

IFGTB Conducted an “Awareness Training Workshop on The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) on August 30-31, 2012 for Various Implementation Agencies.

An “Awareness Training Workshop on The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was conducted at the Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore on August 30-31, 2012 for various agencies involved in CITES implementation in south India. This training programme was conducted under the direction and funding support from the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India. About 42 participants from various State Forest Departments, Customs and Excise, Police, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence and Forestry Research Institutes had attended this training. It was the first phase of series of training programme planned to be conducted for various implementation agencies throughout India. During this phase southern region of India was covered.

CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) is an international agreement between governments. Its aim is to ensure international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. It was conceived because the trade in wild animals and plants crosses borders between countries and the effort to regulate it requires international cooperation to safeguard certain species from over-exploitation. India is a party to CITES since 1976 and it is actively involved in CITES related activities. The species covered by CITES are listed in three Appendices-namely -Appendix-I, II and III according to the degree of protection they need. There are about 300 Indian animal and 40 Indian plant species in various CITES appendices. The plants included are mostly endangered and medicinally important and also for which international trade is in higher quantity.

India is a party to this convention since 1976 and is legally bound to implement the CITES provisions for conservation of species and control of trade. The IFGTB has been designated as ‘Scientific Authority’ very recently and since then it is actively involved in CITES activities. The institute has carried out non- detriment finding (NDF) study for *Pterocarpus santalinus* -a species listed in the CITES appendix –II during last year.

This training was inaugurated by the Shri. S. Narayanan, Regional Deputy Director Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) Southern Region Chennai on 30th August. The training programme mainly covered about CITES, its structure, mode of working, procedures and criteria for inclusion of species, role of WCCB in wildlife crime control and implementation of CITES, Indian plant and animals species including birds, fishes and insects in various CITES Appendices and other issues related to CITES. Apart from scientist of IFGTB, experts from Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, SACON Coimbatore, Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) Chennai and Botanical Survey of India delivered specific lectures during this training.

Dr. N. Krishnkumar IFS, Director IFGTB chaired the panel discussion session and Dr. Rajeev K. Srivastava IFS Field Director Anamalais Tiger Reserve was invited as Chief Guest. Shri. T. P. Raghunath, GCR, IFGTB, Dr. B. G. Singh, Scientist, IFGTB, Dr. K. Sivakumar, scientist WIL, Dr. Rajah Jayapal Scientist SACON and Shri. Ravichandran, Head Extension and Economic Division, IFGTB participated in the Panel discussion. Dr. Maheshwar Hegde Scientist IFGTB the ‘Training Course Coordinator’ briefed about the two days proceedings of the training sessions. The topic discussed was the “Coordination, policies and tools required for effective implementation of acts and control of forest/wildlife related crimes and trade of CITES related species”.

Dr. N. Krishnakumar emphasized that four ‘C’s – concern, coordination, cooperation and collaboration among various departments are need of the hour to control forest/wild life crime and he explained this point vividly with some of his own field experiences. The training programme was concluded by distribution of certificates to the participants by Chief Guest and vote of thanks by Dr. Maheshwar Hegde, Training Course Coordinator. All the participants expressed that the training was well structured and highly useful for them.





