

## WWF-India & Government of Jammu & Kashmir Sign a MOU for Long Term Partnership



WWF-India has been working in various key wildlife areas of Jammu & Kashmir state from a long time. One of the major focus of this partnership is the wetlands of the state. Also WWF has been working in some key landscapes of the state through site specific conservation projects. Over the years it was felt that both organizations need to formalize this partnership which can benefit the biodiversity of the state on long term basis. For this, many discussions and meetings were held between both the organizations and finally, after the approval from the Government of Jammu & Kashmir, a 'Memorandum of Understanding' was signed by Sh. Ravi Singh, SG & CEO, WWF-India and Mr. A. K. Singh, IFS, PCCF and Chief Wildlife Warden of the J&K Government. The MoU was signed on 28<sup>th</sup> of December 2013 at the Wildlife Training Centre of J&K Government located at Jasrota Wildlife Sanctuary.

On this Occasion Mr. A. K. Singh, IFS, PCCF and Chief Wildlife Warden of the J&K Government said "This is a historic occasion in the conservation history of the state and this MOU will go a long way in ensuring that the wildlife and its habitats in the state are protected through science based conservation actions. The Government of Jammu & Kashmir has great hopes from this partnership and I am fully confident that this will deliver results on the ground in near future".

Speaking on the occasion Mr. Ravi Singh, Secretary General and CEO, WWF-India said " WWF India has been working closely with the Wildlife Protection Department of Jammu and Kashmir Government for many years and this has helped to implement various conservation projects in the state. This partnership has been documented through the signing of a memorandum of understanding which will further boost

conservation initiatives in the state of Jammu & Kashmir which is bestowed with unique biodiversity”. On this occasion he also announced the institution of a conservation award by WWF-India to be conferred on a staff member of the forest department every year for outstanding conservation contribution to the state of Jammu & Kashmir.

As part of this partnership various joint projects will be planned and implemented in the state. Also WWF and Department of Wildlife protection, J&K Government will jointly formulate a vision document for the wetlands of Jammu & Kashmir.

The programme was coordinated by Mr. Asif Mehmood Sagar, IFS, CCF (Wildlife), Jammu. Among others who were present during the programme were, Sh. Abhay Kumar, IFS, PCCF (Territorial), Department of Forest, Government of J&K and Sh. Ravi Kesar, IFS, Addl. PCCF/Director, Forest Protection Force, J&K, Dr. C. M. Seth, Chairman, WWF-India State Office, J&K, Mr. Pankaj Chandan, Head, HAWS Conservation Programme, WWF-India, Mr. Rohit Rattan, Project Officer, WWF-India and Mr. Pushpinder Singh Jamwal, Project Officer, WWF-India.

After signing of the MOU the Secretary General and CEO WWF-India inaugurated the two days refresher course for the protected area managers of Jammu & Kashmir.

For More Details, Kindly Contact:

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