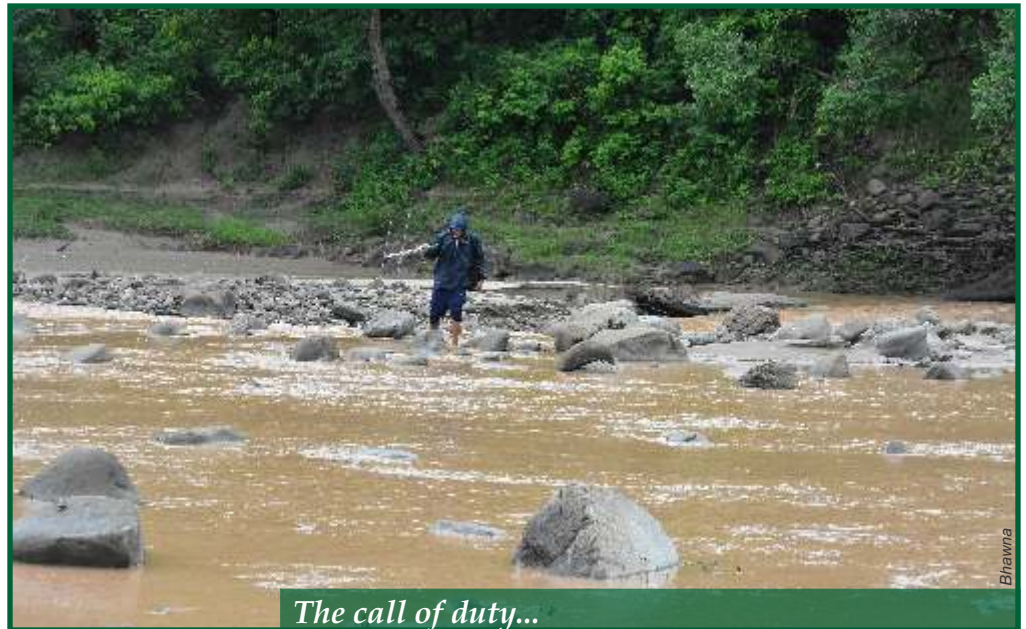


Next Issue

- Swachhata Hi Seva Programme
- Wildlife Week Celebrations



The call of duty...

Current Protected Area Network of India

(Position as on 30 September, 2019)

National Parks: 104; Area 40501.03 sq km, (1.23%)
Wildlife Sanctuaries: 551; Area 119775.80 sq km, (3.64%)
Conservation Reserves: 88; Area 4356.49 sq km, (0.13%)
Community Reserves: 127; Area 525.22 sq km, (0.02%)
Total Protected Areas: 870; Area 1,65,158.54 sq km, (5.02%)

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Around the Campus

Capacity Building Programme on Conservation and Management of Natural Capital in Transportation Projects in South Asia, Dehradun, 15-19th July, 2019. A one-week Asian Development Bank sponsored training workshop to build capacity for conserving and managing natural capital during the planning and implementation of transportation projects in South Asia was held at Wildlife Institute of India. The key objective of the training workshop was to support the capacity building of individuals and organizations working in the implementation of Green Linear Infrastructure projects in the transportation sector in South Asia. Twenty participants from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka attended this programme, which received excellent feedback.

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Meeting of Coordinating Lead Authors - National Strategy and Action Plan & Standard Operating Procedures, New Delhi, 17th July 2019. A meeting on National Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation Strategy and Action Plan and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) was organized under the project "Knowledge Support to Development of Guidelines, Specialized Field Studies and Training on Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation in India", funded by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH under the Indo-German Technical Cooperation project, which is being jointly implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and GIZ. This workshop was organized to discuss the overall concept plan and the approach for developing N-HWCM-SAP and draft content of SOPs for 10 species. The primary agenda of the workshop was to initiate discussion among the SOP teams and to finalize the dates of further meetings for drafting N-HWCM-SAP and SOPs. This workshop was attended by Coordinating Lead Authors (LA) of N-HWCM-SAP and SOPs, Technical Experts from GIZ and Project team from WII. The workshop included presentations on N-HWCM-SAP and SOPs by respective Coordinating Lead Authors. It was decided that the framework of SOPs will remain flexible and each CLA can add a section to the SOPs. However, the information should be presented in succinct manner.

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The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Released the Tiger Population Estimation 2018 Report, New Delhi, 29th July, 2019. The World Tiger Day, 2019 was celebrated on 29th July 2019 in which two reports *viz.* Tiger Population Estimation 2018 and Management Effectiveness Evaluation of Tiger Reserve 2018 were released by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi. These reports were jointly prepared by the Wildlife Institute of India and National Tiger Conservation Authority (WII-NTCA). WII-NTCA teams collected; compiled and analyzed the data from various tiger occupied areas spread across the country and finalized the Tiger Population Estimation 2018 report. The Hon'ble Prime Minister congratulated all the agencies, organizations and the teams involved in the task. He said on this occasion that India achieved its target of doubling the tiger count four years ahead of 2022. He further said that it is one of the finest examples of 'Sankalp Se Siddhi' (from the pledge to fulfilment). The Hon'ble the Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India, Shri Prakash Javadekar, the Hon'ble Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India, Shri Babul Supriyo, the Hon'ble Cabinet Minister of Forests & Wildlife, Govt. of Uttarakhand, Shri Harak Singh Rawat, senior officials of MoEFCC, Dr. V.B. Mathur, Director, WII and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

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Pre-monsoon Survey for the Project "Source to Sea - Plastic Expedition" Completed, Dehradun, July, 2019. The pre-monsoon survey for the project "Source to Sea - Plastic Expedition", which was a part of the collaboration project between Wildlife Institute of India and National Geographic Society (WII-NGS) started in last week of



May, 2019. The expedition team included 25 members from both WII and other collaborating partners of NGS. A month-long expedition covering seven sites across five Ganga states of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal ended in the last week of June. A comprehensive approach was taken to collect data related to plastic waste entering the Ganga River through various routes. The WII researchers presented the findings and observations of this expedition to Project Investigators on 4th July 2019.

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First Master's Degree Course in Heritage Conservation and Management commenced at UNESCO Category 2 Centre, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, 1st July, 2019. The UNESCO Category 2 Centre (C2C) for World Natural Heritage Management and Training for Asia and the Pacific Region at Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun was established in 2015 to realize the objectives of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention, 1972 by building capacity of World Heritage professionals through training, research and information dissemination. Responding to the critical need for advancing heritage education, the Centre has introduced a 2-year residential Master's Course in Heritage Conservation and Management beginning July, 2019.



Currently affiliated to Saurashtra University, Gujarat, the course is interdisciplinary in nature and advances sustainability studies through the prism of heritage. This includes theoretical and methodological integration of ecological sciences, social sciences and humanities, and heritage studies. A total of ten students joined the course on 1st July, 2019.

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4th Ten-Day Orientation Workshop on "Wildlife and Health Management", Dehradun,

5-14th August 2019. 4th Ten-Day Orientation Workshop on "Wildlife and Health Management" was organized by Wildlife Institute of India for Veterinary Officers of Uttarakhand. The workshop was aimed at providing an overview of the ethical, scientific and professional management practices of wild animals. The workshop was sponsored by Uttarakhand Forest Department and CAMPA, Uttarakhand. The workshop was organized with the objective of providing exposure on various aspects of wildlife management and included topics. The field component included a visit to Chidiyapur Wildlife Transit Rehabilitation Centre, Haridwar, Wildlife SOS's facility (Elephant Conservation & Care Centre and Bear Rescue Facility) at Agra, Keoladeo National Park and Sariska Tiger Reserve. Hands-on training on a variety of immobilization



Around the Campus

73rd Independence Day Celebration at WII, August 15, 2019.

India's 73rd Independence Day was celebrated in the Wildlife Institute of India campus on 15th August, 2019. Hoisting the national flag, Dr. V.B. Mathur, Director recalled the sacrifices of the countrymen during the freedom struggle that finally led to India's Independence. He said that Government of India had assigned several responsibilities to the Institute for planning and implementing species recovery programmes. The Institute had taken up the challenge of 'field conservation' in the country, where these species occur. Similarly, under the National Mission for Clean Ganga the Institute has recently established a 'Ganga Aqualife Conservation and Monitoring Centre' in the campus and 'Ganga Biodiversity Knowledge Centres' have also been established. He urged the Institute's scientists, researchers, students and staff for their continued support in successfully meeting the various challenges and new responsibilities assigned to the Institute.



equipment besides physical capture techniques was provided. The workshop was attended by 24 veterinary field officers, including ten lady officers. The Institute has so far trained 100 veterinarians representing all the 13 districts of Uttarakhand.

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'World Elephant Day' Celebration at Wildlife

Institute of India, Dehradun, 12th August, 2019.

The World Elephant Day was celebrated at the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) on Monday, 12th August, 2019. The Hon'ble Minister, Forests and Wildlife, Govt. of Uttarakhand, Dr. Harak Singh Rawat graced the occasion as Chief Guest. The Elephant Cell was also inaugurated on this day at WII. A video message was sent by Shri Prakash Javadekar, the Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change,

Government of India on this occasion. Shri Noyal Thomas, IGF & Director (Project Elephant) welcomed the august gathering. Dr. V.B. Mathur, Director, WII, Shri Praveen Garg, AS&FA, MoEFCC, Shri M.S. Negi, ADG (WL), MoEFCC, Shri Jairaj, PCCF & HoFF, Uttarakhand and Shri Siddhanta Das, DGF&SS, MoEFCC also addressed the gathering. A short video film on 'Glimpses of technology application for addressing rail-induced elephant mortality' was screened by the Institute.

An elephant art piece signifying the importance of elephant corridors was unveiled by the Chief Guest. Prizes were also distributed by the Chief Guest to the winners of Painting Competition and Wildlife, Environment and Elephant Quiz Competition. A cultural programme was presented by the children of WII community. A puppet show on elephant



conservation was also organized. Over 500 participants participated in the celebration. All participants pledged their support for conservation of the environment, forest and wildlife.

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XV Internal Annual Research Seminar,

Dehradun, 19-20th August, 2019. XV Internal Annual Research Seminar (IARS) was chaired by Dr. S.K. Khanduri, Former IG (WL), Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change. Twenty presentations were made in five technical sessions *viz.*, Status and Distribution; Ecology & Behaviour; Human-Wildlife Interface; Vegetation Science; and Taxonomy, Genetics & Anthropogenic Impacts. The presentations were based on recently initiated and ongoing research studies and were made by research fellows of the Institute. Seventeen poster presentations were also made during the IARS. The following oral and poster presentations were declared as best presentations:

Name	Title of the Presentation
I N. Lakshminarayanan	Maps propose, elephants dispose: Home range and movement patterns of elephants in tribal hinterlands of northern Chhattisgarh
II Harshvardhan S. R.	Tigers in Simlipal: Past, present and future challenges
III Harindra Baraiya	To Avoid or to Adapt - Energy Infrastructure and its Impact on Large Avian Species

Name	Title of the Poster Presentation
I Navin Kumar Das	Understanding plastic leakage into Ganga through many sources using a citizen science tool
II Sunanda Kumari Bhola	Quantifying microplastics in the abiotic matrix of Ganga river: A comprehensive approach to assess plastic pollution from source to sea
III Umar Saeed	Preliminary observation on the status of invasive species in grassland ecosystem of Kaziranga Tiger Reserve, Assam



4th Himalayan Research Seminar, Dehradun,

21st August, 2019. 4th Himalayan Research Seminar (HRS) was chaired by Shri B.S. Bonal, Former ADG (WL), MoEFCC & Member Secretary, NTCA. A total of 15 presentations were made in four technical sessions *viz.*, Conservation Status & Ecological Patterns; Vegetation and Habitat Monitoring; Climate Change, Vulnerability and Adaptation; and Human-Wildlife Conflict. Fourteen poster presentations were also made in the HRS. The following oral and poster presentations were declared as best presentations:

Name	Title of Presentation
I Aashna Sharma	Escalators to extinction: Decoding climate-induced future trajectories for the Himalayan Snow Trout
II Ranjana Pal	Conservation prospects of threatened and newly discovered mammals of Bhagirathi Basin, Uttarakhand, India



Around the Campus



III Meghna Bandopadhyay Small carnivore community along elevation gradient in the Great Himalayan National Park, Himachal Pradesh

Name	Title of Poster Presentation
I Nidhi Singh and Shiv Yadav	Identifying and delineating high conservation value areas across different ecosystems in and Pangi Valley, Himachal Pradesh.
II Meghma Ghosh and Bhawna Pandey	Assessment of capacity building and training needs of key stakeholders in biodiversity conservation in Lahaul and Pangi Valley, Himachal Pradesh.
III Mona Chauhan	Preliminary assessment and conservation of Insect Pollinators through citizen science in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

following oral and poster presentations were declared as best presentations:

Name	Title of Presentation
I Sangeeta Angom	Evaluating outcome and effectiveness of capacity building of stakeholders
II Shivani Barthwal	Ecological health assessment of the Ganga river
III Sk. Zeeshan Ali	Simulation of river discharge scenario in regulated river system: A case study from the Ganga river

Name	Title of the Poster Presentation
I Deepika Dogra	Spreading the wings: Ganga Praharis ensuring the sustainability of conservation efforts

2nd Biodiversity and Ganga Conservation Seminar, Dehradun, 22nd August, 2019. The 2nd Biodiversity and Ganga Conservation seminar was organised at the Institute for showcasing the work done under National Mission for Clean Ganga. Padma Shri Dr. Anil Joshi, HESCO graced the seminar as the Chief Guest. A total of eleven presentations were made in three technical sessions, *viz.*, Ganga River Ecology and Management; Aquatic Species Conservation; and Community Participation, Nature Interpretation and Awareness. 23 poster presentations were also made during the seminar. The



- II Hemlata Khanduri, Sunita Rawat and Sonal Jain**
III Dipti Dey
- Livelihood interventions for engaging local communities in Ganga conservation
 Comparative study on vegetation diversity along river Ganga and its tributaries with reference to disturbance

- II Nongmaithem Bijyaluxmi Devi**
III Tennison Gurumayum
- Distribution pattern of Sangai and Hog deer in Keibul Lamjao National Park
 A preliminary analysis of stress levels in wild and captive population of Sangai

Seminar on Endangered Species Recovery

Programme, Dehradun, 23rd August, 2019. The seminar was chaired by Dr. S.K. Khanduri, Former IG (WL), Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change. A total of fourteen presentations were made in two technical sessions *viz.*, Aquatic Species; and Terrestrial Species. Seven poster presentations were also made in the seminar. The following oral and poster presentations were declared as best presentations:

Name	Title of Presentation
I Sameeha Pathan	Understanding Dugong foraging patterns in the Gulf of Kachchh, Gujarat
II Sourav Supakar	Recovery of Bustards in India
III Merin Jacob	Seeing the unseen: Understanding habitat use and activity pattern of Ganges River Dolphin and the effects of ship traffic

Name	Title of the Poster Presentation
I Sumit Prajapat	Gut content analysis of Dugong of Gujarat and Tamil Nadu

XXXIII Annual Research Seminar (ARS),

Dehradun, 26-27th August, 2019. Dr. H.S. Pabla, Chairman, WII-Training, Research and Academic Council was the Seminar Chairperson of Annual Research Seminar. A total of seven publications were released in the inaugural session of the seminar. 27 presentations were made in six technical sessions *viz.*, Species Recovery & Wildlife Monitoring Programmes; Climate Change in the Himalaya and Ganga Rejuvenation; Large Carnivore Ecology; Human-Wildlife Interface and Conservation-Development Issues; Landscape Ecology and Wildlife Forensics; and A Mixed Bag (Poster Presentations and M.Sc. Dissertations: Three Minute Talks – TMT). The presentations were based on the ongoing/completed research studies and were made by research fellows and faculty members of the Institute. The Photographic Competition Awards and best presentation awards were given to the winners in the concluding session. The following oral and poster presentations were declared as best presentations:

Name	Title of Presentation
I Tista Ghosh	DNA Detective: Population assignment of seized rhino horns back to its origin



Around the Campus



More than 600 delegates attended the ARS that included senior officials of MoEFCC, Principal Chief Conservators of Forests, Chief Wildlife Wardens and representatives from NTCA and WWF, scientists, wildlife experts, National Mission for Clean Ganga, NGOs, faculty members, IFS Probationers, CASFOS officer trainees, researchers and students of the Institute.

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National Repository Facility Inaugurated at Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, 26th August, 2019.

The National Biodiversity Authority has designated the Wildlife Institute of India as one of the National Repository under Section 39 of the Biodiversity Act 2002. This repository serves as safe custody of the different categories of Biological Resources, including voucher specimens from Protected Areas of India. In order to maintain the deposit, the Wildlife Institute of India has established National Repository in the Institute,

II Shrutarshi Paul

Grasslands on the wane:
Assessing swamp deer habitat dynamics over last three decades along upper Gangetic plains

III Shrusti Modi

Individual identification to dispersal dynamics: Insights from dhole genetics in Eastern Vidarbha Landscape, Maharashtra, India

Name

Title of the Poster Presentation

I Ajaz Hussain

Tiger conservation initiative in Nandhaur landscape: An update

II Swapnali Gole

Dugongs, Seagrasses and Fisheries: Tales of fisherfolk from the Andaman Islands

III Priya Gusain

Population Management of Species in Conflict



XXXXI P.G. Diploma Course in Advanced Wildlife Management Commenced, Dehradun, 1st September, 2019 to 30th June, 2020.

The 10-month P.G. Diploma Course in Advanced Wildlife Management commenced on 1st September, 2019 at this Institute with twenty (20) officer trainees of the rank of Deputy Conservator of Forests/ Assistant Conservator of Forests and equivalent levels. Among them, six officers represented Indian States (three from Chhattisgarh, two each from Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, one each from Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh). Besides, five foreign nationals from Myanmar (2) and Bangladesh (3) have also joined the course.

The Orientation Tour to Koluchaur, Chowkhamb, Lansdowne Forest Division, Pauri Garhwal and its adjoining areas was conducted from 23-28 September, 2019. The objective of this tour was to introduce the concept of conservation values, unique features, orientation to flora and fauna, identification of bird species and guilds in the different forest ecosystem. This opportunity was also used to familiarize trainees with different habitats, wildlife values of the area, animal sightings and eco-tourism and human-wildlife interface situations.

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which was inaugurated by Dr. Erach Bharucha, Chairman, WII Faculty Assessment and Promotion Committee. During the occasion, Dr. H.S. Pabla, Chairman, WII-TRAC, Dr. V.B. Mathur, Director, Wildlife Institute of India, Dr. J.A. Johnson, Nodal Scientist, NBA National Repository, WII Centre and other faculty members were present.

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2nd National Training Workshop for Spearhead Team of Ganga States on “Ganga Biodiversity Conservation and Monitoring of Aquatic Species of Ganga River”, Dehradun, 3-9th September, 2019.

The Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun under the project “Biodiversity Conservation and Ganga Rejuvenation” conducted one-week training workshop for spearhead teams of Forest Departments of the Ganga River states on “Biodiversity Conservation and Monitoring of Aquatic Species of Ganga River”. The main objective of this workshop was to train the officers and frontline staff with the skills and capacities required for the biodiversity monitoring, conservation and management of the riverine species along the Ganga River. During the workshop, spearhead teams were exposed to tools and techniques of aquatic biodiversity monitoring for practical and action-oriented implementation of science-based research carried out by the WII. It is hoped that these trained spearhead teams will train other frontline staff for successful biodiversity monitoring and restoration of the Ganga River. The training workshop was attended by 37 forest officials from Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh.

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One-day Sensitization Workshop on “Rescue and Rehabilitation of Aquatic Macro-Fauna” for Local Community and Forest Officials of Sahibganj, Jharkhand, 14th September, 2019.

The team of Component IV of the WII-NMCG project of the Institute organised a workshop on “Rescue and Rehabilitation of Aquatic Macro-Fauna” for field forest officers and local community members of Jharkhand. The objective of the workshop was to sensitize forest personnel and community members on the biological characteristics of chelonians and crocodylians of main-stream Ganga River and the various practices used for the effective management of distressed/displaced animals.

The workshop has enhanced capacities of 31 Forest Department officials and 33 community members of Sahibganj including Ganga *praharis*, fishermen, boatmen and other local community members.

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International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, Dehradun, 16th September, 2019.

Wildlife Institute of India organised one-day programme to celebrate the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer. Digital posters and presentations were displayed throughout the Institute to create awareness amongst all the staff and researchers. A documentary on “Arctic and the Ozone” was screened followed by messages and videos released by various organizations like the United Nations Environment Programme for the day. A debate was held amongst the M.Sc. students of WII on the motion “32 years and healing” which is also the theme for this year. The book prizes along with certificates were given to the winners of the debate competition.

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One-day Workshop on Secure Himalaya Web Portal, Dehradun, 26th September, 2019.

A one-day workshop was organized by Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun as a part of GoI-UNDP-GEF funded SECURE Himalaya Project titled “Conducting a baseline study and establishing a database on biodiversity conservation, sustainable natural resource management in SECURE Himalaya project landscapes in selected districts of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Sikkim”.

About 25 participants attended the workshop. The first technical session started with the demonstration of Live, Dynamic & Interactive web portal for SECURE Himalaya project. The demo web portal, along with different database pages, was also presented in the meeting. The second technical session started with a brief discussion about the technology/framework used to develop the portal, followed by an interactive and detailed discussion about the future of the web portal amongst all the participants.

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Farewell

Dr. Vinod B. Mathur, Director Superannuated from the Institute

Dr. V.B. Mathur superannuated on 31st August, 2019 after a long and illustrious career. Dr. Mathur joined the Indian Forest Service (IFS) in the year 1983. He obtained his doctorate degree from the University of Oxford, the United Kingdom in 1991. He worked as the Regional Vice-Chair of the IUCN-World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA-South Asia) and member of the International Association of Impact Assessment (IAIA). He served as a member of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India Committees on World Heritage Conservation, Biosphere Reserves and Management Effectiveness Evaluation and a member of the National Board for Wildlife Standing Committee.

He served for nearly thirty-three years in WII, actively contributed to its wide range of training, research and academic programmes. He has been the Regional Vice-Chair (Asia-Pacific Region) of the United Nations Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (UN-IPBES) Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP) (2014-2018). He has also been the Chair of the UN-CBD Informal Advisory Group for developing synergies between seven biodiversity-related conventions. He has been part of the official Indian delegation for CBD and UNESCO World Heritage Committee Meetings since 2006. He has been elected as a member of the prestigious UN-IPBES Bureau from the Asia-Pacific region in May, 2019 for a three-year term. He has been invited as an international trainer to conduct capacity building programmes in 12 countries between 2005 and 2019.

He was appointed as Director, WII in February, 2014 and as Director, UNESCO Category 2 Centre for World Natural Heritage Management and Training for Asia-Pacific Region at WII in September, 2015. Currently, he has been appointed as the Chairman of National Biodiversity Authority.

A function was organized on 31st August, 2019 to bid farewell to Dr. Mathur in which the officers, staff, researchers, students, friends, colleagues, relatives and well-wishers were present to express their good wishes.



Patron: Director, WII
 Editors: Bitapi C. Sinha and K.K. Shrivastava
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"The love for all living creatures is the most noble attribute of man."

- Charles Darwin

Source: <http://anlwildlife.blogspot.com/2016/05/wildlife-quotes.html>