सत्यमेव जयते

COURSE REPORT

of

3-day Training of Other Stakeholders

on

'Role of Citizen Science in Conservation of Forest and Wildlife'

during

24 – 26 September 2025

for

Teachers / Nature Club Coordinators from School & Colleges, Educators, Researchers, Volunteers / Members from NGOs, etc.

अरण्यं ते पृथिवी स्योनमस्तु

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

C O N T E N T S

S.No.	Details	Page No.
1	Executive Summary	**1 – 2**
2	Course Report	**3 – 5**
3	Participants views about strengths and weakness pertaining to the course and the Course Director's comments thereon	**6**
4	Numerical value of feedback and Weighted Average	**7**
5	Lits of Faculties (along with their details and topics)	**8**
6	Final List of Participants	**9 – 10**
7	Course Schedule (final timetable)	**11**
8	Overall and Parameter-wise Feedback	**12 – 13**
9	Demographic Details of Participants	**14**
10	Photographs of Training Programme	**15 – 19**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Central Academy for State Forest Service (CASFOS), Dehradun under the aegis Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has a mandate to conduct various theme-based short-term training programme. In this regard, during F.Y. 2025-26, CASFOS, Dehradun organized a 3-day Training for Other Stakeholders on "**Role of Citizen Science in Conservation of Forest and Wildlife**" between 24.09.2025 and 26.09.2025, for Teachers / Nature Club Coordinators from School & Colleges, Educators, Researchers, Volunteers / Members from NGOs, etc.

An online application was rolled out on the Directorate of Forest Education, Dehradun (DFE's) website for participants interested to attend this training programme and for wider participation from around the country. Scrutiny of applications was done, and shortlisted participants were informed about the status of their candidature. During the training programme, feedback with comments and suggestions was taken via online form and verbally at the end of each session and during the end of the training. All lecture presentations and training material along with all photographs were shared with the participants at the end of the course.

The said training programme was conducted in physical mode at the Academy with a total of 6 lecture sessions by Subject Matter Experts, a full day of field visit by the Course Director along with 4 technical resource persons, along with an inaugural and valedictory session at the beginning and end of the course respectively. A total of 145 applicants from 19 states submitted online applications to attend the said training, but only 30 participants from 7 states were scrutinized for participating in the training on the basis on their motivation, nature of work, and association.

The training course began with an inauguration on the first day, i.e., 24.09.2025. 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 Address of the Principal by Mr E. Vikram, IFS, Principal, CASFOS, Dehradun. He warmly welcomed all the participants to the training programme. In his address, the Principal mentioned the importance of collective stakeholder approach towards conservation of forest and wildlife with the help of citizen science by volunteering and generating awareness which comes primarily from home and school. Hence making it very important to inculcate such interest towards conservation especially in school and college students. He also introduced the objectives of the training and information going to disseminate in this training programme. He emphasized setting off collaboration amongst participants by regular communication and meetings also.

Further in the programme, the opening remarks and inaugural address was given by the Chief Guest Dr. Govind Sagar Bhardwaj, IFS, Director, Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun. In his address, the chief guest he highlighted the growing importance of citizen science as a participatory approach in ecological monitoring and conservation efforts and stressed the role of informed communities in achieving long-term environmental sustainability. He appreciated the variety of

topics chosen and to be discussed in this training and later gave good wishes to all the participants and to learn the best from this training programme.

Important topics on which discussion was carried out during the training programme were delivered by expertise of that domain. Topics and resource persons delivered a session during first day in this training programme are a) 'Citizen for Science: A Case Study' by Dr Swapnali Gole, Project Scientist, WII, Dehradun (UK); and b) 'Citizen Science engagements for Plants and Insects' by Ms Riddhima Karwa, Sr Program Co-ordinator, Earthian, Dehradun (UK), and last session on c) 'Use of Technology in Citizen Science for Conservation' by Ms Kuhelika Bisht, Collaborating Organiser, CSA, Dehradun (UK) towards the end of the day.

On second day of the training programme, a full-day field-based practical session on "Season Watch" during forenoon started early morning, accompanied by the Course Director with Ms Riddhima Karwa, Sr Program Co-ordinator, Earthian, Dehradun (UK) and Dr Soumya Prasad, Founder, Nature Science Initiative, Dehradun (UK). Post lunch, visit to various museums of Forest Research Institute, Dehradun along with Bambusetum area in the campus were visited by all participants. This field excursion has provided the participants with experiential learning on citizen science, data collection, biodiversity observation, and documentation methods using various open-source applications.

On the last day of the training, session on a) 'History and Future of Citizen Science in India' by Mr Ram Dayal Vaishnav, Head (CS&E), The Naturalist School, Bengaluru (KT), b) 'Volunteering for Citizen Science' by Ms Tannu Saini, Sr Programme Officer, WWF-India, Delhi (ND), and last session on c) 'Bridging the gap b/w CS and Curriculum for Schools' by Dr Soumya Prasad, Founder, Nature Science Initiative, Dehradun (UK) has been delivered. One experience sharing sessions was also organized before the valedictory, where few participants shared their knowledge, views and perspective on conservation of forest and wildlife, in which they have shown their successful activities and works carried out by them in their respective areas. All sessions were very well appreciated by the participants. Followed by recording of video feedback in the Digital Learning Lab-sum-Studio of the Academy.

The training course ends with a valedictory-cum-interactive session towards the end of the last day, i.e., on 26.09.2024 in presence of the Chief Guest, Principal, all Faculties and staff. During the valedictory, the Course Director of the training Mr Ankit Gupta, Scientist-C, CASFOS, Dehradun, briefly summarizes the 3-day long course. Participants interacted with all and gave their verbal feedback regarding the course. The course was highly appreciated by all and gave an overwhelming response to the course, w.r.t management. Participants suggested conducting such training programmes more frequently. After feedback, Mr E. Vikram, IFS, Principal, CASFOS, Dehradun gave his closing remarks and interacted with all, emphasized that participants shall act as ambassadors of Citizen Science, promoting scientific temper and participatory approaches in conservation at the grassroots level. 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		4-937/Trg.II/DFT-2023/2381, dt. 17.10.2024
Institute's reference number		4-146/TRG.II/NIE/CASFOS/2024-25/2017, dt. 17.10.2024
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	Role of Citizen Science in Conservation of Forest and Wildlife
3	Duration & period of the Course	Three Days (from 24th to 26th September, 2025
4	Name & designation of the Course Director	Shri Ankit Gupta, Scientist-C
5	Number of officers participated	30 (Details at Appendix- **IV**)
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 email, voice calls and messages from 08.09.2025 till start of training
	(c) Details of nomination/registered received from States prior to the Course	145 registrations from 19 States/UTs
	(d) How many officers received the intimation?	All
	(e) How many officers responded?	30 from 7 States/UTs
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 the form of feedback on prescribed proforma collected during the course and video
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 (Accommodation was provided to all participants at CASFOS Guest House)

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	Full-day on Day-2
Enclosure: - Final timetable - List of faculties - Final list of participants		
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?	This is a new training program on the said theme
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 **98.13%** The 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 rated the training faculty with **97.73%** 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 **91.88%**
9.4	Overall impression about the Course (OIC)	The participants have given overall feedback of the course as very good and rated it around **98.75%**
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 the level of all logistics facilities provided by the academy have been highly appreciated, with an overall rating to logistics arrangement received is **96.90%**
9.7	Weighted Average (Please attach summary as Appendix-II)	The weighted average of the course has been rated as **96.93%**, 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.
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. The Academy will try its best to incorporate the suggestions to further improvement of the course in future.

Digitally signed by
ANKIT GUPTA
Date: 17-10-2025
10:20:02

(Mr Ankit Gupta, Scientist-C)
Course Director

Countersigned
Digitally signed by
Vikram Elavarasan
Date: 17-10-2025
10:18:41

Mr E. Vikram, IFS
Principal
CASFOS, Dehradun

Appendix-I

Course Director's comments on Participant's views about the strengths and weaknesses pertaining to the course

S.No.	Participants' views	No. of participants who have expressed the view	Course Director's Comments
1	The course was very informative and practical, enhancing my understanding of citizen science and its role in conservation	7	Noted
2	The training program was very good, and all the facilities were excellent	2	
3	Logistics arrangements and time management of the training programme was very good	13	
4	This course is very important and provided useful information	3	
5	This opportunity is great for me and I'm proud to be part this course.	3	

Appendix-II

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) = 98.13**

    1.1 Course aims met (100)
    1.2 Increase of knowledge (98.75)
    1.3 Relevance of content (97.50)
    1.4 Reading Material (96.25)

2. Training Faculty (TF) = 97.73

    2.1 Assessment of the Course contents/topics = **86.91**
        Contents (97.00)
        Presentation (97.50)
        Quality of Discussion/Interaction (97.37)
        Meeting for Objectives (98.00)

    2.2 Assessment of the Field Visit = **98.00**
        Contents (98.00)
        Objectives (98.00)

3. Usefulness of the Course (UOC) = 91.88

    3.1 How useful to you immediately (91.25)
    3.2 How useful to be for the future jobs (92.50)

4. Overall Impression about the Course (OIC) = 98.75

5. Logistic = 96.66

    5.1 Residential accommodation (94.62)
    5.2 Food quality (97.00)
    5.3 Classroom facilities (99.00)
    5.4 Time management (97.00)

Weighted Average for the Course

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

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

WA = [(98.13 + 97.73 + 68.91 + 98.75 + 72.67) *100] / 450

= 96.93%

Appendix – III

List of Faculties (along with their details and topics)

S.No.	Topic	Name	Mb No.	E-mail
1.	Dr Swapnali Gole, Project Scientist, WII, Dehradun (UK)	Citizen for Science: A Case Study	9503966849	gole.swapnali@gmail.com
2.	Ms Riddhima Karwa, Sr Program Co-ordinator, Earthian, Dehradun (UK)	Citizen Science engagements for Plants and Insects	9997056121	riddz205@gmail.com
3.	Ms Kuhelika Bisht, Collaborating Organiser, CSA, Dehradun (UK)	Use of Technology in Citizen Science for Conservation	9767683640	kuhelika.bisht@gmail.com
4.	Mr Ram Dayal Vaishnav, Head (CS&E), The Naturalist School, Bengaluru (KT)	History and Future of Citizen Science in India	8186962916	vaishnav.rd@gmail.com
5.	Ms Tannu Saini, Sr Programme Officer, WWF-India, Delhi (ND)	Volunteering for Citizen Science	9990217173	tsaini@wwfindia.net
6.	Dr Soumya Prasad, Founder, Nature Science Initiative, Dehradun (UK)	Bridging the gap b/w CS and Curriculum for Schools	7579184123	prasadsoumya@gmail.com

Appendix- IV

Final List of Participants

S.No.	Name of Participants (Designation)	Affiliation	State	Mb No.	Email Address
1.	Mr Aakash Kumar (Teaching Assistant)	UPES, Dehradun	Uttarakhand	9410171071	aakashy359@gmail.com
2.	Mr Abhinav Chandra Bardalai (Intern)	Aaranyak	Assam	9864699094	bardalai21@gmail.com
3.	Adv. Aishwary J Manjrekar (Secretary)	Youth Beats for Climates	Maharashtra	9158140408	aishwarymanjrekar2025@gmail.com
4.	Mr Anil Mahajan (President & Founder)	Chaatak Nature Conservation Society	Maharashtra	8806198040	anil.birds@gmail.com
5.	Ms Bara Divya (Zoo Education officer)	Indira Gandhi Zoological Park	Andhra Pradesh	7893632900	divyayadavbara@gmail.com
6.	Mr Harsh Madankar (NCC Cadet)	GH Raisoni University, Saikheda	Madhya Pradesh	7489150590	harshmadankar50@gmail.com
7.	Ms Jyoti Kathait (Educator)	Shakha Foundation	Uttarakhand	9300088663	ts259042@gmail.com
8.	Mr Kalash Bhardwaj (Educator)	HESCO, Dehradun	Uttarakhand	9634384416	mrtkalash1997@gmail.com
9.	Ms Kalash Kumari (Research Scholar)	FRI Deemed to be University, Dehradun	Uttarakhand	9470457015	kalashkumari3003@gmail.com
10.	Ms Meghna Thapa (Research Scholar)	FRI Deemed to be University, Dehradun	Uttarakhand	9927541297	meghnathapa373@gmail.com
11.	Mr Mohit Srivastava (Teacher)	Tri-Guna Institute, Dehradun	Uttarakhand	8126273039	sri.lkn@gmail.com
12.	Mrs Monika Joshi (Science Teacher)	Mondrian House School, Dehradun	Uttarakhand	9557628849	monikajoshisharma27@gmail.com
13.	Ms Namitha Tarai (Biologist)	Indira Gandhi Zoological Park	Andhra Pradesh	9110526052	namithatarai@gmail.com
14.	Ms Neetu Rana (Research Scholar)	FRI Deemed to be University, Dehradun	Uttarakhand	8755401183	neeturana95684@gmail.com

S.No.	Name of Participants (Designation)	Affiliation	State	Mb No.	Email Address
15.	Mrs Niharika Singh (Researcher)	Independent	Uttar Pradesh	7417326609	Niharikas443@gmail.com
16.	Ms Pooja Kathait (Educator)	Shakha Foundation	Uttarakhand	9412110357	mishtikathait01@gmail.com
17.	Mr Pramod K Chetal (District Coordinator)	Lakshya	Uttar Pradesh	9758234132	pramodsrn@yahoo.in
18.	Ms Prerna Dora (Biology teacher)	Mondrian High School, Dehradun	Uttarakhand	8171764077	prernaddn06@gmail.com
19.	Mr Rajat Sharma (PGT Biology)	Vardhman Academy, Meerut	Uttar Pradesh	8279766531	sharmarajat54535@gmail.com
20.	Mr. Ravi Kumar (Educator)	Phato Eco Tourism Zone	Uttarakhand	9599804225	ravilohani1991@gmail.com
21.	Mr Sandeep Tukaram Bodve (Volunteer)	Daily Lokmat	Maharashtra	9423686165	sandeep.bodve@gmail.com
22.	Dr Sandhya Goswami (Asso Professor)	Dolphin PG Institute	Uttarakhand	9568544752	sandhya.goswami@gmail.com
23.	Mr Sanjay V (Teaching Assistant)	UPES, Dehradun	Uttarakhand	9944825557	vsanjay5557@gmail.com
24.	Mrs Seema Saxena (PGT Biology)	Ann Mary School, Dehradun	Uttarakhand	9501999615	SEEMASHUK@GMAIL.COM
25.	Dr Seema Shukla (Asst Professor)	UPES, Dehradun	Uttarakhand	9501999615	seemashuk@gmail.com
26.	Dr Shalini Singh (Asso Professor)	Dolphin PG Institute	Uttarakhand	9411159418	shalinidibns@lgmail.com
27.	Mr Sipu Kumar (Educator)	Bhomya Foundation	Uttarakhand	9717317417	sipuwildlife@gmail.com
28.	Lt. Tapaniya J.R. (Asso NCC) & SO)	G.H. Raisoni University, Saikheda	Madhya Pradesh	9723573102	jenishtapaniya4038@gmail.com
29.	Mr Vaibhav Saini (Teaching Assistant)	UPES, Dehradun	Uttarakhand	9058369740	vsainigkv@gmail.com
30.	Mr Vinay Lakkanna (Consultant)	Oracle	Karnataka	9663379951	vinay.lakkanna@gmail.com

Central Academy for State Forest Service, Dehradun

3-Days Training of Other Stakeholders

"Role of Citizen Science in Conservation of Forest & Wildlife"

for

Teachers / Nature Club Coordinators from School & Colleges, Educators, Researchers, Volunteers / Members from NGOs, etc.

24th to 26th September 2025

Schedule

Date / Time (Day)	Session-I	Tea Break	Session-II	Lunch Break	Session-III	Tea Break	Session-IV
	0945-1115 hrs		**1130-1300 hrs**		**1400-1530 hrs**		**1545-1715 hrs**
24.09.2025 (Wednesday)	**Registration: 0915-0945 hrs (Participants)** Inaugural: 0945-1115 hrs **(GSB, EV, AG)**		Citizen for Science: A Case Study **(SG)**		Citizen Science engagements for Plants and Insects **(RK)**		Use of Technology in Citizen Science for Conservation **(KB)**
25.09.2025 (Thursday)	**In-campus Season Watch Practical and Visit to Museum**						***"Departure Time: 06:30 AM"***
26.09.2025 (Friday)	History and Future of Citizen Science in India **(RDV)**		Volunteering for Citizen Science **(TS)**		Bridging the gap b/w CS and Curriculum for Schools **(SP)**		Valedictory Session **(EV, AG)**

Abbreviations:

GSB : Dr Govind Sagar Bhardwaj (IFS), Director, Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun, Uttarakhand ***(Inaugural Address)***

EV : Mr E. Vikram (IFS), Principal, CASFOS, Dehradun (UK)

AG : Mr Ankit Gupta, Scientist-C & CD, CASFOS, Dehradun (UK)

SG : Dr Swapnali Gole, Project Scientist, WII, Dehradun (UK)

RK : Ms Riddhima Karwa, Sr Program Co-ordinator, Earthian, Dehradun (UK)

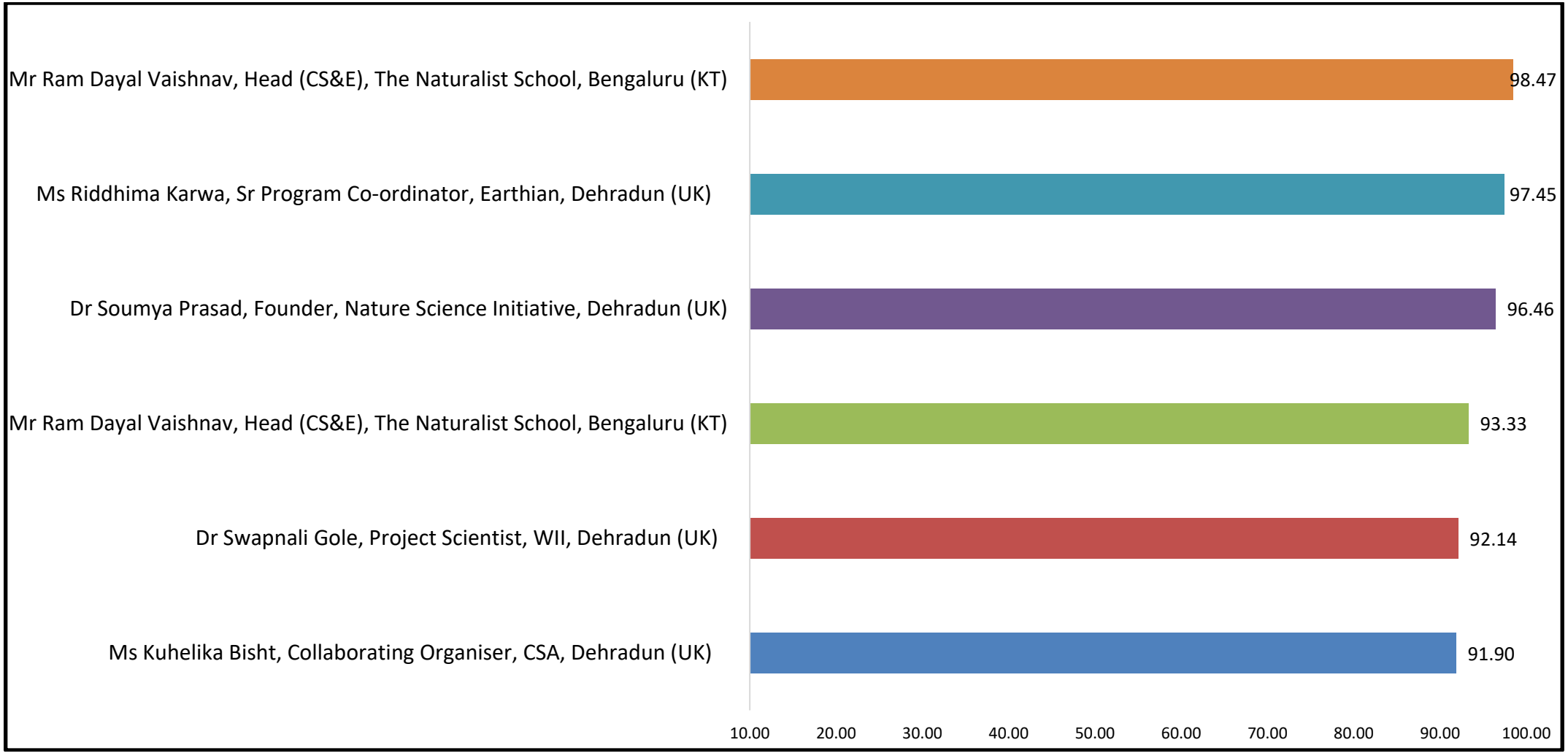
KB : Ms Kuhelika Bisht, Collaborating Organiser, CSA, Dehradun (UK)

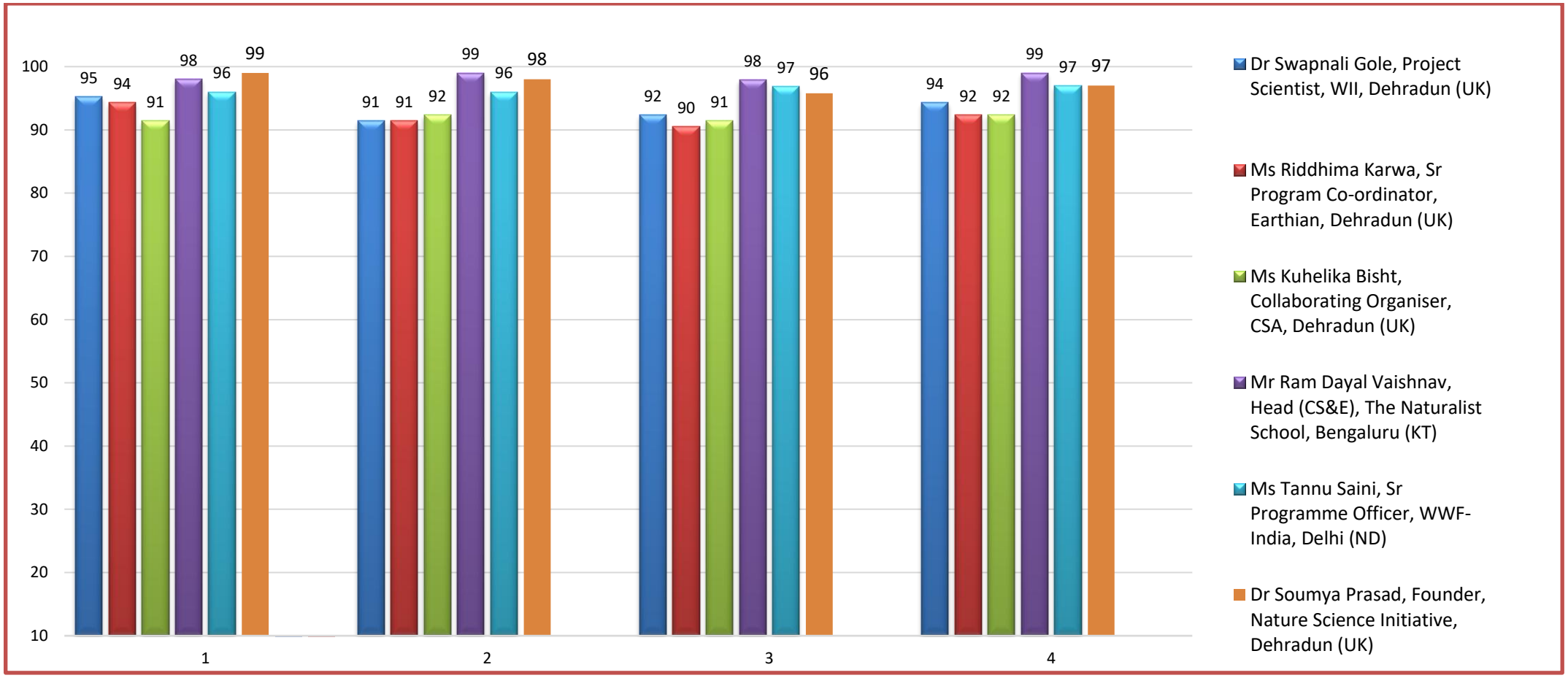
SP : Dr Soumya Prasad, Founder, Nature Science Initiative, Dehradun (UK)

RDV : Mr Ram Dayal Vaishnav, Head (CS&E), The Naturalist School, Bengaluru (KT)

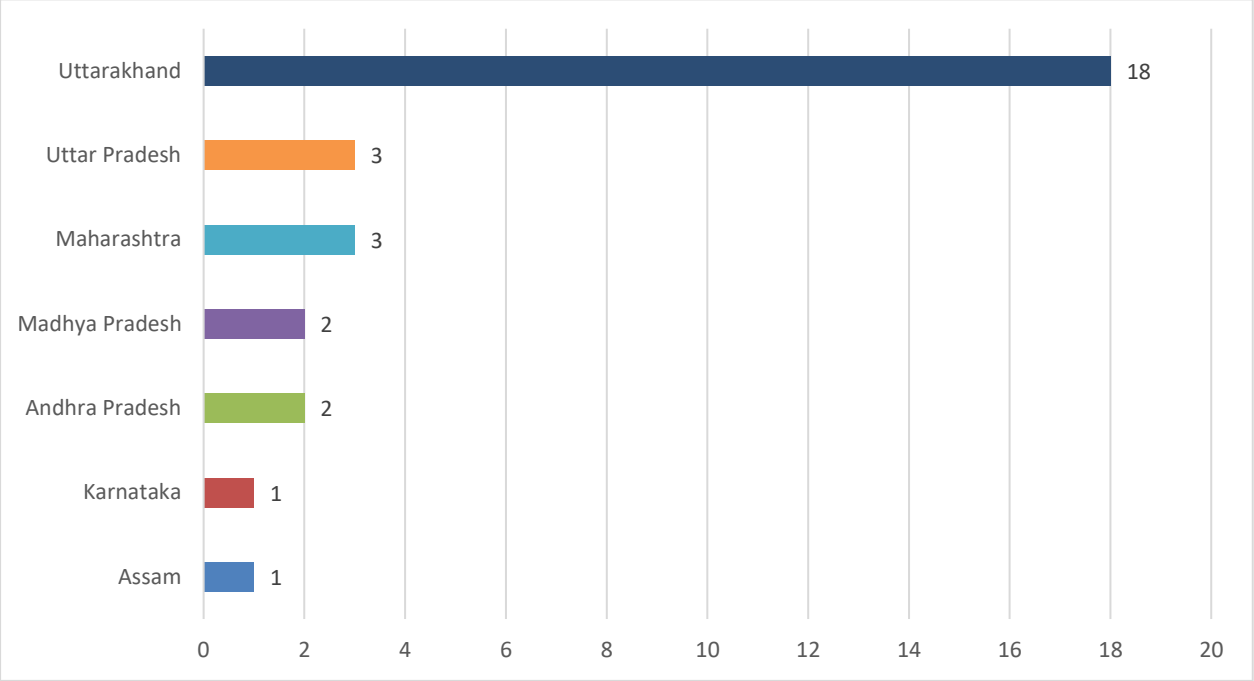
TS : Ms Tannu Saini, Sr Programme Officer, WWF-India, Delhi (ND)

Overall Feedback of Resource Persons on all Parameters

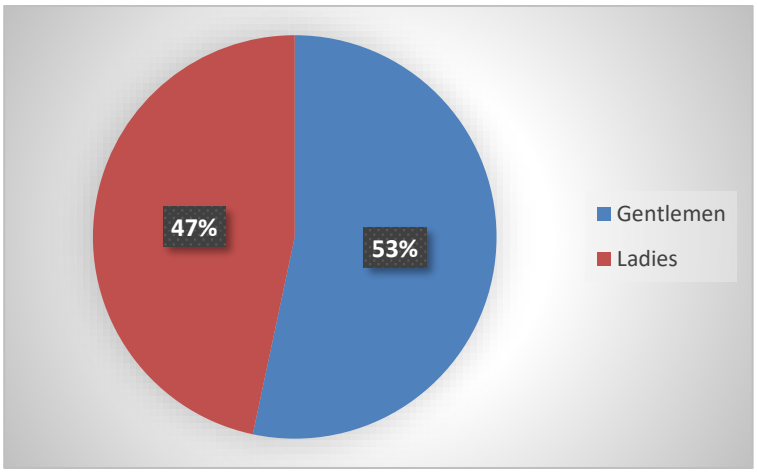




Parameter wise breakup of feedback of Resource Person



State-wise distribution of participants



Gender Profile

PHOTOGRAPHS OF TRAINING PROGRAMME (DAY-1)

Brief Introduction of the Training Program by Mr. Ankit Gupta, Sci-C, (Course Director)

Opening remarks by Mr. E. Vikram, IFS, Principal CASFOS, Dehradun

Address by Dr Govind Sagar Bhardwaj (IFS), Director, WII, Dehradun, Uttarakhand

PHOTOGRAPHS OF TRAINING PROGRAMME (DAY-1)

Lecturer session by Dr Swapnali Gole, Project Scientist, WII, Dehradun (UK), Kerala

Lecturer session by Ms Riddhima Karwa, Sr Program Co-ordinator, Earthian, Dehradun

Lecture session by Ms Kuhelika Bisht, Collaborating Organiser, CSA, Dehradun (UK)

PHOTOGRAPHS OF TRAINING PROGRAMME (DAY-2)

In-campus 'Season Watch' walk by the participants

PHOTOGRAPHS OF TRAINING PROGRAMME (DAY-3)

Lecturer session by Mr Ram Dayal Vaishnav, Head (CS&E), The Naturalist School, Bengaluru

Lecturer session by Dr Soumya Prasad, Founder, Nature Science Initiative, Dehradun (UK)

Lecturer session by Ms Tannu Saini, Sr Programme Officer, WWF-India, Delhi (ND)

Group Photograph