



NMHS



Govt. Of Mizoram

Minutes of Two-Day Training Programme

on

“Impact of Forest Fire on Faunal Resources of North-Eastern States”

from

27th February to 28th February, 2020

Venue: I & PR Conference hall, Mamit, Mizoram

Organized by

Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata

in collaboration with

**National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS)
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change,**

Govt. of India

&

Department of Environment, Forests & Climate Change,

Govt. of Mizoram

Programme schedule for the “Two day training programme on understanding the impact of forest fire on faunal resources of North-Eastern States” from 27th to 28th February 2020 at Mamit.

Time	Activity
	Day 1
09:45–10:30	Registration
10:30–12:00	Inaugural Session
10:30–10:35	Welcome of guests by Dr. BheemDutt Joshi, ZSI, Kolkata
10:35–10:50	Introduction of the training programme by coordinator, Dr. BheemDutt Joshi, ZSI, Kolkata & Lalnunsanga Khawlhing DFO
10:50 – 11:00	Devotion: Rev. C.Lalchuanawma, PCI, Hmunsam Pastor Bial.
11:00 – 11:15	Speech: Special Guest, Pi Gracy L. Boitlung, CJM, Mamit District
11:15– 11:30	Speech: Guest of Honour, Pu Shashank, Jaiswal, IPS, SP Mamit District.
11:30– 11:40	Inaugural speech: Chief Guest, Pu Lalmuankima, Honorary Wildlife Warden, Mamit District
11:40– 11:50	Felicitation of Guests
11.50 –12:00	High Tea & Group Photograph
12:00–13:35	Technical Session 1
12:00–12:25	Lecture 1: Dr. BheemDutt Joshi: Overview of Impact of forest fire in North-eastern Himalayas
12:25–12:30	Discussion
12:30–13:00	Lecture 2: Dr. Ashutosh Singh: Wildlife Forensics, samples collection, preservation and processing
13:00–13:05	Discussion
13:05 – 13:30	Lecture 3 Mr. Arghya Chakrabarty: Ongoing field study suggesting forest fire activity trend in Mizoram
13:30 – 13:35	Discussion
13:35 – 14:20	Lunch
14:20 – 15:30	Technical Session 2
14:20 – 14:55	Lecture 4: Mr. Debaaditya Mukhopadhyay: Paleontological relevance in effect of forest fire on Mollusks
14:55 – 15:00	Discussion
15:00 – 15:25	Lecture 5: Introduction & Glimpses on Birds of Mizoram: Pu Lalnunzira, IFS, DFO Kawrthah
15:25 – 15:30	Discussion
15:30 – 15:45	Tea Break
15:45 – 16:40	Technical Session 3
15:45 – 16:30	Lecture 6: Hands on Training: Combating Forest Fire, Camera Trapping, GPS and Sound Analysis
16:30 – 16:40	Summary of Day 1 by Divisional Forest Officer, Kawrthah
	Day 2
10:00 – 13:00	Technical Session 4
10:00 – 10:30	Lecture 7: Dr. Ashutosh Singh: An Introduction to birds: Identification, Monitoring and Vocalization
10:30 – 10:35	Discussion
11:35 – 11:45	Tea Break
11:45 – 12:05	Lecture 8: Ms. Deepti: Impact of Forest Fire on Invertebrates
12:05 – 12:10	Discussion
12:10 – 12:20	Lecture 9: Ms. Soham Jahan: Biodiversity monitoring and Forest Fire combating strategies
12:20 – 12:25	Discussion
12.25– 13.00	Panel Discussion conducted by: Mr. Arghya Chakrabarty
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch
14.00 – 15.00	Valedictory session
14.00 – 14.05	Chief guest: Pi Gracy L. Boitling CJM, Mamit
14:05 – 14:15	Summary of the training programme by Training Coordinator Dr. BheemDutt Joshi, ZSI, Kolkata
14:15 – 14:25	Valedictory address & Certificate Distribution of Certificate: Chief guest
14:25 – 14:35	Vote of thanks: Mr. Arghya Chakrabarty, ZSI, Kolkata
14:35 – 14:45	Group Photograph

Overview

Under the project “Two day training programme on understanding the impact of forest fire on faunal resources of North-Eastern States”, two day’s training programme was organized by Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata in coordination with Department of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Govt. of Mizoram in the I & PR Conference Hall, Mamit, Mizoram. Mamit is one of two districts considered into the study area programme besides Aizawl district.



This region houses one of the highest forest covers and is also rich in biodiversity having several anthropogenic influences on it. Besides it has the only tiger reserve in the state that is Dampa Tiger Reserve spread across a sprawling area of 500 square kilometers. These areas have several forest fringe communities whose livelihood majorly communities mostly depend on these forest areas and its floral and faunal content. Therefore, active participation of different stakeholders can help in the conservation of wild species and in the proper management of forest fire besides adopting appropriate measures to reduce loss incurred during a fire. The agenda of this workshop was to spread awareness and train the forest ground staff and other participatory stakeholders in the Mamit District. Active participation was recognized from different stakeholders in the training programme. To fulfill the objective of the workshop, we invited diverse group of the participants having unique or general hold in property, influenced development, role or view in policy making programme, conservation of wildlife/or forest areas and their dependency on forest resources. In the workshop, about 25 forest guards, 8 Range officers, 2 sub-divisional officer have actively participated from the forest department. Besides sub-divisional officers of Mamit district belonging to the different departments under the Govt. of Mizoram actively participated accounting for about 10 such officers. Whereas, representative from the civil society have also participated among which Young Mizo Association, the largest and most active NGO of Mizoram played a pivotal role by sending representative 10 members. Two teachers, twelve

school students, four students of Mizoram Government College and four students of the teacher's training institute, Mamit (DIET) also participated.

Date-1- 27th February 2020

Inaugural Function

The training programme inaugurated by Pu Lalmuankima, Honorary Wildlife Warden, Mamit District as a Chief guest, in presence of Pu Shashank, Jaiswal, IPS, Superintendent of Police, Mamit District, Pi Gracy L. Boitlung, Chief Judicial magistrate, Mamit District, Rev. C. Lalchhuanawma, PCI, Hmunsam Pastor Bial, Pu Lalnunzira, IFS, Divisional Forest Officer, Kawrthah, Pu Lalnunsanga Khawlhing Divisional Forest Officer, Mamit, Dr. Bheem Dutt Joshi, Research Associate-III, Zoological Survey of India and Dr. Ashutosh Singh, Research Associate-I, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata.



Dr. Bheem Dutt Joshi, programme coordinator introduced the guest, speakers and participants about the project and the training programme besides providing the overview of conservation status of different species in North-eastern region while briefing about the impacts of forest fire. He highlighted the importance of forest fire management mentioning how different stakeholders can actively take part in the forest fire management.



During the inaugural address, Pi Gracy emphasized on the need to change daily habits on an individual basis to start awareness right from oneself. She emphasized on the seriousness of Climate Change and Forest Fire in the state and on a global level and how everyone need to change their attitude towards the forest and forest produce to bring about a change lowering forest fire and slowing the process of climate change.



Pu Lalnunsanga Khawlhring, Divisional Forest Officer, Mamit co-hosted the event and gave valuable talks pertaining to the lack of awareness about forest fire in the district. He spoke of how training on a ground level can bring about a change maintain the lush forest cover of the district and better-equipped forest combatting techniques.



Technical session-I

Lecture 1 was conducted by Dr. BheemDutt Joshi on, “Overview of Impact of forest fire in North-eastern Himalayas”. He highlighted the basics of forest fire and importance of forest and biodiversity as a whole in the North-Eastern part of the country besides explaining the dreadful impact of forest fire to the biodiversity. Lecture 2 was Dr. Ashutosh Singh on “Wildlife Forensics, samples collection, preservation and processing” where he demonstrated the various protocols and techniques of wildlife forensics. Lecture 3 was conducted by Mr. Arghya Chakrabarty on “Ongoing field study suggesting forest fire activity trend in Mizoram” wherein he explained the forest fire mechanism in the two districts of Aizawl and Mamit and stressed on the need to develop a formulae for computing faunal composition index in order to evaluate faunal loss post forest fire.

Technical Session-II

Lecture 4 was conducted by Mr. Debaaditya Mukhopadhyay on “Paleontological relevance in effect of forest fire on Mollusks” wherein he related palaeontological data with forest fire bridging the gap between past, present and future stressing on the need to identify past trends to ascertain upcoming fire trends in future for the better management of it and reduces losses. Lecture 5 was on “Introduction & Glimpses on Birds of Mizoram” conducted by Pu Lalnunzira, IFS, Divisional Forest Officer, Kawrthah depicting an impactful sketch of avi-fauna in Mizoram and their like hood to get affected by fire.

Technical Session-III

This session consisted of a hands on training on combating forest fire, camera trapping, GPS and sound analysis displaying various biodiversity monitoring devices and equipments. At the end of day 1, summary of the day was sketched by Divisional Forest Officer, Kawrthah.

Day 2: 28th February 2020

Technical Session-IV

Lecture 7 was conducted by Dr. Ashutosh Singh on “An Introduction to birds: Identification, Monitoring and Vocalization” whereby he explained and played several bird songs to help depict bird assemblages and creating craftsmanship in identifying look alike birds of Mizoram. Lecture 8 was conducted by Ms. Deepti on “Impact of Forest Fire on Invertebrates”.

Lecture 9 was taken by Ms. Soham Jahan on “Biodiversity monitoring and Forest Fire combating strategies”. The technical sessions ended with an open Panel Discussion with interactive inputs from the gathering conducted by Mr. Arghya Chakrabarty. Several questions pertaining to the topic were raised during the session whereby it was concluded that pre-computation of floral and faunal records need to be asserted in order to calculate loss in terms of biodiversity after a fire.

Output and Feedback

In the two day long training programme having participants from the different groups that were trained and provided with the basic knowledge of forest fire combating tools and techniques. Simultaneously, strengthen their knowledge about forest fire and importance of faunal wildlife species. Participants were full of motivation and have actively taken part in sharing knowledge about their take on forest fire and faunal and floral resources on which local people’s livelihood largely depend. Following are key highlight:

1. Participants had found workshop very informative in overall lecture and hands on training
2. Lecture on the bats one of the least studied group have brought new knowledge to all the participants.
3. Three to six participants identified based on their interest on the wildlife and other participatory research will have the exposure to our national level training programme.
4. Some of participates have also joined as a volunteer and intern in the project to fulfill the participation of local people in this project.
5. We obtained positive feedback related to the hands on training on the camera traps, field survey, fire-combating equipments and overall behavioral study of the species.

Glimpse of the Training programme



