

Proceedings of the first meeting of "Core Academic Committee of Forest Biodiversity Cell" under the chairmanship of Dr. Alok Saxena, Additional Director, IGFA on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2013 at 15.00 hrs.

At the outset, the Chairman Dr. Alok Saxena welcomed the members and briefed about the objectives behind setting up of 'Biodiversity Cell' of the Academy. The members deliberated on the broad directions given by the 'Apex Committee' of the cell and the following decision were taken:

1. Given the importance of taxonomy in Biodiversity Conservation, it was decided to include a member each from BSI and ZSI in this committee.
2. It was recommended that during each of the IFS Probationers tours to different regions of the country, at least half-day excursion to the representative forest types be carried out for field botanisation.
3. Documentation be carried out for:
  - a. Ecological zone wise floral and faunal diversity, which the IFS Probationers can use during their tours.
  - b. Process involved in People's Biodiversity Register documentation (Dr. Rakesh Shah, Chairman Uttarakhand Biodiversity Board has consented to guide this documentation)
  - c. Access and Benefit sharing mechanism
4. Training Modules be developed for:
  - a. Aquatic, Coastal and biodiversity (Dr. B C Choudhary would be guiding this module design)
  - b. Management of invasive alien species
  - c. NTFP management
5. Revision of syllabus for Biodiversity Conservation

It was decided that scope of this syllabus needs to be widened Sh. KCA Arun Prasad will circulate the existing module to all the members. It was also decided that the members would revert back with their suggestion within 15 days.

6. Hiring of Research Associates

It was decided to hire 2 Research Associates for this cell.

7. Quarterly update on Biodiversity

It was decided that the cell would be coming out with a quarterly update on the latest happening in biodiversity management. A letter would be sent to head of State Biodiversity Boards and Chief Wildlife Wardens to contribute their successes/initiatives in this publication

The list of participants who attended this meeting is Annexed as Annexure 'A'

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair and the members.

## Annexure 'A'

1. Dr. Alok Saxena, Additional Director - Chairman
2. Dr. Rakesh Shah, Chairman, Uttarakhand State Biodiversity Board.
3. Dr. B C Choudhary, Retd. Scientist- G, WII
4. Dr. Subhash Ashutosh, Professor, IGNFA
5. Sh. Vivek Khandekar, Director Biodiversity ICFRE
6. Ms. Anu Nagar, Associate Professor, IGNFA – Member Secretary
7. Sh. KCA Arun Prasad, Associate Professor, IGNFA