

Summary of the National Workshop on “Wild Life Conservation in India” organized by International Centre for Environment Audit and Sustainable Development (iCED), Jaipur on 09.11.2022

One day Workshop on “Wild Life Conservation in India” was organised by the International Centre for Environment Audit and Sustainable Development (iCED), Jaipur on 09th November, 2022. A total of 15 Group Officers from the Indian Audit and Accounts Department (IA&AD) participated in the workshop. List of participants is attached as Annexure I.

Shri Pushkar Kumar, Director (T&R) welcomed the participants and highlighted the relevance and objectives of the workshop. He focused on the theme of this workshop in his speech and talked about the issues being faced and current status of Wild Life Conservation in India and its relevance for audit.



Mr. Pushkar Kumar, Director (Training & Research), iCED addressing the participants during Inauguration

Ms. Sayantani Jafa, Additional Deputy Comptroller & Auditor General inaugurated the workshop. She said that Wild life is an integral part of our planet. It plays a significant role in the ecology and the food chain. India is one of the most biodiverse regions of the world and contains three of the world’s 36 biodiversity hotspots – the Western Ghats, the Eastern Himalayas, and the Indo-Burma hotspot.



Ms. Sayantani Jafa, ADAI & Director General, iCED addressing the participants during Inauguration

ADAI madam further underlined the important statutory provisions in India that guarantees the protection of Wild Life and compassion for living creatures.

ADAI madam also informed about the World Wild Life Fund's (WWF) ‘Living Planet Report 2022’ and number of National Parks, Wild Life Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves, Community Reserves, Tiger Reserves, Biosphere Reserves and Elephant Reserves of India as of 2020-21.

She highlighted that in 2020 the Indian government created the world's first sea cucumber reserve in Lakshadweep, the largest marine Conservation reserve and the first protected area for marine birds in India.

She informed participants about issues covered in the Workshop, i.e., Principles of Wild Life Conservation in India; SDG 14: Conservation of Marine Biodiversity; Fulfilling the SDGs for

Natural resources and Wild Life habitat Conservation using Earth observation; Role of State and Non-State Actors in Wild Life Conservation. She also discussed about facilities at iCED campus.

A photo session was also organised after the inauguration of workshop. Ms. Sayantani Jafa (ADAI & DG, iCED), Shri Pushkar Kumar, Director (T&R), Shri Deen Dayal Verma Director (Admn), Dr Ankur Awadhiya (Faculty) and all the participants of this workshop joined for group photo.



Group photo of National Workshop on “Wild Life Conservation in India”

During the one-day workshop various themes related to “Wild Life Conservation in India” were covered by four experts as under:

Sl. No.	Session	Speakers
1.	Principles of Wild Life Conservation in India	Dr Ankur Awadhiya, I.F.S., HQ Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
2.	Framework and Implementation of SDG 14: Conservation of Marine Biodiversity (Online)	Prof K Siva Kumar, Pondicherry University (Former Scientist G/ Sr. Pro., Wild Life Institute of India)
3.	Fulfilling the SDGs for Natural Resources and Wild Life habitat Conservation using Earth observation	Shri C S Jha, former Scientist and Chief General Manager, NRSC, Hyderabad
4.	Role of State and Non State Actors in Wild Life Conservation	Dr Vishaish Uppal, Director, WWF-India

Dr Ankur Awadhiya discussed the **Principles of Wild Life Conservation in India** and highlighted the need for Wild Life Conservation? He explained its components, principles/strategy, constitutional provisions, methods of valuation, process of reserve design and area discernment etc. He dwelt upon the issue of habitat fragmentation & loss. He further gave brief about case study of Linear Infrastructure and its impact on Wild Life.

Prof K Siva Kumar covered the theme “**Framework and Implementation of SDG 14: Conservation of Marine Biodiversity**”. He discussed the agenda 2030: Sustainable Development Goals and Convention on Biodiversity. He further discussed India’s biodiversity profile and hotspots, National Mission of “Himalayan Ecosystem” and “Clean Ganga”. He underlined the components and highlights of National Wild Life Action Plan 2017-2030.

Shri C S Jha in his presentation on “**Fulfilling the SDGs for Natural Resources and Wild Life habitat Conservation using Earth observation**” explained Indian Space Program, SDGs and Earth Observation (EO) Indian Initiatives, EO and Protected Area (PA) biodiversity Conservation. The session outlined major threats like fragmentation of habitats and forest loss & Fire. He also highlighted ISRO contribution in Wild Life Conservation and areal extent of vegetation types and land use/land cover in Similipal Biosphere reserve: 2012. He further discussed few examples of Wild Life reserves such as Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, Similipal Biosphere Reserve.

During presentation on “**Role of State and Non State Actors in Wild Life Conservation**” **Dr Vishaish Uppal** explained what is Wild Life Conservation and current status of Wild Life Conservation in India. Her focus was on role and contribution of the state protected areas in India. She discussed history of tiger extermination (and Conservation) in India and objectives and functions of National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA). She explained the increasing number of tigers in India from 1411 in 2006 to 2967 in 2019. She also explained Human Wild Life interaction and role of Non State Actors in Wild Life Conservation.

Summing-up and valediction:

The workshop ended with a thanks note given by ADAI madam to all the experts and participants for making this event successful and she wished to organize more sessions in near future to understand the topic more broadly.



Ms Sayantani Jafa, ADAI & Director General, iCED and Shri Pushkar Kumar, Director, iCED addressing the participants during valediction