

Proceedings of 'Apex Committee meeting of 'Forest Biodiversity Cell' of Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy held on Feb 22, 2013 at 1700 hrs in IGNFA Dehradun.

At the outset the Additional Director IGNFA Dr. Alok Saxena welcomed the chairman NBA Shri Balakrishna Pisupati to IGNFA and thanked him for his consent to chair this committee.

The Co- Chair Shri R.K. Goel Director, IGNFA briefed about the objectives behind setting up the 'Biodiversity Cell' in the Academy. He emphasised the need for enhancing the Academy's capability in capacity building programmes and said that creation of the 'Forest Biodiversity Cell' along with other such cells in the Academy is a step in this direction. The Biodiversity Cell under the guidance of "Apex Committee" will specialise on the 'Forest Biodiversity' issues and the latest knowledge in the field, so that the same can be imparted to the IFS Probationers, in-service officers and other stakeholders. He also urged the committee to come up with specific suggestions which the core committee could pick up for implementation.

The Chairman, Shri B. Pisupati congratulated Shri R.K. Goel on creation of the 'Forest Biodiversity Cell' in the Academy and hoped that the synergy between the two institutions viz IGNFA and NBA will be gainfully utilized in imparting training on this subject of vital importance. The following issues were raised by him regarding management of forest biodiversity in the country.

1. Reinforcing forestry as a science: Emphasis on long term monitoring and evaluation programmes on forest ecology, species interaction and evolutionary pressures.
2. Policy and Law: Need for Developing synergies in legal frameworks, local and state level institutions/ agencies/ committees for better management of biodiversity concerns.
3. Forest and Economics: Importance of biodiversity and ecosystem valuation for better understanding and decision making.
4. Socio- Politics: Need for assessment of actions that deliver on social benefits and linking these local actions to influence decision making in the sector.
5. Governance: Reinforcement of governance issues including equity, justice and participation in biodiversity management.

Shri P.R. Sinha, Director WII, while giving an overview of the issues and challenges related to Biodiversity Conservation in the country, emphasised on the need for devising curricula for various stakeholders including the IFS Probationers. He also stressed on monitoring the impact of various training modules.

All other members also flagged issues which they felt could be taken up by the 'Forest Biodiversity Cell' in relation to capacity building activities of the Academy. After detailed deliberations the following decisions were taken in the meeting.

- a. To identify short term as well as long term goals with respect to 'Forest Biodiversity' Management' and capacity building.
- b. Develop/ Modify course curriculum for IFS Probationers, in service trainings and other stakeholders on 'Forest Biodiversity' management.
- c. Start with developing some theme based modules on 'Forest Biodiversity' like Coastal Biodiversity, economic valuation of biodiversity services etc.
- d. Develop documentation on Forest Biodiversity including success stories, compilation of good of management practices and other available information.
- e. Develop strategy for monitoring the impact of capacity building initiatives.

* The list of participants of the meeting is annexed as Annexure 'A'

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair, co chair all the members.

Annexure 'A'

List of participants who attended the first 'Apex Committee' meeting of Biodiversity Cell of IGNFA.

1. Shri P.R. Sinha Director, WII
2. Sh D K Ved, FRLHT Bangalore
3. Shri Srinivasan Iyer, Assistant Country Director, UNDP, New Delhi
4. Sh. D.V.S. Khatri, C.C.F., Uttarakhand Forest Department
5. Ms. Ruchi Pant, Representative, UNDP, New Delhi
6. Dr. Alok Saxena, Addl. Director, IGNFA
7. Shri C.Achalender Reddy Member Secretary, NBA, Chennai
8. Dr. Subhash Ashutosh, Professor, IGNFA
9. Ms. Anu Nagar, Associate Professor, IGNFA
10. Ms. Gautam Dey, Scientist, ICFRE