

Project Update: December 2005

Institutional support provided by the Wildlife Protection Society of India.

Correspondence with Chief Wildlife Wardens of following states: Assam, Gujarat, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttaranchal.

Positive response from Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh.

First workshop at Forest Guard Training School, Jalna, Maharashtra on 27th July 2005. The participants were mostly forest guards from various parts of Maharashtra (42), local Livestock Development Officer and a pre-veterinary student. The objective of this workshop was to sensitize the frontline staff of the Forest Department with regards to the various procedures employed in dealing with Wildlife emergencies. Vidya Athreya, Wildlife Biologist and Aniruddha Belsare were the resource persons for this workshop.

Follow up with the states that had responded positively to the initial correspondence.

The second workshop was conducted at the State Forest Research Institute, Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh on 22nd Oct 2005. The participants (30) included the Conservator of Forests, Jabalpur, DFO Jabalpur, DFO Dindori, Assistant Conservator of Forests and Range Forest Officers. A Professor from the regional Veterinary College and a representative from a NGO actively involved in Wildlife rescue were also present. Ashok Captain (Taxonomist), Advait Edgaonkar (Wildlife Researcher), Belinda Wright (Executive Director, Wildlife Protection Society of India) and Aniruddha Belsare were the resource persons. A set of Blowpipe and accessories and a Jab stick was presented to the Forest Department.

The third workshop is scheduled at Wynad, Kerala on 28th December 2005. Though Kerala is not in the original list, the Forest Department requested an urgent workshop due to rise in the human-wildlife conflicts, (especially Elephants) in the region.