

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

Field Training Program in large mammal population monitoring methods

Wildlife Conservation Society-India Program and its partner Centre for Wildlife Studies are planning to conduct field training camps in the application of sampling-based methods for monitoring large mammal populations beginning from second week of February, 2010. These field workshops will be held at several reserves in Karnataka including Dandeli-Anshi, Kudremukha, Bhadra, Bandipura and Nagarahole. Some of the methods taught will include: estimation of large herbivore populations, relative abundance estimation of large carnivores using scat encounter rates and a demonstration of camera-trap studies to survey and estimate large carnivore populations.

There are a few openings available for individuals interested in participating in these field training camps. Candidates must fit the following description: candidates in the 18-40 year age group, who are physically very fit and have some experience in hiking through forests and rough country and have a reasonably good ability to spot and identify large mammals. The training will involve long and arduous working hours. The candidates will be selected after a screening of their applications to judge their suitability for doing the work. The candidates must be willing to undergo training in any of the sites.

Simple vegetarian food and rudimentary field accommodation will be provided to the camp participants. Travel expenses to and from the training locations will have to be borne by the participants.

Very strict camp discipline has to be observed (this is not a picnic). Candidates must be keen wild lifers and come prepared with appropriate field clothes (grey, khaki, green, and camouflage **not** white, red or bright coloured dresses) and tough walking shoes. They should bring a pair of binoculars. There is no need to bring any bedding, though a sleeping bag may be useful. The candidates must report on the assigned dates, and must spend a minimum of seven days thereafter.

If you or any specific candidate from your organization is interested in participating in the training programme, please contact the Field Coordinator pallavi.cws@gmail.com immediately by email with your CV that provides your background details, outdoor/field experiences and the dates (a block of a minimum of 7 days) in which you would prefer to participate. Once you are selected, you will be informed of the site and other reporting instructions.