



Time to visit...

Current Protected Area Network of India

(Position as on June 30, 2017)

National Parks – 103; Area 40500.13 km² (1.23%)
Wildlife Sanctuaries – 543; Area 118917.71 km² (3.62%)
Conservation Reserves – 73; Area 2547.19 km² (0.08%)
Community Reserves – 45; Area 59.66 km² (0.002%)
Total – 764; Area 162024.69 km² (4.93%)

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In the Next Issue

- Internal Annual Research Seminar
- Annual Research Seminar
- Training Program on Application of Very High Resolution Satellite Data in Natural Heritage Management



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Around the Campus



XXXVIII Post Graduate Diploma Course in Advanced Wildlife Management concluded

The 10-month Post Graduate Diploma Course in Advanced Wildlife Management ended on 30th June 2017. During the reporting period, the officer trainees visited Kruger National Park, Johannesburg Zoo, South African Wildlife College, Moholoholo Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre, Cheetah Breeding Centre, Pretoria Zoo, *Johannesburg* in South Africa, Pretoria National Botanical Garden, Table Mountain National Park, Cap Town as part of their Management Tour's foreign component in South Africa from 19th April to 2nd May, 2017. The purpose of this visit was to get a regional perspective and study a wide range of wildlife and protected area management practices.

They completed the Management Term Paper Exercise at Nameri Tiger Reserve, Assam from 2-12th April, 2017. The information and data collected and computed was analyzed and a term paper report was developed by each of them. The Management Plan Exercise was completed at Kanha Tiger Reserve, Madhya

Pradesh from 8-29th May, 2017. The officer trainees prepared the individual Management Plan during the period from 1-16th June, 2017 which was followed by evaluation. Dr. Rajesh Gopal, Secretary General, Global Tiger Forum (GTF) was the Chief Guest of the Valedictory Function. The following officer trainees received the awards and prizes:

'Institute's Gold Medal for the Top Trainee' and 'Top Trainee in Wildlife Biology (Book Prize)' were bagged by Ms. Ajeeta Longjam; Wildlife Preservation Society Silver Medal for the Second in Merit and Silver Medal for the Best All Round Wildlifer were given to Shri Md. Sajid Sultan; NR Nair Memorial Silver Medal for Best Management Plan was received by Shri Vikram Kesharee Pradhan; A.K. Chatterjee Silver Medal for Best Management Term Paper was awarded to Shri G. Ramalingam; and the Silver Medal for the Best Foreign Trainees was given to Shri Wai Yan Phyo.

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Visit of Shri Suresh P. Prabhu, Hon'ble Minister of Railways, Dehradun, 13th May, 2017.

A meeting was held in Institute's Board Room under the chairmanship of Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu, the Hon'ble Minister of Railways, Government of India. Fifteen faculty members of the Institute including Director, Dean and Registrar participated in the meeting. Dr. V.B. Mathur, Director, Wildlife Institute of India (WII) welcomed the Hon'ble Minister of Railways and made a detailed presentation on the mandate and activities of the Institute in the field of environment, forest and wildlife conservation. Shri Satish Agnihotri, Chairman & Managing Director, Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL), New Delhi said that he was very impressed to see the range of activities being carried out by the

Institute in the field of environment and wildlife conservation and he looked forward for a close collaboration between RVNL and WII.

Shri Suresh Prabhu, in his remarks recalled his long association with the Wildlife Institute of India and expressed his happiness over the contribution being made by the Institute in various aspects of natural resource conservation. He said that Central and State Government of Uttarakhand had embarked on a project of national importance of providing the rail connectivity to all four religious sites (*Dhams*) in Uttarakhand State. He stressed on the need to not only protect the environment but to actively promote environmental conservation. He said that Ministry of Railways was committed to promote 'green railway lines' and to prevent



elephant injury/ mortality due to existing rail operations and the proposed expansion projects. He said that Wildlife Institute of India's strengths and capabilities will be used by the Ministry of Railways for institutionalization of the environmental safeguards and to build capacity of the rail engineering and operational staff for effective environmental and wildlife conservation. He also said that Ministry of Railways looks forward to working with Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in securing the natural heritage of the country.

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Braille Version of the SECAS Booklet Released, New Delhi, 23rd May, 2017.

The Braille versions (English and Hindi) of Science Express Climate Action Special (SECAS) booklet on 'Climate Action: We Must Not Delay' were released by Shri N.S. Kang, Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India in a function held at Pandit Deen Dayal Antodaya Bhawan in CGO Complex at New Delhi. The Braille



versions of the booklet have been brought out to make the educational experience about biodiversity conservation and climate change for the visually challenged persons more inclusive. Shri Siddhanta Das, Director General of Forests & Special Secretary to Government of India, MoEFCC was the Guest of Honour on this occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. V.B. Mathur, Director, Wildlife Institute of India gave the background of SECAS and said that a range of educational material in the form of booklets, posters, stickers etc. have been prepared by the Institute to raise awareness about biodiversity conservation and climate actions. He further said that the idea of making a Braille version of this booklet was suggested by Sh. A.N. Jha, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India during the flag off event of the train. He added that these Braille booklets will be sent to over 150 institutions/ NGOs dealing with visually challenged persons to enrich their educational experience about biodiversity and climate change. The Braille versions have been printed at the Central Braille Press, National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (NIVEPD), Dehradun. The representatives of NIVEPD, Dehradun also participated in the event and read the extracts from the Braille Booklets.

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Ganga Aqualife Events under WII-NMCG project activities, May-June, 2017.

A range of activities were carried out under WII-NMCG project during the month of May 2017:

- (i) Aquatic biodiversity survey of the Ganga was carried out from Bijnor in Uttar Pradesh to Farakka in West Bengal. Siebold's smooth scaled water snake was reported after a gap of 70 years.
- (ii) Rescue and release operations of aquatic wildlife phase IV in parallel Lower Ganga Canal, Narora were conducted on 12th May 2017.
- (iii) To create synergistic alliance of institutions for facilitating participation of different stakeholders and to ensure sectoral coordination, establish linkages between local livelihood and biodiversity conservation for Ganga Rejuvenation, Memorandum of Understanding were signed between WII and 8 Nagar and Gram Panchayats of Bulandshahar, and with 11 Gram Panchayats of Farrukhabad, Uttar Pradesh.



World Heritage Day Celebrations, Dehradun, 18 April, 2017.

The UNESCO Category 2 Centre on World Natural Heritage Management and Training for Asia and the Pacific Region at Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun celebrated World Heritage Day (WHD) by organizing a series of events. The participants included school students from three UNESCO World Heritage Sites (WHS) of India namely, Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks, Uttarakhand; The Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area, Himachal Pradesh; and Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur, Rajasthan as well as from Model School, National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Dehradun. The primary objective of the celebration was raising awareness and exposure of school students through field visit, fun activities, quiz and cultural performances. Over 200 participants were part of the WHD celebration including students from WHS schools, other Dehradun institutions, WII faculty, researchers and staff.

The students visited Forest Research Institute and Buddha Park as well as Nature Trail in WII campus for exposure trips. A hands-on activity on Origami craft was organised for them. The students also took part in an exciting quiz competition on attributes of World Heritage Sites in India. An expert talk was delivered by Ms. Nupur Prothi in the context of 'Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Tourism' as the theme for WHD 2017. The highlight of the celebrations was an entertaining cultural programme, which had songs, dances, puppet show and Science Express documentary performed by participating members.

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- (iv) A sensitization workshop on 'Conservation of Biodiversity of the Ganga River' was organized on 3rd May, 2017 in Rajghat Inter-college, Uttar Pradesh.
- (v) A sensitization workshop on 'Biodiversity Conservation and Ganga Rejuvenation' was conducted on 4th May, 2017 in Haridawarpur village, Uttar Pradesh in presence of the Pradhan.
- (vi) On 8th, 9th and 25th May 2017, a sensitization workshop was organised in association with Punjab National Bank in Bilonaroop, Niwari Khadar and Nayabas Khadar village of Bulandshahar, Uttar Pradesh, respectively regarding the Rural Self Employment Training Institute and different training courses.
- (vii) During 9-12th May, a formal interaction with the Village Pradhan of Dhak Nagla, Udaygarhi, Biharghat and Karnwas was organised to obtain the information regarding the village, for example, Government schemes functional in the village, livelihood, number of govt. and private schools, Self-help groups, connectivity, healthcare facilities, sewage and solid waste disposal system.
- (viii) A meeting was held between 11th May 2017, Block Development Officer, Debai regarding the information about MNREGA, NRLM groups, Aawas Yojna, *Jan Sewa Kendra*, and *Nehru Yuva Kendra* that are functional in villages of Tehsil Debai.
- (ix) Meetings were held between 15-19th May 2017 with the Chief Development Officer, *Nehru Yuva Vikas Adhikari*, Chief Veterinary Officer, Skill Development Officer, ADO NRLM in order to ensure cross-sectoral coordination.
- (x) About 50 members of local community including Pradhan, Ward members of *Gram Panchayat*, at Narora were sensitized on biodiversity of Ganga River and role of local community in conservation of aquatic biodiversity on 18th May 2017.
- (xi) A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between Wildlife Institute of India and 8 Nagar and *Gram Panchayats* of Dibai Block, Uttar Pradesh which entails the *Gram Panchayats* pledging support for conservation of the Ganga biodiversity.
- (xii) A workshop on "World Turtle Day" was organized on 23rd May 2017 for school children. About 100 students in Dehradun, Uttarakhand and 100 students in Narora, Uttar Pradesh were sensitized about the ecological importance of Turtles and Ganga River. Painting competition was organized as part of the event, on the theme "Conservation of Turtles of Ganga River".
- (xiii) Under the project "Dissemination and evaluation of technologies through networking of various institutes and

organization of mountain ecosystem" of Technology Intervention For Mountain Ecosystem (TIME) Livelihood Enhancement Through Action Research & Networking (LEARN), a two-day Planning & Execution workshop was organized on 23-24th May 2017 at Wildlife Institute of India. During the workshop, inputs were provided by the technical experts of HESCO and Department of Science and Technology. The project investigators of 19 institutes of three Western Himalayan States; *i.e.* Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, participated in the workshop and presented their work.

- (xiv) Biodiversity assessment of Ganga River from Bijnor to Farakka barrage was completed;
- (xv) Biodiversity assessment of Ganga River from Devprayag to Rishikesh through foot survey was completed;
- (xvi) World Environment Day celebrated on 5th June 2017 at NAPS-WII Turtle Rescue & Rehabilitation Center at Narora in the gracious presence of Sushri Uma Bharti, Minister of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation;
- (xvii) Sushri Uma Bharti named two Indian Spotted Pond Turtle as "Ashok" and "Raja" at the NAPS-WII Turtle Rescue & Rehabilitation Center. During the event, she also promoted Ganga River rejuvenation through species conservation;
- (xviii) Biodiversity assessment of Ganga River from Devprayag to Goumukh was initiated;
- (xix) On-foot survey to assess biodiversity of Ganga River from Rishikesh to Bijnor has been initiated.

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Swachhta Pakhwada celebrations at WII, Dehradun, 1-15th June 2017.

As per the directives from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, *SwachhtaPakhwada* was implemented under the *Swachh Bharat Mission* in the Wildlife Institute of India. A number of activities were undertaken by the Institute to celebrate the *Pakhwada*. As part of the *SwachhtaPakhwada*, the following activities were undertaken:

- (i) *Cleanliness of office complex, residential blocks and adjoining areas:* A total of 82 people participated in the cleanliness drive on 10th June 2017.
- (ii) *Divyang access to Toilet facilities:* Ladies and Gents toilet facilities for handicapped have been made within the Institute premises. During the *Pakhwada*, the cleanliness and hygiene of these toilets was reviewed.
- (iii) *Publicity Material:* Banners, standees and pamphlets were prepared to spread awareness about the *Pakhwada*. These were prominently displayed and distributed.

(iv) *SwachhhtaPakhwada* celebrated in Science Express Climate Action Special (SECAS) Train: As part of the publicity of *Pakhwada* activities, awareness material in the form of pamphlets were distributed to the visitors the SECAS Train. During the halt of the train at Whitefield, Kengeri and Koduru stations from 7-14 June 2017, a number of platform activities were undertaken to spread awareness about the *Pakhwada*.

(v) *Ganga Aqualife Awareness Campaign*: Under the 'Ganga Aqualife Awareness Campaign' Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun organized a cleaning programme on 9th June 2017 at Triveni Ghat, Rishikesh as a part of Government of India's *SwachhhtaPakhwada* drive. The faculty members, research scholars and office staff of WII, representatives from government and non-government organizations, visitors and local people participated in the cleaning drive. bcs@wii.gov.in

World Environment Day Celebrations at WII, Dehradun, 4-6th June 2017.

World Environment Day was celebrated at Wildlife Institute of India with the commitment to make aware the younger generation about the importance of environment to the humans. About 250 people including nature-lovers, green activists, ecologists, nature enthusiasts, adults and children participated in the 'WII Nature Trail Walk'. The overall aim was to promote love for wildlife and give a mini "nature" experience. The walk was followed by a photo exhibition and a documentary on the Xmas Bush Frog. The second day was specially planned for the local



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schools of Dehradun in collaboration with Eco Task and Green Stock. Students of all age groups from Ist to IXth Standard participated in the event. There was an Origami session for the children where they were taught to make paper frogs and flowers.

Shri Ajay Narayan Jha, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India inaugurated the Institute's Nature Trail with new signages on 6th June, 2017. A booklet on 'Knowing Campus Snakes' was also released by him on this occasion.

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Training Programme on "Eco-Friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts of Rail Projects on Wildlife", Dehradun, 15-17th June 2017.

The Wildlife Institute of India organized a three-day training programme on "Eco-friendly measures to mitigate impacts of rail projects on wildlife" for the senior officials of Indian Railway. The objective of the training was to sensitize the railway officials towards impacts of railway sector on wildlife, explore the relevance of transportation ecology in promoting smart and responsible development and share best practice guidance for steering eco-friendly developments in rail sector. A total of 18 participants attended the course from different regions and zones across the country. This was the first ever course conducted by WII for railway officers. The course received excellent feedback from the participants. anju.baroth@wii.gov.in



"Every individual matters. Every individual has a role to play. Every individual makes a difference."

– Jane Goodall

(Source: <http://www.wildhelpers.com/wildlife-quotes.html>)