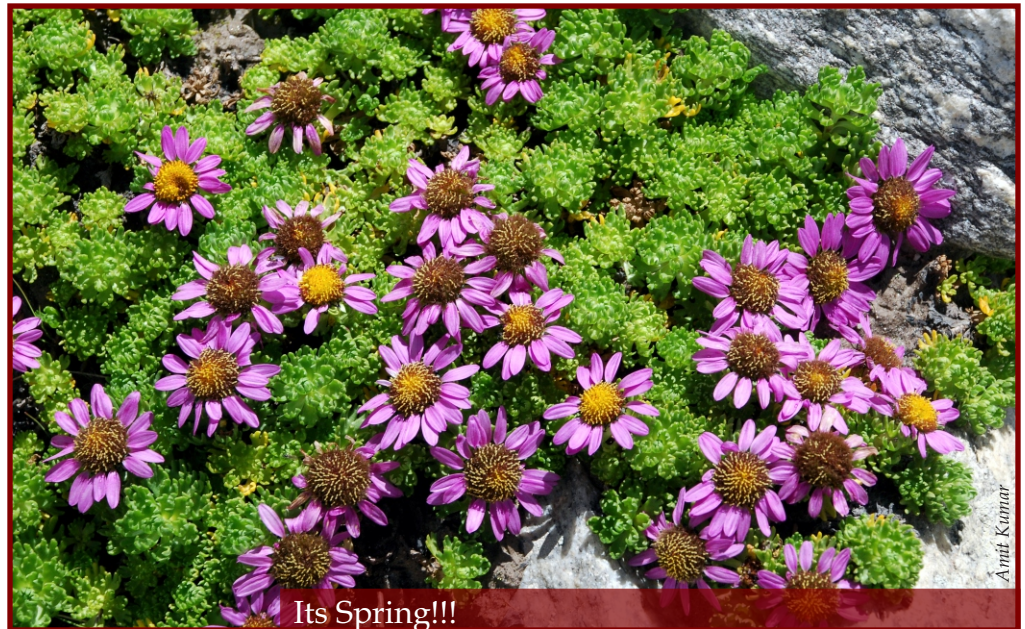


## IN THE ISSUE

- PA Network
- Around the Campus

## Next Issue

- 7th Course on Conservation for Wildlife Enthusiasts



Its Spring!!!

## Current Protected Area Network of India

Position as on March 31, 2021

National Parks – 104; Area 43,716 km<sup>2</sup> (1.33%)

Wildlife Sanctuaries – 566; Area 1,22,420 km<sup>2</sup> (3.72%)

Conservation Reserves – 97; Area 4,483.25 km<sup>2</sup> (0.14%)

Community Reserves – 214; Area 1302 km<sup>2</sup> (0.04%)

**Total – 981; Area 1,71,921.25 km<sup>2</sup> (5.23%)**

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Kushagra



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## Around the Campus

**Capacity Building Course on Wildlife Health Bridge for Veterinarians Working in PAs and Zoos, Sariska Tiger Reserve, Online Mode, 4 January 2021 to 12 March 2021 and Offline Mode, 21 March to 4 April 2021.** A capacity-building course titled Intervention in Wild Animal Health-2021 was jointly delivered by Wildlife Institute of India, Zoological Society of London (ZSL), University of Edinburgh (UoE), University of Melbourne and Royal Veterinary College. The course was primarily designed to enhance the knowledge and skills of veterinary professionals in health management, free-ranging wildlife and field investigations and diagnosis of emerging diseases. The course was delivered through online mode as well as an offline mode at Sariska Tiger Reserve. The course was intended towards developing skills among Field Veterinarians in human-wildlife conflict management, translocation techniques, disease outbreak investigation and the monitoring of the health of declining species. The learning objectives included (i) Gaining critical awareness of the effects of interventions at the human-wildlife interface; (ii) Developing a systematic understanding of the planning of and field methods in disease outbreak investigation; (iii) Wildlife monitoring and biological management; Gaining a comprehensive understanding, including new insights into disease risk management in translocation programmes; and (iv) Gaining a critical awareness of field methods to investigate the role of disease in the decline of species.

The 10-week online course covered various aspects, including weekly sessions addressing the role of veterinarians in protected areas; introduction to animal population monitoring

and distance sampling; census of free-living populations; the human-wildlife interface: community engagement and disease prevention; disease outbreak investigation; spatial analysis, pathological examination and surveillance; aquatic animal biology, ecology and disease investigation; wildlife crime and forensic investigation and best practice wild animal restraint and anaesthesia techniques.

Field course included the demonstration of various techniques for field monitoring of wildlife (animal tracks and signs surveys to camera trapping and radio telemetry); Visual health monitoring of free-living animals; Sampling techniques for infectious disease screening; Pathological examination in the field; Scanning disease surveillance scenarios: People-park interface and its management; Communicating wildlife issues to communities: Wildlife forensics: Wildlife crime investigation; Physical and chemical restraint procedures; The best practice of wild animal anaesthesia techniques and clinical examination in the field.

A total of 18 veterinary professionals representing ten from India, two from England and one each from France, South Africa, Scotland, Paraguay, Belgium and Australia attended the course.

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### **Release of Book to Commemorate World Wetlands Day, 2021, Dehradun, 2 February 2021.**

On World Wetlands Day, a book on "Framework for Ecological Monitoring of Ramsar Sites and other Wetlands in India" was released virtually by Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Hon'ble Minister of Jal Shakti. The dignitaries present on occasion were Shri Ratan Lal Kataria, Hon'ble Minister of State for Jal Shakti and Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India; Shri Pankaj Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Jal Shakti; Shri Rajiv Ranjan Mishra, Director General, National Mission for Clean Ganga; and Dr Dhananjai Mohan, Director, Wildlife Institute of India.

The book is an output of the Wildlife Institute of India's and National Mission for Clean Ganga's joint initiative. This document will aid in the comprehensive monitoring of the wetlands through easy techniques and can be readily used by many stakeholders. It provides a robust framework that addresses ecosystem-level processes and functions to evaluate





and prioritize wetlands for focused conservation action. The monitoring techniques provided in this document are in sync with the Ramsar guidelines and can be used to assess the status of wetland in India. The techniques proposed in this book are robust, replicable and strengthen the existing wetland monitoring framework to allow rapid identification

of changes in wetlands for timely implementation of conservation and management actions. This document also aligns with the Ministry of Jal Shakti's water conservation initiative 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan', which directs stakeholder participation in water management with scientific inputs from local research and academic institutions.

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### **Signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Wildlife Institute of India and Centre for Public Policy and Good Governance (CPPGG), Govt. of Uttarakhand, Dehradun,**

**3 February 2021.** Dr Dhananjai Mohan, Director, Wildlife Institute of India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Dr Manoj Kumar Pant, Additional CEO, Centre for Public Policy and Good Governance (CPPGG), Department of Planning, Government of Uttarakhand, for three years to

establish mutually beneficial collaborations. The MoU was signed to improve the policymaking, implementation, monitoring and evaluation for the Government of Uttarakhand. The partnership will help in the implementation of Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to conduct several policy studies such as assessment of natural accounting, valuation of ecosystem services, mainstreaming biodiversity, climate change and disaster risk reduction, identification of natural and cultural heritage sites in the State of Uttarakhand.

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### **Meeting with Chief Wildlife Wardens to Evaluate 210 National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries through Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) Process, Hotel Lemon Tree, Rishikesh, 12 February 2021.**

A meeting was held under the chairmanship of Shri Soumitra Dasgupta, ADG-WL, MoEFCC; and co-chaired by Shri SP Yadav, Member-Secretary, National Tiger Conservation Authority; with all the MEE Regional Committee Chairpersons and Chief Wildlife Wardens. The objective of the meeting was to work out the details of the site visits and discuss various issues related to MEE cycle 2019-20.

Dr Dhananjai Mohan, Director, WII; Six chairmen; and concerned WII faculty members of the Regional Committees attended the workshop physically. The rest of the participants joined the meeting online. The team-wise plan was chalked out in coordination with concerned CWLWs, aiming to complete the MEE cycle by 31 December 2021. ADG-WL, MoEFCC gave many valuable inputs regarding MEE & PA management to streamline the process. Member-Secretary, NTCA indicated





## NMCG Activities

### World Wildlife Day 2021 Celebrated at Asan Conservation Reserve,

3 March 2021. An awareness workshop with children from schools around the Asan River was conducted on the occasion of World Wildlife Day. Forty-four students participated in the interactive session.



**World Wildlife Day 2021 Celebrated at Ganga Darpan, Sarnath, 3 March 2021.** The students were sensitized about the turtles found in River Ganga by the researchers through digital story. Total fifty students participated in the workshop.

**International Women's Day 2021, 8 March 2021.** The International Women's Day 2021 was celebrated with female students and teachers at Ganga Darpan. The role of teachers and students in river conservation was discussed. A total of 56 women participated in the workshop.



**International Day of Action for Rivers Celebrated by WII, Uttarkashi, 14 March 2021.** The International Day of Action for Rivers was celebrated by WII-NMCG with enthusiasm. An activity was conducted with 84 school students and teachers of Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya, Uttarkashi on 13 March 2021. All the students took pledge to be a part of river conservation.

**Ganga Chaupal with women group, Bhatwari Block near Assi Ganga, 14 March 2021.** Forty women participated in the chaupal and talked about how their daily activities can help in river conservation. Other important topics, such as Alternatives of plastic, rainwater conservation and waste segregation were also discussed.



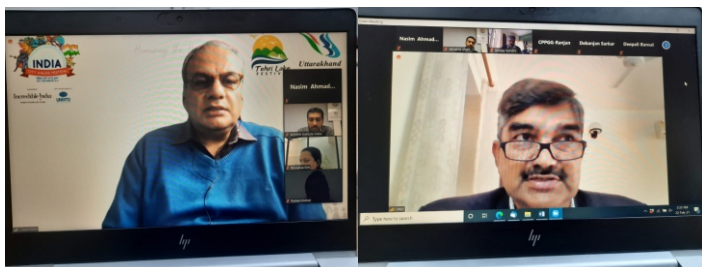


the start of the next MEE cycle for Tiger Reserves. A web-portal has been created to submit the evaluation data on MEE and demonstrated in the meeting.

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## Two-day Sensitization Workshop on 'Urban Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services' through Virtual Mode, Dehradun, 22-23 February 2021.

Wildlife Institute of India, with support from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India, organized a two-day sensitization workshop on 'Urban Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services' through virtual mode. The workshop's objective was to enrich the understanding of urban biodiversity and ecosystems services to personnel other than Forest services. Government Officials, NGOs, Town Planners, Academicians of Uttarakhand and Madhya Pradesh States interacted and discussed the issues and challenges of urban biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services, management and financing.



Dr Dhananjai Mohan, Director, WII, delivered the opening remarks and highlighted the importance of urban biodiversity conservation. The resource persons gave valuable inputs and discussed various aspects like nature-based solutions to address climate change & biodiversity conservation; City Biodiversity Index; Citizen science initiative for ecological monitoring; Impacts of urban expansion on biodiversity & ecosystem services; and Role of administration & local bodies in the conservation of urban biodiversity etc. A total of 18 participants attended the workshop.

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**WII Participated in Basantotsav Flower Exhibition 2021, Dehradun, 13-14 March 2021.** The prestigious Basantotsav Flower Exhibition 2021 was organized at the Uttarakhand Raj Bhavan (Governor House) in Dehradun, which was inaugurated by Her Excellency,



Governor of Uttarakhand, Smt. Baby Rani Maurya. Wildlife Institute of India (WII) participated in this exhibition. The WII exhibition showcased important research activities and achievements of the Institute, with special emphasis on Uttarakhand. Panels showcasing the rise in tiger and leopard numbers were also exhibited. The star attractions of the WII stall were the aquarium with Mahseer fish and an Elephant Selfie Point.

Her Excellency visited the WII Stall and was welcomed and briefed about the significant activities of the Institute. She took a keen interest in knowing about the Mahseer and conservation initiatives in Uttarakhand.

The exhibition was visited by the Honourable Ministers Shri Subodh Uniyal and Shri Satpal Ji Maharaj, besides the general public. Takeaway materials were distributed amongst visitors.

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## 72<sup>nd</sup> Republic Day celebrated at WII, Dehradun, 26 January 2021.

The 72<sup>nd</sup> Republic Day was celebrated at the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) on 26 January 2021. Dr Dhananjai Mohan, Director, WII, hoisted the National Flag on this occasion. Addressing the gathering, he said that the Institute had performed various tasks assigned by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India very successfully during a hard time of the worldwide pandemic COVID-19. He further added that the aspirations from the Institute are high, and the Institute will continue to serve the nation with complete dedication and enthusiasm.

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**Five-day Course on Health Management of Captive Wild Animals, Dehradun, 15-19 March 2021.** Based on the request from Bihar Forest Department, the Wildlife Institute of India organized a five-day course for officials of Bihar Forest Department. The target group included ten officials of Bihar Forest Department, including nine field veterinary officers and one forest officer.

The course was aimed at sensitizing the participants on various aspects of *ex-situ* management and included deliberations on issues related to biodiversity conservation, species biology and behaviour; Husbandry & animal care; Wild animal nutrition; Mortality investigations; Reptile husbandry and care; Quarantine essentials; Population management; Wildlife



forensics; and Outreach. Eminent scientists and resource persons provided the inputs.

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Layout & Design : Kuldeep Chauhan

Photo credits: Chandan Jani (WII Building), Vinod Verma & NMCG Component 3B Team

**"Conservation is life.."**

— Kedar Dhepe

Source: <https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/wildlife-conservation>