

IN THE ISSUE

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Sipu Kumar



Shatakshi

For the sake of research....

Current Protected Area Network of India

Position as on 31 December 2019

National Parks: 101; Area 40564.04, (1.23%)

Wildlife Sanctuaries: 551; Area: 119775.80, (3.64%)

Conservation Reserves : 88; Area: 4356.49, (0.13%)

Community Reserves : 127; Area: 525.22 (0.02%)

Total Protected Areas : 867; Area: 165221.55, (5.02%)

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Next Issue

- Landscape-Level Stakeholders/ Experts Consultation Workshop
- National Workshop on Habitat Management for Elephants to Mitigate Human-Elephant Conflict
- Training Course on Health Management of Captive Wild Animals



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Around the Campus

XLI P.G. Diploma Course in Advanced Wildlife Management Commenced, Dehradun, 1 September

2019 - 30 June 2020. The 10-month P.G. Diploma Course in Advanced Wildlife Management commenced on 1 September 2019 at this Institute with twenty 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.

So far, six modules have been conducted besides three important tours to various protected areas. During the reporting period, High Altitude Ecology tour was organised from 4-10 November 2019. The officer trainees were taken to Kedarnath Wildlife Sanctuary and Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve. The objective of this tour was to orient the officer trainees to the wildlife values of the high altitude ecosystems, and expose them to the conservation and management issues of these fragile mountain areas. The techniques tour was organised in Rajaji Tiger Reserve during 9-31 December 2019. The officer trainees learnt various techniques of wildlife management including estimation of prey and predator population, studying animal behavior, carrying out radio-telemetry, chemical immobilization and restraint of wild animals, wildlife health monitoring, vegetation sampling, habitat quantification and occupancy survey. The last part of the program focused on the analysis of data that was collected by the officer trainees.

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XVII WII- FODS Wildlife & Environment Quiz at WII, Dehradun, 1 October 2019.

On the occasion of Wildlife Week, Wildlife Institute of India (WII) organised the annual 'WII- FoDS Wildlife & Environment Quiz' for schools of Dehradun and Mussoorie. The quiz aims at spreading awareness about Forest, Wildlife, and Environment; and encourages the students to contribute to its conservation. Eighteen schools participated with three members for each team belonging to Classes IX-XI. Wynberg Allen, Mussoorie emerged as the winner taking with them the Samir Ghosh Rolling Trophy and cash prizes presented by the Friends of the Doon Society. Dr. G.S. Rawat, Dean and Director, WII and Dr. A.J.T. Johnsingh addressed the gathering on this occasion.

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Swachhata Hi Seva Programme, at Wildlife

Institute of India, Dehradun, 2 October 2019. On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, under the Government of India's Swachhata Hi Seva Programme, Wildlife Institute of India (WII) organised a cleanliness and awareness drive in and





around WII. The programme was attended by Director, faculty members and research scholars of WII; students and teachers of Galaxian International School; Shri S. Butola, Parshad, Chandrabani Ward and local residents. Approximately 500 people participated in the programme.

The cleanliness rally started with the cleaning of the Chandrabani area, wherein locals, nearby shopkeepers were made aware of using dustbins and avail services of the Nagar Palika. Street plays were organised at three locations to attract the crowd and local public, shopkeepers and vendors towards the cause. Ganga Champion competition was also held for school students. For the competition, each student was provided with a form with the cleanliness pledge. The form was signed by more than 4,300 people, who pledged to support the goal of Swachhata Hi Seva programme. In the evening, the cultural programmes were organised in the WII auditorium focusing on the theme of Swachhata Hi Seva Programme.

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Integrity Pledge administered by WII Employees, Dehradun, 30 October 2019.

It has been decided by the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) that the Vigilance Awareness Week 2019 is to be observed from 28 October 2019 to 2 November 2019 with the theme "Integrity - A Way of Life". As part of the programme, the Integrity Pledge was administered by WII employees as part of Vigilance Awareness Week on 30 October 2019. Dr. G.S. Rawat, Director of the Institute, addressed the gathering and read the Integrity Pledge along with the employees.

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Training Course on 'Biodiversity Conservation' for Scientists & Technologists working in Government Sector, Dehradun, 4-9 November 2019.

In accordance with the mandate of training personnel at various levels for conservation and management of wildlife, the Wildlife Institute of India organised a week-long training programme for scientists and technologists during 4-9 November 2019. This course was sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India. The theme of the programme was chosen as "Biodiversity Conservation", covering the evolution of the science of biodiversity conservation in the country and involvement of local communities. The objective of the programme was to apprise the participants about the basics of wildlife and biodiversity conservation. Seventeen participants belonging to diverse fields joined the programme. The participants were given a direct experience of the recent advancements in the field of biodiversity conservation and also exposed to its issues and challenges. The participants were given field exposure with a trip to the WII Nature Trail and Jhilmil Jheel Conservation Reserve.

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GIS Day Celebrated at Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, 11 November 2019.

On the occasion of GIS Day, the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) organised the 'GET SET GIS Workshop' for the researchers of the Institute. Eighty researchers participated in the workshop. The full-day program started with a technical session in the forenoon with hands-on training for beginners, covering the basics of GIS software, Google Earth and Maps. The idea was to impart basic cartography skills. Different

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Wildlife Week Celebrations

Kanpur Zoological Park, 1-7 October 2019. Wildlife week was celebrated by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), Component-6 team of Wildlife Institute of India at the Kanpur Zoological Park. There were a series of events starting with a rally, fancy dress, quiz, essay writing and painting competition. There was a footfall of about 2,500 students throughout the week from different schools in and around Kanpur. Special activities were organised for the special need students (deaf and dumb) to involve them in the celebration. Teachers' Training on how teachers can engage students in the activity-based learning experience was also held for the teachers accompanying the students. They were introduced to teachers' study manual 'Discovering Ganga', which is about the importance of Ganga River; Its course from source to sea; Harmful effects of pollution; and Importance of river and its biodiversity. The activities were held under the aegis of 'Gangaridai-Eco Club' formed under the NMCG Component-6.

Harshil, 1-4 October 2019. The National Mission for Clean Ganga, Component-6 team of Wildlife Institute of India, organised various awareness programs and cleanliness drives as part of Wildlife Week celebrations in Government schools of Harshil district. The program started with the presentation regarding biodiversity of Ganga and how the activities of mankind contribute directly and indirectly to the degradation of the river system. "Gangaridai" Eco Club was formed in schools to make a cadre of motivated students for river conservation organised the activities. The students wrote slogans on 'Save Ganga and its Biodiversity and Recycling of Plastic Bottles.' They also participated in a rally through the town of Harshil. A total of 74 students and 20 teachers participated in the event.

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maps, prepared by the researchers of WII from different projects and by the IT, RS & GIS Lab, were showcased to the students to demonstrate the context and various applications of maps. The participants prepared study area maps of which the best three were awarded prizes. An ArcMap story of WII's nature trail was presented in the afternoon session. The program ended with certificate distribution to the participants, followed by the Director's concluding remarks.

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National Outreach for Awareness Generation on Urban Biodiversity, Dehradun, 14-15 November 2019.

A national outreach event for awareness generation on urban biodiversity was conducted at the Wildlife Institute of India in collaboration with International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) - Local Governments for Sustainability, South Asia. The workshop was organised as a part of the INTERACT - Bio project. Representatives from national, state and city governments participated in the workshop. The Mayor of Dehradun, Shri Sunil Uniyal Gama, welcomed all the 30 participants including the Mayors from

Gangtok and Bhuj. Dr. G.S. Rawat, Director, WII emphasised that the workshop opened up a new arena of work i.e. 'Urban biodiversity and ecosystem services' for the Institute. The workshop dealt with various aspects relating to urban biodiversity. The technical sessions included discussions on 'Legislation, policy and finance in the context of urban biodiversity; Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA)/ Nature-based solutions; and Tools and techniques for decision making, monitoring and regulation of urban biodiversity'. The participants were subsequently taken to the field in Rajpur and Mussoorie to experience how urban biodiversity links with the history and cultural heritage of a city.

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Certificate Course on Nature Interpretation for Zoo Guide Training Programme under Green Skill Development Programme (GSDP),

Ahmedabad, 30 November - 9 December 2019. A Certificate Course on Nature Interpretation for Zoo Guide Training programme under Green Skill Development Programme (GSDP) funded by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), ENVIS Secretariat, New Delhi was organised by Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun; in association with Central Zoo Authority; and Kamala Nehru Zoological Garden, Ahmedabad at Ahmedabad. The purpose of this course was to create a pool of skilled zoo guides who would help in disseminating information to visitors in the zoo in an entertaining manner.

25 participants were selected for the course. The resource persons delivered lectures during various interactive sessions, viz. Role of Zoos in Conservation; Effective Communication Techniques; Management of Disaster in Zoos; Herpetofauna



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and Basics Skills of Snake Handling; Urban Wildlife etc. The trainees were taken to Kamala Nehru Zoological Garden, Kankaria; Sundarvan, Gandhinagar; and Indroda Nature Park, Gandhinagar for hands-on training.

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One-Week Compulsory Training Programme for IFS Officers on 'Illegal Trade in Wildlife and Role of Wildlife Forensics in Dealing with Wildlife Crime', Port Blair, 2-6 December 2019.

The Wildlife Institute of India conducted the one-week compulsory training programme for IFS officers. A total of 33 IFS officers participated in the course. The inaugural session on 2 December 2019 was graced by Shri Tarun Coomar, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests of Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The course provided extensive inputs on forensic science and its relevance in combating wildlife crime. After the theoretical inputs, the trainees were taken to Jolly Boy Island; Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park; Swaraj Dweep (Havelock Island); and ZSI during 3-5 December 2019 where they were given inputs on the investigation, crime scene analysis, evidence collection and mock exercises. The course wound up on 6 December 2019 with a valedictory function at Chidiya Tapu, Port Blair.

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Consultation Workshop on Inventorisation and Prioritization of Potential World Heritage Sites in Madhya Pradesh State, Bhopal, 7 December 2019.

UNESCO C2C-WII conducted a consultation workshop on 'Inventorisation and prioritization of potential world heritage sites in Madhya Pradesh State' in Bhopal. This was organised as a part of the project funded by Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board, Bhopal. The workshop was attended by 26 participants including senior officials of MP Tourism Board, MP Forest Department, NGOs and Senior Professionals having sound knowledge and experience of Madhya Pradesh. The invited members suggested and presented unique values of their sites. A matrix exercise was carried out to do a preliminary ranking of the identified sites.

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3rd Annual Group Monitoring Workshop on 'Technology Intervention for Mountain Ecosystem-Livelihood Enhancement through Action Research and Networking (DST TIME-

LEARN) Programme' Dehradun, 26-27 December, 2019. The 3rd Annual Group Monitoring Workshop of Technological Intervention for Mountain Ecosystem: Livelihood Enhancement through Action Research Networking (TIME-LEARN) programme of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) was held at Wildlife Institute of India. The workshop commenced with an exhibition of the technologies developed under the TIME-LEARN programme. TIME-LEARN project performance cards and a book on the success stories of the projects were released on this occasion. A field visit to village Pasoli, where an essential oil distillation unit has been installed under one of the projects, was organised for the experts and coordinating agencies. In all, 49 participants attended the workshop.

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Scaling Up and Coordination Workshop, Dehradun, 27 December 2019.

The 'Scaling Up and Coordination Workshop' focussed on "Technology Scaling and Outreach for Livelihood Enhancement in Mountain Areas." A group discussion on up-scaling, replicability and sustainability of the technologies developed under the Technology Intervention for Mountain Ecosystem- Livelihood Enhancement through Action Research and Networking (TIME-LEARN) Programme. The 49 participants included experts, project Investigators of 20 projects and representatives from the government and non-government organizations. The participants were divided into four working groups. Each group was assigned with one major issue to be addressed in up-scaling the technological interventions in mountain landscapes.

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Farewell...

Dr. G.S. Rawat

Dr. G.S. Rawat joined the Wildlife Institute of India in the year 1986 in the erstwhile Faculty of Wildlife Biology. Since then he was an integral part of Institute's research-related and other vital activities. Dr. Rawat completed his M.Sc. in 1980, PhD in 1984 and DSc in the year 2007 in botany from Kumaun University, Nainital. He is a Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences, India (Allahabad, 2004). He is a member of the IUCN/SSC Orchid and Medicinal Plant specialist groups and a life member of the Association for Plant Taxonomy. Prior to joining WII, he served in the Botanical Survey of India, Dehradun and in the Departments of Botany of Kumaun and Garhwal universities in various capacities. In 1988, he was awarded an FAO fellowship to undergo six-month training in habitat evaluation procedures at Colorado State University, Fort Collins. Later in 1993, he also underwent training in alpine plant ecology at the Institute for Arctic and Alpine Research, University of Colorado at Boulder, USA. His research interests included long-term ecological monitoring of high altitude ecosystems; Ecology and management of alpine rangeland/alpine meadows; and orchid systematics and ecology. Dr. Rawat's specialisation was in Angiosperm Taxonomy; Wildlife Habitat Ecology; and Mountain Ecosystems Ecology.



He took over the charge of Director, WII on 1 September 2019. Dr. Rawat superannuated from the services of the Institute on 30 November 2019. A function was organised on 30 November 2019 to bid farewell to Dr. Rawat in which the officers, staff, researchers, students, friends, colleagues, relatives and well-wishers were present to express their good wishes.

Passed the Baton...

Dr. Pratap Singh, IFS

Dr. Pratap Singh is an Indian Forest Officer belonging to 1985 batch of AGMUT Cadre. He has served in the state of Arunachal Pradesh and in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, besides on deputation to Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal; and Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun. His research interest is in studying birds, particularly bird songs. Before joining Wildlife Institute of India, he worked on his PhD thesis titled "Study of altitudinal and geographical song variation, and inter-specific interaction among *Phylloscopus* warblers in the Himalayas", from FRI University, Dehradun. At Wildlife Institute of India, he was involved in DST funded project on Himalayan birds titled "Causes of Avian Diversity Gradients along the Himalayas".



He was given the charge of Director, Wildlife Institute of India by the MoEFCC after superannuation of Dr. G.S. Rawat for a period of one month before joining of Dr. Dhananjai Mohan, IFS as Director. His specialization is in 'Birdsong and Himalayan Birds.'

Welcome...

Dr. Dhananjai Mohan, IFS

Dr. Dhananjai Mohan is a member of 1988 batch of Indian Forest Service, Uttarakhand cadre. Before taking over as Director, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun on 1 January 2020, he served as Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Planning and Financial Management; and Chairman, State Biodiversity Board, in the State of Uttarakhand. He earlier served in the wildlife headquarters of Uttarakhand Forest Department for over five years. He is a graduate in Electrical Engineering from Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur. He has managed protected areas in undivided UP and written management plans for many of them. He did his Post-Graduate Diploma in Wildlife Management in the year 1992. He was awarded a PhD degree on "Habitat Selection of Birds in New Forest, Dehradun, India" by Wildlife Institute of India Centre of Forest Research Institute University, Dehradun. He served as an Associate Professor in the Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy, Dehradun from 1998 to 2004 dealing with the subject of wildlife conservation. He has undergone short courses on 'Biodiversity Conservation and Management' at the University of Wales, Bangor, UK and Colorado State University, USA. Later he served as Professor in the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun from 2006 to 2013 where he led avifaunal research and collaborated with University of Chicago to conduct research on Himalayan bird diversity gradient. He has written a book and contributed a book chapter and has many publications, particularly on avifauna, his primary interest. Some of these were published in topmost international journals like Nature, Nature Communication, American Naturalist, Biology Letters, and Journal of Ornithology. Dr. Mohan has been a passionate birdwatcher and naturalist for nearly four decades and has spanned the length and breadth of the country in pursuit of it.



Dr. Dhananjai is a fellow of Leadership for Environment and Development (LEAD), a programme initiated by the Rockefeller foundation. He has been a recipient of Dr. Salim Ali fellowship of Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India in 2005. He served as a consultant to TERI and supervised a doctoral research and 6 M.Sc. dissertations in wildlife science and forestry. He has a long association with the Institute in the past.

WII family welcomes him in his new capacity as Director of the Institute.

Patron: Director, WII

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"The only good cage is an empty cage."

— Lawrence Anthony, The Elephant Whisperer

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