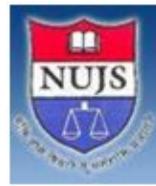


WORKSHOP ON ENVIRONMENTAL LAWYERING

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**15 – 16 FEBRUARY
2014**

**NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF JURIDICAL
SCIENCES, KOLKATA**



Facilitators*: Arpitha Kodiveri and Stella James [[Natural Justice](#)]

This workshop is designed to bridge the gap between classroom learning of environmental law and its practice on the field. The objective is to facilitate the understanding of dynamic contexts within which environmental law operates – the stakes, the nature of consensus building that takes place and the politics that circumscribe such implementation.

Planned as an experiential workshop, it attempts to give participants not only an idea of what a ‘field’ looks and feels like, but to experience how ‘the law’ plays out in human lives. To achieve this, the workshop is designed to be an interactive case study, where participants will be set within a particular context/field and interact with each other as stakeholders. The aim is to arrive at a consensus between different stakeholders, using the law as the only tool for negotiation, whilst locating the law within the larger social, political and economic frameworks.

CONTEXT: SARiska TIGER RESERVE, ALWAR, RAJASTHAN

Sariska was chosen as the context for the workshop because of the intricacies of various legal, social and political interests at play here that have created intriguing dynamics and conflicts between various stakeholders.

The other reason for choosing this context is to expose the workshop participants to the complexity that layers the work of environmental lawyers on the field. To transport them to the processes of negotiation, use and experimentation of environmental law that mimic the reality of being an environmental lawyer.

Session 1 – Setting the context

This session will aim at not only setting the context, but immersing the participants completely in the context. The aim is to make the participants feel like they are within the field embracing all its dynamics. This will be done by reading about Sariska, understanding the legal and political situation there through storytelling and audio-visual means.

Session 2 – Stakeholder mapping

The participants will be divided into four groups, each representing one major stakeholder in the Sariska context. The four stakeholder groups that have been identified are – Conservationists, Gujjars, Forest Department and the Mining ‘mafia’. The participants will then be briefed on the various social, political, legal and economic interests of each of the groups as well as inter and intra group dynamics.

Session 3 – Consensus building – turn table negotiation

To create opportunities for successful negotiation, the consensus building exercise has been divided into two parts. The first part is a turn table negotiation, where two groups negotiate with each other for a certain period of time, aiming as far as possible to arrive at a consensus. The table is then turned and each group interacts with another group. The session will end with some time allotted towards lobbying with other groups.

Session 4 – Consensus building – coming together

Each group selects two representatives for the final negotiations, where the groups come together, with NJ acting as the mediators, to arrive at a final agreement between all stakeholders.

The workshop will end with a brief period allocated to reflection and feedback.

Timeline of the Workshop:

Confirmation of Participation: On the submission of completely filled registration form

Venue: Participants to report at NUJS main gate on 15th February, 2014 by 9:00 am.

The exact itinerary will be sent soon.

Contact Persons (SEAA):

Shruthi Srinivasan: 09831506032

Ashi Gupta: 09748805176

Arpitha Upendra Kodiveri graduated from ILS Law College, Pune (India), in 2011 with a keen interest in issues relating to the rights of Indigenous communities in protected areas, traditional knowledge and environmental ethics. After law school she was a Fellow of the multidisciplinary Young India Fellowship in association with the University of Pennsylvania. She is now interested in exploring multidisciplinary approaches to environmental legal education in India with a focus on bio-cultural rights and jurisprudence. She is currently working in Sariska and Kutch on conservation and rights of pastoralist communities.

Stella James completed her BA LLB (Hons) from NUJS, Kolkata in 2013, and has been working as a Fellow with Natural Justice since. In University, she was interested in inter-disciplinary research and analyzing law and policy. At Natural Justice, she is currently involved in working with indigenous communities in Orissa on securing rights over resources in the context of extractive industries.