

Snake identification and rescue workshop at Lucknow University, UP

The Institute for Wildlife Sciences, University of Lucknow in Collaboration with Biodiversity and Wildlife Conservation Lab, Department of Zoology and Institute for Wildlife Sciences, ONGC, Centre for Advanced Studies, University of Lucknow in collaboration with Uttar Pradesh State Biodiversity Board, Centre for Biodiversity and Wildlife Research and Conservation, Lucknow, Turtle Survival Alliance, Butterfly Research Centre, Bhimtal, UK., CEE organized one-day workshop on Snake Identification and Rescue on 7 September 2018.

The main objective of the workshop was to create awareness among people, students

as well as teachers regarding snakes, their identification and rescue. In rainy season chances of snake encounter is maximum. Establishing a network of responsible snake friends in each region will help us to rescue them when encountered. About 60 participants from different parts of country like Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Bihar, Gujarat and Rajasthan participated in the workshop.

Prof K.K Sharma, renowned herpetologist and former Vice Chancellor, MDS University gave the key note address. He briefed about snake identification and rescue. He also demonstrated how to use the snake rescue kit in the field and other modern techniques



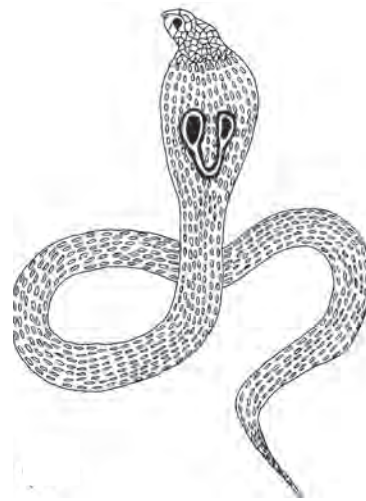
Snake experts demonstrating the participants that how to use the rescue instruments

about snake rescue. He explained about the pressure immobilisation method as it is the most accepted method used after the snake bite.

Prof. Amita Kanaujia delivered a lecture on “Snakes are friend or foe”. She explained that snakes are friends and helps in controlling the rodent population. So, we should deal them as a friend not a foe.

Mr. Vivekananda Kumar (Project biologist), Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun delivered a series of lectures on snake identification, conservation and rescue. He instructed the participants how to rescue snake in the field and he also trained that use of various snake rescue instruments and techniques in field. He also covered the methods of venom extraction, anti-venom manufacturing, and crimes related to snake and snake venom trade.

Unavailability of expertise within the department on-field implementation is challenging in reality. Many a time, a serious disconnect have been noticed between the community of snake friends and forest staff. Therefore, this workshop will very helpful and play a crucial role in capacity building related to snake rescue and release.



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Participants of Snake identification and rescue workshop