

Title of the Project:- International Conference on “Wildlife Conservation: Emerging scenario and Way Forward”

Why this Project:-

Madhya Pradesh, often called as the “Heart of India”, is a state in central India and total geographical area of the state is 3,08,252 sq km. Madhya Pradesh is a forest rich State and Recorded Forest Area (RFA) in the State is 94,689 sq km of which 61,886 sq km is Reserved Forests, 31,098 sq km is Protected Forests and 1,705 sq km is un-classed Forests. This state is also referred to as wildlife state with twenty-five wildlife sanctuaries and ten national parks offering a chance to witness wild animals in their natural habitat.

At a time when the numbers of many animal species are declining, this state has played a pivotal part in India’s wildlife conservation programs. From preserving tiger population, to being the state with the highest leopard, vultures and gharial (an ‘endemic’ crocodile species) population to having successfully increased the population of the highly endangered Barasingha (a hard ground swamp deer), successful reintroduction of gaur or Indian Bison, Madhya Pradesh has come a long way in protecting the natural order and habitat for animals.

The forestry practices system has reached it’s centenary year in 2022. So, to commemorate the 100 years of forestry practices in the state and also with this glorious past on wildlife research and management, Madhya Pradesh Forest Department is jointly organizing an international conference on "Wildlife Conservation: Emerging scenario & way forward" with M.P. State Forest Research Institute.

Research methodology: -

- a) Papers were invited under following four themes
 1. Wildlife Population Management
 2. Wildlife Habitat Ecology
 3. Wildlife Policy Issues and Challenges
 4. Human-Wildlife Conflict and Mitigation Measures
- b) Research papers were scrutinized by theme coordinators, co-coordinator and theme associates
- c) All papers were categories into oral and poster categories
- d) Recommendations were adopted in conference proceeding and released by Honorable CM on International Tiger Day dated 29th July 2023.

Study Design :-

Conference brochure was published online on SFRI’s website as well as MPFD’s website and MP Tiger Foundation Society’s website for large circulation. All Papers were scrutinized and actual conference was held at Kanha Tiger Reserve in three different venues. Logistic and conference organizing committees were formed to foresee the conference and technical committees were formed to oversee all paper related matters. Conference proceeding was prepared by theme coordinators and other technical committee members.

Objectives of Research:-

1. To provide opportunity for academicians, practitioners, professionals, researchers and policymakers engaged in working on various emerging issues on wildlife management.
2. To provide a platform to be acquainted with latest developments and trends in the ongoing research in various dimensions of wildlife management.
3. To provide a forum to understand variety of species-specific conservation strategies evolving in the country.

Activities Undertaken:-

- As per the instructions of the Honourable Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Government, International Wildlife seminar was organized from 27/04/2023 to 29/04/2023 by Madhya Pradesh Forest Department at Kanha Tiger Reserve, Mandla.

- The seminar was inaugurated by the Honorable Governor Madhya Pradesh Government, Honorable Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Government, Honorable Forest Minister of Madhya Pradesh Government and Madhya Pradesh Forest Department In the presence of senior staff, public representatives and Director State Forest Research Institute, Jabalpur Completed.
- The main theme of the said 3-days seminar - Wildlife conservation, emerging scenario and future and the strategy was under which a total of 235 participants took part in the following four subject's including 12 international participants.
- Theme 1. Wildlife population management 2. Habitat ecology and management 3. Wildlife policy Issues and challenge 4. Human Wildlife Conflicts and mitigation measures
- In the seminar, senior officials of Madhya Pradesh Forest Department i.e. Dr. J.J. Datta and Dr. H.S. Panwar were honored by Life Time Achievement Award for their important contribution in wildlife management.

Cost of the Project:- Rs. 1.5 Crore

Outcome of Research:-

- The proceedings of the International wildlife seminar were released by the Honorable Chief Minister Madhya Pradesh Government in the function for International Tiger Day on 29th July 2023

Deliverable technologies developed in each project for stakeholders, forest professionals, field foresters and other beneficiaries

- This conference addressed social aspects of human-wildlife conflict mitigation measures, compensation to local communities and approaches on economic assessment of crop losses caused by wild animals.
- It helped to evolve partnerships through mutual learning and collaboration across various stakeholders working on wildlife conservation
- It will also help to collate information on latest knowledge generated through use of, technologies, scientific and indigenous methods and related information from the field.

