

Brief report of One Week Training Course on Use of GPS & Open Source QGIS in Wildlife Management

Fatima Sultana

Department of Wildlife Science, University of Kota had organized one week training course on 'Use of GPS and Open Source QGIS in Wildlife Management' during 4-9 August 2014, in collaboration with National Institute of Rural Development Jaipur Center to make use of open source GIS in wildlife management.

The objectives of the training course were:

- To sensitize wildlife field functionaries and forest officers to Geo-informatics especially use of GPS in wildlife management and monitoring.
- To impart working knowledge and make the participants familiar with Open Source QGIS
- To demonstrate various application potential of Open Source QGIS in Planning and Monitoring for Natural Resources Management and Wildlife Conservation and Management.

A total of 36 participants attended the course including officers/practitioners from forest department, Faculties of Wildlife, Computer and Geography department of Kota and Jodhpur Universities, Ph.D. research scholars from various Universities of Rajasthan and nearby States and scholars of Wildlife Department, Kota University, Rajasthan.

The course started with Inaugural function on 4 August 2014. Prof. Madhusudan Sharma, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, University of Kota, as Chairperson, Prof Vinay Pathak, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Vardhman Mahaveer Open University, Kota, as Chief Guest, Sh. M. L. Meena, CCF, Kota as Guest of Honor, and Er. H. K. Solanki, Assistant Professor and Sh. Manu Sharma, faculty from NIRD Jaipur Center as experts along with participants, university faculties, dignitaries and



Welcome speech by Dr. Fatima Sultana; Left to Right-Dr. G. V. Reddy, Prof N. S. Vyas, Prof. Madhusudan Sharma, Prof. N. K. Jaiman, Sh. M. L. Meena



Certificates given by Dr. Fatima Sultana, Sh. H. K. Solanki and Sh. Manu Sharma

media representatives attended the inaugural function. Dr. Fatima Sultana, Coordinator, Department of Wildlife Science, University of Kota, had presented the work done by her department through scholars. Er. H. K. Solanki gave a brief introduction of course design and contents, followed by speech of honorable guests on the dais. All the special guests and experts were provided memento of the occasion. The programme was

compered by Ms. E. Sudharma and vote of thanks was given by Ms. Agatha students of Wildlife Science. Post lunch Technical sessions included theories and basics of Geo-Informatics (GIS, GPS, and Remote Sensing), Open Source GIS data and software

*Associate Professor, Dept. of Zoology, J.D.B. Govt. PG College Kota, Rajasthan. Email: drfatimaehh2009@gmail.com



On 09.08.14 (last day) participants shared their experiences and conveyed their feedbacks.

Feedbacks were encouraging and it was mostly stressed that the duration of programme should be more and refresher courses should also be organized time to time. Certificates were given by Dr. Fatima Sultana and Mr. H. K. Solanki.

Programme was covered by media and detailed news published in leading newspapers of the region.

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QGIS Training Session

availability and use of GPS and QGIS in Wildlife Management.

During rest of the training days various practical aspects of GIS, GPS and Remote Sensing applications in Wildlife were discussed and taught by Er. H. K. Solanki & Manu Sharma, in computer lab with presentations and hands-on exercises on latest version QGIS-2.4. During training exercises Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve (MHTR) area were used as base and Survey of India Toposheets and Aster/Bhuvan Digital Elevation Models (DEMs) were used as base data.

Van Mahotsav was celebrated on 07 August. One hundred trees

were planted in the University Campus. After that participants were taken to Mukundara Hills Tiger Reserve, Kota for field visit. In the field detailed discussions were made with respective field functionaries of forest department. Er. Solanki, Sh. Manu and Dr. Fatima had explained handheld GPS handling and data collection to the participants. Then participants were divided into three groups and preceded for data collection. On next day data collected from field visit were downloaded and use of GPS data with QGIS, importing the data on Google Earth as GIS tool were explained.