



*Image 1: Entrance to Kuno National Park*

## **PROGRESS REPORT**

### **Project**

Nature Guide Training Program, Kuno National Park

### **Reporting Period**

November 2022

### **Submitted to**



### **Submitted by**



### **Project Team**

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Date: December 2022

## Project Details

<b>Reporting Period</b>	November 2022	<b>Project Title</b>	Nature Guide Training Program, Kuno National Park
<b>Date of Report</b>	December, 2022	<b>Project Manager</b>	Gaurav Shirodkar
<b>Report Author</b>	Naman Kaji, Gaurav Shirodkar	<b>Project Sponsor</b>	Dalmia Charitable Trust

## PROGRESS

- The Nature Guide Training Program was initiated for participants from all possible villages around Kuno National Park for the park's three tourist gates.
- The programme was conducted at two locations for ease of access, one at Agra Ecocentre Campus from 9-11 Nov 2022, for the participants registering for the Peepalbaudi Gate and the second at Sesaipura Forest Campus from 12-15 Nov 2023 for the participants registering for Tiktoli and Ahira tourist gates.
- The participants were a mix of ones nominated by the forest department and Last Wilderness Foundation, and there were many walk-in participants who came to know about the workshop and wished to join.
- 20 nature guides per gate were targeted to be trained, and the training saw a participation of over 80 participants, with a retention of 55 participants by the end of the 2 training sessions.

### First Session: EcoCenter, Agra

- The training was designed and executed by professional trainer, Mr. Arjun Manjunath from The Naturalist School, Bangalore, and supported by the LWF Kuno Field Coordinator, Mr Shyambihari Yadav and the Program Manager, Gaurav Shirodkar.



*Image 2: Mr. Arjun Manjunath introducing Kuno's biodiversity to the participants.*

- An ice breaking and introduction session, flagged off the workshop. The participants were taught about the common flora and fauna found in and around the Kuno landscape.



*Image 3: Ice breaking and introduction session*

- After training, the participants were taken for on field experience at Peepal Bawdi Gate. On field, the participants were coached on different aspects of tourism like how to cater to a tourist's needs during a safari, how to conduct yourself on a trail, etc.





*Image 4&5: On field training at Peepal Baudi gate*

- On the final day, all the participants showcased what they had learnt in the past 2 days. RFO Nikhilesh Sharma attended the closing session of the Training Program where he extended his support and shared his insights.



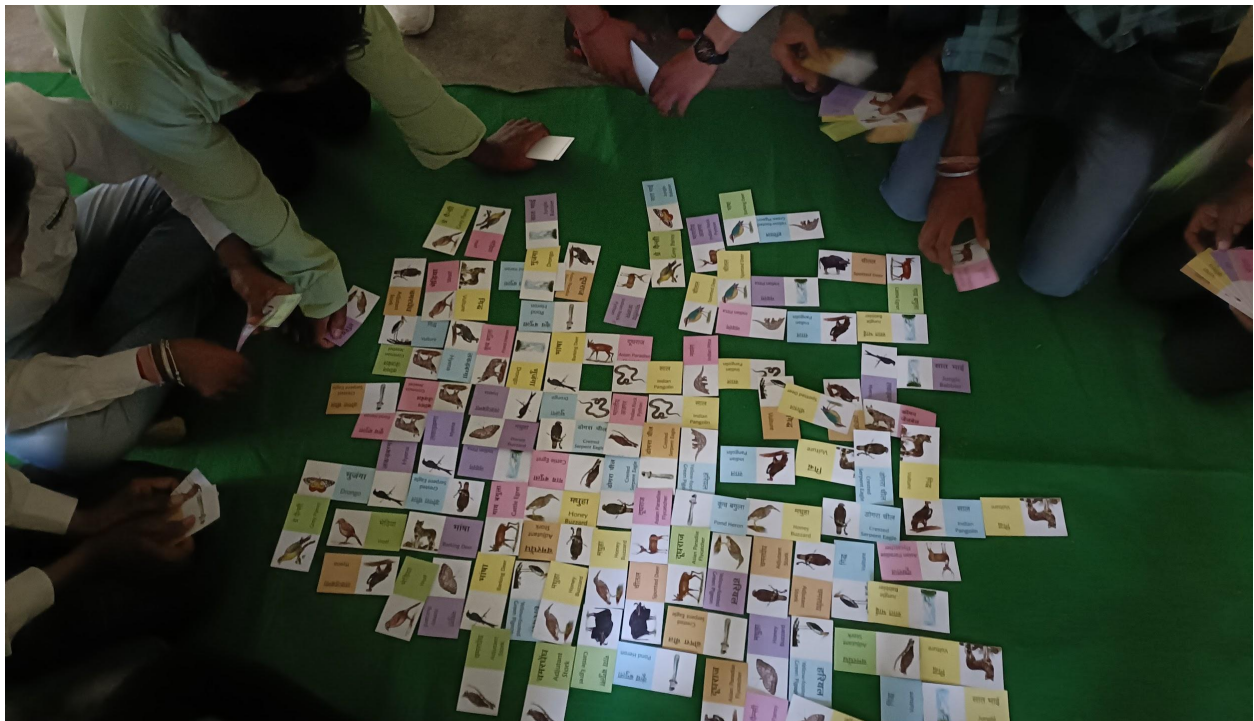
*Image 6: RFO Nikhilesh Sharma interacting with the participants.*

## Second Session: Sesaipura Forest Campus



*Image 6: Participants indulge in an interactive session with Arjun*

- The training was designed and executed by professional trainer, Mr. Arjun Manjunath from The Naturalist School, Bangalore, and supported by the LWF Kuno Field Coordinator, Mr Shyambihari Yadav and the Program Manager, Gaurav Shirodkar.
- Participants for both Tikoli and Ahira gate were invited to the workshop conducted here at Sesaipura. There were also some participants from Peepal Baudi gate, who could not attend it in Agra, attending here for all three days of the training.



*Image 7: Participants playing Jungle Dominoes*

- The participants were given an introduction to the Training Program and what it is the role of a Nature Guide.
- The participants were hesitant at first but opened up after an interesting ice breaking session where they interacted with our speakers Arjun Manjunath and Guarav Shirodkar.
- The first session was conducted by RFO Virendra Pironia where he gave a talk on the importance of Cheetahs in Kuno and its landscape. He also explained the significance of the role of a nature guide in spreading awareness and tourism.
- On the second day, the participants were given on-field training, where they were taught about identification of the surrounding biodiversity and the protocols that should be followed on a safari. To make the session interactive, a game was played to understand the cascading effects of a forest fire. They also played wildlife bingo to brush up on their identification lessons.



*Image 5: Mr. Gaurav Shirodkar conducting on-field session*

- On the final day, the trainees were taken to a field in Daulatpura and all of them took a nature trail, which they conducted successfully.

\*\*\*END OF REPORT\*\*\*