

PRESS RELEASE

Training and Equipping of Markhor /Hangul Watchers. 29-June 2024.

जम्मू व कश्मीर सरकार Government of Jammu & Kashmir حکومت جموں و کشمیر



वन्यजीव संरक्षण विभाग जम्मू व कश्मीर
Department of Wildlife Protection
محکمہ جنگلی حیات کا تحفظ



The Department of Wildlife Protection, UT of Jammu and Kashmir, headed by Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (WL)/ Chief Wildlife Warden, J&K, Shri Sarvesh Rai and Conservator of Forests (WL)/Regional Wildlife Warden, Kashmir, Shri Pardeep Chandra Wahule, successfully conducted a training and equipping programme of Markhor/ Hangul Watchers in collaboration with Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) today on 29.06.2024 at Dongimarg Hirpora Wildlife Sanctuary.

The Welcome address of Wildlife Warden Shopian / South Division Shri Sohail Ahmad Wagay, emphasized on Markhor and Hangul. The Markhor is the largest wild goat in the world. In India, the sub species is found only in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K). The species is enlisted in Schedule-I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and Near Threatened under the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. The hangul is classified as Critically Endangered by the IUCN Red List, as its population has declined drastically over the years due to habitat loss, overgrazing by domestic livestock, poaching, predation, diseases and human-wildlife conflicts. The event was attended by staff from Hirpora and Tral Wildlife Sanctuaries, Tanushree Shrivastava (WTI Head), Sameer Khazir, and other staff from WTI.

Meanwhile, the participants were trained on:-

1. Data collection.
2. Direct and indirect evidences of Hangul and Markhor.
3. Filling up data sheets, online applications for data entry.

The morning session of the event included awareness programme regarding the role of Wildlife in ecological balance and need of conservation.

Vote of Thanks was convened by Shri Sohail Ahmad Wagay, ACF (Wildlife Warden South/ Shopian). More than 50 participated in the training event. He also thanked one and all who contributed by any means in making the event a great success.

**Sd/-
Wildlife Warden,
South / Shopian Division.**

