ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION, AWARENESS, CAPACITY BUILDING, AND LIVELIHOOD PROGRAMME (EIACP)

Wildlife & Protected Areas Management

भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान
Wildlife Institute of India

LiFE
Lifestyle for Environment

EIACP NEWSLETTER

Wildlife & Protected Areas Management

Knowledge for Conservation. Action for the Future.

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India's National Knowledge Resource on Wildlife & Protected Areas Management

EIACP Programme Centre at Wildlife Institute of India works towards strengthening the information network on wildlife and protected areas, supporting capacity building, awareness generation and informed decision making for the conservation.

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Asymmetric species turnover underpins the latitudinal diversity gradient in the Western Ghats biodiversity hotspot of India

Rohitashva Shukla[1], Vidyadhar Atkore[2], Anuradha Bhat[3], Neelesh Dahanukar[4], Jeyaraj Antony Johnson[5], Rajeev Raghavan[6], Maria Dornelas[1], Kartik Shanker[7]* and Anne E. Magurran[1]*

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***Shared last authorship.**

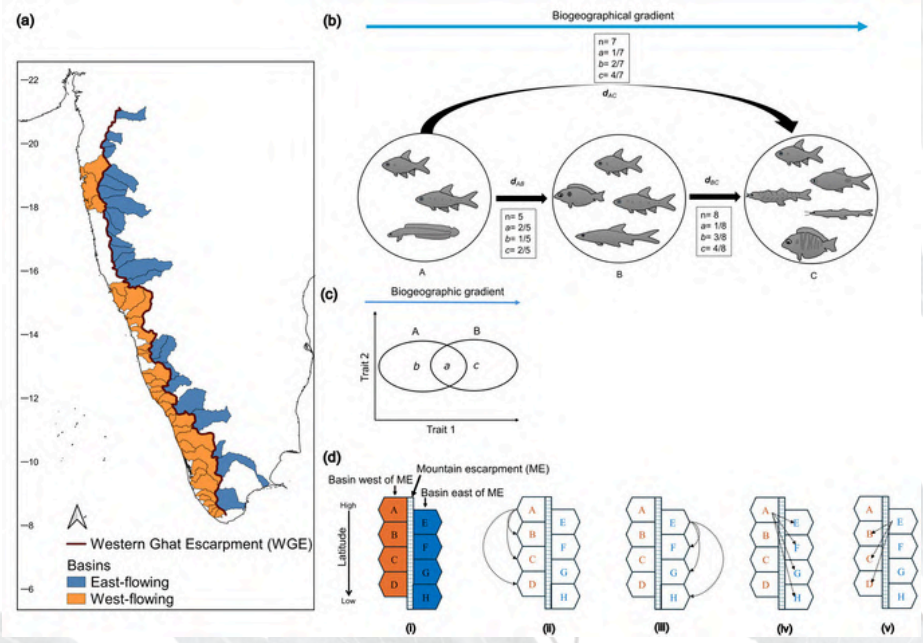
Research Snapshot

This study published in Ecography explores why freshwater fish species richness increases from north to south in the Western Ghats. The study found that species gains increase with geographical distance in southward comparisons, while species losses remain relatively constant. Southern fish communities thus contain many species found farther north, alongside additional species with restricted geographical ranges.

Key Takeaways

- **Greater diversity towards the south:** Species with restricted ranges contribute to the higher freshwater fish richness of the southern Western Ghats.
- **Unequal gains and losses:** Southward comparisons reveal increasing species gains without a corresponding increase in losses.
- **A consistent pattern:** This trend occurs on both eastern and western slopes, in species composition and functional diversity—the variety of ecological traits.
- **Understanding biodiversity:** Separating species gains from losses helps explain how fish diversity varies across the region.

For more details visit link: Shukla et al. (2026). Ecography, e08538. https://doi.org/10.1002/ecog.08538



Map illustrating the west- (orange) and east-flowing (blue) river basins in the WG. (b) an example illustration for the calculation of pairwise pattern components (PPCs) among three fish communities (A, B and C) placed along a biogeographical gradient where a denotes the overlap, b denotes the loss, and c denotes the gain PPC. n is the total number of species present in both the communities that are being compared. (c) example illustrating the pairwise functional PPCs between communities A and B, where a is the volume of the convex hull shared by two communities, and b and c denotes the non-shared parts of the convex hulls unique to communities A and B respectively. Convex hulls are depicted as ellipses for visualization purposes. (d) depicts the study design highlighting the arrangement of basins (di) and four sets of pairwise basin comparisons used to understand the latitudinal community changes in west-flowing basins (dii) and east-flowing basins (diii), and across the escarpment from west-flowing basins to east-flowing basins (div), and from east-flowing basins to west-flowing basins (dv). Here arrows illustrate how the northern most basin was compared with all southern basins along latitudes. All river basins are compared in the similar manner but in a latitudinal (north to south) direction.

Investigation of tidally vigilant spatiotemporal foraging strategies of a Dugong (*Dugong dugon*) population in the macro-tidal Gulf of Kachchh, India

Sameeha Pathan[1], Gem Christian[1], K. Sivakumar[2] and J. A. Johnson[1]

1 Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, Uttarakhand, India
2 Department of Ecology and Environment, Pondicherry University, Puducherry, India

Research Snapshot

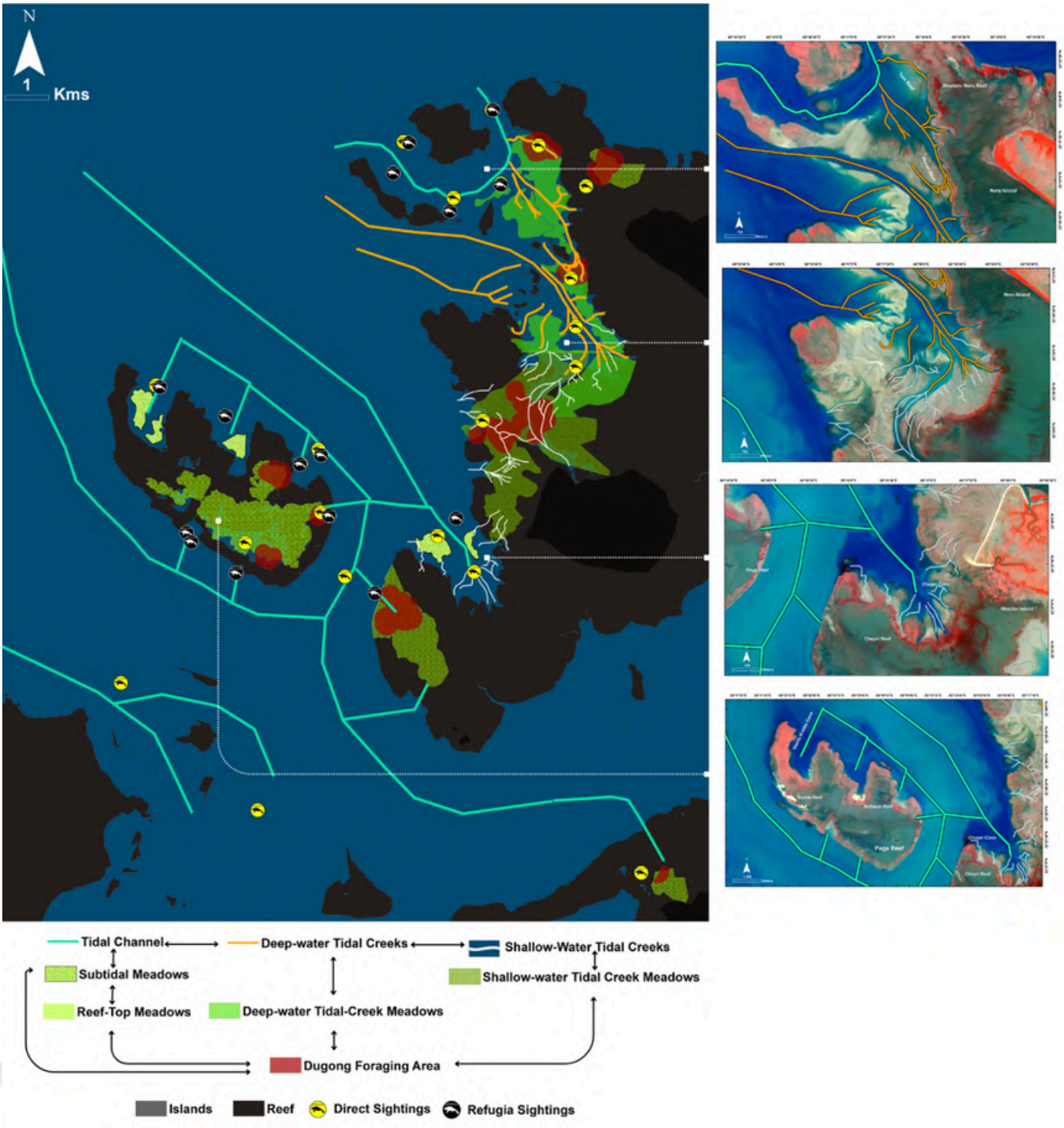
Pathan and colleagues' investigation (2018–2023) provides a comprehensive account of tidally vigilant dugong foraging in India's Gulf of Kachchh, with conservation relevance across Asia. Integrating a spatio-temporal habitat model that integrated 1,507 dugong feeding trails, 47 fisher sightings, seagrass assessments, bathymetric mapping, the study links foraging decisions to tidal accessibility, refuge proximity and excavation costs during foraging.

Key Takeaways

- **Tides structure habitat use of foraging dugongs:** Approximately 73.4% of mapped foraging areas were tidally influenced; accessibility to habitats declined to 28.4% at daily low tide. Therefore, contrary to traditional herbivory models, this study reports that for a tidally vigilant population, the intensity of foraging is weakly influenced by seagrass biomass and quality.
- **Tidal channel networks are movement corridors:** The study provides the first mapped evidence of tidally synchronized use of the tidal creek network in southwestern Kachchh. Deep channels, inshore creeks, and shallow tidal creeks hierarchically connect fragmented feeding grounds. Lower-order creeks mainly function as movement corridors, whereas higher-order vegetated creeks serve both as corridors and foraging habitats. Conserving the full creek network is essential for maintaining inter- and intra-habitat connectivity, particularly during neap tides, when accessibility becomes difficult.
- **Subtidal coves as refugias:** Subtidal refugia serve as strategic access points to reef-top meadows and provide low-biomass foraging opportunities. Tidally vigilant dugongs use coves as resting stops during periods of reduced tidal accessibility and move into shallow foraging areas as the tide rises. Protecting coves and maintaining their hydrological connectivity with adjacent meadows is therefore critical for safe and optimal foraging.
- **Habitat-specific regulation of bite-size:** Dugongs adjusted feeding-trail length; functionally analogous to bite size according to seagrass biomass and excavation ease. Longer feeding trails were made in softer, silty tidal creek habitats which is characterized by moderate biomass. Whereas shorter feeding trails were made in shallow intertidal meadows with higher-protein and biomass. Water depth also influenced the distance a foraging dugong risked from refugia, balancing access, excavation effort, and nutritional gain.
- **Non-invasive monitoring is scalable:** Feeding-trail surveys combined with spatial modelling offer a replicable and cost-effective framework for monitoring small, elusive populations. However, although feeding-trail records provide information on habitat use, they do not offer a holistic understanding of the population's foraging behavior. The authors therefore suggest integrating complementary drone-based surveys into this framework to strengthen population-level interpretation of foraging behavior.

In conclusion, the authors translate behavioral evidence from this precariously small dugong population into five conservation and management recommendations: (i) prioritize targeted patrolling to prevent the use of illegal beach seines near tidal access routes; (ii) introduce and enforce fishing-vessel speed limits of approximately five knots within tidal channels; (iii) intensify patrolling during winter, when inter-habitat dugong movements are high; (iv) regularly monitor interconnected tidal corridor–refugium systems; and (v) integrate community reporting with drone-based surveys of foraging areas, using low-tide surveys to monitor feeding trails and high-tide surveys to estimate population size and document behavior.

For more details, visit link: https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-026-60255-w



Morphology and connectivity of the tidal corridor network used by dugongs as inter- and intra- habitat movement corridor in the Gulf of Kachchh, India.

Effects of a reintroduced tiger population on large carnivores in Panna Tiger Reserve, central India

Supratim Dutta[1], Gopinathan Maheswaran[2] and Ramesh Krishnamurthy[1,3]

1 Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, Uttarakhand, India

2 Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata, West Bengal, India

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Research Snapshot

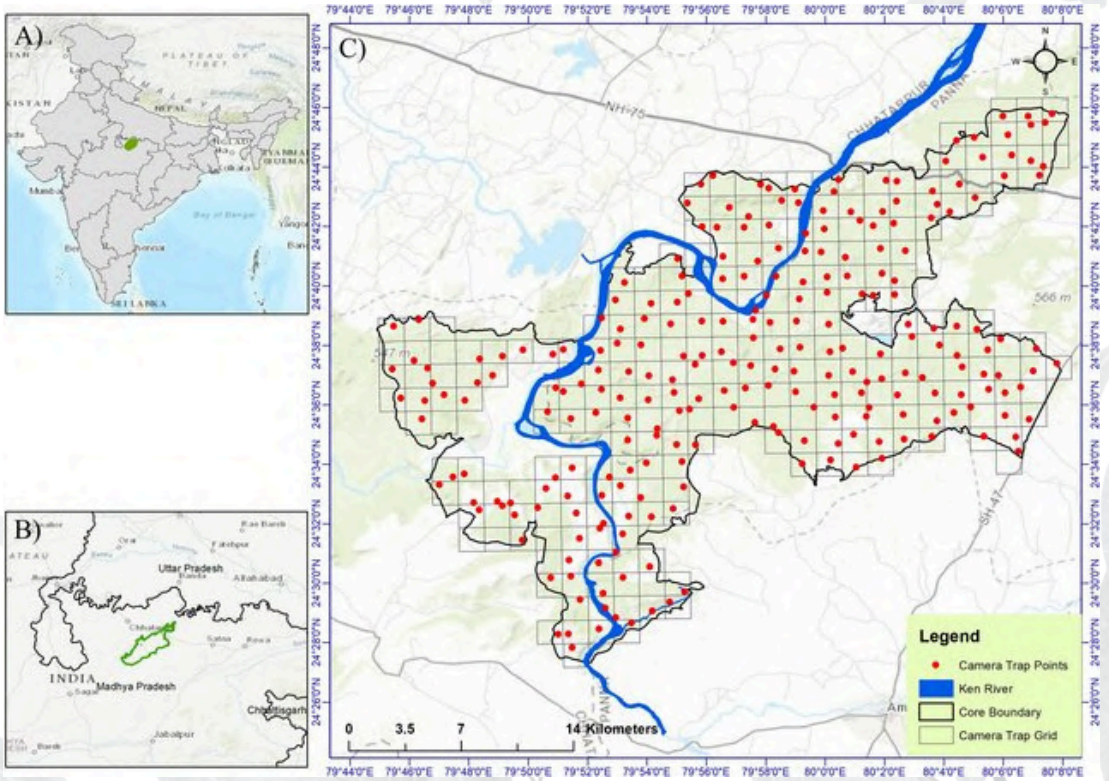
How does a recovering tiger population affect other large carnivores sharing its habitat? This study in European Journal of Wildlife Research examined the population dynamics of tigers, leopards and striped hyenas in Panna Tiger Reserve during 2017–2021. Researchers used individual capture–recapture data and spatial population models to estimate densities and investigate patterns of space use.

Tiger density increased during the study, while striped hyena density remained relatively stable. Leopard density showed a marginal declining trend, but the analysis did not identify recovering tiger numbers as its cause. Instead, competition among leopards emerged as the principal influence on their population dynamics. The findings show that tiger recovery can occur alongside substantial populations of other large carnivores, with differences in space use helping them coexist.

Key Takeaways

- Tiger recovery continued: Both modelling approaches indicated increasing tiger density, with females outnumbering males.
- Leopard densities remained high: The study reported exceptionally high leopard densities compared with other Indian tiger reserves.
- Spatial separation supported coexistence: Leopards occurred at higher densities in areas with fewer tigers, with stronger separation during summer.
- Hyena populations remained stable: Striped hyenas maintained relatively stable densities despite changes in the carnivore community.
- Space use changed with density: A declining spatial movement parameter suggested smaller home ranges as carnivore densities increased.
- Monitoring should include multiple species: Tracking tigers, leopards and hyenas together provides a fuller picture of carnivore recovery and coexistence.

For more details visit link: https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10344-026-02140-5



Map showing the position of the study area (A) India, (B) State of Madhya Pradesh, C) Camera tarp locations within the core area of Panna Tiger Reserve



Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) is an India-led global initiative that seeks to transform environmental conservation into a people-driven movement by encouraging sustainable choices in everyday life. It promotes a shift towards the mindful and responsible use of natural resources, emphasizing that individual actions, when adopted collectively, can contribute significantly to environmental protection and climate action. Mission LiFE encourages practical behavioural changes such as conserving water and energy, reducing waste and single-use plastics, adopting sustainable consumption practices, protecting biodiversity, and promoting lifestyles that are in harmony with nature. Through the concept of Pro-Planet People (P3), the initiative aims to build environmentally responsible communities and strengthen long-term commitment towards sustainable development and a circular economy.

i) Mission LiFE Plastic Audit Challenge 2026, 30 July 2026

The EIACP Programme Centre at the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, launched the Mission LiFE Plastic Audit Challenge 2026 under the theme “Say No to Single-Use Plastics.” The initiative was undertaken as part of Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) to encourage individuals and communities to adopt environmentally responsible practices and reduce the use of single-use plastics in their daily lives.

The challenge invited participation from undergraduate and postgraduate students, research scholars, non-governmental organisations, Self-Help Groups, Eco-development Committees, eco-guides and adult members of local communities. Participants were encouraged to undertake a 21-day plastic audit to monitor their daily plastic consumption, identify sources of single-use plastic waste and explore practical alternatives to reduce plastic use.

The initiative received an encouraging response during the registration period, with 309 participants registered. The registration process remained open until 10 August 2026 to provide an opportunity for more individuals and organisations to participate

Following registration, eligible applicants were to be shortlisted for a mandatory online orientation session covering the audit methodology, data collection procedures and use of the Survey123 application. Selected participants were required to conduct the plastic audit over 21 days and submit their observations in the prescribed format.



The challenge aimed to promote awareness about plastic pollution and encourage participants to assess their consumption habits through practical observation and documentation. It also highlighted the importance of reducing single-use plastics, adopting sustainable alternatives and encouraging behavioural changes at individual and community levels.

Through this initiative, the EIACP Programme Centre sought to strengthen public participation in Mission LiFE and promote sustainable lifestyles by encouraging simple actions towards reducing plastic waste and protecting the environment.

ii) Water Wisdom Series: Promoting Water Conservation under #CatchTheRain Campaign, 10 July 2026 - 09 Aug 2026

The EIACP Programme Centre at the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, launched a digital awareness campaign under the national #CatchTheRain initiative on 10 July 2026, with the message “Catch the Rain, Where It Falls, When It Falls.” The campaign aimed to raise public awareness about water conservation, rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge and the importance of adopting water-saving practices in everyday life.

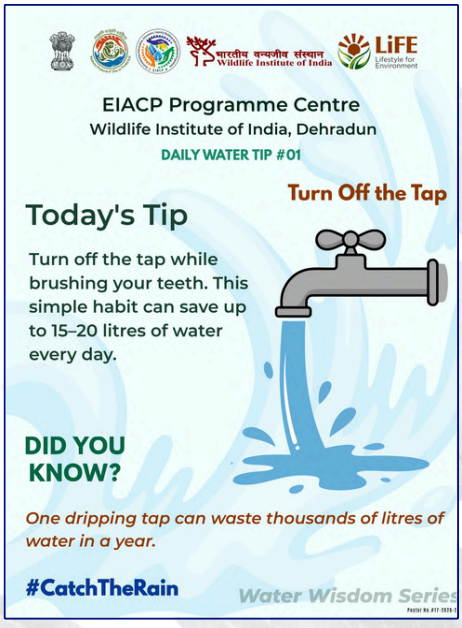
As part of the campaign, the Centre introduced a 30-day “Water Wisdom Series,” featuring daily informative posters that highlighted simple and practical measures to conserve water. Each poster presented a water-saving tip along with an interesting fact to encourage individuals and communities to use water responsibly.

The series covered a wide range of water conservation practices, including turning off taps while brushing teeth and washing utensils, repairing leaking taps and pipelines, using buckets instead of showers and running hoses, reusing RO reject water, operating washing machines with full loads and avoiding wastage of drinking water. It also encouraged the use of dual-flush toilets, proper maintenance of water storage tanks and reporting leaks in public water supply systems.

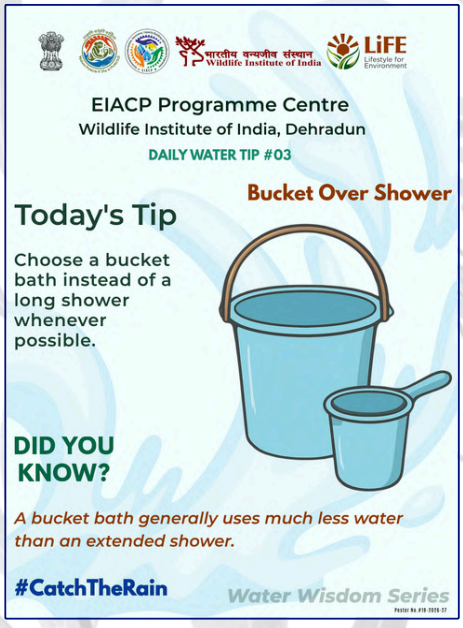
Special attention was given to rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge through rooftop collection systems, rain gardens and recharge pits. The posters also highlighted water-efficient gardening practices such as watering plants during cooler hours, planting native species, mulching and adopting drip irrigation. Other important messages included protecting wetlands, restoring ponds and lakes, keeping stormwater drains clean and preventing pollution of rivers and other water bodies.

The series concluded with a special awareness poster titled “Be a Water Champion!”, which encouraged people to harvest rainwater, recharge groundwater, conserve every drop and inspire others to participate in water conservation efforts. The campaign reinforced the message “Every drop you save today secures water for tomorrow.” The campaign helped to spread awareness about responsible water use and the importance of conserving freshwater resources.









EIACP Programme Centre
Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun

DAILY WATER TIP #04

Today's Tip

Turn Off the Tap While Washing Dishes

Do not let water run continuously while washing utensils.



DID YOU KNOW?

Running taps can waste several litres every minute.

#CatchTheRain

Water Wisdom Series

EIACP Programme Centre
Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun

DAILY WATER TIP #05

Today's Tip

Reuse RO Water

Collect rejected RO water for mopping floors or flushing toilets.



DID YOU KNOW?

RO systems discharge a significant portion of input water as reject water.

#CatchTheRain

Water Wisdom Series

EIACP Programme Centre
Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun

DAILY WATER TIP #06

Today's Tip

Water Plants Smartly

Water plants early morning or late evening.



DID YOU KNOW?

Less evaporation means more water reaches plant roots.

#CatchTheRain

Water Wisdom Series

EIACP Programme Centre
Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun

DAILY WATER TIP #07

Today's Tip

Harvest Rainwater

Every rooftop can become a source of water.



DID YOU KNOW?

Rainwater harvesting helps recharge groundwater.

#CatchTheRain

Water Wisdom Series

EIACP Programme Centre
Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun

DAILY WATER TIP #08

Today's Tip

Vaccum Clean Instead of Hose

Use a Vaccum Clean to clean driveways instead of a hose.



DID YOU KNOW?

A hose can use hundreds of litres during cleaning.

#CatchTheRain

Water Wisdom Series

EIACP Programme Centre
Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun

DAILY WATER TIP #09

Today's Tip

Full Load Washing

Operate washing machines only with full loads.



DID YOU KNOW?

This saves both water and electricity.

#CatchTheRain

Water Wisdom Series

EIACP Programme Centre
Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun

DAILY WATER TIP #10

Today's Tip

Wash Vehicles with Bucket

Use a bucket and sponge instead of a running hose.



DID YOU KNOW?

Using a bucket can save over 100 litres of water compared to washing with a continuously running hose.

#CatchTheRain

Water Wisdom Series

EIACP Programme Centre
Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun

DAILY WATER TIP #11

Today's Tip

Store Rainwater for Gardening

Collect rainwater in clean containers and use it to water your garden.



DID YOU KNOW?

Rainwater is naturally soft and free from chlorine, making it beneficial for most plants.

#CatchTheRain

Water Wisdom Series

EIACP Programme Centre
Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun

DAILY WATER TIP #12

Today's Tip

Cover Water Storage Tanks

Keep all water storage tanks properly covered to prevent contamination and reduce water loss.



DID YOU KNOW?

Covered tanks also help prevent mosquito breeding and maintain better water quality.

#CatchTheRain

Water Wisdom Series

EIACP Programme Centre
Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun

DAILY WATER TIP #13

Today's Tip

Check Pipelines Regularly

Inspect household pipelines regularly and repair leaks as soon as they are detected.



DID YOU KNOW?

Many household water losses occur through hidden leaks that often go unnoticed for months.

#CatchTheRain

Water Wisdom Series

EIACP Programme Centre
Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun

DAILY WATER TIP #14

Today's Tip

Plant Native Species

Choose native plants for your garden, as they generally require less water and maintenance.



DID YOU KNOW?

Native plants are naturally adapted to local rainfall and climate conditions.

#CatchTheRain

Water Wisdom Series

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Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun

DAILY WATER TIP #15

Today's Tip

Mulching

Apply mulch around plants to retain soil moisture and reduce the need for frequent watering.



DID YOU KNOW?

Mulching can significantly reduce evaporation from the soil during hot weather.

#CatchTheRain

Water Wisdom Series

EIACP Programme Centre
Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun

DAILY WATER TIP #16

Today's Tip

Carry a Reusable Water Bottle

Carry a reusable water bottle and pour only the amount of drinking water you need.



DID YOU KNOW?

Reducing leftover drinking water helps conserve treated water, which requires energy and resources to produce.

#CatchTheRain

Water Wisdom Series

EIACP Programme Centre
Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun

DAILY WATER TIP #17

Today's Tip

Use Dual-Flush Toilets

Use the appropriate flush option to reduce unnecessary water use.



DID YOU KNOW?

Dual-flush toilets can save thousands of litres of water each year compared to older single-flush systems.

#CatchTheRain

Water Wisdom Series

EIACP Programme Centre
Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun

DAILY WATER TIP #18

Today's Tip

Report Public Leaks

Report leaking public taps or pipelines to the concerned local authority immediately.



DID YOU KNOW?

Prompt reporting can prevent the loss of thousands of litres of clean water every day.

#CatchTheRain

Water Wisdom Series

EIACP Programme Centre
Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun

DAILY WATER TIP #19

Today's Tip

Create Rain Gardens

Develop rain gardens to capture rainwater and allow it to soak naturally into the ground.



DID YOU KNOW?

Rain gardens help reduce urban flooding while improving groundwater recharge.

#CatchTheRain

Water Wisdom Series

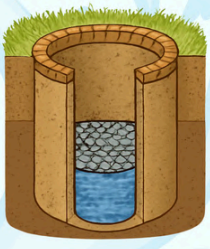
EIACP Programme Centre
Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun

DAILY WATER TIP #20

Today's Tip

Build Recharge Pits

Install recharge pits wherever feasible to allow rainwater to replenish groundwater.



DID YOU KNOW?

Recharge pits help restore groundwater levels by allowing rainwater to seep deep into the soil.

#CatchTheRain

Water Wisdom Series

EIACP Programme Centre
Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun

DAILY WATER TIP #21

Today's Tip

Save Water While Cooking

Wash fruits and vegetables in a bowl instead of under a running tap.



DID YOU KNOW?

The water used for rinsing vegetables can be reused to water household plants.

#CatchTheRain

Water Wisdom Series

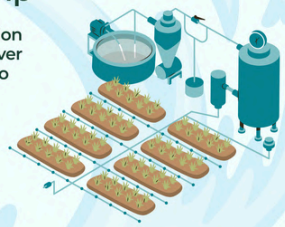
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DAILY WATER TIP #22

Use Smart Irrigation

Today's Tip

Use drip irrigation systems to deliver water directly to plant roots.



DID YOU KNOW?

Drip irrigation can reduce water use by 30–70% compared to conventional surface irrigation.

#CatchTheRain

Water Wisdom Series

EIACP Programme Centre
Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun

DAILY WATER TIP #23

Don't Waste Leftover Drinking Water

Today's Tip

Use leftover drinking water for watering plants instead of pouring it down the drain.



DID YOU KNOW?

Small daily actions by every household can collectively save thousands of litres of water over a year.

#CatchTheRain

Water Wisdom Series

EIACP Programme Centre
Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun

DAILY WATER TIP #24

Use Rainwater for Cleaning

Today's Tip

Use harvested rainwater for outdoor cleaning and other non-drinking purposes.



DID YOU KNOW?

Using rainwater for non-potable activities reduces the demand on treated freshwater supplies.

#CatchTheRain

Water Wisdom Series

EIACP Programme Centre
Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun

DAILY WATER TIP #25

Support Community Water Conservation

Today's Tip

Participate in community efforts to restore ponds, lakes, and other local water bodies.



DID YOU KNOW?

Healthy community water bodies improve groundwater recharge and strengthen local water security.

#CatchTheRain

Water Wisdom Series

EIACP Programme Centre
Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun

DAILY WATER TIP #26

Protect Wetlands

Today's Tip

Protect wetlands by preventing pollution and encroachment.



DID YOU KNOW?

Wetlands naturally store rainwater, recharge groundwater, and help reduce flood impacts.

#CatchTheRain

Water Wisdom Series

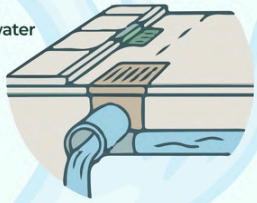
EIACP Programme Centre
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DAILY WATER TIP #27

Keep Drains Clean

Today's Tip

Keep stormwater drains free from waste to ensure proper rainwater flow.



DID YOU KNOW?

Blocked drains increase urban flooding and reduce opportunities for rainwater recharge.

#CatchTheRain

Water Wisdom Series

EIACP Programme Centre
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DAILY WATER TIP #28

Reduce Water Pollution

Today's Tip

Never dispose of chemicals, oils, or waste into drains, rivers, or lakes.



DID YOU KNOW?

Clean water bodies are essential for healthy ecosystems, safe drinking water, and groundwater recharge.

#CatchTheRain

Water Wisdom Series

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DAILY WATER TIP #29

Value Every Drop

Today's Tip

Use water wisely every day every drop saved contributes to a more water-secure future.



DID YOU KNOW?

Only a very small fraction of Earth's water is readily available as freshwater for human use, making conservation essential.

#CatchTheRain

Water Wisdom Series

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DAILY WATER TIP #30

Catch the rain where it falls, when it falls.

Today's Tip

Harvest rainwater through rooftop systems or recharge pits to replenish groundwater, reduce water scarcity, and build resilience against droughts.



DID YOU KNOW?

Rainwater harvesting helps replenish groundwater, reduces urban flooding, and strengthens water security for communities.

#CatchTheRain

Water Wisdom Series

iii) Climate Insights Series: Awareness Posters on Super El Niño and the Importance of Water Conservation

What is El Niño, and how does it start?

The term El Niño, Spanish for "the boy child," refers to the infant Jesus. Fishermen in northern Peru used it for warm coastal waters appearing around Christmas. By the early 20th century, scientists began using the name for unusually strong warming events. Later research connected this ocean warming with atmospheric pressure changes called the Southern Oscillation, forming the combined concept El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO).

El Niño is an unusual warming of surface waters in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean. It develops when the trade winds, which normally blow westward from South America towards Asia, weaken.

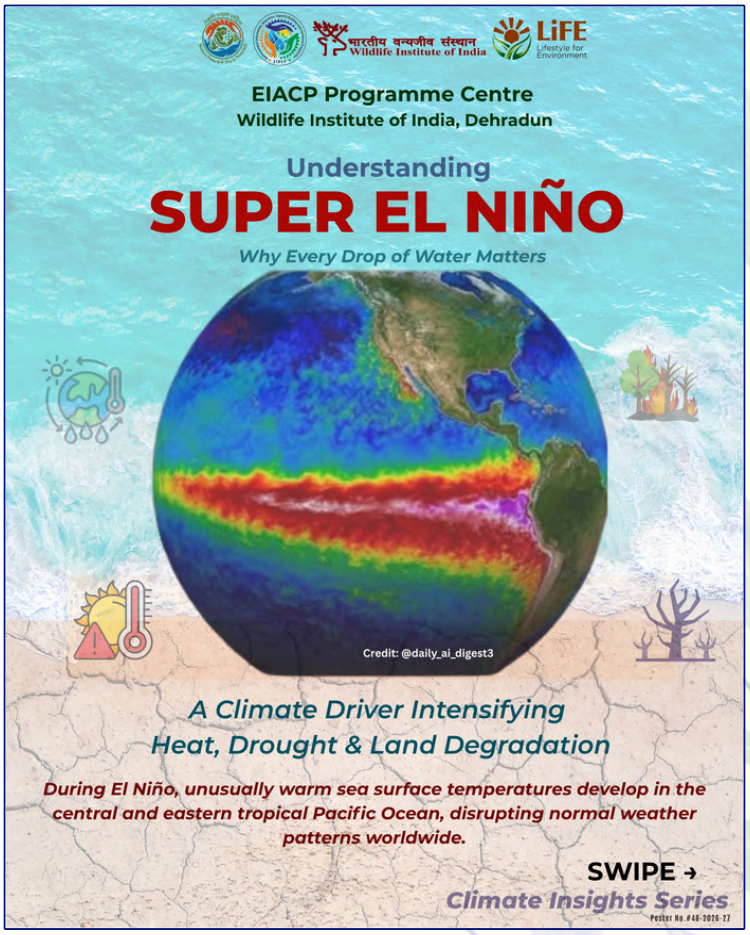
Under normal conditions, these winds push warm surface water towards the western Pacific, allowing colder, nutrient-rich water to rise from below in the eastern Pacific–a process called upwelling. When the winds weaken, warm water spreads eastward and upwelling decreases. The resulting ocean warming further weakens the winds, reinforcing the process.

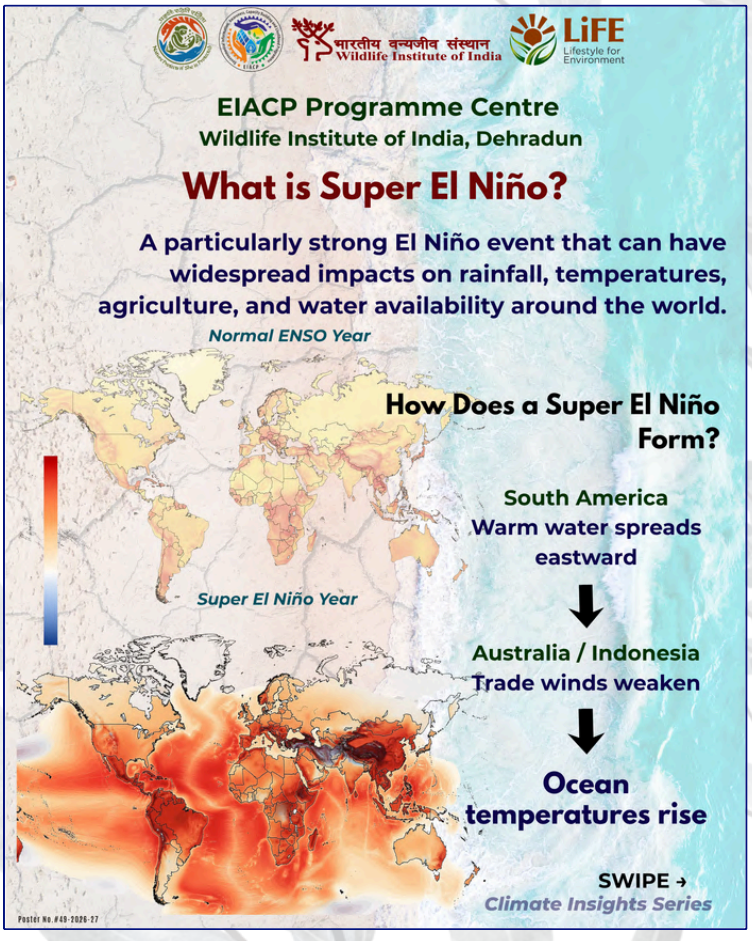
El Niño occurs at irregular intervals. Although scientists understand its main mechanisms, the factors that determine exactly when an event begins and how strong it becomes remain difficult to predict.

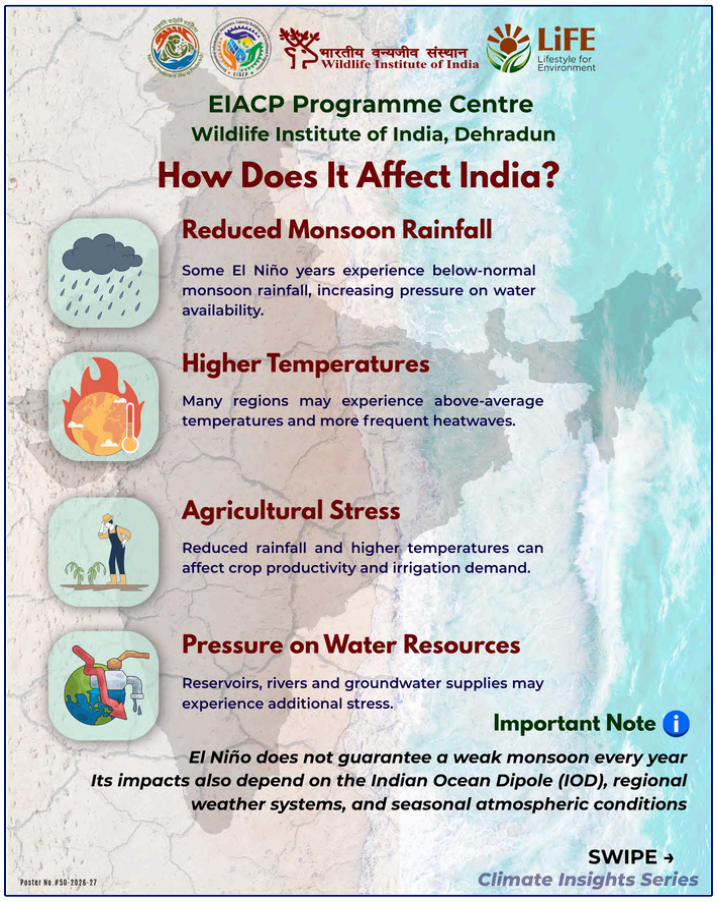
Source: www.aoml.noaa.gov/general/enso_faq/

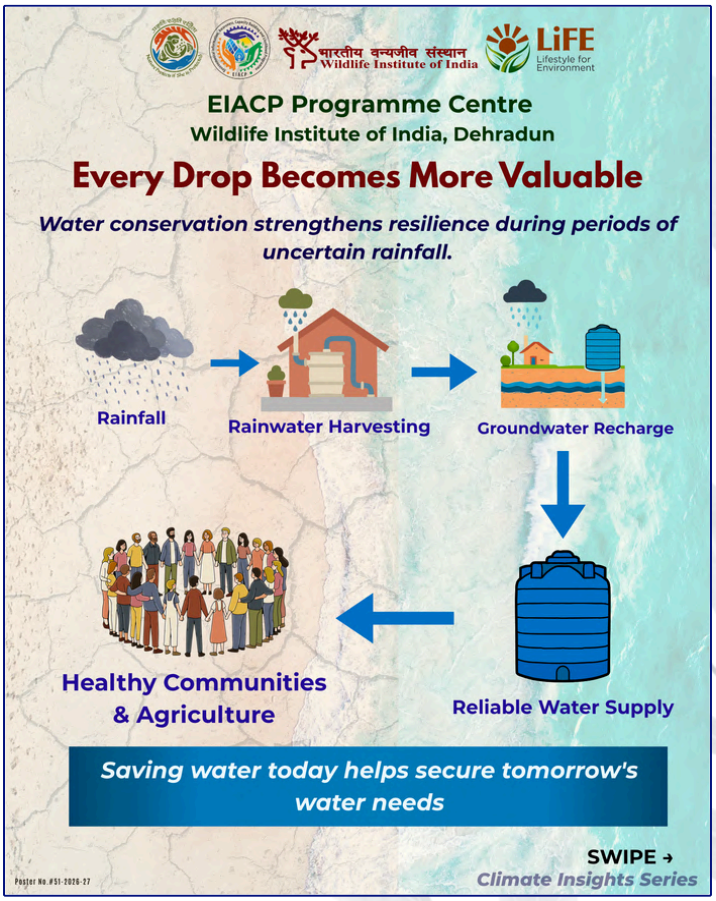
The EIACP Programme Centre at the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, released a series of informative awareness posters on 16 July 2026, under its Climate Insights Series, titled "Understanding Super El Niño: Why Every Drop of Water Matters." The initiative aimed to raise public awareness about the Super El Niño phenomenon, its possible impacts on climate and water availability, and the importance of water conservation.

The awareness series highlighted the possible impacts of El Niño on India, including below-normal monsoon rainfall, higher temperatures, increased frequency of heatwaves, agricultural stress and growing pressure on rivers, reservoirs and groundwater resources. It also explained that El Niño did not necessarily lead to a weak monsoon every year, as rainfall patterns were influenced by other climatic factors, including the Indian Ocean Dipole, regional weather systems and seasonal atmospheric conditions.











The posters further emphasised the importance of water conservation and groundwater recharge in strengthening resilience during periods of uncertain rainfall. They highlighted how rainwater harvesting, efficient water use and protection of natural water sources could help improve water availability for communities and agriculture.

Through this awareness initiative, the EIACP Programme Centre highlighted the relationship between climate variability and water security and encouraged individuals and communities to take simple steps towards conserving water resources. The posters reinforced the message “Every Drop Counts. Every Action Matters,” under the national #CatchTheRain initiative.

"Climate is what we EXPECT, Weather is what we GET."
[Robert A. Heinlein]

iv) Mission LiFE: Promoting Responsible Tourism through Cleanliness Drive at Devalsari

As part of the Green Skill Development Programme, the EIACP Programme Centre at the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, organised a cleanliness drive around the Devalsari Ecotourism & Research Centre on the concluding day of the field training programme for trainees of the Certificate Course in Nature Conservator-cum-Ecotourism Guide.

The activity was conducted under Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) to promote responsible tourism, environmental awareness and sustainable ecotourism practices. During the drive, trainees collected waste generated during their stay, along with litter left behind by visitors, demonstrating their commitment to maintaining the cleanliness and ecological integrity of natural areas.



The initiative highlighted the importance of responsible behaviour among tourists and nature guides, encouraging practices such as proper waste disposal, minimising environmental impact and following the principle of “Leave No Trace.” It also reinforced the message, “Enjoy Nature, Respect Nature and Leave No Trace.”



Through this hands-on activity, the GSDP trainees gained practical experience in environmental stewardship and sustainable tourism. The initiative reflected the objectives of Mission LiFE by encouraging individual responsibility and translating conservation awareness into meaningful action towards protecting natural ecosystems.



Celebration of World Zoonoses Day, 06 July 2026

World Zoonoses Day, observed annually on 6 July, commemorates the administration of the first rabies vaccine by Louis Pasteur in 1885. The day highlights the importance of understanding and preventing zoonotic diseases, which can be transmitted between animals and humans.

Zoonotic diseases can affect people, domestic animals and wildlife, and may be caused by viruses, bacteria, parasites or fungi. Their emergence and spread are closely linked to interactions among humans, animals and the environment.

The day underscores the importance of the One Health approach, which recognises that human health, animal health and environmental health are interconnected. It promotes collaboration among veterinarians, healthcare professionals, wildlife and environmental experts, researchers, policymakers and communities.

World Zoonoses Day serves as an important reminder that preventing zoonotic diseases requires awareness, early detection, vaccination, disease surveillance, responsible interactions with animals and protection of healthy ecosystems. By working together across disciplines, the risks posed by zoonotic diseases can be reduced and healthier communities, animals and environments can be supported.



i) Awareness Programme on One Health and Prevention of Zoonotic Diseases, along with Online and Offline Awareness Quizzes

The Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, observed World Zoonoses Day on 6 July 2026 under the theme “One World, One Health: Prevent Zoonoses.” The programme was organised by the Regional Coordinator, National One Health Programme for Prevention and Control of Zoonotic Diseases, WII, in coordination with the EIACP Programme Centre at WII.

The programme was held at the WII Auditorium, Dehradun, and attended by Ph.D. scholars and postgraduate students from Graphic Era University and the Forest Research Institute, along with researchers, scientists, faculty members and other professionals. The programme aimed to raise awareness about zoonotic diseases and highlight the importance of the One Health approach in protecting human, animal and environmental health



The programme began with a welcome address by Dr. Tapendra Saini, Scientist-C, Department of Wildlife Health Management, WII, who highlighted the significance of World Zoonoses Day. Dr. Parag Nigam, Scientist-G and Head of the Department, delivered a lecture on "Environment: A Critical Interface for Disease Emergence," highlighting the role of habitat degradation, biodiversity loss and environmental changes in the emergence of infectious diseases. Dr. Saini also discussed major zoonotic diseases, their modes of transmission and lessons learned from past pandemics.

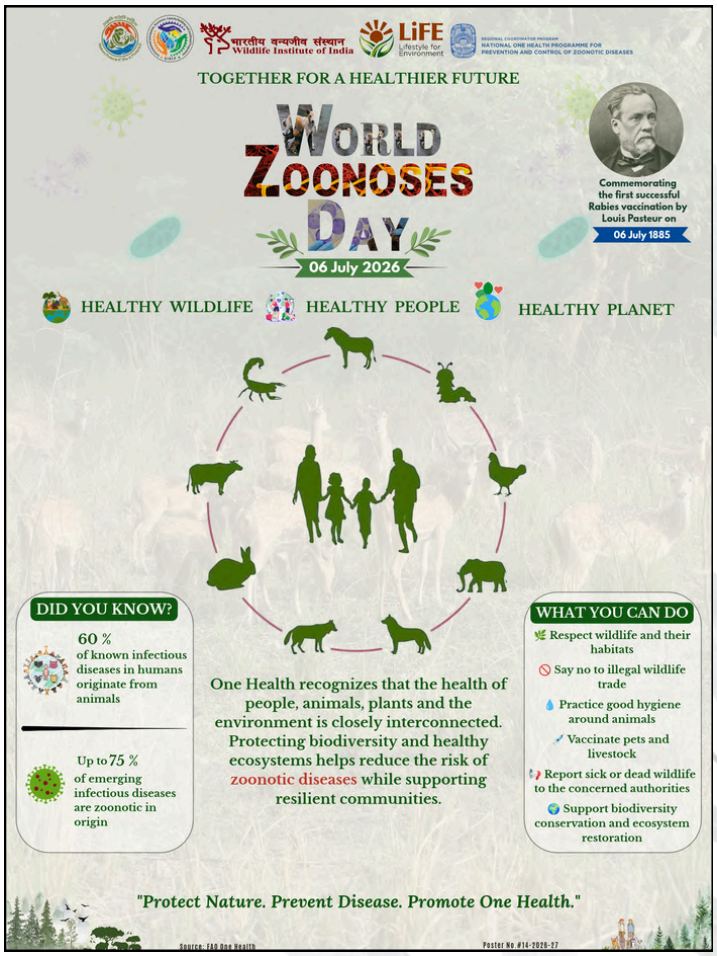
Dr. Karan Bharat Jain, Scientist-C, delivered a session on emerging zoonotic diseases and the influence of land-use changes, wildlife trade, urbanisation, climate change and human-wildlife interactions on disease transmission. This was followed by a hands-on session conducted by Dr. Ruchi Badola, Scientist-G and Dean, Faculty of Wildlife Sciences, WII, along with the Project Ganga team, focusing on the importance of coordination among wildlife, human health and environmental sectors.

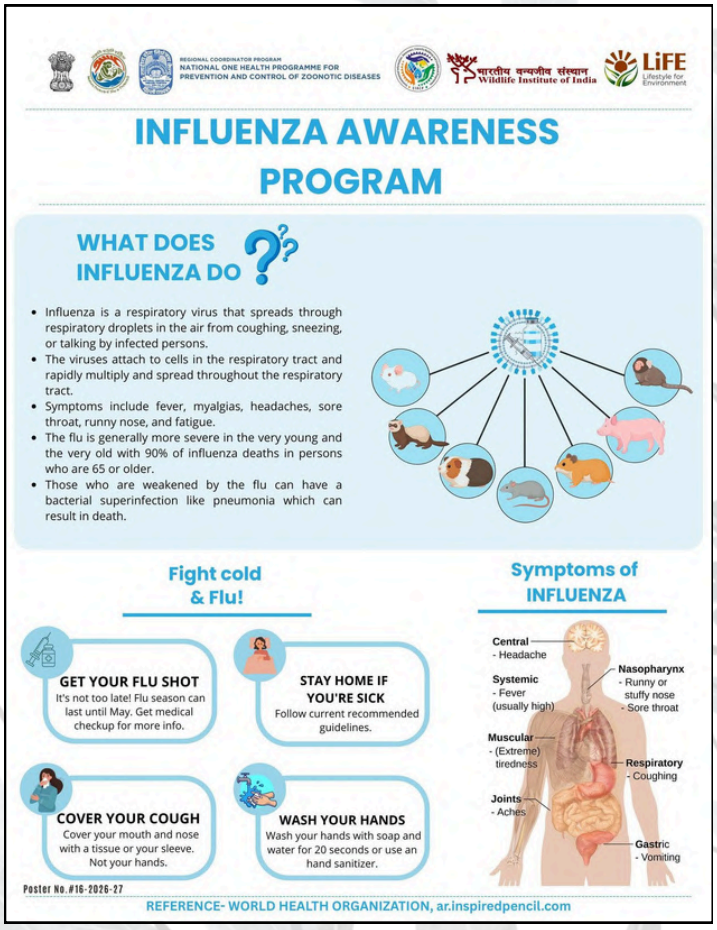
As part of the observance, online and offline quizzes on zoonotic diseases and the One Health approach were organised to encourage wider participation and raise awareness. The quizzes attracted participants from diverse educational and professional backgrounds. Participants securing 50% or above were eligible to receive an e-Certificate of Participation.

The programme concluded with an interactive discussion, felicitation of the resource persons and a vote of thanks. The observance highlighted the need for greater awareness, early detection, preventive measures and collaboration among different sectors to reduce the risks associated with zoonotic diseases and strengthen the One Health approach.

ii) Release of Informative Posters

To mark World Zoonoses Day on 6 July 2026, the EIACP Programme Centre at the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, released informative awareness posters highlighting the importance of preventing zoonotic diseases and promoting the One Health approach.



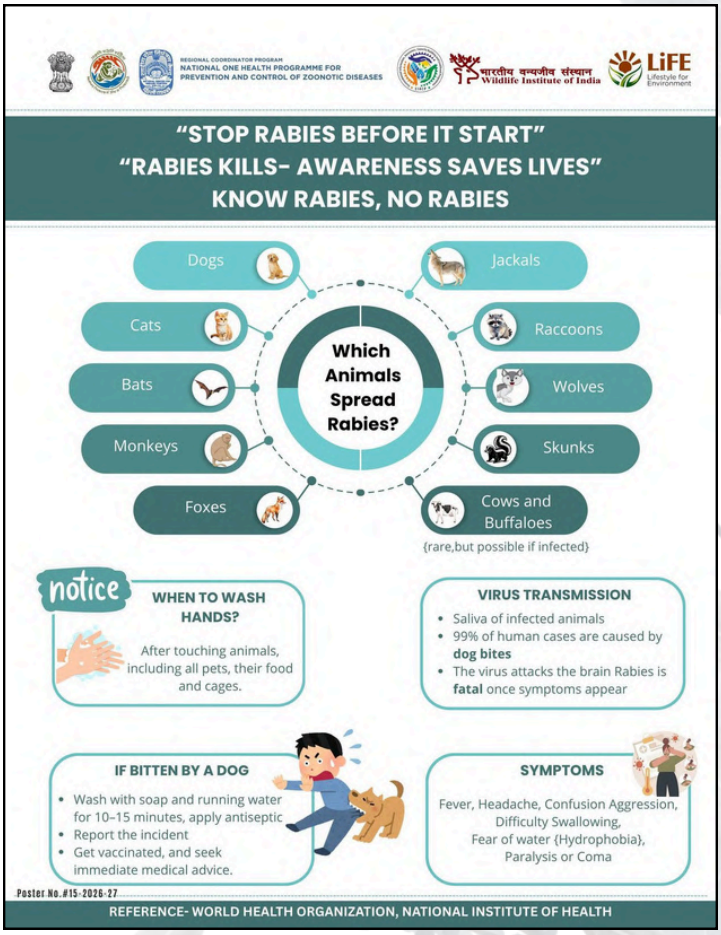


The posters focused on two important zoonotic diseases, influenza and rabies, and were published bilingual to reach a wider audience. The influenza-awareness poster highlighted the role of animals in the transmission of influenza viruses, common symptoms such as fever, headache, body ache and respiratory discomfort, and preventive measures including regular handwashing, maintaining personal hygiene, avoiding close contact with infected individuals and seeking timely medical advice.

The rabies-awareness poster explained the transmission of the virus through the saliva of infected animals, particularly through bites and scratches. It highlighted the importance of immediate wound washing with soap and running water for at least 15 minutes, timely vaccination and prompt medical attention. The poster also raised awareness about the symptoms of rabies and emphasised that the disease is fatal once clinical symptoms develop, making timely post-exposure treatment essential.

In addition, a special poster on World Zoonoses Day 2026 highlighted the interconnectedness of human, animal and environmental health under the theme “Healthy Wildlife, Healthy People, Healthy Planet.” It emphasised that approximately 60% of known human infectious diseases and up to 75% of emerging infectious diseases originate from animals. The poster encouraged responsible wildlife interactions, good hygiene, vaccination of pets, reporting sick or dead wildlife to the concerned authorities, and supporting biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration.

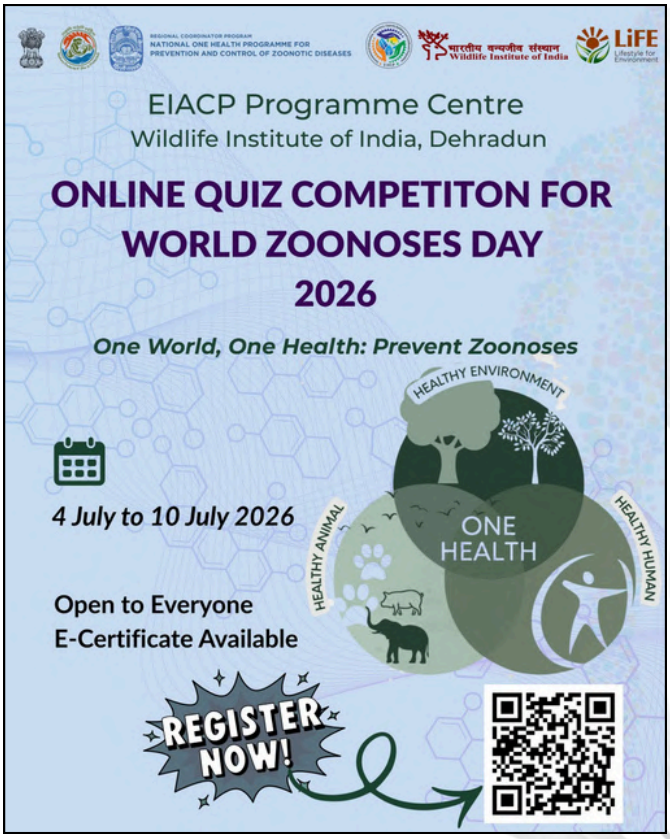
Through these awareness initiatives, the EIACP Programme Centre reinforced the message “Protect Nature. Prevent Disease. Promote One Health,” encouraging individuals and communities to adopt preventive practices while recognising the importance of healthy ecosystems in safeguarding public health.





iii) Online Quiz Competition on World Zoonoses Day 2026

To commemorate World Zoonoses Day 2026, the EIACP Programme Centre at the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, organised an Online Quiz Competition from 4 to 10 July 2026 on the theme "One World, One Health: Prevent Zoonoses." The competition was organised to create awareness about zoonotic diseases, their transmission, prevention and control, and to highlight the importance of the One Health approach, which recognises the interconnection between human, animal and environmental health. The quiz was open to participants from all sections of society and aimed to encourage public awareness and understanding of zoonotic diseases and preventive measures. E-certificates were offered to participants who secured a minimum of 50% marks. The initiative formed part of the Centre's awareness activities to promote public health, wildlife health and environmental well-being.



Celebration of World Firefly Day, 04-05 July 2026

World Firefly Day, observed on 4–5 July 2026, highlighted the ecological importance of fireflies and the need to conserve their natural habitats. Fireflies are bioluminescent insects known for their ability to produce light through a natural chemical process. They play an important role in maintaining ecological balance and serve as indicators of healthy ecosystems.

The observance aimed to raise awareness about the declining populations of fireflies due to habitat loss, light pollution, pesticide use and environmental changes. Fireflies depend on suitable habitats, including moist soil, grasslands, forests and areas near water bodies, for their survival and reproduction.

World Firefly Day emphasised the importance of protecting natural habitats, reducing unnecessary artificial lighting, limiting pesticide use and encouraging biodiversity conservation. The day also encouraged people to appreciate these fascinating insects and recognise their role in maintaining healthy ecosystems.

i) Awareness Session on Firefly Conservation and Guided Nature Trail at WII

As part of World Firefly Day 2026, an awareness session was organised at the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, for cyclists from Pahadi Pedallers from Dehradun.

Dr. V. P. Uniyal Professor, Department of Biotechnology, Graphic Era University delivered an informative session on firefly ecology, the science behind bioluminescence and the importance of fireflies as indicators of healthy ecosystems. He also highlighted the threats faced by fireflies, including habitat loss, artificial lighting and pesticide use, and the need to conserve their natural habitats.

Mr. Amir M. Lone, Programme Officer, EIACP Centre, introduced the EIACP Programme and its activities related to environmental information, public awareness and biodiversity conservation. The session was followed by a guided nature trail through the WII campus, where participants had an opportunity to explore the natural surroundings and learn about local biodiversity. The activity encouraged participants to appreciate the ecological importance of fireflies and the need to protect their habitats.



ii) Firefly Observation Drive Across India

As part of World Firefly Day 2026, the EIACP Programme Centre at the Wildlife Institute of India, in collaboration with the Host Institute, organised a Firefly Observation Drive on 4 and 5 July 2026. The drive focused on documenting firefly populations in and around protected areas and nearby natural habitats. Forest guards, range officers and nature enthusiasts were encouraged to participate in the observations between 8:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.

The drive recorded 640 observations from 18 states, including Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Mizoram, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

The initiative aimed to encourage public participation in documenting firefly sightings, raise awareness about their ecological importance and highlight the need to conserve their natural habitats. The observations also contributed to a better understanding of firefly distribution across different landscapes in India.



iii) Firefly Count Activity at WII Campus, Dehradun

As part of World Firefly Day 2026, a firefly count activity was organised in and around the Wildlife Institute of India campus, Dehradun, on 6 July 2026. The activity witnessed active participation from scientists, researchers, faculty members and other staff of the Institute.

The activity focused on observing and documenting firefly sightings within the campus and its surrounding natural habitats. It also provided an opportunity for participants to learn about the ecological importance of fireflies and their role as indicators of healthy ecosystems. The initiative highlighted the importance of regular monitoring, habitat conservation and protecting natural environments to support firefly populations.



iv) Citizen Science Firefly Observation Drive

As part of World Firefly Day 2026, the EIACP Programme Centre at the Wildlife Institute of India, in collaboration with Graphic Era University and Amber Foundation, organised a Firefly Observation Drive on 4th - 5th July 2026. The initiative encouraged citizen scientists and nature enthusiasts to observe and document fireflies in their backyards and nearby natural areas between 8:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.



The drive received active participation from 114 citizen scientists, who contributed firefly observations from their respective locations. The activity aimed to promote citizen participation in biodiversity monitoring and raise awareness about the ecological importance of fireflies. It also highlighted the need to protect natural habitats and reduce threats such as artificial lighting, habitat loss and pesticide use to support firefly conservation.



Celebration of World Snake Day, 16 July 2026

World Snake Day, observed annually on 16 July, aims to raise awareness about snakes, their ecological significance, and the need for their conservation. Snakes are an important component of ecosystems and contribute significantly to maintaining ecological balance.

As predators, snakes help regulate populations of rodents, insects, amphibians and other small animals, thereby supporting the natural functioning of food webs. They also serve as prey for several birds, mammals and other wildlife, making them an integral part of healthy ecosystems.

World Snake Day provides an opportunity to promote greater understanding and appreciation of these remarkable reptiles. Snake conservation is not only about protecting individual species but also about safeguarding the ecological processes and biodiversity that depend on them.

i) Release of Informative Poster

To mark the importance of World Snake Day, the EIACP Programme Centre at Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, published an informative poster highlighting the ecological importance of snakes and the need for their conservation. The poster emphasises that snakes are an integral part of healthy ecosystems, helping regulate prey populations and maintain ecological balance.

It also addresses common myths and misconceptions about snakes, highlighting that not all snakes are venomous and that most snake species are non-venomous and generally avoid humans. The poster further encourages people to respect wildlife, maintain a safe distance, protect natural habitats, and avoid unnecessary killing of snakes.





Photo Credits: Amir Lone

Study Visit of Entry-Level Civil Service Officer Trainees from LBSNAA, 24 July 2026

The EIACP Programme Centre at the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, coordinated a study visit of Entry-Level Civil Service Officer Trainees from the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), Mussoorie, on 24 July 2026. The officers, representing the North-Eastern and Himalayan States and Union Territories, visited the Institute as part of a customised training programme.

During the visit, the officer trainees interacted with WII scientists and experts and were introduced to the Institute's ongoing research, wildlife conservation and capacity-building activities. The participants also visited the Wildlife Forensic Cell, UNESCO Category 2 Centre and Pashmina Certification Facility, where they gained insights into the scientific facilities and technical expertise available at WII for supporting wildlife conservation and management.

The visit provided an opportunity for the officer trainees to understand the role of scientific research in biodiversity conservation, sustainable development and environmental governance. It also encouraged knowledge exchange and highlighted the importance of integrating scientific knowledge into policy planning, administration and decision-making for effective wildlife conservation.





Celebration of Global tiger Day, 29 July 2026

Global Tiger Day is observed annually on 29 July to raise awareness about tiger conservation and the importance of protecting their natural habitats. Established in 2010 at the Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit, the day highlights the need to address threats such as habitat loss, poaching, illegal wildlife trade and human-wildlife conflict. It also serves as a reminder of our collective responsibility to conserve biodiversity and promote coexistence between humans and wildlife.

i) Awareness Programme on Global Tiger Day

The EIACP Programme Centre at the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, in collaboration with the Dharti International Foundation, organised an awareness programme to mark Global Tiger Day on 29 July 2026 at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. The programme brought together students, researchers and nature enthusiasts to raise awareness about tiger conservation and the importance of protecting wildlife habitats.

The programme focused on the ecological importance of tigers in maintaining healthy forest ecosystems and their role as apex predators in regulating prey populations. Discussions highlighted the conservation challenges faced by tigers, including habitat loss, fragmentation of wildlife corridors, human–wildlife conflict and increasing pressure on natural resources. The importance of scientific research, habitat protection, community involvement and public participation in strengthening tiger conservation efforts was also discussed.

Special emphasis was placed on the role of youth in wildlife conservation and the need to encourage greater participation in biodiversity protection. The programme provided an opportunity for participants to learn about tiger conservation efforts in India and the importance of maintaining connected forest landscapes for the long-term survival of wild tiger populations.

As part of the observance, tiger conservation awareness activities were also organised at Paramount Academy, Kasrawad, Madhya Pradesh, where students participated in educational activities highlighting the importance of tigers and their natural habitats.

The programme encouraged young students to understand the relationship between wildlife, forests and ecological balance, while promoting responsible attitudes towards nature and biodiversity conservation.

Through these programmes, the EIACP Programme Centre and its collaborating partners reached students and young people across different educational institutions, promoting awareness about tiger conservation and the need to protect forest ecosystems. The activities highlighted the importance of collective efforts, environmental education and community participation in ensuring a secure future for tigers and their habitats.



Expert talk on Warriors of the Himalaya: Conserving Water, Forests, Glaciers and Traditional Livelihood, 04 August 2026

The EIACP Programme Centre at the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, organised an expert talk on 4 August 2026 by Mr. Jalal Ud Din Baba (Jalal Jeelani), Science Filmmaker and Earth Journalist, on the topic "Warriors of the Himalaya: Conserving Water, Forests, Glaciers and Traditional Livelihoods."

During the session, Mr. Baba spoke about the importance of protecting the Himalayan ecosystem, particularly its water resources, forests and glaciers. He shared insights into the role of local communities in conservation and the need to preserve traditional livelihoods that depend on the region's natural resources.

The talk also covered sustainable water management, forest conservation and the challenges faced by Himalayan communities due to environmental changes. He emphasised the importance of traditional knowledge, community involvement and science communication in promoting conservation.

The session was attended by researchers, students and faculty members and provided an opportunity to discuss the relationship between environmental conservation and the livelihoods of people living in the Himalayan region.





Celebration of International Vulture Awareness Day, 05 September 2026

International Vulture Awareness Day was observed on 5 September 2026, the first Saturday of September, to raise awareness about the ecological importance of vultures and the need for their conservation. The day highlighted the vital role vultures play in maintaining healthy ecosystems by feeding on animal carcasses, helping to keep the environment clean and reducing the risk of disease transmission.

The 2026 observance emphasised the importance of using vulture-safe veterinary medicines, protecting nesting and feeding habitats, preventing poisoning and strengthening population monitoring and conservation programmes. It also encouraged public participation and awareness to support the recovery of threatened vulture species.

International Vulture Awareness Day served as a reminder that protecting vultures was essential not only for biodiversity conservation but also for maintaining clean and healthy ecosystems. Healthy skies need vultures.

i) Release of Informative Poster

To mark the occasion, the EIACP Programme Centre at the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, released a series of informative awareness posters highlighting the importance of vultures, their conservation status, major threats and measures required for their protection.

The posters depicted the vital role of vultures as nature's clean-up crew and explained how their decline could affect ecosystem health. They highlighted the severe decline of vultures in India due to the veterinary use of diclofenac, a drug that caused kidney failure and death in vultures feeding on contaminated livestock carcasses.

The awareness posters also featured nine species of vultures found in India, including the Himalayan Griffon, Griffon Vulture, Bearded Vulture, Egyptian Vulture, Cinereous Vulture, Indian Vulture, White-rumped Vulture, Slender-billed Vulture and Red-headed Vulture.

The posters further highlighted major threats to vultures, including toxic veterinary drugs, accidental poisoning, electrocution and collisions with power infrastructure, habitat loss, nesting disturbances and changes in food availability.

Through this awareness initiative, the EIACP Programme Centre encouraged public understanding and participation in vulture conservation. The posters concluded with the message "Healthy Skies Need Vultures," highlighting the importance of protecting these scavengers for maintaining healthy ecosystems.













ii) Awareness Video on Vulture Conservation by GSDP Trainees

On the occasion of International Vulture Awareness Day, 5 September 2026, the trainees of the Batch 3 of Certificate Course in Nature Conservator Cum Ecotourism Guide under the Green Skill Development Programme at the EIACP Programme Centre, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, prepared an awareness video highlighting the ecological importance of vultures and the need for their conservation.

The video explained the important role of vultures in maintaining healthy ecosystems by consuming animal carcasses, recycling nutrients and reducing the risk of disease transmission. It also highlighted the major threats faced by vultures in India, including toxic veterinary drugs, habitat loss, food scarcity and other human-induced pressures that have contributed to their population decline.

Through this activity, the trainees gained experience in communicating conservation-related information and spreading awareness about wildlife protection. The initiative also encouraged them to use creative approaches to share scientific knowledge with the public.

The awareness video was prepared as part of the GSDP training activities to encourage participants to become effective communicators of conservation science and promote greater public understanding of the importance of vultures in maintaining ecological balance. For more details visit link: https://x.com/wii_eiacp/status/2096292476877410729?s=20

Celebration of International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, 16 September 2026

The International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer was observed on 16 September 2026 to raise awareness about protecting the Earth's ozone layer, which shields life from harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation. The day also marked the signing of the Montreal Protocol in 1987 to phase out ozone-depleting substances.

The 2026 theme, "Global Action for a Cooler Planet," highlighted the importance of international cooperation in protecting the ozone layer and addressing climate change. It also marked ten years of the Kigali Amendment, which aims to reduce the use of powerful greenhouse gases in cooling systems.

The 2026 observance also stressed the need for energy-efficient cooling technologies, climate-friendly refrigerants and continued international cooperation. It served as a reminder that protecting the ozone layer and adopting sustainable cooling practices are important steps towards safeguarding human health, biodiversity and the environment for future generations.

i) Release of Informative Poster

To mark the importance of International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer 2026, the EIACP Programme Centre at the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, released a series of informative awareness posters on 16 September 2026. The posters highlighted the importance of the ozone layer in protecting life on Earth from harmful ultraviolet radiation, the causes of ozone depletion and the role of the Montreal Protocol in its recovery. They also explained the difference between ozone depletion and global warming, the environmental impacts of refrigerants and the significance of the Kigali Amendment in reducing harmful greenhouse gases.

The posters further encouraged sustainable cooling practices, including the use of energy-efficient appliances, natural ventilation, proper servicing of cooling equipment and responsible refrigerant management. The awareness initiative promoted the message “Global Action for a Cooler Planet”, emphasizing the importance of protecting the ozone layer while addressing climate change.

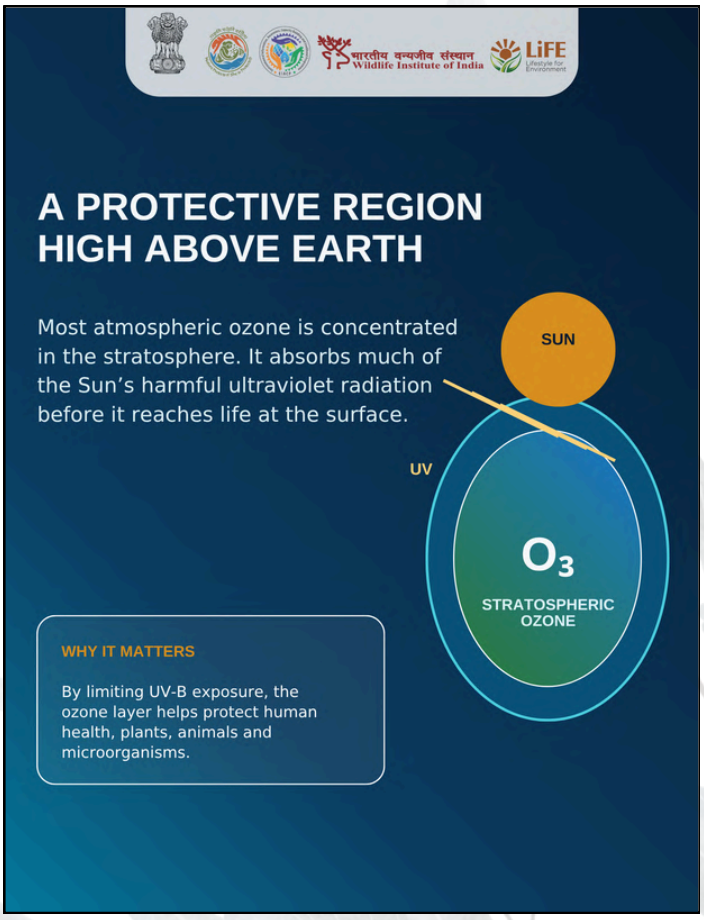
ii) Awareness Video by GSDP Trainees

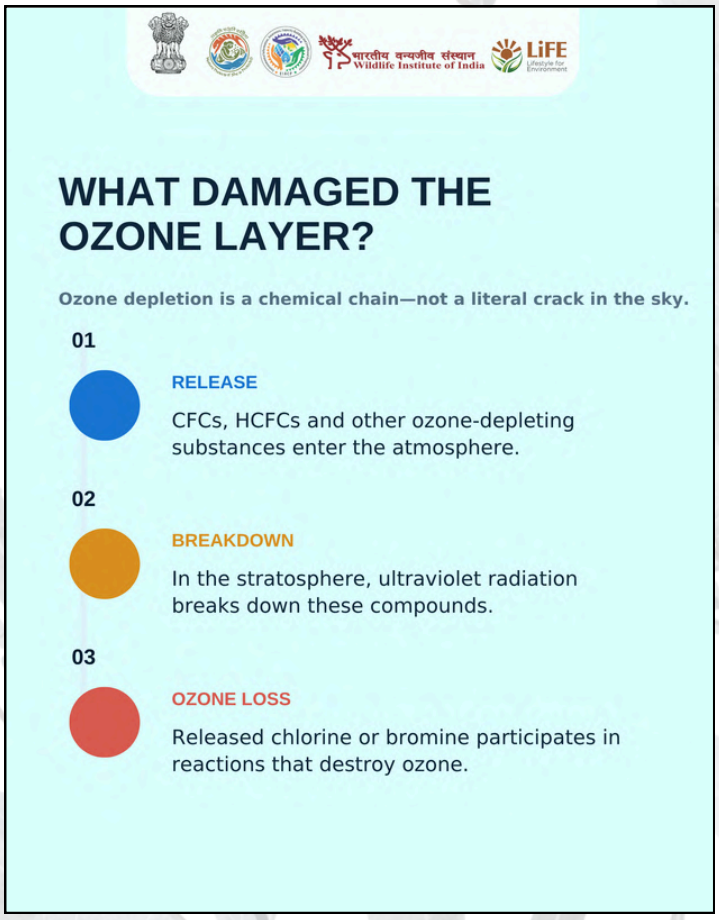
To commemorate the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer on 16 September 2026, the EIACP Programme Centre at the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, released an awareness video prepared by the trainees of Batch 3 of the Certificate Course in Nature Conservator Cum Ecotourism Guide under the Green Skill Development Programme.

Through this activity, the trainees shared information on ozone layer protection, climate change and individual responsibility towards environmental conservation. The initiative also provided an opportunity for trainees to develop their communication skills and raise public awareness about important environmental issues.

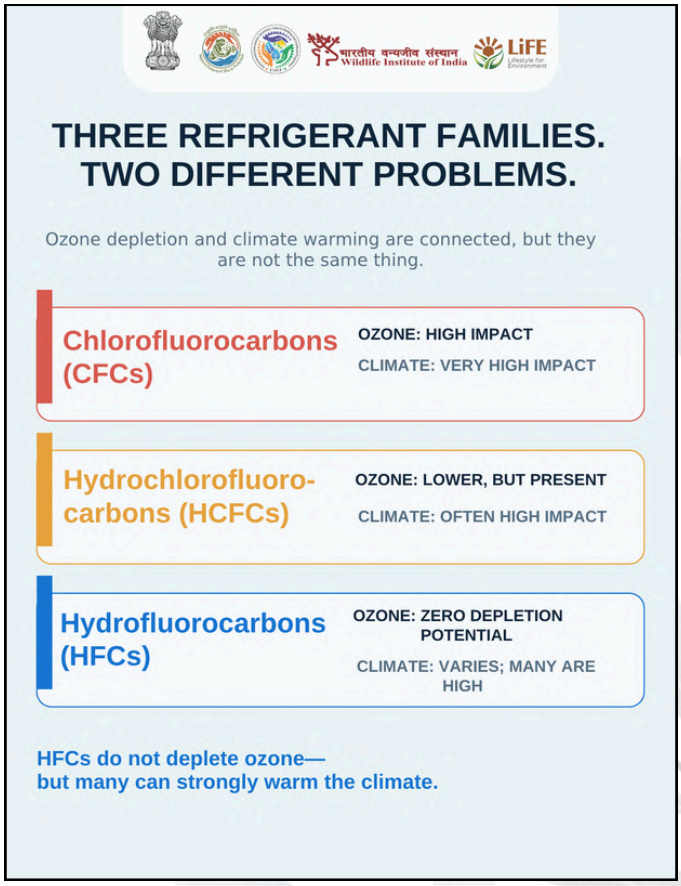
For more details visit link:
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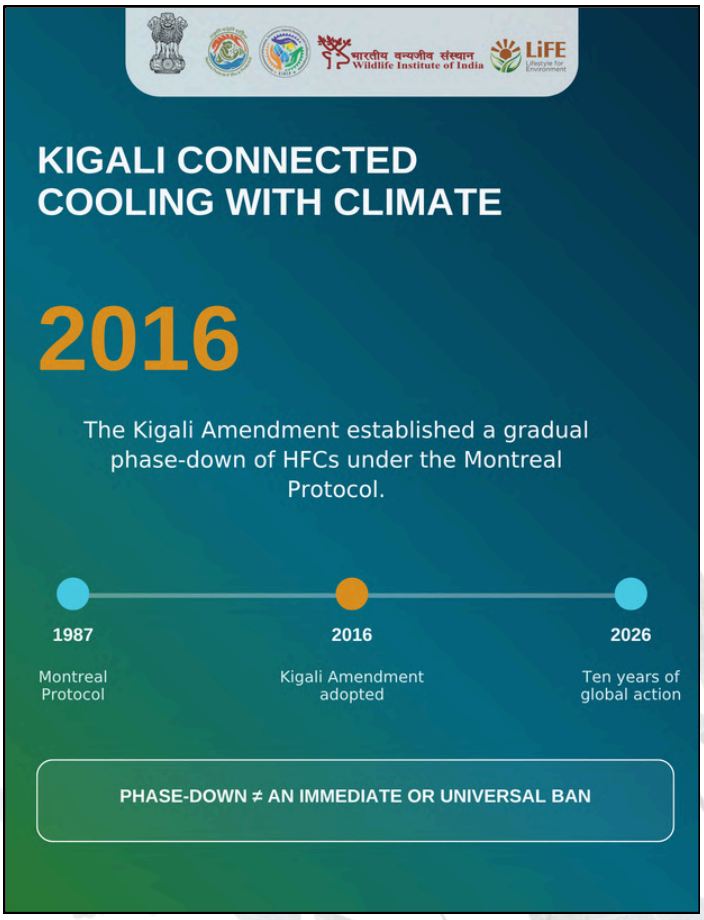







भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान
Wildlife Institute of India
LiFE
THE WORLD ACTED TOGETHER
1987
THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL
Countries established global controls on the production and consumption of major ozone-depleting substances.
GLOBAL AGREEMENT
A landmark example of coordinated environmental action.


भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान
Wildlife Institute of India
LiFE
THREE REFRIGERANT FAMILIES. TWO DIFFERENT PROBLEMS.
Ozone depletion and climate warming are connected, but they are not the same thing.
Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)
OZONE: HIGH IMPACT
CLIMATE: VERY HIGH IMPACT
Hydrochlorofluoro-carbons (HCFCs)
OZONE: LOWER, BUT PRESENT
CLIMATE: OFTEN HIGH IMPACT
Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)
OZONE: ZERO DEPLETION POTENTIAL
CLIMATE: VARIES; MANY ARE HIGH
HFCs do not deplete ozone—
but many can strongly warm the climate.


भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान
Wildlife Institute of India
LiFE
KIGALI CONNECTED COOLING WITH CLIMATE
2016
The Kigali Amendment established a gradual phase-down of HFCs under the Montreal Protocol.
1987
Montreal Protocol
2016
Kigali Amendment adopted
2026
Ten years of global action
PHASE-DOWN ≠ AN IMMEDIATE OR UNIVERSAL BAN


भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान
Wildlife Institute of India
LiFE
COOL PEOPLE! NOT THE PLANET
Sustainable cooling combines lower demand, efficient technology and responsible refrigerant management.
01 Use shade and vegetation
02 Design for natural ventilation
03 Choose energy-efficient equipment
04 Prevent leaks through proper servicing
05 Recover refrigerants at end of life
GLOBAL ACTION FOR A COOLER PLANET

iii) Webinar on Global Action for a Cooler Planet

To commemorate World Ozone Day 2026, the EIACP Programme Centre at the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, in collaboration with the EIACP PC-Hub at Himachal Pradesh Council for Science, Technology & Environment (HIMCOSTE), Shimla, and the EIACP Programme Centre at G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment (NIHE), Almora, jointly organised an online webinar on 17 September 2026, under the theme "Global Action for a Cooler Planet."

The webinar aimed to create awareness about the importance of protecting the ozone layer and the role of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) in climate change mitigation. The programme featured experts from VCSG Uttarakhand University of Horticulture & Forestry and G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment, who shared their knowledge and insights on ozone layer protection, environmental challenges and sustainable solutions.

The discussions highlighted the significance of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, promoting climate-friendly alternatives and strengthening collective efforts towards environmental protection. The initiative reinforced the importance of scientific awareness, international cooperation and sustainable practices in safeguarding the ozone layer and ensuring a healthier, cooler and greener planet for future generations.



Celebration of World Tourism Day, 27 September 2026

World Tourism Day is observed annually on 27 September to raise awareness about the social, cultural, economic and environmental importance of tourism and its contribution to sustainable development. The day highlights the role of tourism in connecting people, preserving cultural and natural heritage, generating employment opportunities and supporting local communities.

The theme for World Tourism Day 2026, "Digital Agenda and Artificial Intelligence to Redesign Tourism," emphasises the growing role of digital technologies and artificial intelligence in transforming the tourism sector. It focuses on improving visitor experiences, strengthening destination management, promoting accessibility and creating opportunities for inclusive and sustainable tourism development.

The observance also highlights the importance of responsible tourism and ecotourism in protecting biodiversity, conserving wildlife habitats and minimising the environmental impacts of tourism activities. Sustainable tourism practices, including waste reduction, resource conservation, respect for local cultures and community participation, are essential for maintaining the ecological integrity of tourist destinations.

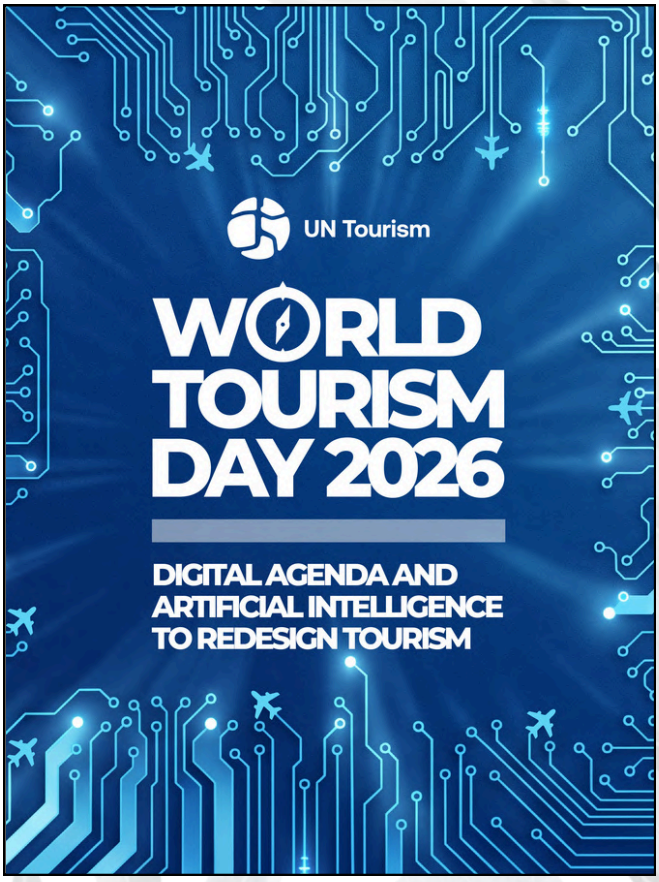
i) Awareness video on World Tourism Day 2026: Promoting Green Skills for Responsible and Sustainable Tourism

World Tourism Day was established by the UN Tourism General Assembly in September 1979 and first celebrated in 1980. Observed on 27 September, it marks the adoption of the organisation's Statutes in 1970. The date also coincides with the end of the peak tourism season in the Northern Hemisphere and the beginning of the season in the Southern Hemisphere.

To commemorate World Tourism Day on 27 September 2026, the EIACP Programme Centre at the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, highlighted the importance of responsible, sustainable and nature-based tourism through a video featuring the perspectives of trainees of the Certificate Course in Nature Conservator-cum-Ecotourism Guide, organised under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change sponsored Green Skill Development Programme.



The video showcases the views of GSDP trainees on the role of ecotourism in promoting biodiversity conservation, supporting local livelihoods, encouraging responsible visitor behaviour and ensuring the sustainable use of natural landscapes. It also highlights how classroom sessions, field-based learning and practical activities are helping trainees develop essential skills in nature interpretation, wildlife conservation, sustainable tourism practices and community engagement.





Workshops

37th Professional Skill Upgradation Course for IFS Officers on "Wildlife and Biodiversity Conservation, 28 September 2026 – 01 October 2026

As part of the capacity-building initiatives for Indian Forest Service (IFS) Officers, the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, organised the 37th Professional Skill Upgradation Course on "Wildlife and Biodiversity Conservation" from 28 September to 01 October 2026. The four-day training programme aimed to enhance the knowledge and professional skills of IFS officers in addressing emerging challenges in wildlife conservation, biodiversity management and sustainable development.

The programme featured interactive sessions by experts covering a wide range of topics, including human-wildlife conflict management, compensatory afforestation and ecological restoration, management effectiveness evaluation, wildlife forensics and law enforcement, Himalayan wildlife conservation, coastal and marine biodiversity, marine turtles, wetlands and bustard conservation, wildlife crime investigation, conservation-development challenges, mitigation measures for linear infrastructure, evidence-based conservation approaches and cheetah conservation.

The programme concluded with a panel discussion on "Critical Perspectives on Modern Human-Wildlife Conflict Management," providing an opportunity for participating officers and experts to exchange experiences, discuss field-level challenges and explore practical approaches to wildlife conservation and human-wildlife coexistence.

The course was coordinated by Dr. Ramesh Chinnasamy, Scientist-E and Coordinator, WII-EIACP Programme Centre, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun. The four-day programme concluded with an emphasis on strengthening the professional capacities of IFS officers through knowledge sharing, practical insights and discussions on contemporary conservation challenges. The course reinforced the importance of integrating scientific knowledge, policy and field-level management practices to promote effective wildlife conservation, sustainable biodiversity management and harmonious coexistence between people and wildlife.









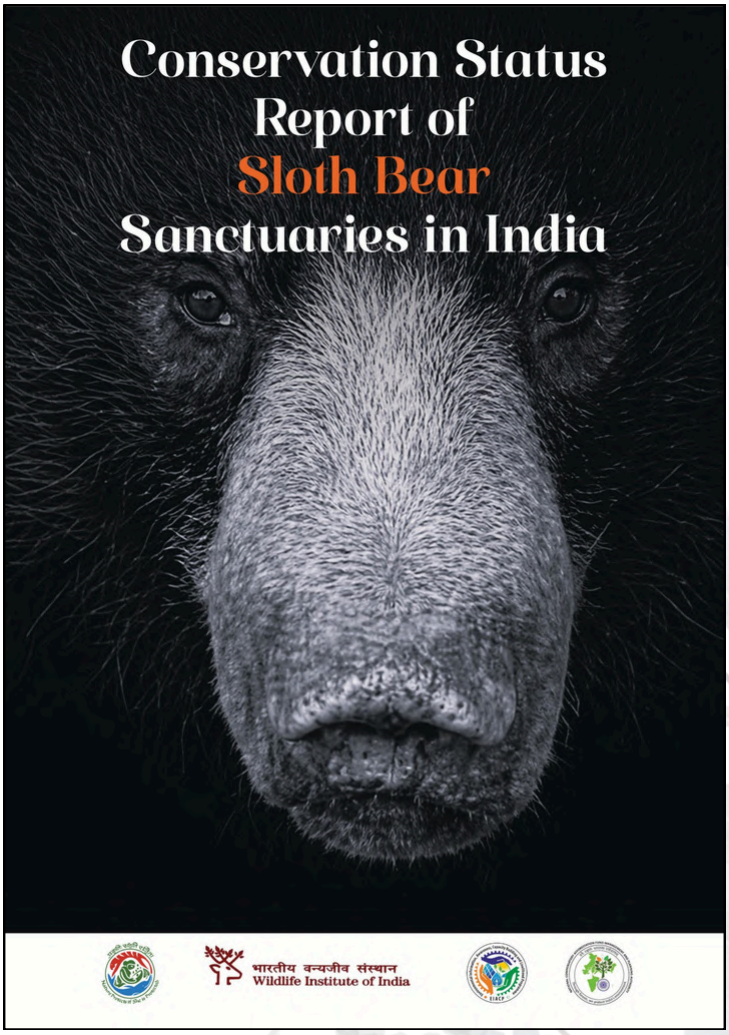
Release of the Conservation Status Report of Sloth Bear Sanctuaries in India, 14 July 2026

The Conservation Status Report of Sloth Bear Sanctuaries in India, prepared under Project Sloth Bear by the Wildlife Institute of India, was released during the 91st Meeting of the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife held at Coimbatore on 9th July 2026. The report was developed in collaboration with the EIACP Programme Centre, WII, and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC). It presents a consolidated assessment of the conservation status of notified Sloth Bear Sanctuaries in India.

The report covers Jessore and Ratanmahal Sloth Bear Sanctuaries in Gujarat and Daroji, Gudekote and Arsikere Sloth Bear Sanctuaries in Karnataka. It provides information on their ecological status, habitat characteristics, landscape features and conservation importance. The publication also examines habitat and land-cover changes, identifies potential wildlife corridors and connectivity pathways, and highlights major conservation challenges and management priorities in these protected areas.

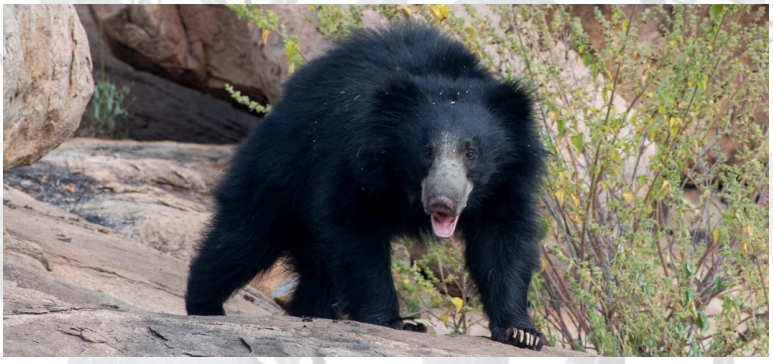
The report further emphasises the need for regular population assessments, habitat monitoring, improved landscape connectivity and measures to reduce human–sloth bear conflict. It also highlights the importance of long-term conservation planning and coordinated management efforts to protect Sloth Bear populations and their habitats.

The publication serves as a baseline reference for forest managers, researchers, policymakers and conservation practitioners, providing scientific information to support effective management, long-term monitoring and evidence-based conservation planning for Sloth Bears in India.



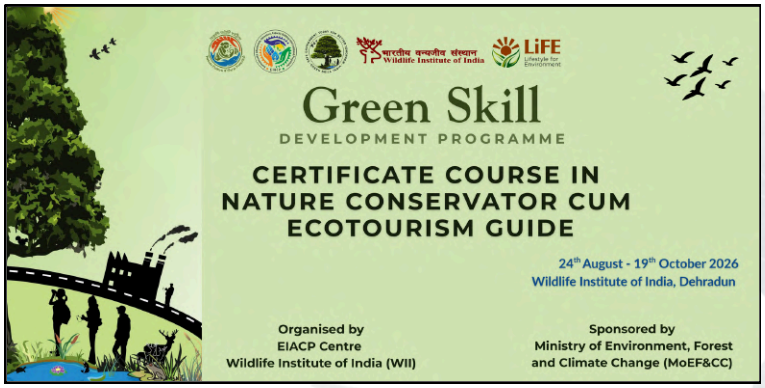






Certificate Course in Nature Conservator Cum Ecotourism Guide under Green Skill Development Programme, 24 August 2026 – 19th October 2026 at WII

The EIACP Programme Centre at the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, organised the Certificate Course on Nature Conservator-cum-Ecotourism Guide under the Green Skill Development Programme. The course was inaugurated at the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, on 24 August 2026, with the training programme scheduled to continue until 19 October 2026.



The course was designed to provide participants with theoretical knowledge and practical skills in ecotourism, biodiversity conservation, nature interpretation and sustainable livelihood development. The training aimed to enhance employment and entrepreneurship opportunities in nature-based tourism while promoting environmental conservation and responsible use of natural resources.

The training programme brought together 20 participants, comprising 10 male and 10 female trainees, from different states of India, including Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan. The participation of trainees from different regions provided an opportunity to exchange knowledge and experiences related to biodiversity, wildlife conservation and ecotourism practices.

The course was conducted in accordance with the prescribed National Occupational Standards and covered various modules, including Introduction to Ecotourism Entrepreneurship, Introduction to Biodiversity and Environmental Conservation, Introduction to Ecotrail Management, Basics of Ecotourism, Hospitality and Land Management, Ecotourism Marketing, Employability Skills and On-the-Job Training.

The classroom sessions covered important aspects of biodiversity conservation, wildlife and habitat management, sustainable tourism, visitor management, hospitality services, communication skills, waste management and ecotourism-based entrepreneurship. Resource persons from different fields shared their knowledge and practical experiences to familiarise trainees with the opportunities and challenges associated with nature-based tourism.

Field visits, nature walks and practical sessions were also included in the training to provide hands-on experience in wildlife observation, identification of flora and fauna, nature trail planning, environmental interpretation and responsible tourism practices. These activities helped participants understand the importance of protecting natural habitats while developing skills required for ecotourism-related professions.

The On-the-Job Training component was included to provide practical exposure to tourism and hospitality operations, customer service, communication, homestay management and other activities related to ecotourism services. The training was intended to strengthen the professional skills of participants and prepare them for employment and self-employment opportunities in the ecotourism sector.

The programme also highlighted the importance of green skills in achieving sustainable development objectives and contributing to national and global environmental commitments, including the Sustainable Development Goals, Nationally Determined Contributions, National Biodiversity Targets and Waste Management Rules, 2016.

Through this training initiative, the EIACP Programme Centre continued its efforts to promote skill development, environmental awareness and sustainable livelihood opportunities among young people. The programme emphasised the importance of combining biodiversity conservation with responsible ecotourism practices and community participation for long-term environmental sustainability.

GLIMPSES OF GSDP COURSE

















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