



## COURSE REPORT

of  
3-day Training  
on

**‘Operationalizing Successful Ecotourism’**

during

**13 – 15 December 2023**

for

**Tourism Development Corporations, Tourism Departments, Tour  
Operators, Resort & Home Stay Owners**



**Central Academy for State Forest Service, Dehradun  
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change  
Government of India**



# **C O N T E N T S**

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# **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Central Academy for State Forest Service (CASFOS), Dehradun under the aegis of Directorate of Forest Education (DFE), Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has a mandate to conduct theme-based short-term training programme for 'Other Stakeholders'. In this regard, during F.Y. 2023-24, CASFOS, Dehradun organized a 3-day Training on “**Operationalizing Successful Ecotourism**” between 13.12.2023 and 15.12.2023, for Tourism Development Corporations, Tourism Departments, Tour Operators, Resort & Home Stay Owners, and etc.

The training was conducted in a physical mode. But Microsoft applications has been used widely in this training programme, from online registration of participants prior to the start of the training, to collection of feedback with comments and suggestions. It has also been used for sharing lecture presentation and material, along with all photographs at the end of the course.

A total of 38 participants from 5 states were nominated and had registered online to attend the said training, but only 30 participants could attend the training programme successfully. The training course began with an inauguration on the first day i.e., 13.12.2023. The Course Director of the training Mr. Ankit Gupta, Scientist-C, CASFOS, Dehradun gave a brief presentation about the course and structure of the training programme, followed by opening remarks delivered by Smt. Meenakshi Joshi, IFS, Principal, CASFOS, Dehradun. Firstly, she warmly welcomed all the participants to the training programme. Then she stated the importance of collective stakeholder approach in ecological conservation and livelihood generation, and how effectively and successfully ecotourism can be run, for which this very step to conduct training for other stakeholders is taken up by this academy. She emphasized setting off collaboration amongst stakeholders by regular communication and meetings.

Further in the programme, the inaugural address was given by the Chief Guest Dr. Dhananjai Mohan (IFS), PCCF & Chairman, Uttarakhand Biodiversity Board, Dehradun (Uttarakhand). In his inaugural speech, the chief guest mentioned ecotourism being a business but having responsibility towards ecological conservation at the same time. He briefed about ecotourism concept, development, and its future, and emphasized upon the importance of ecotourism in livelihood generation. He spoke about conservation of biodiversity and ecological restoration via ecotourism, gave a wide perspective via The Eagle Nest Story, shared his vast experience, and very importantly stakeholder and public participation in operationalizing ecotourism successfully. He appreciated the variety of topics chosen and to be discussed in this training, and later passed on good wishes to all the participants and to learn the best from this training programme.

Important topics on which elaboration and discussion was carried out during the training programme were delivered by expertise of that domain. Topics and resource persons delivered a session during first and third day in this training programme are as such, a) 'Ecotourism Concept, Development & Future: The Eagle Nest Story' by Dr. Dhananjai Mohan (IFS), PCCF & Chairman, Uttarakhand Biodiversity Board, Dehradun (Uttarakhand); b) 'Ecotourism Initiatives in the Country: National Perspective' by Dr. Kapil Kumar Joshi (IFS), APCCF, Dehradun (Uttarakhand); c) 'Jawai

Leopard Conservation Reserve: Best Practices’ by Mr. Pushpendra Singh Ranawat, Hotelier & Wildlife Conservationist, Jawai (Rajasthan); d) ‘Ecotourism Initiative & Conservation in Nagaland’ by Ms Pia Sethi, Senior Fellow, The Centre for Ecology Development and Research (CEDAR), Dehradun (Uttarakhand); e) ‘Role of Private Resort Owners in Ecological Conservation’ by Capt Chetan Chauhan (Retd.), Kimonaa Himalayan Paradise, Chakrata (Uttarakhand), and f) ‘Sarmoli Village: Best Tourism Awardee in Uttarakhand’ by Mrs Malika Vardi, Founder, Himalayan Ark, Munsyari (Uttarakhand). An experience sharing session was also organized on the first day, where all participants had shared their views and perspective on ecotourism via presentation and documentary mode and one-to-one discussion, in which they have showcased their successful activities and works done by them in their area. All sessions were very well appreciated by the participants.

On the second day of the training programme, the course director and participants along with the Principal, CASFOS, Dehradun visited for a full day field excursion to Devalsari (Uttarakhand). An interactive session with Shri Mr Arun Prasad Gaur, Director, Devalsari Environment Protection and Technology Development Society (DEP&TDS), Devalsari. It started with a welcome note by the organizer, a little brief about the site and ongoing activities, followed by the high tea. All went for a nature trek, in between talks and discussions about the work of society in protecting the forest in this area and nature conservation resulting in a resurgence of local biodiversity. This is followed by bird spotting and watching activity, facilitated by local nature guides.

On the last day of the training, during the valedictory-cum-interactive session, the course director briefly summarizes the 3-day long training programme, which was presided over by chief guest Shri Anurag Bhardwaj, IFS, Director, Directorate of Forest Education, Dehradun. All participants gave their verbal feedback regarding the course while interaction. The course was highly appreciated by all and gave an overwhelming response to the course. Most of them suggested conducting such training programmes more frequently and few suggested to conduct such training programme for a minimum duration of one week instead of 3-days. After feedback, course completion certificates were distributed to all. The chief guest gave his closing remarks and interacted with all, highlighted the important role of feedback for improving future programmes.

As a part of the training kit, soft copies of the presentations made by the experts were also shared with the participants through Microsoft SharePoint. Also, copies of a brochure/leaflet provided by facilitator during field visit were also given to all the participants. The overall impact of the training was positive, and the feedback collected with high ratings from the participants corroborates the assessment of the organizers.

Format for reporting evaluation of refresher course conducted by the  
institute/organization for the SFS officers sponsored by the  
**Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, GOI, New Delhi** as per the  
merged format of MoEF&CC and JICA

## **Course Report**

MoEF&CC/DFE's letter number and date		4-927/TRG.II/DFE-2023/2887, dt. 14.11.2023
Institute's reference number		4-139/TRG.II/OSE/CASFOS/2023-24/2032, dt 08.11.2023
1	Name and complete address of the Institute (including phone, fax, and e-mail)	Central Academy for State Forest Service, Dehradun ☎ 0135-2754575/2754648 Email- casfos.dd-mef@gov.in
2	Title of the course	Operationalizing Successful Ecotourism
3	Duration & period of the Course	Three Days From 13 <sup>th</sup> to 15 <sup>th</sup> December, 2023
4	Name & designation of the Course Director	Shri Ankit Gupta, Scientist-C
5	Number of officers participated	30 (Details at Appendix- <b>IV</b> )
6.1	(a) Did the institute get in touch in advance with the participants of the course?	Yes
	(b) If yes, when (mention the date of communication to the officers)?	Multiple times on various days through voice calls and messages from 08.11.2023 till start of training
	(c) Details of nomination/registered received from States prior to the Course	38 nominations from 5 states
	(d) How many officers received the intimation?	All
	(e) How many officers responded?	38
6.2	(a) Were the course expectations of the participants ascertained by the institution?	Yes
	(b) If yes, how, and when (dates)?	By direct interaction and in form of feedback on prescribed proforma collected during the course.
7.1	(a) Was the course conducted at the institution's campus? If no, where?	Yes
	(b) Whether the course was "residential" or non-residential. If residential, whether the residential facilities were provided in the institution's own hostel or in a hotel etc.?	Residential (facility was provided in a hotel)

7.2	(a) Total no. of working days in the course	3 days
	(b) Total no. of sessions planned/ convened in the course	6 sessions
	(c) No. of sessions, which could not be conducted as planned with reasons	Nil
	(d) Internal faculty hours	Nil
	(e) Guest faculty hours	9 hours
	(f) No. of days / hours spent on field visit(s) if any	1 full day
Enclosure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Final timetable</li> <li>- List of faculties</li> <li>- Final list of participants</li> </ul>		
8	(a) Had the same or similar course been conducted earlier under the sponsorship of the MOEF&CC/Department of Personnel and Training (Government of India)?	Yes, under the sponsorship of the MoEF&CC
	(b) What changes, based on the feedback received on the previous course, were made in the current course?	Course programme attached
9	Feedback received from current course participants in terms of: (*1.1, 2.1.... shown below refer to question number in Part C or Part D of the feedback form.)	
9.1	Course Content and Structure (CCS)	Course Content & Structure including reading material was found to be relevant and highly appreciated by the participants with rating of <b>93.47%</b> Course aim was met to the full satisfaction & as per feedback, there was increase in knowledge level of the participants.
9.2	Training Faculty (TF)	The participants have rated the training faculty with <b>90.71%</b> All training faculties for lecture sessions were highly appreciated by the participants.
9.3	Usefulness of the course (UOC)	The participants have given feedback that the training course will be highly useful immediately and in future, with a combined rating as <b>85.80%</b>
9.4	Overall impression about the Course (OIC)	The participants have given overall feedback of the course as very good and rated it around <b>87.50%</b>
9.5	Participant's views about the strengths and weaknesses as well as other aspects pertaining to the course. (Please attach summary as Appendix-I.)	Overall, the participants appreciated the course. The suggestions made by them along with the Academy's comments are attached for reference.



9.6	Logistics (including Residential accommodation, Food quality, Classroom facilities, Computer facilities and Recreation facilities and Time management etc.)	The expectations of participants regarding level of all logistics facilities provided by the academy have been highly appreciated, with an overall rating to logistics arrangement received is <b>97.50%</b> .
9.7	Weighted Average (Please attach summary as Appendix-II)	The weighted average of the course has been rated as <b>90.92%</b> which is found to be very satisfactory.
10	General remarks of the Course Director on the nature and extent of participant's involvement in the course including attendance punctuality and interest evinced	Participants were enthusiastic and expressed their keenness to learn from the day one of the training programme. All appeared to be interactive during the sessions, cleared their doubts, and shared their own experiences.
11	Suggestion highlighting the areas of improvement in the Course for future by Course Director	As per the feedback received, the overall training was excellent in all aspects viz., course design, content, quality, faculty knowledge, etc. However, the only suggestion for future improvement would be to increase total nos. of days for boarding and lodging from the existing 3 days to 4 days, as participants arrive a day before for the training and stays till completion of the training/check-out, which counts to accommodation of total 4 days.
12	Comments of the Institution on how the feedback is proposed to be recycled into future programmes in terms of course content, methodology, etc.	As reported by the participants, they benefitted immensely from the course. Academy will try its level best to incorporate the suggestions to further improvement of the course in future.

**(Shri Ankit Gupta, Scientist-C)**  
**Course Director**

Countersigned

**PRINCIPAL**  
**CASFOS, Dehradun**



**Course Director's comments on**  
**Participant's views about the strengths and weakness pertaining to the course.**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Participants' views</b>	<b>No. of participants who have expressed the view</b>	<b>Course Director's Comments</b>
1	Training course was very informative, beneficial, and helpful, and we have learned a lot	14	It encourages the team to conduct more such training
2	Overall arrangements was very good and comfortable including accommodation and food	18	
3	Academy has provided encouraging environment	5	
4	Visit to FRI museums may be included	7	Noted
5	Field site should be near and if possible, one night stay on field must be included	5	It may be considered in planning of future course
6	Training period of course should be increased from existing 3 days to minimum 5 days	3	Noted
7	Presentations by practicing naturalists working with eco-tourism initiatives can be added	1	Noted

**Numerical value of feedback and Weighted Average**

*For calculation of numerical value of feedback, each factor is valued as percentage value to the top grade given to the factor. If no answer is provided, it is excluded from calculation. (cf; where number of grades is 4, percentage value be 100, 75, 50, 25)*

*The average numerical value of factors consisting of the element is a numerical value of the element.*

**1. Course Content and Structure (CCS) = 93.47**

- 1.1 Course aims met (95.45)
- 1.2 Increase of knowledge (90.91)
- 1.3 Relevance of content (93.18)
- 1.4 Reading Material (94.32)

**2. Training Faculty (TF) = 90.71**

- 2.1 Assessment of the Course contents/topics = **92.67**
  - Contents (94.31)
  - Presentation (92.33)
  - Quality of Discussion/Interaction (91.69)
  - Meeting for Objectives (92.36)
- 2.2 Assessment of the Field Visit = **88.75**
  - Contents (88.75)

**3. Usefulness of the Course (UOC) = 85.80**

- 3.1 How useful to you immediately (87.50)
- 3.2 How useful to be for the future jobs (84.09)

**4. Overall Impression about the Course (OIC) = 87.50**

**5. Logistic = 97.50**

- 5.1 Residential accommodation (94.55)
- 5.2 Food quality (95.45)
- 5.3 Classroom facilities (100)
- 5.4 Time management (100)

**Weighted Average for the Course**

For calculation of Weighted Average (WA), following formula is used.

$$\text{WA} = \{[\text{CCS (100\%)} + \text{TF (100\%)} + \text{UOC (75\%)} + \text{OIC (100\%)} + \text{L (75\%)}] * 100\} / 450$$

$$\text{WA} = [(93.47 + 90.71 + 64.35 + 87.50 + 73.13) * 100] / 450$$

$$= 90.92\%$$

**Details of Topics & Resource Persons**

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Mb. No.</b>	<b>E-mail</b>
1	Ecotourism Concept, Development & Future: The Eagle Nest Story	Dr Dhananjai Mohan (IFS), PCCF & Chairman, (UKBB), Dehradun (UK)	9358103371/ 9410393913	dhananjaim@gmail.com
2	Ecotourism Initiatives in the Country: National Perspective	Dr Kapil Kumar Joshi (IFS), APCCF, Dehradun (UK)	9412085207	ccfenvuk@gmail.com
3	Jawai Leopard Conservation Reserve: Best Practices	Mr Pushpendra S Ranawat, Hotelier & Wildlife Conservationist, Jawai (RJ)	7742133581/ 9414981138	pushpendravarawal@gmail.com
4	Interaction during Field Visit to Devalsari, Uttarakhand	Mr Arun Prasad Gaur, Director, DEP&TDS, Devalsari (UK)	8650645385	arunapis1@gmail.com
5	Ecotourism Initiative & Conservation in Nagaland	Ms Pia Sethi, Senior Fellow, CEDAR, Dehradun (UK)	9811222321	piasethi77@gmail.com
6	Role of Private Resort Owners in Ecological Conservation	Capt Chetan Chauhan (R), Kimonaa Himalayan Paradise, Chakrata (UK)	8650353580	chauhanschetan@gmail.com
7	Sarmoli Village: Best Tourism Awardee in Uttarakhand	Mrs Malika Vardi, Founder, Himalayan Ark, Munsyari (UK)	9411194041/ 9917789950	ddg_admin@icfre.org

**List of Participants**

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Name of Participant (Designation)</b>	<b>Affiliation, City (State/UT)</b>	<b>Mb. No.</b>
1	Dr Raman Gupta (Joint Managing Director)	HTC Ltd., Chandigarh UT	9896181248
2	Mr Dabbal S Khati (Deputy Forest Range Officer)	Nandadevi BR, Gopeshwar (UK)	9897320017
3	Mr Pramod Dhyani (Dy Range Officer)	Rajaji Tiger Reserve, Dehradun (UK)	7500755008
4	Mr Manoj K Sharma (Chief Naturalist)	Jim's Jungle Retreat, Ramnagar (UK)	9837061878
5	Mr Kushal Kumar (General Manager)	Botanix Nature Farm, Gurugram (HR)	7428749121
6	Mr Chandra S Upadhyay (Co-founder)	Camp Hornbill, Corbett, Ramnagar (UK)	8630937375
7	Mr Manoj K Singh (Owner)	Corbett Riverside HS, Lansdowne (UK)	6397299894
8	Ms Jeevan Kaur (Co-owner)	Nature Lap's Farm Stay, Haridwar (UK)	7668401564
9	Mr Shavinder Pal Singh (Tour Operator)	Xcite Outdoors, Haridwar (UK)	8869803550
10	Mr Rohit Sharma (Nature Guide & MD)	Rajaji Retreat Resort, Pauri Garhwal (UK)	8006671231
11	Mr Beer S Negi (Nature Guide & Owner)	Prakarti Tour, Dehradun (UK)	9917606031
12	Mr Manoj Bisht (Nature Guide & Safari Owner)	Rajaji Tiger Reserve, Rishikesh (UK)	9837389430
13	Mr Gautam Verma (Nature Guide)	Rajaji Tiger Reserve, Rishikesh (UK)	9045807685
14	Mr Bhawani Datt Sati (Nature Guide & HS Operator)	Mukul Forest Front Stay, Ramnagar (UK)	8475810588
15	Mr Sharvan Ram (Wildlife Conservationist)	CAZRI, Jodhpur (RJ)	9929262986
16	Mr Radheshyam Bishnoi (Wildlife Conservationist)	Freelancer, Jaisalmer (RJ)	8094518231
17	Mr Devendra S Bhist (Chairman)	EDC, Chamoli (UK)	8979734624
18	Mr Sachin (DEO-Tourism)	HTC Ltd., Chandigarh UT	9306959566
19	Mr Mohd Hashim (Nature Guide)	Pilibhit Tiger Reserve, Pilibhit (UP)	8954297392
20	Mr Aneesh Shah (Nature Guide)	Pilibhit Tiger Reserve, Pilibhit (UP)	6397178346
21	Mr Saleem (Nature Guide)	Pilibhit Tiger Reserve, Pilibhit (UP)	9149289859
22	Mr Abrar Shah (Nature Guide)	Pilibhit Tiger Reserve, Pilibhit (UP)	8077400553
23	Mr Vijay Singh (Nature Guide)	Corbett Tiger Reserve, Ramnagar (UK)	8130505466
24	Mr Hari Shankar Dev (Nature Guide)	Jim Corbett National Park, Ramnagar (UK)	9917946007
25	Mr Kunwar S Negi (Tour Operator)	Jandesh Tracking Cluburgam, Chamoli (UK)	7017872996
26	Mr Kishan S Kandwal (Tour Operator)	Parvati Home Stay, Chamoli (UK)	9520946902
27	Mr Kamlesh S Adhikari (Tour Operator)	Jim Corbett National Park, Ramnagar (UK)	8475030410
28	Mr Kalam S Jhinkwan (Home Stay Operator)	Mahadev Home Stay, Chamoli (UK)	9411577585
29	Mr Balwant S (Home Stay Operator)	Banshinarayan & Rudranath HS, Chamoli (UK)	9760879412
30	Mr Kunwar S Rawat (Home Stay Operator)	Nanda Devi, Chamoli (UK)	9520367828



# Central Academy for State Forest Service, Dehradun

Three-day Training for Other Stakeholders on  
**“Operationalizing Successful Ecotourism”**  
 for **Tourism Development Corporation, Tourism Departments,**  
**Tour Operators, Resort & Home Stay Owners, etc.**



**13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

## ‘Course Schedule’

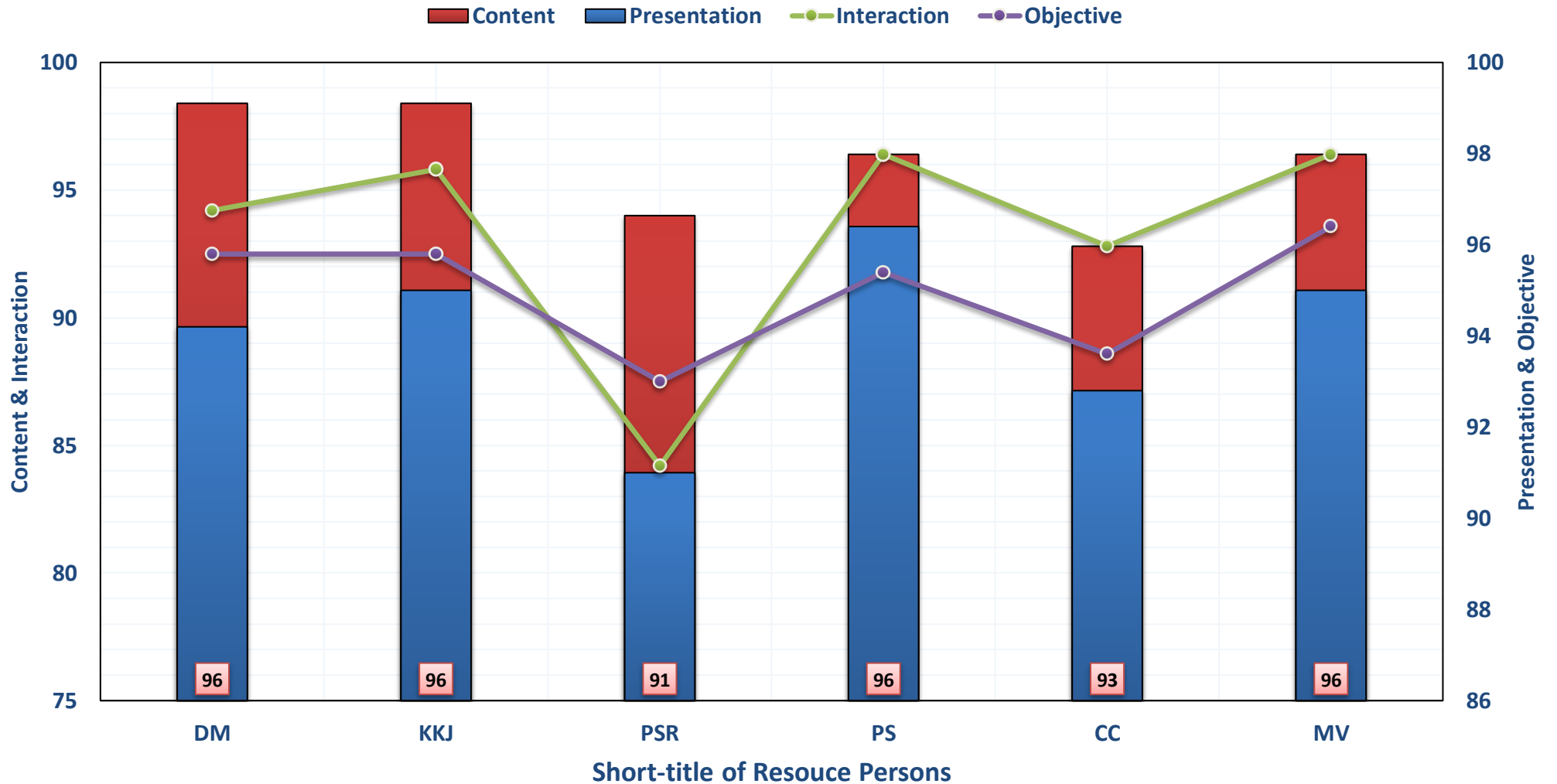
Date / Time (Day)	Session I 0945 -1115		Session II 1130-1300		Session III 1400-1530		Session IV 1545-1715
13.12.2023 (Wednesday)	<b><u>Inaugural Session</u></b> Ecotourism Concept, Development & Future: The Eagle Nest Story (DM, MJ, TB, AP, AG)	Tea Break	Ecotourism Initiatives in the Country: National Perspective (KKJ)	Lunch Break	Jawai Leopard Conservation Reserve: Best Practices (PSR)	Tea Break	Experience Sharing (AG)
14.12.2023 (Thursday)	Field Visit – Devalsari, UK (APG)						<b><i>“Departure Time: 06:30 AM”</i></b>
15.12.2023 (Friday)	Ecotourism Initiative & Conservation in Nagaland (PS)	Tea Break	Role of Private Resort Owners in Ecological Conservation (CC)	Lunch Break	Sarmoli Village: Best Tourism Awardee in Uttarakhand (MV)	Tea Break	<b><u>Valedictory Session</u></b> (AB, MJ, TB, AP, AG)

### Abbreviations:

**DM** : Dr Dhananjai Mohan (IFS), PCCF & Chairman (UKBB), Dehradun (UK)  
**MJ** : Mrs Meenakshi Joshi (IFS), Principal, CASFOS, Dehradun (UK)  
**TB** : Dr T. Beula EM (IFS), Lecturer CASFOS, Dehradun (UK)  
**AP** : Mr Amlendu Pathak (IFS), Lecturer, CASFOS, Dehradun (UK)  
**AG** : Mr Ankit Gupta, CD & Scientist-C, CASFOS, Dehradun (UK)  
**KKJ** : Dr Kapil Kumar Joshi (IFS), APCCF, Dehradun (UK)

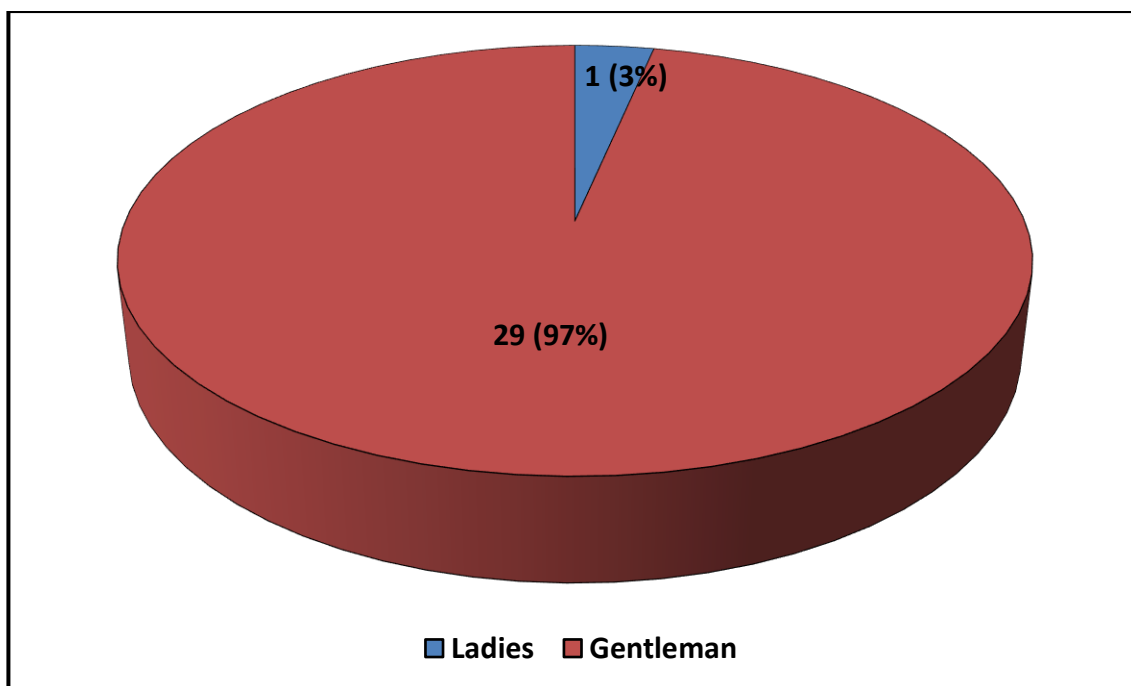
**PSR** : Mr Pushpendra S Ranawat, Hotelier & Wildlife Conservationist, Jawai (RJ)  
**APG** : Mr Arun Prasad Gaur, Director, DEP&TDS, Devalsari (UK)  
**PS** : Ms Pia Sethi, Senior Fellow, CEDAR, Dehradun (UK)  
**CC** : Capt Chetan Chauhan (R), Kimonaa Himalayan Paradise, Chakrata (UK)  
**MV** : Mrs Malika Vardi, Founder, Himalayan Ark, Munsyari (UK)  
**AB** : Mr Anurag Bhardwaj (IFS), Director, DFE, Dehradun (UK)

## Parameter-wise Distribution of Feedback

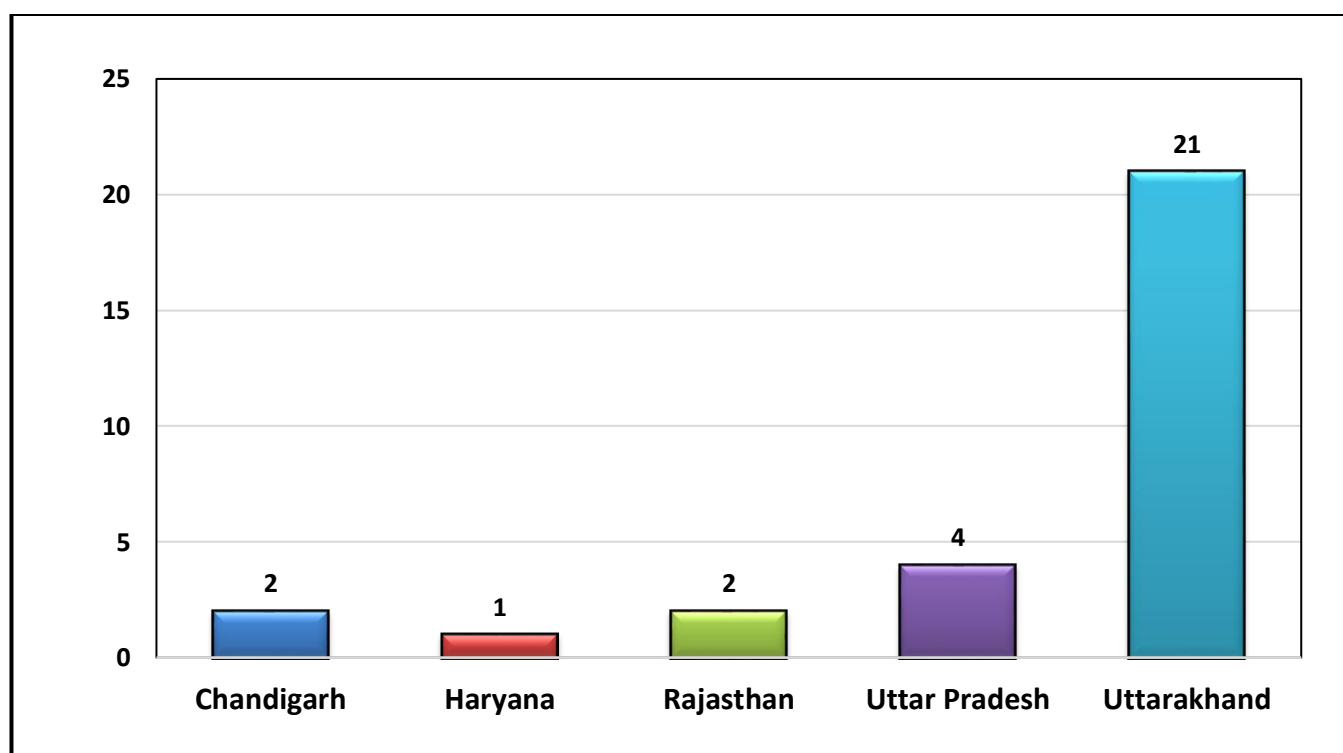


**Parameter-wise distribution of feedback of resource persons**  
 (along with their respective average overall performance % at the bottom of column bar in the above graph)





**Gender-wise distribution of participants**



**State-wise distribution of participants**

## **PHOTOGRAPHS OF TRAINING PROGRAMME (DAY-1)**



**Welcome of the Chief Guest Dr Dhananjai Mohan (IFS), PCCF & Chairman (UKBB), Dehradun, (UK) in inaugural session on 13.12.2023**



**Brief Introduction by the Course Director Mr Ankit Gupta, Scientist-C, CASFOS, Dehradun**

## **PHOTOGRAPHS OF TRAINING PROGRAMME (DAY-1)**



**Opening remarks by Mrs Meenakshi Joshi (IFS), Principal, CASFOS, Dehradun**



**Inaugural Address by Chief Guest Dr Dhananjai Mohan (IFS), PCCF & Chairman (UKBB), Dehradun (UK)**



## **PHOTOGRAPHS OF TRAINING PROGRAMME (DAY-1)**



**Lecture session by Dr Kapil Joshi (IFS), APCCF, Dehradun (UK)**



**Lecture session by Mr Pushendra S Ranawat, Hotelier & Wildlife Conservationist, Jawai (RJ)**



**Experience sharing session chaired by the Principal, CASFOS, Dehradun and Course Director**



## **PHOTOGRAPHS OF TRAINING PROGRAMME (DAY-2)**



**Walk to the field site and home stays at Devalsari (UK)**



**Brief description about the site by Mr Arun Prasad Gaur, Director, DEP&TDS, Devalsari (UK).**



**On field learning & experience sharing by Mr Arun Prasad Gaur, Director, DEP&TDS, Devalsari (UK) and other tour and nature guides**



## **PHOTOGRAPHS OF TRAINING PROGRAMME (DAY-3)**



**Lecture session by Ms Pia Sethi, Senior Fellow, CEDAR, Dehradun (UK)**



**Lecture session by Capt Chetan Chauhan (R), Kimonaa Himalayan Paradise, Chakrata (UK)**



**Lecture session by Mrs Malika Vardi, Founder, Himalayan Ark, Munsyari (UK)**

## **PHOTOGRAPHS OF TRAINING PROGRAMME (DAY-3)**



**Welcome of the Chief Guest Mr. Anurag Bhardwaj (IFS), Director, DFE, Dehradun in valedictory session on 15.12.2023**



**Brief Presentation by the Course Director Mr. Ankit Gupta, Scientist-C, CASFOS, Dehradun**



## **PHOTOGRAPHS OF TRAINING PROGRAMME (DAY-3)**



**Interaction and verbal feedback from participants**



**Interaction and verbal feedback from participants**



## **PHOTOGRAPHS OF TRAINING PROGRAMME (DAY-3)**



**Certificate distribution to all participants by the Chief Guest**



**Certificate distribution to all participants by the Chief Guest**

## **PHOTOGRAPHS OF TRAINING PROGRAMME (DAY-3)**



**Valedictory address and closing remarks by Chief Guest Mr Anurag Bhardwaj (IFS), Director, DFE, Dehradun**



**Formal vote of thanks presented by the Course Director Mr Ankit Gupta, Scientist-C, CASFOS, Dehradun**