probative value of his evidence in court.

Development of effective communication skill to interrogate any accused especially to record his confession and to encourage others to come forward and render assistance as witnesses or otherwise as sources for getting information to facilitate the task of detection of offences and to arrest the persons suspected to be involved in the commission of crime was another crucial issue that was highlighted in course of the discussions. It was brought to notice that many a times the investigating officer was constrained in his effort due to his fear of being subjected to questioning in case he would chose to resort to coercive methods of investigation. The facilitators, Ms. Anjana and Mr. Manjit informed them that resorting to coercive methods may not be conducive to proper investigation and ultimately successful prosecution of

offences. You can easily develop suitable communication skill by acquiring knowledge of the proper manner and procedure, besides periodical training, for effective investigation of offences and by proper understanding of the applicable law.

The following queries were raised by the participants:-

Question by: Nazrul Islam, Forester Grade-I , Kaziranga National Park.

Q1. Does a forest guard have the power to file the complaint under the Wildlife Protection Act?

Ans. No. The forest guard does not have the power to present the challan in the court as under Section 55 the cognizance of offence of complaint can only be taken by a person who is authorized by the Chief Wildlife Warden on behalf of the State Government to do so.

Question by: Prafulla Chandra Lahkar, Range Forest Officer, Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctaury.

Q2. What is the difference between the powers of forest guards and other officers?

Ans. In terms of Section 50, any forest officer has the power on the ground of reasonable apprehension in believing that there is a person who has committed an offence can require the suspect to produce for inspection any articles etc., stop any vehicle and make any seizure. However, the forest guard would immediately report the matter to his superior officer whereas the authorized officer would have the power to even record the confession and collect evidence in terms of the said provision.

Question by: Krishna Patgiri, Assistant Conservator Forest

Q3. What precautions should be taken by the forest officer before conducting a raid in the premises of suspect?

Ans. The forest officer should inform the police to seek its help if required. It should carry the forest kit along with him. The entry should be made in the forest diary before departure and always take the official seal with him. A lady forest officer should also be a part of raiding team.

Question by: Md. Ali Hussain, Forester-I, Nagaon Wildlife Division

Q4. If a person is on duty at the entry gate, other than permit, what all other requirement should be fulfilled for checking by the forest officer?

Ans. It should be checked that other than permit the vehicle he is being driven has a regular licence and permission to go into the forest.

Question by: Adhan Uzha, Forest Ranger, Manas Tiger Project.

Q5. What is the difference between arrest and detention?

Ans. Under Wildlife Protection Act, a person can be detained by a forest officer for investigation for which the power has been given to him under Section 50 of the Wildlife Protection Act. However, for arrest, the accused has to be produced before the Magistrate within 24 hours.

Question by: Rajib Lochan Deka, Forester Grade-I, Rajiv Gandhi Orang National Park.

Q6. How to prepare a proper seizure memo?

Ans. If any article is seized, then out of the forest kit, a white cloth should be used to seize the article and an official seal should be affixed on it. In addition to this, if possible, independent witness should be there otherwise the departmental witness can be involved. The time of seizure should be recorded and at whose behest the same was done. If the accused has led the seizure then his signatures should also be taken and put in the seizure memo and marked. The signature of the IO along with other witnesses should be there called as seizure marks.

Question by: S.K.Thakuria, Assistant Conservator Forest. Digboi Forest Division(T).

Q7. How to record a statement of the accused along with the seizure memo?

Ans. The statement of the accused should be recorded while preparing the seizure memo, in which complete chronology should be described along with the details of time and place.

Question by: Samir Baidya,Assistant Conservator Forests, Cachar Forest Division.

Q8. What are the features of site plan?

Ans. The site plan should be drawn on the spot, marking the important identifications such as trees, building/s other any other important points. The site plan should be signed by the investigating officer along with two witnesses and also recording the distance travelled from Chowki along with the details of the vehicle.

Question by: Proholad Kro, Forest Ranger, North Karbi Anglong Wildlife Sanctuary.

Q9. How to record the statement of the accused on the spot?

Ans. The statement of the accused is to be recorded with consistencies and sequence. If he is ready to confess the crime, then the information should be sent to the senior officer not below the rank of ACF who would explain to him that the said confession can be used against him. The entire confession should be recorded in first person with complete chronology. The entire crime should be admitted leaving no sequence failing which there is a complete chance of the court rejecting the same under Section 27 of the Evidence Act.

Question by: Harinath Ronghang, Forest Ranger, East Karbi Anglong Wildlife Sanctuary.

Q10. Who can regulate the vehicles in the park?

Ans. The Chief Wildlife Warden or its authorized officer.

Question by: Ratneshwar Pathak, Assistant Conservator Forests, Kaziranga National Park.

Q11. What is the difference between primary and secondary evidence?

Ans. The documents in original are the primary evidence and the certified copies are secondary evidence.

Question by: Prosen Das, Forester-I, Jorhat Division.

Q12. Is it necessary to involve independence witness in all the proceedings?

Ans. It is difficult to get any independent witness. Hence it would be appropriate to involve the departmental witness. However, we should not use same witnesses for all the proceedings.

Question by: Josimuddin Ahmed, Forest Range Officer.

Q13. There are large issues with regard to cattle grazing, what should an forest officer do, if the villagers are found inside the park?

Ans. The forest staff should try to reason out with the villagers and make them aware that getting cattles for grazing inside the park is violation and punishable. Reasoning should be given to them and if the offence is repeated, then they should be booked under Section 27 for illegal entry.

Question by: Jiten Goswami, Forester-I, Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary.

Q14. Is the forest officer is entitled to a self-defence in event of animal attack?

Ans. Yes. If the attack is by a wild animal and he is equipped with the arms, he would not be prosecuted for hunting and can take the plea of self-defence.

Question by: Dulal Pathak, Forester-I, Kamrup East Division.

Q15. What is the percentage of convection of Wildlife Crime in Assam?

Ans. It has increased marginally in the last 2 – 3 years as informed by the department.



Trainees interacting with the faculty members.

FEEDBACK & EVALUATION

Many of the participants received the training for the first time and many of them came from divisions that had not been sent to this course before. The participants were enthusiastic about the benefits of the training programme, which they realized had touched on vital issues that they come across in their daily work as protectors of wildlife and habitat. Unanimously all agreed that the Training Programme had filled in a vital gap in their understanding of their powers and duties. Not only that, but it had also given a great boost to their self-confidence as well. They also benefited from mutual interactions amongst the fellow officers and their senior officers and were positively influenced by such interactions. They stressed on the need for such training programmes at regular intervals and were all praises for the exposure to the case studies and being able to strengthen areas of weakness that up to this point allowed poachers to get off without convictions.

The variety of topics relating to wildlife crime enforcement and prevention, including those relating to forensics, good qualities of an investigating officer, proper paperwork procedures and mock case drills were relevant and interesting topics. The success of the programme can be further gauged from repeated requests from the divisional forest officers of the divisions like Karbi Anglong and Tinsukia to organise such training programmes for the frontline staff of their divisions, while there were also requests for organising such training quarterly in each Zone or Circle. Much appreciation went to the frontline trainers, Anjana Gosain and Manjit Ahluwalia, for improving upon their relevant skills, as well as being infusing the participants with more confidence and morale through

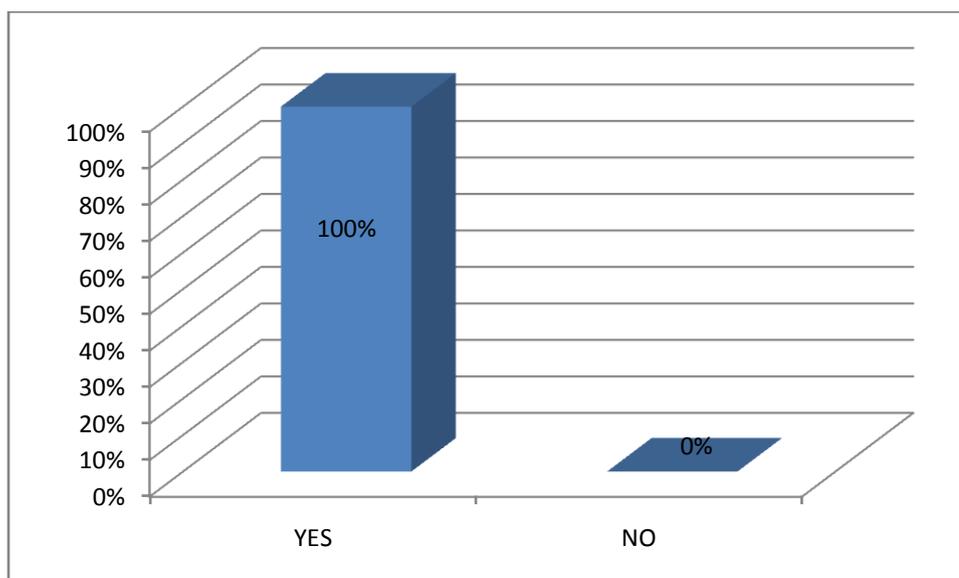
their interactions. Being updated on their powers reminded of their responsibilities, they all seemed eager to apply their new found knowledge, once they returned to being 'wardens of the forest.'

A pledge was made by the participants that they would utilize their experiences and knowledge of the training programme in their respective fields and divisions with due dedication towards ensuring the protection and conservation of wildlife. The consensus was that the objective of the training programme were accomplished.

Participant responses to the training Programme:

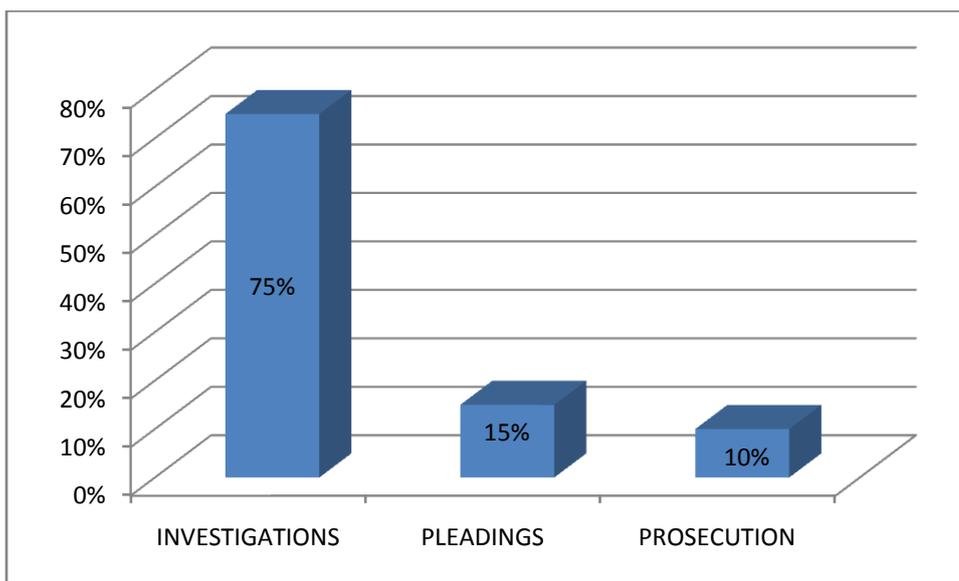
➤ **Have you found this "Hunting the Hunters programme" useful?**

All the participants were unanimous in their opinion that the training was a fruitful initiative and a much required exposure to a very important aspect when dealing with wildlife crimes.



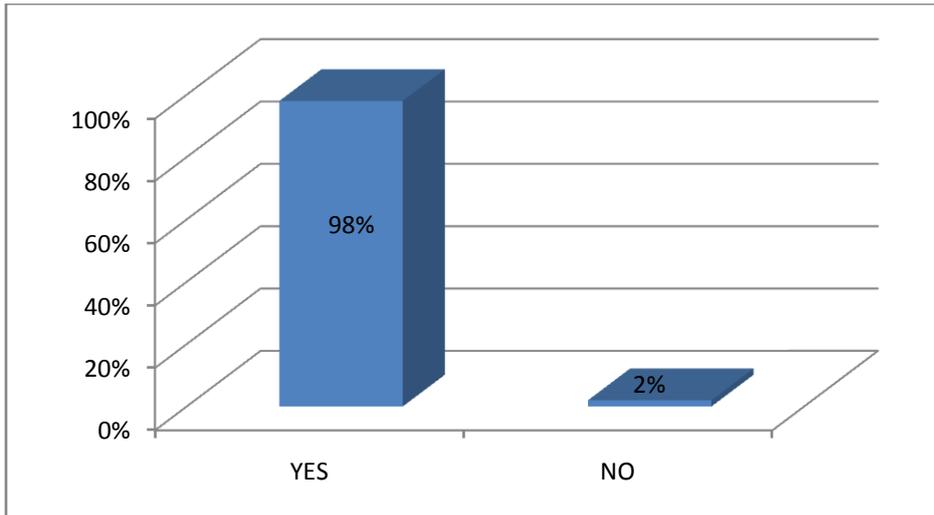
➤ **Which of the three topics you found most interesting?**

The participant response indicated that they found the sessions on process of investigation and developing of investigative skills as highly relevant followed by procedures which have to be observed so that they can build up a strong case and court pleadings respectively. Most of the participants (75%) found investigation to be the most challenging part in a criminal trial followed by drafting of pleadings and leading prosecution before the Court of law.



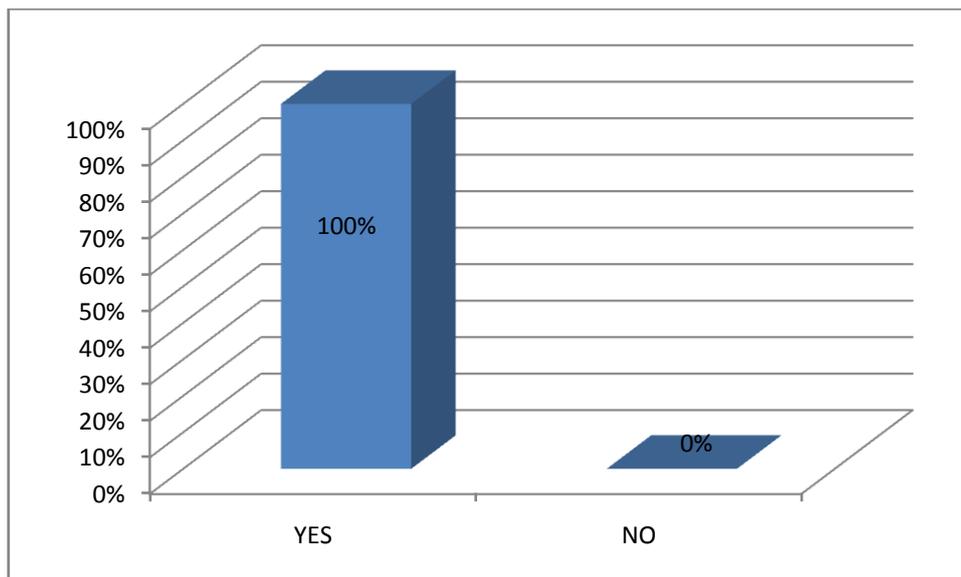
➤ **Whether these topics were adequately addressed by the trainers?**

98% of the participants expressed their satisfaction with the trainers exposition of the various topics while a few of the participants chose not to answer.



➤ **Whether this training program is useful and beneficial towards better law implementation to combat wildlife crime?**

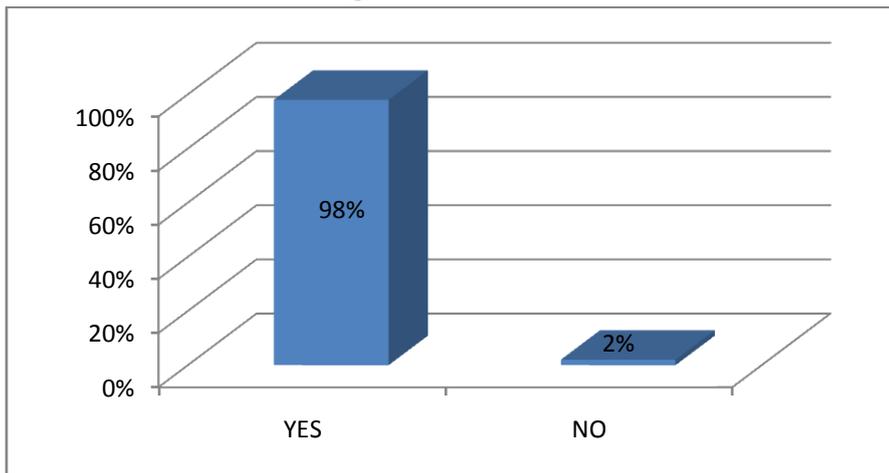
Almost all the participants acknowledged that the modules had been very beneficial and practice oriented.



➤ **Did the training provide an opportunity to network with other forest officers?**

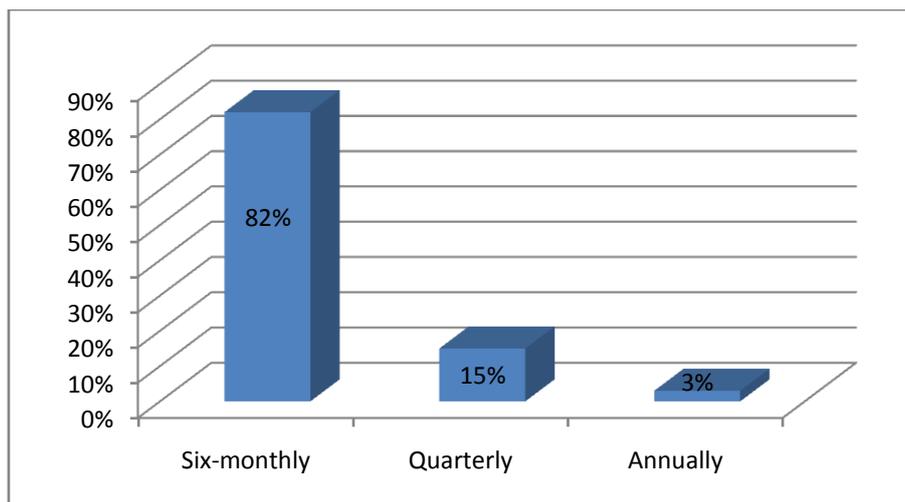
The trainees (98%) confessed that the training had provided an enriching learning experience with the other forest officers. They

also had an opportunity to interact with many of their senior most officers which was a great morale boost. .



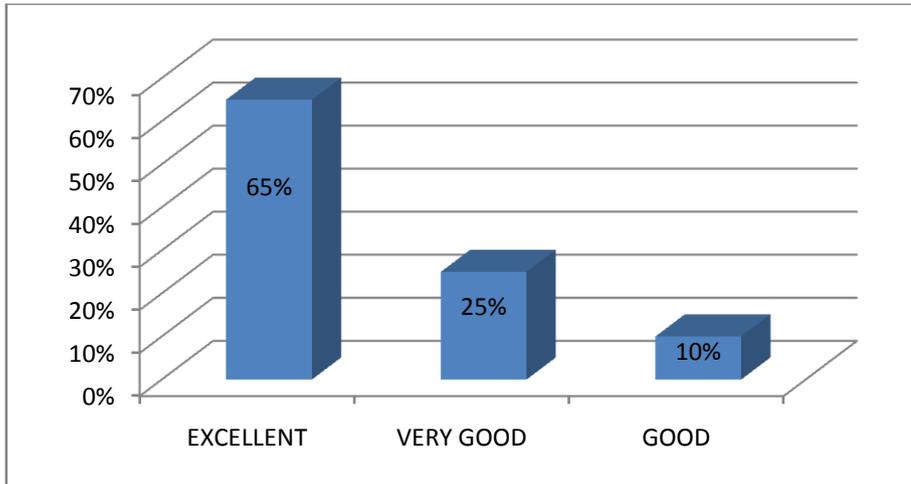
➤ **What is the reasonable interval during which the trainings should be held?**

Most of the participants (82%) showed interest in having bi-yearly trainings followed by a handful of participants who desired to have more intermittent trainings. Only 3%% participants desired to have annual training programmes.



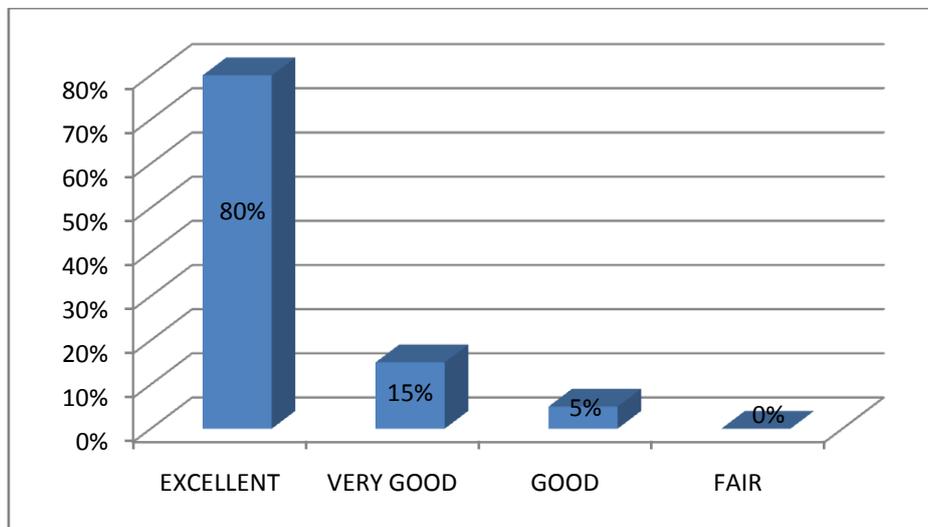
➤ **Whether the module was adequate for classroom studies? Was it too much or too little?**

While a majority of the trainees contended that the module was adequate, a few of them noted on the vastness of the topics but appreciated the resource persons for imparting excellent guidance on relevant topics.



➤ **Quality of the Resource Persons-**

The resource persons received much appreciation for being focused, articulate and dedicated.



IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF TRAINEES BY THE TRAINERS

The second phase of hunting the hunters was initiated with the sole purpose of extending the trainees to those divisions which did not have such focus and intense programme earlier. However, the overwhelming presence of 54 participants indicated the interest shown by them for the 'Capacity Building Programme'.

The first and fundamental lacunae noticed by the resource faculty was lack of confidence and ignorance of their own structured powers of the forest staff. The first two hours, the participants set as mute spectators. The initial plan was to have partly an advanced and aggressive approach towards the provisions of all the three Acts. However, in view of the fact that majority of the trainees did not have the requisite knowledge to understand the technical aspect, a spot decision was taken to dilute the module and deviate the topics in a simplified manner. The use of local language by senior officers and easy approach, inter-active sessions after every 30 minutes, case studies and encouraged the staff to come out of their shell. The most important impact was the feel good factor about their own powers of investigations and even detention. However, it dawned gradually on them that the powers are not only reduced on paper but are effectively enforceable. They appreciated the minute mistakes could lead to disastrous results.

The faculty gradually became firm and aggressive making it mandatory for all the participants to interact with the resource persons and address the issues in whatever manner they preferred. The presence of Shri S.P.

Singh, CCF Wildlife helped the participants to raise many questions. The training as has to be in three phases, can only be successful if the participants after understanding the importance of the relevant provisions put them into practice. The training had a tremendous impact that the forest department was taking care to update their skills and knowledge for which they are mainly employed.

Learning is continuous process and no human being on this earth, can claim to be completely knowledgeable, hence out of 54 even if 20% had the serious approach towards the need of training, the faculty feels it has achieved certain amount of success. However, it is a long journey with many stopovers and hiccups, hence the first phase was successfully completed much to the satisfaction of all.



Capacity Building Programme on Forest Offences. Phase-II
10-11^{September} 2011 at IIBM, Khanapara, Guwahati.
Tiger Trust in collaboration with
Assam State Forest Department and US Fish and Wildlife
Service.

SCHEDULE FOR THE WORKSHOP

DAY I

09:00-9:30	Registration of participants for the training.
09:30-10:00	Inaugural of the workshop and welcome address by the PCCF(WL) Sh. Suresh Chand and Ms. Anjana Gosain, Hony. Secretary, Tiger Trust.
10:00-10:15	Tea
10:30-12:00	Overview of the history of legislations comprising of Indian Forest Act, Wildlife Protection Act, Bio-Diversity Act and Money Laundering Act.
12:00-1.30	Narration of the legal provisions of Cr.P.C.
01:30-2.30	Lunch
02:30-4.00	Analysis and illustration of the case studies by the participants in the light of the Indian Evidence Act.
04:00-4.15	Tea
04:30-5:30	Interactive Session with the faculty.
05:30 – 6.00	Film Show

Day II

09:30 – 10:30	Recapitulation and short narration of Day I and its highlights.
10:30 – 11:15	“Short Overview on Investigation Skills- A Perspective of a Sr. Police Officer” by Sh.Pritpal Singh, ADGP,(LOG),Assam.
11:15 – 11:30	Tea
11:30 – 01:00	Lecture on “Forensic Science- Importance and Relevance in Wildlife Crime Prosecution” by Dr.Manas Das.
01:15 – 02:00	Lunch
02:15 – 04:00	Poster-presentation by the trainees of the cases pending in their respective division.
04:00 – 04:15	Tea
04:00 – 06:00	Open House and discussion of the module for the 2 nd training.

List of Participants

Legal Training Workshop. Tiger Trust in Collaboration with Assam State Forest Department and USFWS

10-11 September, 2011 at IIBM, Khanapara.

S.N.	Name	Designation	Division
1	S.K.Thakuria	ACF	Digboi
2	P.C.Lahkar	FR	Digboi
3.	S.N.Gayan	ACF	Digboi
4.	Ranjan Kumar Das	DFO	Sivasagar
5.	Ratneshwar Pathak	ACF	Sivasagar
6.	Binod Payang	FR	North Kamrup
7.	Nityananda Ojha	FR	North Kamrup
8.	P.C.Das	RO	Assam State Zoo
9.	Jiten Goswami	For-I	Jorhat
10.	Prasen Das	For-I	Jorhat
11	Ashok.Kr.Das	F.R.	
12.	Suresh Sharma	For-I	Kamrup West Division, Bamunigaon
13.	Ramoni Mohan Sutradhar	ACF	Kamrup West Division, Bamunigaon

14.	Nagen Chandra Thakuria	FR	Field Director(MTP)
15.	Nomal Chandra Narzary	For-I	Tinsukia
16.	Hari Nath Ronghang	FR	Karbi Anglong East Division
17.	Prohlad Kro	FR	Karbi Anglong East Division
18.	Satish Sharma	For-I	Kamrup East Division
19.	Dulal Pathak	For-I	Kamrup East Division
20.	P.Chetiya	For-I	WAWL
21.	Amit Doley	For-I	WAWL
22.	Aihom Shyam	For-I	
23.	Ali Hussain	For-I	Nagaon WL
25.	G.N.Adhikary	DFO	Karbi Anglong West
26.	P. Teron	FR	
27.	S.Teron	Dy.R	Karbi Anglong West
28.	Monomohan Nath	For-I	Goalpara
29.	Dipak Deka	FR	Goalpara
30.	Rajib Deka		Mangaldoi
31.	Irfan Ali	For-I	Dibrugarh
32.	Rafique Ansari	For-I	Dibrugarh
33.	Matiur Rahman	FR	Nagaon
34.	Dulal Saikia	For-I	Nagaon

35	Adhan Ujha	FR	MTP
36.	J.U.Ahmed		Harmutty Range
37.	N.Islam	For-I	EAWL
38.	M.Saikia	For-I	EAWL
39	B.Kalita	ACF	
40.	M.Hazarika	Dy.R	Doom Dooma Division
41.	Padmadhar Taye	-	Dhemaji
42.	Dipen Hazarika	-	Dhemaji
43.	Dibakar Das	FR	Baksa Kumarikatta
44.	S.M.Rahman	For-I	Baksa Kumarikatta
45.	Golap Kr.Barma	-	Biswanath Chariali
46.	S.Islam	ACF	Biswanath Chariali
47	Krishna Patgiri	ACF	Lakhimpur
48.	Saidul Alam	FR	Karimganj
49.	M.A.Ahmed	FR	Karimganj
50	S.Baidya	ACF	Cachar
51	R.K.Brahma	ACF	Haltugaon, Kokrajhar
52.	D.N.Basumatary	FR	Ultapani Range, Haltugaon, Kokrajhar
53.	Jiten Goswami	For-I	Jorhat
54.	Mintu Hazarika	Dy.R	

To be filled in by the participant nominated for the training

Pre-Registration Form

Capacity Building Legal Training Programme-Hunting the Hunters-II

Tiger Trust

in collaboration with

Assam State Forest Department and US Fish and Wildlife Service.

10-11 September 2011

NAME-

DESIGNATION-

DIVISION-

HAVE YOU EVER ATTENDED ANY TRAINING PROGRAMME ON WILDLIFE CRIME? (Y / N)-

IF (Y), WHEN AND WHERE-

WHETHER SEEKING ACCOMODATION DURING THE TRAINING PROGRAMME-(Y / N)

You are requested to send in your replies at the earliest to:

Ms. Kawal Deep Kour, Regional Coordinator, Tiger Trust
2nd Floor, Hanspal Building, Chatribari Road. Guwahati-781001.
Contact: 09706038299.



Hunting the Hunters- II Capacity Building Programme
Organised by Tiger Trust on 10-11th September, 2011 at IIBM,
Guwahati

On Forest Crimes for the benefit of Forest Staff, Assam

QUESTIONNAIRE /FEEDBACK FORM

DATE:

TIME:

A. BASIC INFORMATION:

1	Name	
2	Designation	
3	Age	
4	National Park	
5	Contact number	
6	E mail	
7	Since how many years you have been in this protected area (PA)?	
8	Have you attended any wildlife field-training	

	programme earlier?	YES	No
--	--------------------	-----	----

B. ABOUT THE WORKSHOP:

1.	<p>Have you found this "Hunting the Hunters programme" useful? What are the three most important things [or topics] you learned during this training?</p>	
2.	<p>Which of the three topics you found most interesting?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Process of investigation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Pleadings</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Case studies in relation to the success and failure of Prosecution.</p>
3.	<p>Whether these topics were adequately addressed by the trainers?</p>	

4.	Whether the module was adequate for class room studies? Was it too much or too little?		
5.	Whether this training program is useful & beneficial towards better law implementation to combat wildlife crime?		
6.	Did the training provide an opportunity to network with other forest officers?	YES	NO
7.	What is the reasonable interval during which the trainings should be held?	Quarterly / Six monthly/ Annually	
9.	Quality of Resource persons	Excellent / Very Good / Good / Fair	
10.	Arrangements of boarding and lodging	Excellent / Very Good / Good / Fair	
11.	Which location do you prefer for the training program?	Field/ Academic Institution / Both	
12.	If you were given the task of redesigning the workshop, what would you change?		

13 .	Any other suggestion or recommendation?	
------	---	--

ANNEXURES:

1. Preparatory E-Mails and Letters:

1.Proposed meeting on 21st May, 2011.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **tiger trust** <tigertrustindia@gmail.com>

Date: Sun, May 1, 2011 at 10:01 PM

Subject: Re: Proposed meeting on 21st May.

To: "Divisional Forest Officer Eastern Assam Wildlife Divn." <dfo.eawl@gmail.com>

Cc: sadiqua fatima <sadiquafatima@rediffmail.com>

hello Mr Gagoi

well thanks for the confirmation we arrive by morning flight and depart on 22nd ,and would like to continue our discussions after the meeting may be over lunch or dinner since the main object is complete everything and decide every detail for better program than last time.we would request for morning appointment
regards

On Sun, May 1, 2011 at 6:30 PM, Divisional Forest Officer Eastern Assam Wildlife Divn. <dfo.eawl@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Madam,

I will be there for the purpose of the meeting in Guwahati on 21st May 2011.Ph No of Mr SPSingh CCF WL is 09508560340.

With regards.

DDGogoi KNP

On 4/29/11, tiger trust <tigertrustindia@gmail.com> wrote:

> Dear Mr.Gogoi,

>

> This is in reference to the proposed meeting on 21st May 2011. Since the
> meeting would be convened anytime in the first hour of the day, we would be
> happy in case you can spare some time (after the meeting) to discuss other
> important issues concerning the holding of workshop. The issues concerning
> the module of the workshop (keeping in mind the seniority of the forest
> officers), divisions from which the participants would be called, venue and

Dear Sir,

Greetings from Tiger Trust, India.

This correspondence is with reference to the Legal Training Workshop on 10-11 September 2011 at IIBM Khanapara, under the second phase of Capacity Building Programmes in collaboration with the Assam Forest Department and US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Please find attached the official intimation of the program, from the CCF, Wildlife, which has already been communicated via official letter dated July 2011.

On behalf of Tiger Trust, May I request you to kindly nominate two persons from your division for the training programme.

Thanks and Regards,

Ms. Kawal Deep Kour
Regional Coordinator, TIGER TRUST INDIA
2nd Floor, Hanspal Building, Chatribari Road. Guwahati-781001
9706038299

Legal training Workshop for forest officers..doc

31K [View](#) [Download](#)

Letters:

- 1. Copy of Letter from Tiger Trust to the PCCF(Wildlife), Assam regarding the proposed training programme for the year 2011-12.**



208, Rakeshdeep, T1 Commercial Complex
Gandhinagar Enclave, New Delhi - 110 048, India
Secretariat Office :
442, Lawyers Chambers, Delhi High Court, New Delhi
Phone : 91-11-23385273, Fax : 91-11-23388742
Email : tigertrust_india@yahoo.com
Website : www.tigertrustindia.com

Shri Suresh Chand
P.C.C.F. Wildlife
Basistha
Guwahati 7810029.

28.04.2011

Sub: Extension of Capacity Building Programme 'Hunting the Hunter-II'
in State of Assam & Rajasthan - 2011- 2013

Sir

I wish to inform you that with your kind support and encouragement, USFWS have extended our programme. We wish to inform you that there are several suggestions keeping in view the previous training programme:-

- 1) We finish the entire capacity building programme in one year commencing July 2011 to April 2012. This is subject to written memorandum of understanding that dates and availability of staff should be made on mutually convenient dates.
- 2) This would have very focused and long term effect on the trainees as this would be continuous process.
- 3) We have been given permission for 135 trainees from fresh divisions.
- 4) A nodal officer from Forest Department could be appointed of the rank of DFO and one regional Coordinator would be appointed by Tiger Trust to coordinate modules, courses and logistics.
- 5) The forest department is only requested to provide availability of staff and dates and, if possible, auditorium at Kaziranga National Park or any other hall in any of the other venues.

*Best copy
submitted to Mr. Suresh Chand
P.C.C.F. Wildlife
Guwahati
29/4/11*



208, Rakeshdeep, 11 Commercial Complex
Qutubpur Enclave, New Delhi - 110 049, India
Secretariat Office :
442, Lawyers Chambers, Delhi High Court, New Delhi
Phone : 91-11-23385773, Fax : 91-11-23389742
Email : tigertrust_india@yahoo.com
Website : www.tigertrustindia.com

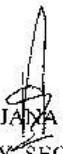
- 6) To have a nominated Course Director to plan the courses in advance for all the trainees.
- 7) New trainees be encouraged to join from other divisions.
- 8) A mutual understanding could be arrived to achieve positive results and better skills for the trainees.

May I request you for personal appointment to discuss the modalities and finalise the above said conditions. If the dates cannot be made available in one year, then we could view other options as well.

I would appreciate in case, response is received to the above said request and if possible had Mr. D.D. Gagoi, DFO to be a part in finalizing the course along with CCF Wildlife.

Hoping to receive favourable response.

Kind regards


(ANJANA GOSAIN)
HONY. SECRETARY

NOTE: We wish to inform you that as per the approval, the Capacity Building Programmes are independent of each other and the duration is from 14.4.2011 to 30.4.2013. The forest department is free to pick up the year and inform the undersigned.

CC:
Sh.S.P.Singh,
CCF, Wildlife,
Gawhati.

2. Copy of letter regarding the Proposed Training Programme from Tiger Trust Regional office, Guwahati.



296, Rajabunderi, 1st Commercial, Office of
Gumohar Estate, New Bala, PIN 046, India
Secretariat Office :
447, Lawyers Chambers, Datta High Court, New Delhi
Phone : 91-11-23355777 Fax : 91-11-23355777
Email : tigertrust@india@yashraj.com
Website : www.tigertrustindia.com

To,
The PCCF,
P.C.C.F. Wildlife
Basistha
Guwahati-11002

04.07.2011

Sub: Proposed Legal Training workshop for the Forest Officers of Assam State Forest
Department

Sir,

Tiger Trust is commencing its second phase of Capacity Building Training Programme Hunting
the Hunter-II, supported by USFWS. In this connection a meeting was held on 21.05.2011 with
your good self and Sh. S.P. Singh, CCF, Wildlife where the tentative dates agreed were 10-11th
Sept. 2011.

In furtherance to this meeting, we are taking necessary steps to decide and organise this
workshop at IIBM, Gauhati. We would be grateful in case an official confirmation towards the
said dates can be send to us to enable us to conform the venue and inform the trainees well in
time

An early response to our request would be deeply appreciated.

Thanking you,

Kind regards,

S. P. Singh
S.P.
S. P. Singh
(KAWALDEEP KOUR)
Local Coordinator,
Tiger Trust

CC: S.P. Singh.
CCF, Wildlife

3. Copy of letter acknowledging the acceptance of the proposal of the training programme :

To,
The PCCF,
P.C.C.F. Wildlife
Basistha
Guwahati-11002

TIGER TRUST

FOUNDER KALASHI SANKHALA

206, Saket, New Delhi-110017
26.07.2014
206, Saket, New Delhi-110017
Gulmohar Enclave, New Delhi-110045
Secretariat Office :
442, Lawyers Chambers, Delhi High Court, New Delhi
Phone : 91-11-23385773
Email : tigertrust_india@yahoo.com
Website : www.tigertrustindia.com

Sub: Legal training workshop for the Forest officers.

Sir,

At the outset we would like to express our gratitude towards supporting our legal training program. We thank you for intimating the DFOs of various divisions for selecting the officers to attend and participate in the workshop.

We would like to suggest that all such officers may be selected for the training who had in past attended such similar training program and have a prior exposure to the modules taught therein. This would enable such officers to understand the finer concepts of investigation and investigation. We would also like the DFOs to bring one case pending in their division to be studied and worked upon during the training session. Such an exercise would help the faculty to find out lacunae which they face while conducting prosecution.

We request you to intimate the respective DFOs to accordingly select the participants and the cases pending in their division.

Thanking you..

Kind regards,

Kawal Deep Kour
(Kawal Deep Kour)

Regional Coordinator

Tiger Trust

Received
27/7/14

4. Copy of letter from the PCCF (Wildlife) Assam, office regarding intimation to the divisions regarding nomination of trainees for the workshop:

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS (WILDLIFE)
BASISTHA, GUWAHATI-29.

No. WL/FE/Workshop/Pt dt: 7. 2011

1. All Divisional Forest Officers (Territorial) under Eastern Assam Circle
2. All Divisional Forest Officers (Territorial) under Northern Assam Circle
3. All Divisional Forest Officers (Territorial) under Central Assam Circle
4. All Divisional Forest Officers (Territorial) under Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council.
5. All Divisional Forest Officers (Territorial) under Bodoland Territorial Council, Kokrajhar
6. All Divisional Forest Officers under Wildlife Wing.
7. FDTP, Manas and Director Kaziranga National Park

Sub:- Legal training Workshop for forest officers.

It is to inform you that Tiger Trust, Non Government Organization, New Delhi is organizing training workshop on 10-11th September, 2011 at IIBM, Guwahati under the second phase of "Capacity Building Training Programme Hunting the Hunter -II", supported by USFWS. The detail schedule programme will be sent you in due course. Similar training programme were also organised by the Tiger Trust in collaboration with Assam Forest Department in June, 2009 at Kaziranga National Park and in October, 2010 at Guwahati. You are requested to kindly nominate two persons from each Division, preferably who are engaged with work of forest and wildlife offences in the rank of DFO/ACF/RO/ Fr-I. The age and qualification of the nominated person may also kindly be furnished by 31st July, 2011 positively. Further, it is to inform you that the programme is residential and boarding & lodging arrangement will be done by the Tiger Trust for the participant.

Solicited your early action in the matter.

Chief Conservator of Forests,
Wildlife, Assam.

Copy to:-

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Assam, Rehabari, Guwahati -8 for information and necessary action.
2. The Chief Conservator of Forests (Territorial), Assam, Guwahati-I for information and necessary action.
3. Ms. Anjana Gosain, Tiger Trust, 206, Rakesdeep, II, Commercial Complex, Gulmohar Enclave, New Delhi-110 049.

Chief Conservator of Forests,
Wildlife, Assam.

5. Copy of Specimen Letter from Regional Office Guwahati to each of the Divisions nominating trainees for the workshop:



206, Rakesdeep, 11 Commercial Complex
Gulmohar Enclave, New Delhi - 110 049, India
Secretariat Office
442, Lawyers Chambers, Delhi High Court, New Delhi
Phone : 91-11-23385775, Fax : 91-11-23389742
E-mail : tigertrust_india@yahoo.com
Website : www.tigertrustindia.com

To,
Divisional Forest Officer,
Guwahati Wildlife Division,

03.09.2011

Ref: Regarding Capacity Building Programme on 10-11 September at IIBM, Guwahati.

Sir,

With reference to the Capacity Building Programme organised by Tiger Trust on 10-11 September 2011, kindly find attached, the Official Intimation from the PCCF (WT) office regarding confirmation of participants for the programme.

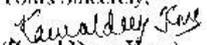
We appreciate the nominations that we have received from your division:

Pankaj Sharma	ACF	Guwahati(Wildlife)
Ashok Kr.Das	F.R.	Guwahati(Wildlife)

We would like to request you to convey your confirmation through mail or inform me at 09706038299, so as to facilitate booking of accommodation to avoid any inconveniences.

We eagerly look forward to your participation.

Thanking You,

Yours Sincerely,

(Karal Deep Kour)
Regional Coordinator, Tiger Trust
9706038299

6. Copy of letter from PCCF(Wildlife) Assam office to the divisions for release of trainees for the training programme.

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS, WILDLIFE, ASSAM,
BASISTHA, GUWAHATI-29.

No.WL/FG/Workshop/Pt

Dt: 01.09.2011

To

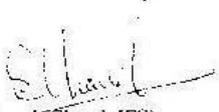
The Divisional Forest Officer,

(1) Digboi Divn (2) Sivsagar Divn (3) North Kamrup Divn (4) Assam State Zoo Divn (5) Jorhat Divn (6) Guwahati WL Divn (7) Kamrup West Divn, Bamunigaon (8) Field Director (MTP) (9) Sonitpur West Divn (10) Tinsukia Divn (11) Kokrajhar WL Divn (12) Kamrup East Divn (13) Western Assam WL Divn, Tezpur (14) Goalpara Divn (15) Doom Dooma Divn (16) Karbi Anglong West Divn, Diphu (17) Mangaldoi WL Divn (18) Dhansiri Forest Divn, Udalguri (19) Baksa Forest Divn (20) Cachar Divn (21) Dibrugarh Divn.

Sub:- Legal training workshop for forest officers being organized by Tiger Trust, India on 10-11 September 2011 at IFBM, Guwahati.

Please refer to your letters nominating various officers and staff of your division for the said training followed by e mail dtd. 26.8.2011 & 27.8.2011 from the organizers requesting you to depute the nominated officers and staff for the said training.

You are directed to confirm their participation to the organizers by e mail and allow them to attend the said training.


(Suresh Chand, IFS)
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests &
Chief Wildlife Warden: Assam

Copy for information to the :-

- (1) Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Assam, Rehabari, Guwahati-8.
- (2) The Chief Conservator of Forests, Upper Zone, Guwahati.
- (3) The Chief Conservator of Forests, Lower Zone, Guwahati.
- (4) Regional Coordinator, Tiger Trust, India, Guwahati.


Principal Chief Conservator of Forests &
Chief Wildlife Warden: Assam

5. PRESS RELEASE

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npasse**

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mese actor Pranjal Saikia.
Former principal UC Sharma
said, "The college had its humble be-
ginning in 1962 with 230 students. To-
day it is recognized as one of the best in the
map of commerce education in In-
dia."
Ghanshyam Nath, principal said,
"We are concerned with students' per-
formance and president of governing body, gov-
ern jubilee celebration, Devdas Bhar-
ali. The ceremonial lamp was lit by Dee-
pali Lahkar, wife of founder Principal
Bhagaban Lahkar.

Workshop on wildlife crime begins in city

Guwahati: A two-day long training on wildlife crimes for the forest department, organized by the Tiger Trust and US Fish and Wildlife Service in the city, started on Saturday. The meet emphasized on the need for stern forest laws to check wildlife crimes in the state.

The workshop asked the state government to stock efficient manpower, logistics and technologies for guarding the forests and sensitized officials with proper knowledge of various aspects of the Wildlife Protection Act.

"The conviction rate in wildlife crimes in the state is less. Due to certain shortcomings in the Wildlife Protection Act it fails to act on organized crimes in wildlife sector. Moreover, with lack of legal knowledge, the forest officials are not capable of framing the culprits," said Suresh Chand, PCCF (wildlife, Assam).

The PCCF added that due to improper legal knowledge of officials, the wildlife crimes are dismissed by courts several times. He added that even the lawyers here sometime are unaware of certain amendments to the wildlife act.

"The act is on a process of amendment. There should also be awareness programmes to educate lawyers about various amendments to the act. Only then the legal ways of protecting our wildlife will be effective," added Chand.

Echoing him, additional PCCF RP Agarwala cited the immediate need of recruiting fit forest guards to the department and improve the department with sophisticated logistics and technology. TNN

SC nod to de-reserving Deopani reserve forest

Itanagar: The Supreme Court passed a historic judgment de-reserving the Deopani reserve forest (RF) in Lower Dibang Valley district on Friday, according to advocate Tony Pertin and district Congress committee (DCC) president Roding Pertin. The verdict would fulfill the long-felt desire of people in the Meka area and bring about their overall development as it would facilitate infrastructure improvement, human settlement, horticulture and agricultural activities.

A team comprising former MLA Basu Perme, NECC general secretary, advocate Pertin, Meka Block ZPM Mibom Pertin, guided by Dambuk MLA Jomin Tayeng, had been pursuing the case and camping in New Delhi for quite sometime.

Standing counsel Anil Srivastava and Pertin appeared for the state of Arunachal Pradesh and PS Narasimha was the amicus curiae in the case, Pertin said over telephone. The DCC president, who on behalf of Kangkong, Kalek, Parbuk, Mobang, Bolik, Kaling, Bolung, Ithili, Idili Jia and Meka villagers, had called on the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) chairman PV Jayakrishnan in New Delhi recently, welcomed the decision. TNN

PROTECTING ANIMALS

Assam Tribune, dated 11.09.2011

Moring, vice-president of the
gaon panchayat, Rijumoni
Dhemaji Zila Patanjali Yog
Samiti & Bharat Swabhimani
workers and activists of
Dhemaji Zila Yog Samiti.

Legal training prog for forest staff

GUWAHATI, Sept 14 - A capacity building legal training programme titled, 'Hunting the Hunters' for the Assam Forest Department was organised by Tiger Trust in collaboration with Assam State Forest Department and supported by the USFWS on September 10 and 11 informed Kawal Deep Kaur, Regional Coordinator of Tiger Trust, a press release received here said.

The objective of the training was to enhance the skills of the forest staff in order to raise the conviction rate. The nuances of prosecution are so technical that most of the cases are resulting in acquittal since these practices and procedures are not adequately known to the staff.

The emphasis Tiger Trust places through specialised faculty like lawyers, judicial members, police officers, forensic specialists and all other important stakeholders was to acquaint the staff in minute details about the preparation of the cases and present it successfully in the court through prosecution.

Tiger Trust till date has trained more than 1500 forest officials across the country in various states. It has been working in Assam since the last two years and has entered the second phase of the training programme sponsored by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Frit Pal Singh, ADGP (LOG) Assam Police and Manas Das, wildlife forensic expert enlightened the participants on the attributes which are required to be developed by an investigating officer and that of forensic science to deal with wildlife crimes and criminal respectively.

Anjana Gosain and Manjit Singh Ahluwalia, both practising lawyers in Delhi are the forces behind the programme.

Poachers killed in Orang National Park

about various health-
issues and facilities offered
the Government under
NRHM, the release added.

Tiwa Autonomous Council completes one year

CORRESPONDENT

MORIGAON, Sept 1
The elected Tiwa Autonomous Council (TAC) has completed one year in office.

A day-long programme held at Barapujia on the occasion of TAC's one year completion on September 7.

The programme started with flag-hoisting by B Kanta Deori, CEM, Tiwa Autonomous Council. This was followed by a colourful cultural procession.

The open meeting held on the occasion was addressed by chief executive member Deori Autonomous Council.

Assam Tribune, dated 13.09.2011

Seminar to familiarise Assam officials on wildlife act

Foresters trained on rules

OUR SPECIAL
CORRESPONDENT

Guwahati, Sept. 10: The Assam forest department has asked its frontline staff to acquaint themselves of the new Wildlife Protection (Assam Amendment) Act, 2009 to help check crimes.

Addressing a two-day workshop on Capacity-building Training Programme on Forest Offences for the Assam forest department staff here today, chief wildlife warden Suresh Chand said, "The frontline staff has to know the new act and only then, they will be able to apply it in situations where wildlife offence has been committed." He said the new act provides for stringent action against anybody involved in wildlife offences.

The workshop, which began today, has been organised by Tiger Trust, a non-governmental organisation, which organises capacity-building programmes for for-

est departments across the country. The workshop will help the forest personnel in detection, investigation and implementation of wildlife laws in crimes related to wildlife.

Chand said it was important to know the new rules as modern day wildlife crimes had become too complex and Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, was not equipped to handle it.

He also laid stress on legal provisions to address the destruction of wildlife habitat, which neither the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 nor the amended act do.

Chand said the enforcement of the act was poor and the rate of conviction in wildlife crimes is poorer — only two to three per cent across the country.

The low rate of conviction in wildlife crimes is because of the lacunae in filing of complete information, poor knowledge in wildlife crimes and other factors, which ultimately ends in the forest depart-



R.P. Agarwal speaks at the seminar in Guwahati on Saturday. Picture by UB Photos

ment losing the case. "The stakes are high in wildlife trade and poachers are tempted to commit illegal acts as big money is involved," he said.

In addition, the forest department has to coordinate with other departments in busting wildlife crimes and several cases are inter-state in nature. "The staff should also be aware about the international rules," Chand said.

Other forest officials, who spoke during the workshop,

also stressed on the need for specialised training for frontline staff and more forest personnel for protection of wildlife. The forest department has also trained all the district and sessions judges on wildlife rules.

The chief conservator of forests (vigilance), B.B. Dhar, said the forest personnel must find out the modus operandi of the poachers to identify their roots and strike.

Speaking on the smuggling of red sander (red sandalwood), Dhar said the department had been able to seize some quantities of it on the border. The wood is of great demand in China, Japan and the Middle East, where it is used to make furniture and carvings, as well as traditional medicines in Asia.

The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau also convenes meetings in Assam to coordinate enforcement efforts of various government agencies to curb smuggling of wildlife.

The Telegraph dated 11 .09.2011

Move to curb



Resource Materials for Tiger Trust.



Sh.Suresh Chand, PCCF (Wildlife), Chief Guest, being felicitated by Gurpreet Kour.



Participants and members from media during the inaugural programme.



Sh.R.P. Agarwal, Addl.PCCF. addressing the trainees during the inaugural programme



Trainees during a question-answer session with the faculty.



Mr. Ahluwalia attending to a query by a trainee.



Trainees being shown a clip from the movie "Twelve Angry Men"



Day II Session on Investigative Skills by Sh. Pritpal Singh, ADG (Assam Police).



Ms. Gosain instructing the trainees.



Facilitating a session on the preparation of a seizure memo-I



Facilitating a session on the preparation of a seizure memo-II

