

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



HUNTING THE HUNTERS - III

WOMEN FOREST GUARDS EMPOWERMENT TRAINING

Capacity Building Program in Rajasthan on wild-life offences

State of Rajasthan in North-West India

Venue: Hotel Siddhi Vinayak, Sawai Madhopur, Rajasthan (From May 1 to May 3, 2015)

Supported by the funds donated by [Mr. Patrik Tigers ChioId](#)



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INTRODUCTION

Tiger trust acknowledges and appreciates the funds donated by Mr. Patrik Tigers Chiold. It also appreciates the donations made by the individuals towards the cause of saving the Tiger in India. Tiger Trust is committed to extend its programme for training the Forest Staff all over the country in order to reduce the wildlife offences and bring the poacher to the book. In such series this training is dedicated for the Capacity Building Training Program on forest offence for the benefits of Women Forest Guards Empowerment Training. It was organized by Tiger Trust and supported by Mr. Patrik Tigers Chiold.

Ranthambore National Park is one of the biggest and most renowned national parks in Northern India. The park is located in the Sawai Madhopur district of South eastern Rajasthan, which is about 130 km from Jaipur. Being considered as one of the famous and former hunting grounds of the Maharajas of Jaipur, today the Ranthambore National Park terrain is major wildlife tourist attraction spot and has a geographical area of 392 sq. km. The vegetation in the park is mostly of the dry deciduous type and the fauna of the district include Tigers, Leopards, Striped Hyenas, Sambar Deer, Chital, Nilgai, Common or Hanuman langurs, Macaques, Jackals, Jungle cats, Caracals, Sloth Bears, Black Bucks, etc, and the birds commonly found are Graylag goose, Woodpeckers, Indian gray hornbills, Common kingfishers, Bee eaters, Cuckoos, Parakeets, Asian palm swift, Owls, Nightjars, Pigeons, Dove, Crakes, etc.

This Program was organized at Sawai Madhopur from May1 to May3, 2015 on the special request of the chief wildlife officer of Rajasthan. The participants were invited from different forest divisions of Rajasthan—Sariska Tiger Reserve, Kota, Sawai Madhopur, Rajsamand, Udaipur, Karauli, Jodhpur, Mount Abu, and Mukundra National Park. A total of 49 participants attended the 3-day workshop. During this workshop, sessions comprised of theory and field training. The theoretical session on the Wildlife Protection Act, the Indian Forest Act, the Rajasthan Forest Act, the Indian Evidence Act, and the Criminal Procedure Code were conducted by senior faculty members Ms Anjana Gosain and Mr Manjeet Singh Ahluwalia. A session on crime investigation, sample collection, and wildlife forensics was conducted by Mr. Pradeep Desodya, Mr. Arbind Jha, and Mr. Himmat Singh. The main aim of this and the earlier programs was to help reduce poaching of schedule I animals, critically endangered species, and support wildlife conservation in the proposed Western range of Rajasthan. This was done by initializing a strategic information module system for the successful prosecution.



Inauguration and Orientation Session for the Participants

(May 1, 2015 from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM)

On May 1, trainees registered before the orientation session. There were 49 women participants. The inaugural session was anchored by Mr. Pradeep Desodya, Faculty (Tiger Trust, New Delhi) and Ms. Seema Soni in the presence of Mr. Arun Sharma, Nodal Officer, Rajasthan Forest Department, and Mr. Himmat Singh, Public Prosecutor. Participants from nine wildlife divisions attended the legal empowerment training held in Ranthambore.

Legal Provisions to Save Wildlife (Ms Anjana Gosain,

CFO Tiger Trust; May 2 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM)

The session was commenced by Ms. Anjana Gosain. She gave a brief background on history of legislature on wildlife laws commencing from the history of independent India. Ms Gosain stated that the session would cover important provisions from the Constitution of India, the Indian Forests Act 1927, the Wildlife Protection Act 1972, and the Rajasthan Forest Act 1953. She discussed various sections in brief and explained the important provisions of the various Acts.

POST LUNCH SESSION

Mr. Manjit Singh started the post-lunch session and briefed the participants about the Criminal Procedure Code. Indian Penal Code and the Indian Evidence Act.

TRAINING SESSION ON May3, 2015

For the recapitulation of the knowledge acquired by participants in class room session, field training was organized on the last day of workshop (May 3, 2015). Mock case studies were provided to the participants who were divided into three groups. Participants searched and recovered evidences from the crime scene. Later they filled all the forms related to the investigation. Faculties monitored and assisted the teams during the crime investigation.



IMPRESSIONS AND FEEDBACK

The trainees were unanimous that they had been much benefited by the case discussions and exposure to the field training. The participants received lessons on wildlife crime enforcement and prevention, including those relating to forensics, good qualities of an investigating officer, proper paperwork procedures, and mock case drills. The feedback received from the participants is always an indicator of the level of confidence that the programs conducted by Tiger Trust have been successful in allaying apprehensions and empowering the staff with requisite knowledge and skills. The participants, on their part, indicated that such skill upgradation training workshops are a must if the department is keen on an effective forest force for combating crime and preservation of wildlife.

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES TO THE TRAINING

PROGRAM

The feedback forms designed by the faculty provide a complete unbiased and uninfluenced response of the trainees to the training attended by them. The method is by judging the performance on the basis of questions, interaction, and their participation in the module. The trainees were very attentive, patient and inquisitive, and wanted to learn all the aspects of a trial. The faculty of the Tiger Trust made it a point to have as many interactive sessions which were based on questions and answers. After having gone through the feedback and attending the training, it was apparent that they had not been exposed to such intricate details on crucial Acts, like the Criminal Procedure Code, Indian Evidence Act, and above all the tips for field investigation, analysis of evidence, and preparation of cases. They appreciated the minute mistakes that could lead to disastrous results. One-to-one interaction with the participants enabled the trainees to put questions to the faculty. The training had a tremendous impact on them that the forest department was taking care to update their skills and knowledge for which they are mainly employed. The overall impact has been of gaining knowledge, clarifications, interest in prosecution, and expecting more such exercise of training in future, which is very encouraging.



VALEDICTORY SESSION

After the successful sessions and completion of theory and field training the valedictory function was organized. This was chaired by head of Forest Force and Principal Chief Conservator of Forest Ms. Savita Anand. As this is the highest post in the forest department in state of Rajasthan. A woman has been appointed to this position for the first time. It was co-chaired by Ms. Sonika Purohit, Additional District & Session Judge, Ms. Anita, DFO Social Forestry, Ms. Smeeksha Gautam, Additional Civil Judge & Judicial Magistrate, Mr. Dashrath Singh, Additional Superintendent of Police, Mr. Y.K. Sahu, Chief Conservator of Forest & Field Director, Mr. Sudarshan Sharma, Divisional Forest Officer, Four Additional Conservator of Forest and Ms. Anjana Gosain, Chief Functionary Officer of Tiger Trust alongwith three faculty members. In addition to this in programme was attended by 49 trainees.

Ms. Gosain welcomed the guests and apprised them of the achievements in the training. Ms. Anand appreciated the efforts of the tiger trust and also encouraged the trainees to be more vigilant and sensitive and to work with positive mind towards the wildlife crimes. She urged the forest department to go for regular trainings as need of the hour on regular basis.

All the participants were awarded with participatory certificates of appreciation by tiger trust. Ms. Rinky on behalf of all the women forest guards extended the vote of thanks and also pledged that they shall work to save the forest and save the tiger.

The programme ended with great applause.

Thank you Mrs. & Mr. Patrik

For the spot and commitment.

TIGER TRUST.

