

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR INSTITUTIONAL
COLLABORATION**

BETWEEN



DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE PROTECTION, UT OF LADAKH

AND



UNIVERSITY OF LADAKH, LEH (UT OF LADAKH)

1. Preamble

Department of Wildlife Protection, UT Ladakh was established for purpose of implementation of the provisions of J&K Wildlife (Protection) Act 1978, to give legal protection to the wildlife of Ladakh, management of Protected Areas, including habitat protection. After the formation of UT, the Jammu & Kashmir Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1978 was repealed and the Central Act, i.e., Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 became applicable to the Union Territory of Ladakh. The department has following objectives – (i) To ensure the long-term conservation of wild flora and fauna of Ladakh through implementation of legal and management provisions of the WPA 1972, (ii) To encourage public participation and support for the same through providing alternative livelihood opportunities such as development of wildlife-tourism, trainings and capacity building, to ameliorate the restrictions laid due to implementation of the WPA Act, and (iii) To involve local community in protection of wildlife, mitigation of man and animal conflict.

The University of Ladakh (UoL) was established in 2019 through University of Ladakh Act, (Governor Act No. LVI of 2018) is the only Trans-Himalayan University in the country for higher learning and research. The University has its headquarters in Leh, and Campuses in Leh (Taruthang & Stakna) and Kargil. University has six-degree colleges as constituent colleges. The University is established with the objectives: a) to become the cluster of vibrant institutions working to disseminate and advance knowledge by providing instructional and research facilities in such branches of learning as it may deem fit; b) to act as a change agent by having special focus on the skill development and creation of skilled workforce by undertaking industry-oriented teaching, training and research, extension programmes and providing employable skills with a view to contribute to the development of the society; c) to make special provision for integrated courses in humanities, social science and technology in its education programme; d) to take appropriate measure for promoting innovation in teaching- learning process and inter disciplinary studies and research; e) to establish linkages with industry for promotion of science, technology, entrepreneurial skills, innovation, etc. to and adopt innovation methods to achieve the status of a self-reliant institution and to pay special attention to the improvement of the social and economic conditions and welfare of people and their intellectual, academic and cultural development.

The Department of Wildlife Protection and University of Ladakh have agreed for institutional collaboration in research. The primary objective is to promote interaction and collaboration between faculty/officers and other staff of the two institutions by developing research infrastructure at Mountain Research Institute (MRI), UoL which will support analytical work of Department of Wildlife Protection *as and when* required.



2. Coordination

In-charge, Mountain Research Institute shall be the Coordinator from UoL and Wildlife Warden Leh, Leh shall be the Coordinator from Department of Wildlife Protection. The participants and Coordinators may change from time to time as decided by the appropriate authority of the respective institutions.

3. Scope of Cooperation

The following areas of cooperation have been identified under this MoU.

- (i) **Research Programme:** The two parties will explore opportunities for interaction among members of the faculty/officers, and will explore opportunities for undertaking joint research projects on the topics of mutual interests.
- (ii) **Laboratory Strengthening Programme:** The two parties agree to strengthen the hardware/software at the Mountain Research Institute from their own resources. The Genome Sequencer procured by Department of Wildlife Protection will be transferred to the Mountain Research Institute at University of Ladakh. University of Ladakh will be responsible for maintaining the equipment with the help of Department of Wildlife Protection. University of Ladakh will analyze samples of the Department of Wildlife Protection *as and when* required by the wildlife Department.
- (iii) **Joint organization of Events:** Department of Wildlife Protection and Mountain Research Institute, University of Ladakh may formulate joint activities such as short courses, seminars, workshops or conferences based on mutual interests, and may organize events of national/international events, viz., Biodiversity Day, etc.

4. Intellectual Property

Each organization will adhere to the intellectual laws of its Nation. Intellectual property developed will be governed by the rules of the host institute unless otherwise specified. Any Background Intellectual Property (BGIP) shall remain the sole and exclusive property of the Party to whom it belonged prior to the commencement of this MoU. If one Party receives any BGIP from the partner under a clearly defined non-disclosure agreement, necessary and reasonable care will be taken to protect the intellectual property received.

5. Legal Status

This document is a statement of intent to foster genuine and mutually beneficial cooperation and is not legally binding on both the parties. Any disputes shall be resolved through mutual discussion.

6. Validity and Termination

This MoU is valid for an initial period of five years and becomes effective from the date it is signed by the partners. The partnership period may be extended by mutual consent.

This MoU may be terminated:

- a. on either party giving the other party 6 months' prior written notice;

b. on written notice by one of the Parties if the other Party has committed a breach of this MoU.

However, specific commitments made prior to such intimation shall be honored by both the partners including ensuring that any student at that time participating in the Programme is able to complete the term of the assignment and be assessed for it.

7. Terms and Conditions.

- i. The University of Ladakh which will be holding the equipment at the time will be responsible for its maintenance.
- ii. The University of Ladakh will be liable for any damages to the equipment during their possession.
- iii. The University of Ladakh will handover the equipment back to Department of Wildlife Protection when asked within 15 days in working condition.

S. Mehta

Prof (Dr) S.K. Mehta, FRSC
Vice Chancellor
University of Ladakh,
Union Territory of Ladakh.

Date:- 15.7.2024

Witness *[Signature]*

Name Dr Subrat Sharma

B.M. Sharma 15/7/24

B.M. Sharma, IFS
APCCF/Chief Wildlife Warden
Department of Wildlife Protection,
Union Territory of Ladakh.

Date:- 15/7/24

Witness

Name