

Summary of the In-Service Workshop on “Audit of Forestry and Biodiversity Management” for Indian Forest Service officers from 02nd to 04th February 2026

International Centre for Environment Audit and Sustainable Development (iCED), Jaipur organised a three-day In-Service Workshop on “Audit of Forestry and Biodiversity Management” for Indian Forest Service (IFoS) officers from 02nd to 04th February 2026 at its campus in Jaipur, in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India.



Group photo of Workshop on “Audit of Forestry and Biodiversity Management” for Indian Forest Service officers”

A total of 19 IFoS officers participated in the workshop. The officers belonged to State Cadres including Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand. The participating officers were from batches ranging from 2000 to 2019.

At the outset of the inaugural session, Director (Training & Research), welcomed the participants and briefly explained about the schedule of the workshop.

Dr. Abhishek Gupta, Director General, iCED, formally inaugurated the workshop. In his inaugural address, Dr. Gupta extended a warm welcome to all participants and expressed his pleasure for hosting this first training programme exclusively for IFoS officers. He conveyed his best wishes for the success of the workshop and highlighted that iCED has previously organized programmes for distinguished institutions such as the Indian Air Force, the Central Board of Direct Taxes, and the Supreme Court of India.

He wished workshop a success and hoped that this workshop would provide a valuable platform for constructive dialogue on environmental auditing, encompassing the audit process and key issues in forestry and biodiversity management. He further informed the participants that, in addition to the academic sessions, a study visit to Jhalana Leopard Safari had been arranged to offer practical exposure and field insights.

During this workshop, experts from IA&AD, Forest Department, GoR and other reputed organizations delivered the sessions. The details are outlined below:

Sl. No	Session & Date	Resource Person	Session/s
1	Session I&II 02.02.2026	Dr. V. B. Mathur, Former Chairperson, National Biodiversity Authority of India, Tamil Nadu	Overview of Global Framework for Biodiversity Conservation and Performance Auditing
2	Session III&IV 02.02.2026	Shri K.C.A. Arun Prasad, APCCF & CWLW, Forest Department, Rajasthan	Biodiversity Management: Rajasthan Case Study
3	Session I 03.02.2026	Ms. Meena Bisht, Director (T&R), iCED	CAGs Overview of Environment Audit
	Session I 04.02.2026	Shri S. K. Garg, Former Pr. AG, Rajasthan	Overview of Audit Perspectives in the Forestry Sector
4	Session II 04.02.2026	Shri Rajesh Kumar, Senior Consultant, Forest Survey of India, Dehradun	Climate Change Mitigation Strategies in India: Carbon Stock and REDD+
5	Session III&IV 04.02.2026	Dr. Chandra Shekhar Jha, Former Scientist, NRSC, Hyderabad, India	Use of GIS and Remote Sensing in Forest Resource Management

The workshop concluded on 04 February 2026 with a valedictory address delivered by Director (T&R). During the valedictory session, feedback received on both the academic sessions and the boarding and lodging facilities at iCED was discussed. Several constructive suggestions were shared by the participants, and it was assured that these would be duly considered and incorporated in future training programmes. At the end, she expressed thanks to all faculties and participants for their enthusiastic engagement throughout the workshop, including sharing their valuable practical insights.

The valedictory session concluded with a vote of thanks to all participants.