



# ***WILDLIFE CONSERVATION INTENSIVE TRAINING PROGRAM***

25 FEB - 02 MAR, 2024



With the support of the  
Prabha Khaitan Foundation,  
Tiger Watch is proud to  
present a specialised  
workshop for university  
students in Rajasthan.



Venue: Rajiv Gandhi Regional Museum of Natural History, Sawai Madhopur



# **WILDLIFE CONSERVATION INTENSIVE TRAINING PROGRAM**

25<sup>th</sup> Feb - 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2024

Supported By:

**Prabha Khaitan Foundation**

Venue Partner:

**Rajiv Gandhi Regional Museum of Natural History**



# **REPORT**



**MARCH 2024**

**TIGER WATCH, RANTHAMBHORE**



## INTRODUCTION

Tiger Watch is a Ranthambhore-based NGO with 25 years of experience in wildlife conservation, awareness activities, anti-poaching activities, and rehabilitation of poacher communities in and around Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve. Tiger Watch works to preserve the entire Eastern Rajasthan Tiger landscape and has redefined wildlife conservation in Ranthambhore with its Mogya Education Program, Bagh Mitra Awareness Program, Bagh Pari Vocational Training Program, and other programs which are designed to empower local communities with education and conservation awareness.

In continuation of its youth awareness efforts, Tiger Watch, with the support of Prabha Khaitan Foundation and Rajiv Gandhi Regional Museum of Natural History, organised a week-long wildlife conservation intensive training program for Rajasthan students enrolled in colleges and universities, independent researchers, and scholars working in Rajasthan.

## TRAINING OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the training program can be summarised as follows:

1. Basic training in Research methodologies and the latest trends in wildlife conservation
2. Introduction to analytical methods, exposure to other research happening in the landscape, the possibility of developing a master's dissertation that may lead to a publication.
3. Basics of Tiger Monitoring, Vulture Conservation Program, Reptile Research, etc.
4. Field visit to the Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve with experts.



The primary objective of this program was to raise awareness about the significance of wildlife conservation and its profound impact on ecosystems, and to provide deserving students the quintessential field exposure. The program exposed select youth participants to skills necessary for individuals pursuing the conservation of wildlife and facilitated their establishing networks with trailblazers in the field. Furthermore, the program instilled a strong sense of responsibility and dedication towards the protection and preservation of wildlife.

## **SELECTION PROCEDURE AND PARTICIPANTS' PROFILE:**

The promotional messages and banners of the training program highlighted it to be limited to the students of Rajasthan. The program was promoted through:

1. Social media handles of Tiger Watch,
2. Communication with the Heads of Departments of colleges and universities, Professors, and friends active in conservation field.
3. Mailing list called YETI (Young Ecologists Talk & Interact)

The selection of the participants was primarily based on the recommendations of the heads of departments. Heads of Departments from institutes all over Rajasthan recommended at least two students from their institute to participate in the program. Other criteria included past field exposure, experience, and the statement of purpose by the applicants.

The training participants included students (19), research scholars (4), independent researchers (3), veterinary doctors (2), Volunteers (2), and Nature Guides (2). Total number of participants was 32 (males: 30; females: 12) from different parts of the State (see **Annex I** for list of participants).



## RESOURCE PERSONS' PROFILE

The team which delivered sessions during the training comprised a diverse group considering a wide range of topics being covered in the training. Two internal experts from the Tiger Watch team and 13 others from different part of the country conducted the sessions (see **Annex II** for detailed agenda).

#	Name	Designation	Session Title
1	Dr Vidya Athreya	Director and Head-Science and Conservation, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)- India.	Human Wildlife Conflict
2	Dr Varad Giri	Head Scientist, Reliance Foundation.	Indian Herpetology
3	Dr Satish Kumar Sharma	Former ACF, Rajasthan Forest, Consultant, Foundation for Ecological Services.	Forest Types in India, with an emphasis on Rajasthan
4	Dr Dharmendra Khandal	Conservation Biologist, Tiger Watch.	Spider Diversity & Tiger Ecology
	Kishor Rithe	Director, Bombay Natural History Society	Conservation Breeding Programs in India, with a focus on Vultures
5	Dr Dhirendra Devarshi	Former Principal Govt College and Dean Science Faculty MS Braj University, Bharatpur.	Bird Diversity and Identification



6	Ishan Dhar	R&D Consultant, Tiger Watch	Trends in Research with a focus on Caracal and Cheetah
7	Prashant Mahajan	Faculty, Landscape level planning & Management, Wildlife Institute of India	Field Techniques in data sampling, and Data Analysis
8	Md. Yunus	Scientist-E & Head of the Office, Rajiv Gandhi Regional Museum of Natural History	Introduction to the Museum and the Director
9	Ms Naaz Rizvi	Director, National Museum of Natural History	People in conservation, general issues, and way forward
10	Dr Praveen Kumar Verma	Scientist D, Rajiv Gandhi Regional Museum of Natural History	About the Museum of Natural History with guided exploration
11	P Kathirvel	Chief Conservator of Forests, Bharatpur Division	Experiences of managing forests and tiger reserves in India and issues involved
12	Tapeshwar Bhati	Environmental Activist and Freelance Advocate	Legal aspects of conservation
13	Dieter Gutmann	Philanthropist	Conservation measures and status across the world

*The participants also had a special interaction with **Mr. Valmik Thapar**, celebrated author and arguably India's foremost tiger conservationist.*

## VENUE AND DATE

The training was organised at three different venues from 25<sup>th</sup> February to 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2024. The primary venue partner for the training was Rajiv Gandhi Regional Museum of Natural History, Sawai Madhopur. The other two included Dhonk Café and Fateh Public School. The accommodation of the participants was arranged at Hotel Ranthambhore Uday.

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE TRAINING PROGRAM

### Day 1, February 25<sup>th</sup>

The training program was formally initiated by **Dr. Dhirendra Devarshi** – Former Principal of Government College and Dean of Science Faculty at MS Braj University, Bharatpur who shared the objectives of the training. **Dr Dharmendra Khandal** – Executive Director WCITP warmly welcomed the participants, thanked them for reaching the training venue on time. Dr Khandal, then, delivered the welcome note and invited Dr Dhirendra to deliver the inaugural note. Moving on, organisers and supporters introduction was shared by **Ishan Dhar** – R&D Consultant, Tiger Watch.

Dr. Devarshi discussed the agenda and set the norms of the training in detail. He also asked the participants to share their expectations and fears regarding the training. A pre-training assessment form was shared with the participants to fill in and submit. Thereafter, each of the 31 participants introduced themselves, talking about their educational background, habits, and any distinguished skills they are good at. Participants were also asked to share their plans about developing careers in conservation biology or any other field.



**Dr Satish Sharma** – Former ACF, Rajasthan Forest Department Consultant, Foundation for Ecological Services, took on the last session before lunch. In this session participants were introduced to the core concepts of the forest types of India and their classification with special reference to the forest types of Rajasthan. The classification by Champion and Seth was described by Dr Sharma in detail with examples.

Post lunch, **Ishan Dhar** took the session on recent trends in conservation biology. He with assistance from Dr. Khandal discussed the mapped historical occurrence of the caracal and cheetah in India. Thereafter describing the scientific methods and literature searching techniques to map the historical occurrence of any species with relative accuracy.

To end the day, Dr Dhirendra Devarshi gave a vote of thanks to all speakers and participants and discussed the schedule for the next day.

## Glimpses of the Day



*Ms Nigar Afroz, during introduction of the participants.*





*Ishan Dhar, introducing the organizers and supporters to the participants.*



*Dr Satish Sharma, during his session on forest types of India.*





*Dr Dharmendra Khandal interacting with students during lunch break.*



*Ishan Dhar, being introduced by Dr Dhirendra Devarshi for his session.*



## Day 2, February 26<sup>th</sup>

In the early morning, all the participants visited Boli Forest, Sawai Madhopur, with the Wildlife Conservation Intensive Training Program (WCITP) team. This visit covered tracking wildlife in the Aravalli ranges, studying local flora and fauna, and learning about different wildlife conservation strategies used by the Rajasthan Forest Department in semi-arid watersheds to conserve water and reduce soil erosion.

The whole group was divided into two teams: team 1, guided by Dr Dharmendra Khandal, and team 2, guided by Dr Dhirendra Devarshi.

During the guided tour of Boli forest students identified various types of flora and fauna which are listed below:

Trees – *Anogeissus pendula*, *Butea monosperma*, *Wrightia tinctoria*, *Naringi crenulata*, *Ficus mollis*, *Holoptelea integrifolia*, *Gymnosporia senegalensis*, *Vachellia nilotica*, *Prosopis juliflora*, *Lannea coromandelica*, *Ficus religiosa*, *Vachellia tortilis*. Shrub- *Calotropis procera*, *Justicia adhatoda*, *Ziziphus nummularia*, *Echiochilou pauciflorum*, *Crotalaria burhia*, *Aerva javasia*, *Leptadenia pyrotechnica*, *Capparis sepiaria*, *Barleria prionitis*.

Herbs – *Euphorbia hirta*, *Amaranthus viridis*, *Solanum virginianum*, *Phyllanthus amarus*, *Solanum sp.*, *Sonchus deracus*, *Leucas aspera*, *Leucas cephalotes*, *Convolvulus*, *Prostratus evolvulus*, *Alsinoides martynia annua*, *Medicago sp.*, *Lepidagathis cristata*, *Arnebia hispidissima*, *Anisochilus carnosus*.

Indirect signs: Pellets of porcupine, blue bull, and Indian hare. Scats of leopard and striped hyena. Birds- red-vented bulbul, common sparrow, rose-ringed parakeet, jungle babbler, Asian pied starling, purple sunbird, grey francolin, Asian koel, greater coucal, Indian peafowl, shikra.

**Mr. Tapeswar Bhati**, Environmental Activist and Freelance Advocate, talked about legal solutions towards challenges posed by wildlife crime and how they can be implemented via RTI & PIL, the Wildlife Protection Act 1972, amendment, rules, and the National Green Tribunal (NGT).

Dr Dhirendra Devarshi discussed identifying birds using a pictorial key, including size, shape, colour, wings, beaks, legs, and claws.

## Glimpses of the Day



*Participants during the morning trek in a nearby forest.*







*Sonu, one of the participants, explains about bui to other participants.*



*Dr Dhirendra explains talking about wasp's hive.*

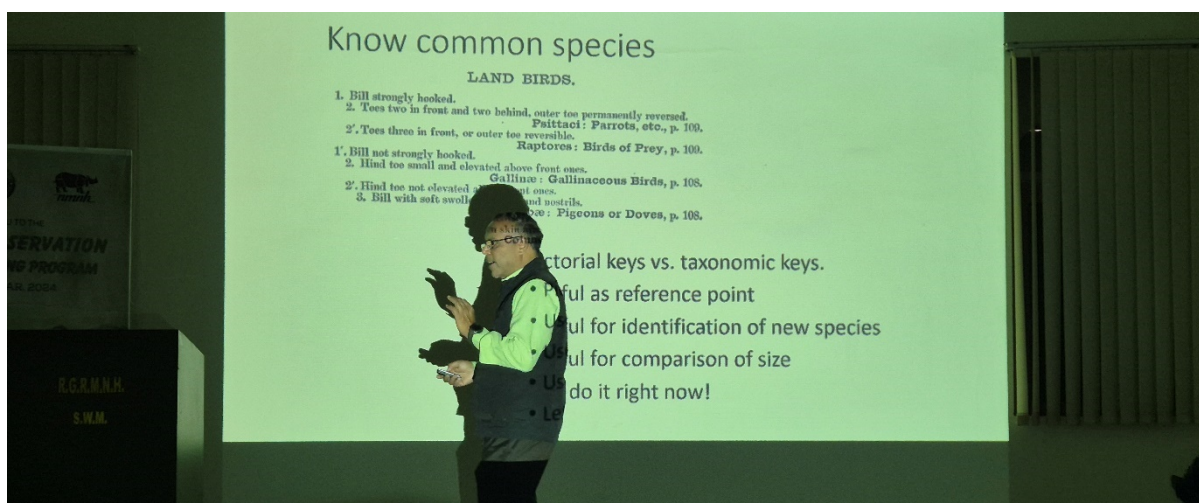




*Group photo after the trek*



*Tapeshwar Bhati during his session on legal aspects in wildlife conservation*



*Dr Dhirendra Devarshi during his session on bird identification*

## Day 3, February 27<sup>th</sup>

Day 3 started off with previous day's recap, participants were asked to share the learning of first two days. Participants were individually invited to speak about the learnings from the previous days. Dr Dhirendra led the recap session. The participants also provided feedback on the training contents, training delivery. They appreciated the contents were in line with their current studies and easy to understand and liked the training methodology. Dr Dhirendra, then invited Dr Dharmendra Khandal for his session on spider diversity and tiger ecology.

**Dr. Khandal** shared his journey and experiences, ranging from spider biology to active conservation with Tiger Watch. He gave a brief introduction to spiders and their diversity. He also talked about the origin of tigers and their distribution in India. Dr. Khandal discussed the comparative morphology, behavioural ecology, and conservation status of the tiger.

In the last session before lunch, **Dr. Praveen Kumar Verma** – Scientist D, Rajiv Gandhi Regional Museum of Natural History (RGRMNH), gave a short talk about the Rajiv Gandhi Regional Museum of Natural History and guided a tour to the museum's crucial sections. He also discussed career opportunities with the museum and diploma courses and invited the participants to volunteer in museum's activities.

Post lunch, **Prashant Mahajan** – Faculty at the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) took a session on sampling methods and survey techniques for wildlife and discussed how to plan research projects.

After the formal sessions, **Harimohan Gurjar** – Village Wildlife Volunteer, Tiger Watch, was invited to share his experience as a wildlife tracker. He



talked about his journey in wildlife monitoring, about the transformation from being a pastoralist to Village Wildlife Volunteer, and about his surveillance team monitoring tigers outside protected areas and mitigation of human-wildlife conflict.

## Glimpses of the Day



*Dr Dhirendra revising the previous days learning.*

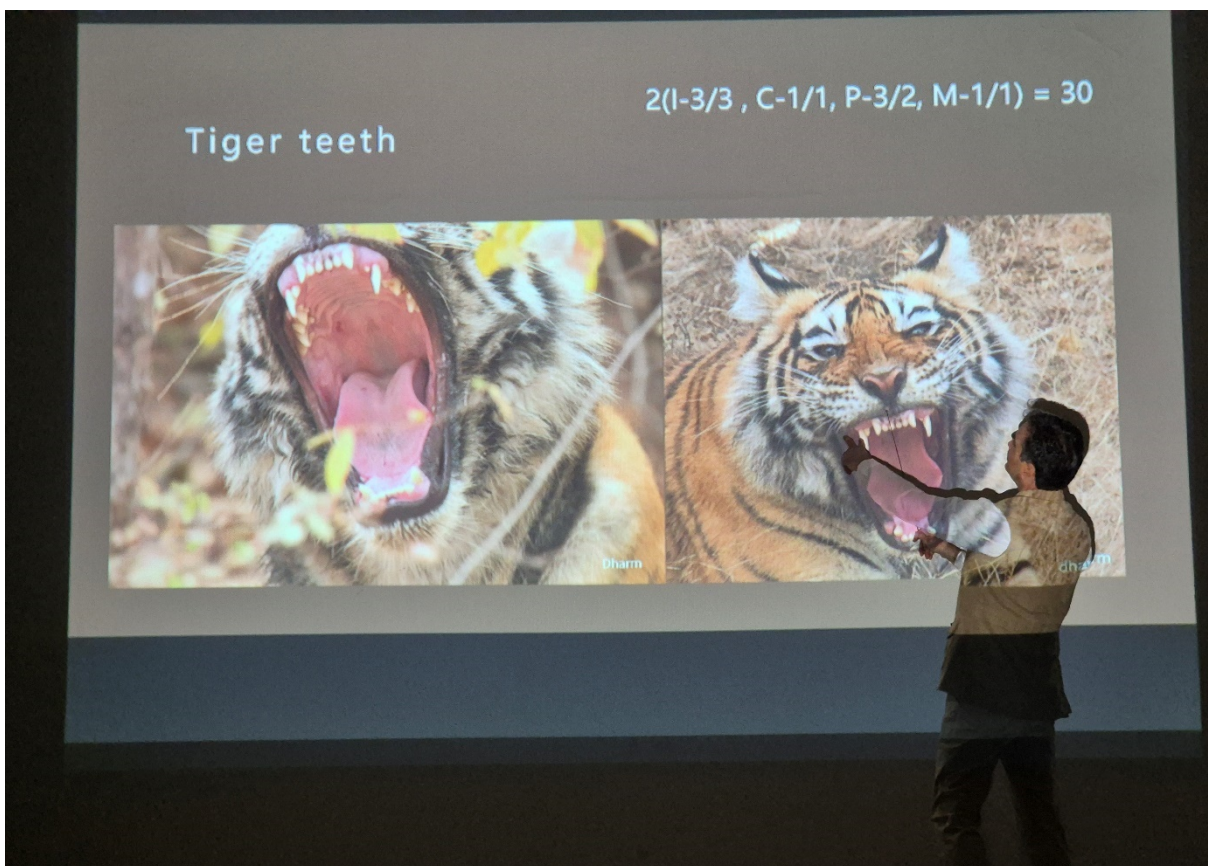


*Dr Khandal during his session on Spider diversity*





*Dr Khandal during his session on Spider diversity*



*Dr Khandal during his session on tiger ecology*





*Dr Praveen Verma introducing the museum before a guided walk*





*Participants being guided to explore the museum with Dr Verma*





*Participants being guided to explore the museum with Dr Dhirendra Devarshi*





*Participants being guided to explore the museum with Dr Dhirendra Devarshi*





*Prashant Mahajan during his session on data sampling.*

## What is Distance Sampling?

**Distance sampling involves collection of data where distances of objects are estimated or measured.**

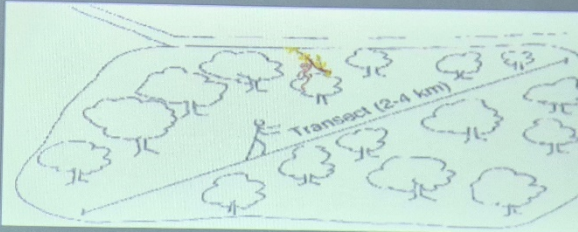
*e.g. Line transects  
Point Counts*

### Line Transect

In a line transect, the observer(s) move along a straight line and record the number of animals on both sides of the line.

### Point Count

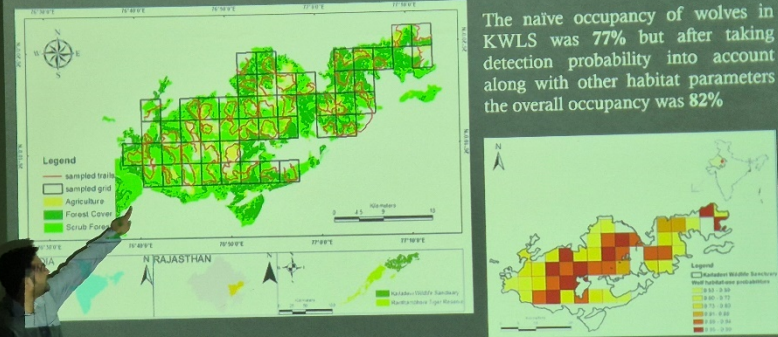
Point transects are line transects of length zero. In point transects, observer(s) observe animals by standing at a point.



The diagram illustrates a line transect in a forest. A person is shown walking along a straight line (the transect) which is labeled 'Transect (2-4 km)'. Trees are represented by simple icons on either side of the line. The observer is positioned on the line, and the area is divided into two sections by the transect line.

## Case study of wolves in KWLS using occupancy models

The naïve occupancy of wolves in KWLS was 77% but after taking detection probability into account along with other habitat parameters the overall occupancy was 82%



The figure consists of two maps of Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary (KWLS). The left map shows the 'naïve occupancy' of wolves, with a legend indicating 'sampled trails' (red line), 'sampled grid' (black outline), 'Agriculture' (yellow), 'Forest Cover' (green), and 'Scrub Forest' (light green). The right map shows the 'overall occupancy' after accounting for detection probability and habitat parameters, with a legend indicating 'Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary' (black outline), 'Naïve occupancy' (yellow), and 'Overall occupancy' (red). The overall occupancy is shown as a grid of red squares, indicating a higher occupancy rate than the naïve occupancy.



*Prashant (above), Hari Mohan Gurjar (below) sharing their wild encounters.*





*Prashant and Hari Mohan interacting with the participants on wild encounters.*



*A group photo at the end of the day*





## Day 4, February 28<sup>th</sup>

The day started early in the morning; participants were taken on a guided tour of Ranthambore National Park in Zone 2 with Dr Dhirendra Devarshi and Mr. Prashant Mahajan. They talked about the forest type of Ranthambore, which is a dry deciduous forest. And spotted many faunal species such as sloth bear, painted spurfowl, white-throated kingfisher, little cormorant, sambar deer, red-vented bulbul, rufous treepie, grey-headed canary flycatcher, spotted deer and its carcass, rose-ringed parakeet, chestnut headed petronia, Indian peafowl, jungle babbler, brown fish owl, marsh crocodile, pied kingfisher, grey-headed cormorant, red wattled lapwing, white-bellied drongo, Tickell's blue flycatcher, black winged kite, spotted owlet, Eurasian eagle owl and floral species such as Dhonk, gurjan, cyrus, eucalyptus, gum tree sterculia, jharkhedi etc.

In the afternoon, **Mr. Prashant Mahajan** took participants for a practical session on conducting a line transect survey in which all participants were divided into 5 groups and all participants downloaded the Locus Map App. He then discussed how to operate it in the field. Following this, all participants in their teams took a 1 km area, divided the plot after 200m, made five plots, and identified indirect sightings of species such as pellets, pugmarks, canopy cover, and direct sightings. In addition, the data was collected and later analysed at the museum.

**Mr Dieter Gutmann**, a well-known philanthropist, gave a talk on global biodiversity loss and shared his and his wife's journey in wildlife conservation. He elaborated on their interest in wildlife and described how they started supporting Tiger Watch. They both travelled to more than 100

countries and supported projects concerning the conservation of wildlife, from the Kalahari in Botswana to Ranthambhore in Rajasthan.

In the evening, participants had the opportunity to interact with **Bhajan Mogya**, a former poacher, who explained how he gave up a life of crime and collaborated with Tiger Watch.

## Glimpses of the Day

*Participants going for a guided exploration of the Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve*





*Prashant Mahajan revising data sampling methods, forming teams for sampling.*





*Glimpses from data sampling.*





*Glimpses from data sampling.*





*Ishan introducing Dieter Gutmann (above), Mr Dieter interacting with the participants after sharing his conservation experiences (below).*





*A reformed poacher, Bhajan, talks about the days he was involved in poaching*



*Camera Trapping class by Prashant Mahajan and Hari Mohan Gurjar*



## Day 5, February 29<sup>th</sup>

**Ms Naaz Rizvi**, Director, National Museum of Natural History (NMNH), and Mr Md. Younis, Director, Rajiv Gandhi Regional Museum of Natural History (RGRMNH), gave a talk about the museum's efforts in conservation awareness.

**Dr Varad Giri**, Head Scientist, Reliance Foundation talked about his journey from being an average student to a scientist studying herpetofauna. He discussed how asking the right questions made his career and life. He then discussed contributions to taxonomy through herpetology.

**Dr Kshamata Gaikwad** briefly discussed her groundbreaking children's book on lizards titled "Scaly Tales" and introducing "unconventional species" to new audiences.

Dr Dhirendra Devarshi and Dr Dharmendra Khandal presented Dr Varad Giri, Dr Satish Sharma, and Mr Prashant Mahajan with mementoes from Tiger Watch.

In the evening, **Mr Kishor Rithe**, Director, Bombay Natural History Society, gave a talk about his journey from being an engineer to a conservationist, his experiences and the problems he faced while focusing on the wild buffalo in central India, such as the threat posed by Naxalites, launching the Asha breeding programme and the challenges he encountered. In addition, he discussed recent projects undertaken by the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) in conserving species such as the great Indian bustard, Indian skimmer, vultures and many more.

**Dr Dilip Arora** talked about his journey and experiences in connection to the Jawai Leopard Reserve. He also discussed how human-leopard conflict



is minimal in Jawai, the interaction of humans and leopards, and how local people's mythological beliefs help them avoid conflict.

Finally, Dr. Dharendra Devarshi gave a vote of thanks to all speakers and participants.

## Glimpses of the Day

*Md. Yunus welcomed the participants, and invited director NMNH for a talk.*

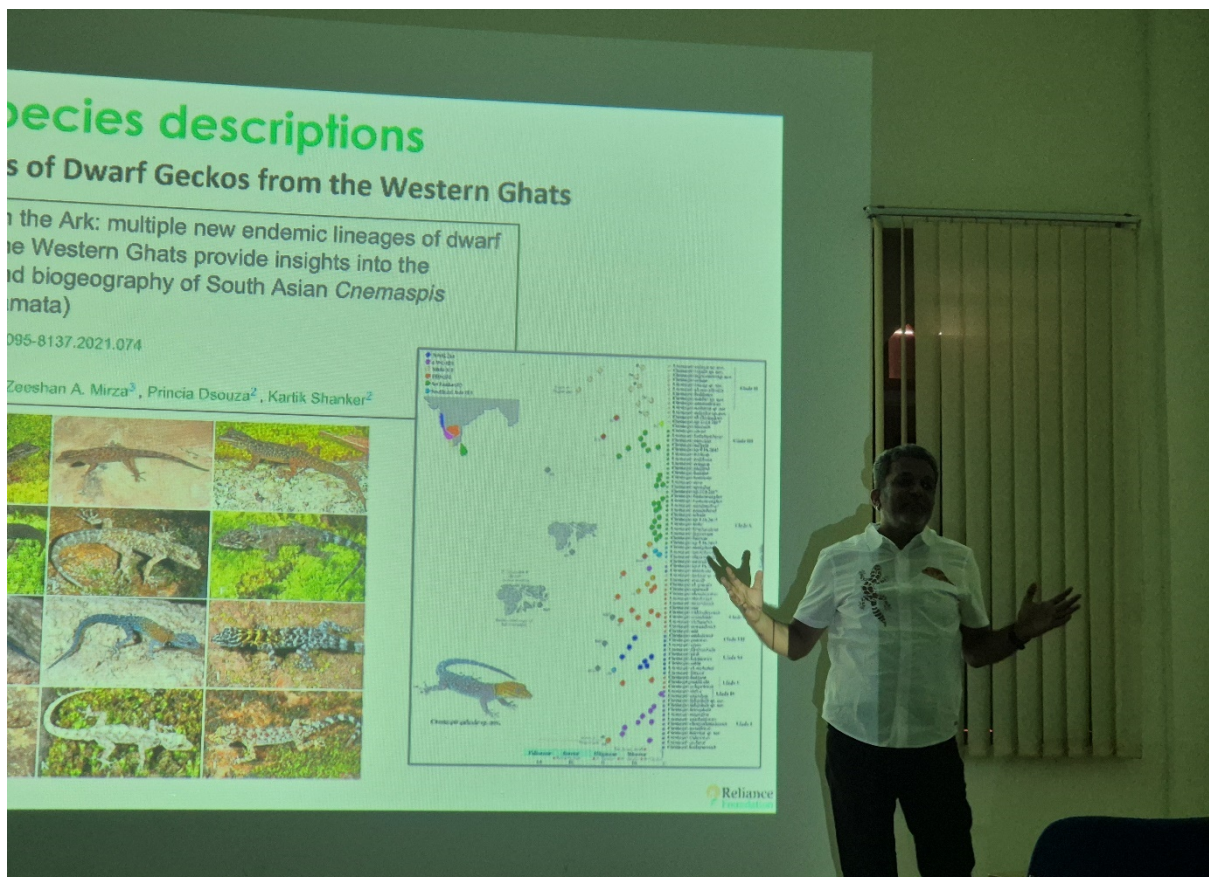


*Ms Naaz Rizvi, director NMNH, talking about the role of museum in conservation.*





*Dr Varad Giri during his session on Indian Herpetology.*





*Ms Kshamta Gaikwad sharing insights about her book “Scaly Tales”.*



*Ms Kshamta Gaikwad and participants with signed copies of “Scaly Tales”.*





*Mr Kishor Rithe sharing his conservation stories with the participants.*





## Day 6, March 1<sup>st</sup>

**Dr Vidya Athreya**, Director, Science and Conservation, Wildlife Conservation Society (India) gave a talk about the human-leopard conflict in the Sanjay Gandhi National Park in Maharashtra and how they minimised this conflict by spreading different theories of leopard interaction. She also discussed how the Warli tribe believed in the folk deity *Waghoba*, helping them spread conservation awareness and how they now co-exist without harming each other. In addition, Dr. Athreya talked about different career opportunities in wildlife conservation such as internships and fellowships at the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), ATREE, and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) etc.

**Mr P. Kathirvel**, Chief Conservator of Forests, Bharapur, gave a talk on how the Forest Department is working in wildlife conservation and management, what challenges they are facing, and how the youth can change the scenario. He also shared the problems and solutions he faced when he joined Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve as Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF).

After Mr Kathirvel's talk, the participants were invited share their concerns over environmental issues. Bhaskar Saini, one of the participants, raised his concern over the disturbance caused by the famous Hanuman temple in Sariska Tiger Reserve. Sangeeta raised her concerns over policy gaps and conservation issues being sidelined over undemanding development works. Nikhil Sharma expressed his concern over the human-wildlife conflicts. Similarly, Ravi Prajapat, Sonu Kumar, Ravi Saini, Priyal Vijayvargiya expressed their concern over different issues in effective conservation measures. Dr Vidya Athreya, Dr Satish Sharma, Mr Kathirvel and Dr Dharendra cleared the doubts of the participants.



At last, the participants were invited to attend the 12th Fateh Singh Rathore Memorial Lecture and Wildlife Conservation Awards ceremony organised by Tiger Watch. At the event participants had opportunities to interact with and network with many prominent individuals in the field of wildlife conservation on the sidelines of this event.

## Glimpses of the Day

*Dr Dhirendra recapping the previous learnings before inviting Dr Athreya for talk.*



*Mr Kathirvel during his session on managing forests and Protected areas.*





*Dr Satish Sharma and Mr Kathirvel during interactive session with the participants.*



*Dr Dhirendra and Dr Satish Sharma felicitating Dr Vidya Athreya after her session.*





## Day 7, March 2<sup>nd</sup>

Participants got the opportunity to interact with prominent tiger conservationist and author, **Mr Valmik Thapar**, and ask queries about wildlife, issues of human-wildlife conflict in Ranthambhore, Chambal, Sariska, and the solutions. He also discussed career opportunities in wildlife, discussed the challenges we face while conserving wildlife, and shared his experiences with Tiger Watch. He concluded with, “We have to get ready to fight”. He insisted that, first, we collect data in our respective areas, make a checklist of flora and fauna of our areas, and make a list of problems wildlife is facing; only then will we be ready to contribute to wildlife.

The last session of the training program was conducted jointly by Mr. Ishan Dhar, Mr Prashant Mahajan, and Dr Dhirendra Devarshi. They had a interactive session on how to draft research proposals, and write management plans. They also talked about research fellowships and research grants. A few of the grants like Rufford Research Grant, The Habitat Trust Grants, WWF’s Small Grant Projects, etc. were discussed in detail.

Upon briefing about the different components of a research proposal, and the key points to consider while writing proposals, the participants were divided into 4 groups to make a research proposal in 15 minutes. Thereafter, team leader of each group was invited to read out their proposal. Other teams reviewed the proposals and pointed out improvements, if any. Finally, the experts shared their review of each of the proposal.

At the end Dr Dhirendra congratulated all the participants for successfully completing the training program, and each of the participants received a certificate of participation from Dr Dharmendra Khandal.



## Glimpses of the Day

*Dr Khandal interacting with Mr Valmik Thapar during Q&A session.*



*Dr Dhirendra, Prashant and Ishan during session on proposal writing.*





*Teams participating in proposal writing activity.*





*Participants, reading out their team's proposal.*





*Participants, reading out their team's proposal.*



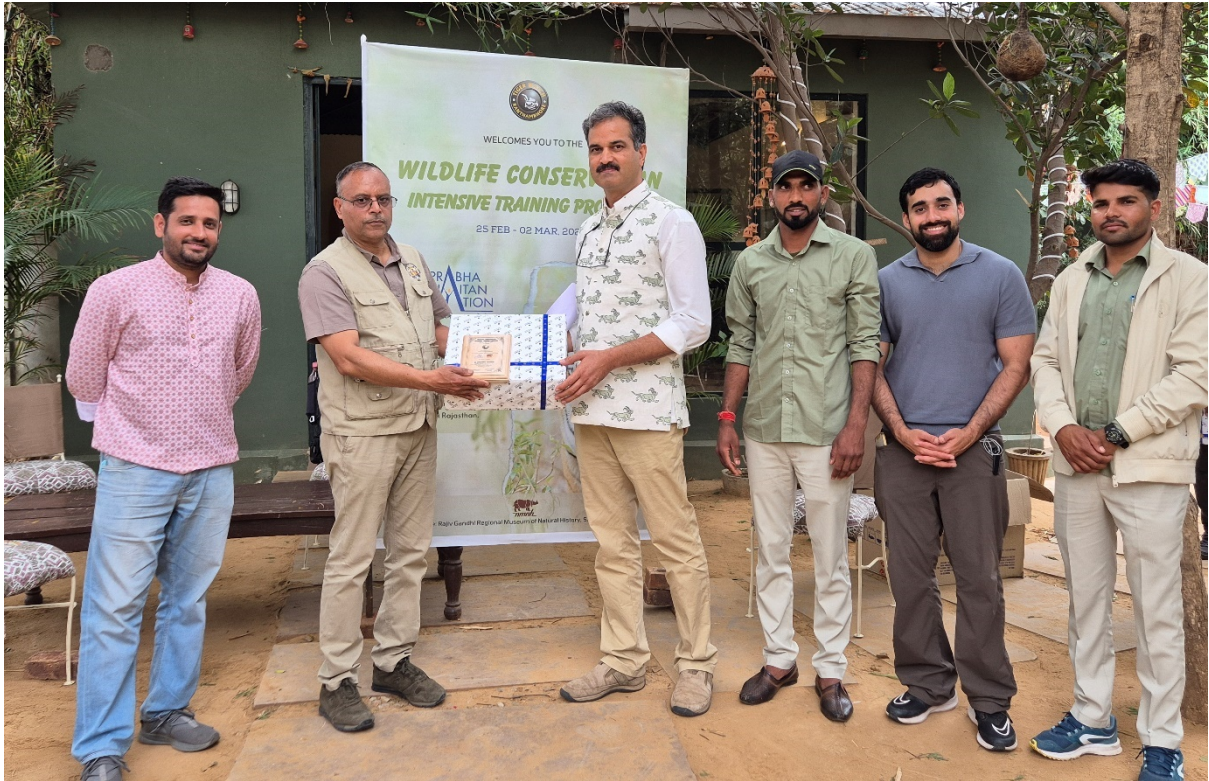


*Dr Dhirendra, Dr Khandal, and Prashant awarding the certificate to participants.*





*Dr Dharmendra Khandal felicitated Dr Dhirendra Devarshi for tirelessly anchoring the sessions throughout the training program.*



*Dr Dharmendra Khandal interacting with participants after the training program.*





## FEEDBACK OF THE PARTICIPANTS

*I am very impressed with the quality of content and fieldwork and speakers of this program. Ultimately, I will be available to participate in any other program.*

**~ Om Prakash Bairwa**

([oo9102835@gmail.com](mailto:oo9102835@gmail.com))

*I liked all the subject matters. Of all the experts invited, some of them impressed me a lot such as Dr Vidya Athreya, Dr Varad Giri and Prashant Mahajan. I want to stay connected to all these. I felt the need to increase subject matter and data analysis.*

**~ Hemlata Koli**

([hemlatalorwadia@gmail.com](mailto:hemlatalorwadia@gmail.com))

*The animals we observe near us through 2 field visit in this program, have a special character and have satisfied our interest in the subjects and inspired us.*

**~ Tushar Garg**

([tushargarg359@gmail.com](mailto:tushargarg359@gmail.com))

*The program was very informative which brought awareness towards wildlife line. We also gained a lot of knowledge in fieldwork, which we will remember for a long time.*

**~ Surjeet Meena**

([kunsaysurjeet@gmail.com](mailto:kunsaysurjeet@gmail.com))

*The content presentation of the program was good, I did the fieldwork for the first time, learned a lot from it and all the lectures were good. The arrangement of the program was very good. Thank you for everything.*

**~ Mahek Mishra**

([seemag157769@gmail.com](mailto:seemag157769@gmail.com))



*Everyone was very nice and helped us a lot. The program was organized very timely, and everyone was very well mannered. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to come here.*

**~ Dinesh Kumar Saini**

([dineshksaini97@gmail.com](mailto:dineshksaini97@gmail.com))

*Content of the program: Quality, Fieldwork; Speakers inspire a very positive attitude to us and guide us to think about the direction of our future and move forward in that direction. The arrangement of the program was very good and enlightening.*

**~ Vinod Kumar Yadav**

([vinod9928256709@gmail.com](mailto:vinod9928256709@gmail.com))

*We got a lot of information from this program and if there is any future program then we would like to come. So, that the grassroots people get information.*

**~ Shristi Sharma**

([srishti22255500@gmail.com](mailto:srishti22255500@gmail.com))

*The information given by all the field experts in this program and the information given about the field is very important for us. All the field scholars given such information about the field which is very important for us and hence we will encourage people to take care of wildlife by making this information available to them. Whatever arrangements were made in Tiger Watch were excellent and these programs will always remain in our lives as a reminder for the wildlife and their protection.*

**~ Pushpendra**

([pushpendramahua2000@gmail.com](mailto:pushpendramahua2000@gmail.com))



*Everything was excellent, I am really happy to be a part of this unique course.  
Thank you.*

**~ Priyal Vijayvargia**

[\(priyalvijay3@gmail.com\)](mailto:priyalvijay3@gmail.com)

*Workshop was a success; everything was as expected, gain experience about  
different fields of wildlife conservation from experts.*

**~ Bhaskar Saini**

[\(alwar007bhaskar@gmail.com\)](mailto:alwar007bhaskar@gmail.com)

*A lot of information about Wild Conservation was received in this program and  
various topics were presented.*

**~ Poojan Aditya**

[\(poojanadityavaishnav@gmail.com\)](mailto:poojanadityavaishnav@gmail.com)

*The content of the program will have great potential in giving new directions to our  
career.*

**~ Pankaj Yadav**

[\(Py373322@gmail.com\)](mailto:Py373322@gmail.com)

*Thanks to Tiger Watch for introducing all the dignitaries who came to the program.  
All the arrangements were very good.*

**~ Nikhil Sharma**

[\(nikhilsharma59690@gmail.com\)](mailto:nikhilsharma59690@gmail.com)

*Very important information given in this program by experts. All the arrangements  
put together were very good. Thanks to Tiger Watch.*

**~ Ravikant**

[\(ravi876483@gmail.com\)](mailto:ravi876483@gmail.com)



*Your program is appreciated; such competitions and programs will bring a positive change in Ranthambore soon. An expert from various fields has explained every detail to us in a very good manner. We wholeheartedly thank all the experts. My suggestion is that such a program should be organized every year compulsorily and we should get an opportunity to meet the people associated with the organization every year.*

**~ Ravikant Saini**

[\(ravisainiumc@gmail.com\)](mailto:ravisainiumc@gmail.com)

*It was great experience with all the experienced people in the field of wildlife and I get to know so much about many things, which I hope, will help me a lot in my life. There is no suggestion. This program was perfect, and I got to know and meet so many knowledgeable people, but I hope next time there should be some more chances for photography.*

**~ Paras Gopal Jamdagni**

[\(pgjamdagni@gmail.com\)](mailto:pgjamdagni@gmail.com)

*Everything was great. We all have learnt many things about wildlife. Thank you to Satish sir, Dharendra sir, Dharmendra sir and all other guests who came and guide us throughout the sessions. I have learnt so many things from this program and I hope this program will be conducted more in the future by Tiger Watch.*

**~ Bhuwan Gopal Jamdagni**

[\(bhuwangopalj@gmail.com\)](mailto:bhuwangopalj@gmail.com)

*Everyone in the program was informative and my interest has increased by participating in this program. Fieldwork should be increased a little. All arrangements were satisfactory.*

**~ Bhamini Gupta**

[\(bhaminig04@gmail.com\)](mailto:bhaminig04@gmail.com)



*All things were best, only we must upgrade. All arrangements of food and staying was very nice.*

**~ Muskan Jhalaria**

[\(jhajahariamuskan17@gmail.com\)](mailto:jhajahariamuskan17@gmail.com)

*In this program good quality of information shared by experts. In this program, 2 field visits were also conducted by Tiger Watch Organization with subject experts. All arrangement were good.*

**~ Sonu Kumar**

[\(sonukumarflora97@gmail.com\)](mailto:sonukumarflora97@gmail.com)

*I would like to express my sincere thanks to the entire Tiger Watch team. My suggestion is that next time at least one student should be invited from all the districts of Tiger Watch. Other efforts made by Tiger Watch in the protection of nature cannot be expressed in words.*

**~ Ravi Kumar Prajapat**

[\(ravibhodiwal@gmail.com\)](mailto:ravibhodiwal@gmail.com)

**Note:** The other participants have posted their feedback anonymously and thus not included in this report.



**ANNEX – I****List of Participants**

#	Name	District	Affiliation
1	Bhamini Gupta	Sawai Madhopur	Govt. College, Kota
2	Bhaskar Saini	Alwar	FRI, Dehradun from Alwar
3	Bhuwan Gopal Jamdagni	Churu	Lohia, Churu
4	Deepali Gurjar	Sawai Madhopur	
5	Dinesh Kumar Saini	Ajmer	MDSU, Ajmer
6	Dr Samarveer Singh	Dholpur	Vet. Hospital, Dholpur
7	Dr Sparsh Dubey	Jaipur	Forensic & Vet. Jabalpur
8	Harsh Singhal	Bharatpur	ATREE, from Alwar
9	Hemlata Koli	Bhilwara	MLSU, Udaipur
10	Kanak Kasana	Sawai Madhopur	
11	Lovelin Saini	Jhunjhunu	Seth Gyaniram, Jhunjhunu
12	Mahek Mishra	Bharatpur	MSJ, Bharatpur
13	Muskan Jhalaria	Jhunjhunu	Seth Gyaniram, Jhunjhunu
14	Nikhil Sharma	Jaipur	Wilfred, Jaipur
15	Nirmala Kumari	Jaipur	RU, Jaipur



16	Om Prakash	Kota	UOK, Kota
17	Pankaj Yadav	Ajmer	MDSU, Ajmer
18	Paras Gopal Jamdani	Churu	JECRC, Jaipur
19	Poojan Aditya Vaishanv	Kuchaman	MDSU, Ajmer
20	Priyal Vijayvargiya	Kota	JDB, Kota
21	Pushpendra	Bharatpur	MSJ, Bharatpur
22	Ravi Kant	Jhunjhunu	Seth Gyaniram, Jhunjhunu
23	Ravi Kant Saini	Sawai Madhopur	UOR, Jaipur
24	Ravi Kumar Prajapat	Jaipur	RU, Jaipur
25	Sangeeta Singh	Bharatpur	ICMR, NIMR from Bharatpur
26	Sonu Kumar	Bundi	BHU, Varanasi
27	Srishti Sharma	Bharatpur	MSJ, Bharatpur
28	Surjeet Meena	Bharatpur	MSJ, Bharatpur
29	Tushar Garg	Bharatpur	MSJ, Bharatpur
30	Vinod Kumar Yadav	Jaipur	MDSU, Ajmer
31	Nigar Afroz	Jaipur	Volunteer, Jaipur
32	Dr Dilip Arora	Pali	Volunteer, Pali

## Training Agenda

### Wildlife Conservation Intensive Training Program

Sunday 25th Feb 2024, 10:00 am onwards at

Rajiv Gandhi National Museum of Natural History

#### TRAINING SCHEDULE

##### Day 1: Introduction, Current Initiatives in wildlife research, habitats, and Protected Areas

1. Orientation and introduction to the program, participants, Tiger Watch etc. *By Dr Dhirendra Devarshi*
2. Introduction to different habitats, biogeographic zones, forest types, and protected areas. *By Dr Satish Sharma & Praveen Kumar*
3. Introduction to wildlife species and current initiatives with a focus on Caracal and Cheetah research, highlighting historical investigation on a species. *By Ishan Dhar*

##### Day 2: Faunal diversity & Legal Aspects in conservation.

1. Introduction to Bird identification, diversity, estimation methods. *By Dr Dhirendra Devarshi*
2. Spider diversity *By Dharmendra Khandal*
3. Legal aspects of wildlife conservation: use of RTI, filing PIL, and other issues with cases. *By Tapeswar Bhati*

##### Day 3: Field Techniques and Data Collection

1. Guided exploration of flora and fauna in RTR. *By Dr Dhirendra & Prashant Mahajan*
2. Learning experiences from Periyar Tiger Reserve. *By IFS Anoop K.R.*
2. Hands-on training in field techniques for biodiversity monitoring with particular emphasis on large mammals, avifauna, and other invertebrates. *By Prashant Mahajan*
3. Practical exercises in conducting habitat assessments and wildlife surveys. *By Prashant Mahajan*

##### Day 4: Field Techniques and Data Collection

1. Guided exploration of flora and fauna in RTR. *By Dr Dhirendra & Prashant Mahajan*
2. Workshop on data management and analysis. *By Prashant Mahajan*

##### Day 5: Taxonomic study & conservation case studies

1. Introduction to taxonomic studies with an emphasis on *Herpetofauna* *By Dr Varad Giri*
2. Case studies of successful conservation projects with an emphasis on Vulture and Bustard Conservation *By Dr Kishore Rithe*



**Day 6: Case studies of Conservation Projects, Human-wildlife conflict, and Fateh Awards**

1. Comparing different wildlife strategies and their effectiveness. Training on human-wildlife conflicts, importance of corridors, wildlife rehabilitation and rescue techniques.  
*By Vidya Athtreya*
2. Experiences of managing forests and tiger reserve in Rajasthan. *By IFS P. Kathirvel.*

**Day 7: Group activities and closing ceremony.**

1. Group activities focused on developing project proposals. *By Dr Dhirendra Devarshi & Ishan Dhar*
2. Guidance on pursuing careers in wildlife conservation. *By Dr Dhirendra Devarshi*
3. Conservation stories and experiences of Valmik. *By Valmik Thapar*
4. Closing ceremony and certificate distribution. *By Dr Dhirendra Devarshi & Dr Dharmendra Khandal*





## TIGER WATCH

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