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Dive underwater...

Current Protected Area Network of India

(Position as on 20 September, 2016)

National Parks: 103; Area 40500.13 sq km, (1.23%)
Wildlife Sanctuaries: 536; Area 118005.33 sq km, (3.59%)
Conservation Reserves: 67; Area 2349.38 sq km, (0.07%)
Community Reserves: 26; Area 46.93 sq km, (0.001%)
Total Protected Areas: 732; Area 160901.77 sq km, (4.89%)

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Around the Campus

XXXVIII P.G. Diploma Course in Advanced Wildlife Management commenced, Dehradun, 1st September, 2016 – 30th June, 2017.

The 10-month P.G. Diploma Course in Advanced Wildlife Management commenced on 1st September, 2016 at this Institute with 15 officer trainees of the rank of Deputy Conservator of Forests/ Assistant Conservator of Forests and equivalent levels. Among them, 11 officers represented Indian States (three from Telangana, one each from Manipur, Tripura, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, two each from J&K State and Rajasthan). In addition, four foreign nationals from Myanmar have also joined the course.

The Orientation Tour to Kalagarh, Corbett Tiger Reserve and its adjoining areas was conducted from 21-25 September, 2016. The objective of this tour was to introduce the concept of conservation values, unique features, orientation to flora and fauna, identification of bird species and guilds in different forest ecosystem. This opportunity was also used to familiarize trainees with different habitats, wildlife values of area, animal sightings and eco-tourism and human-wildlife interface situations.

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Celebrating World Heritage Inscriptions 2016, Istanbul, Turkey, 10-17th July, 2016.

The 40th Session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, which was held in Istanbul, inscribed 21 new sites on the World Heritage List. It was especially memorable for India as three of its most remarkable sites were declared as World Heritage Sites. These included the Archaeological Site of Nalanda *Mahavihara* (Nalanda University) at Nalanda, Bihar as a Cultural Site; The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier, an outstanding contribution to the modern movement (*Complexe du Capitole* in Chandigarh) as a trans-national cultural site; and Khangchendzonga National Park, Sikkim as India's first mixed cultural and natural site.

To celebrate the new Indian World Heritage Site Inscriptions, an event was organised by the UNESCO Category 2 Centre on World Natural Heritage Management and Training for Asia and the Pacific Region, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun at the India International Centre, New Delhi on 4th August, 2016. Nearly 40 eminent personalities from the Government of India's Ministry of Human Resources, Culture, Environment, Forest and and representatives from UNESCO, ICOMOS and IUCN and other organisations participated in the event.

The programme was initiated by Dr. V.B. Mathur, Director, UNESCO C2C, WII, who informed that it was for the first time that in a single WHC session India got three of her sites inscribed on the World Heritage List. He acknowledged the significance of the 'upstreaming' process by UNESCO in the successful nominations. On this occasion, Shri Janhwij Sharma, Joint Director General (Conservation/World Heritage), ASI, New Delhi underlined India's long current and potential association with World Heritage and the apt recognition of Nalanda's tradition. Dr. S.S. Negi, Director General of Forest & Special Secretary, MoEFCC emphasised the importance of nature and culture working together for conservation. The Chief Guest of the event, Shri Vinay Sheel Oberoi, Secretary, MoHRD, and former Permanent Representative of India to UNESCO, Paris shared information about the origin and evolution of World Heritage Sites and their growing diversity.

The highlight of the evening was the ceremonial handing over of the Inscription Certificates of the new World Heritage Sites by the distinguished Guest of Honour, Dr. Mechtild Rössler, Director of UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Paris to the Indian representatives.

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Country's first Tiger Cell set up at WII, Dehradun, 6th August, 2016. India's first Tiger Cell has been set up at Wildlife Institute of India (WII) on 6th August, 2016. WII has been working closely and providing technical support to the Project Tiger Directorate and the National Tiger Conservation Authority since the past several years. In order to institutionalize this relationship, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been executed between WII and National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) for establishment of the Tiger Cell at WII. Shri B.S. Bonal, Member Secretary, National Tiger Conservation Authority and Dr. V.B. Mathur, Director were present on the occasion along with other dignitaries, faculty members, researchers and staff of the Institute.

The Tiger Cell will house a database of tigers as well as DNA and stripes samples of the big cats from over 50 tiger reserves. The Cell will help in conservation efforts by keeping an update on tiger numbers as well tracking poaching incidents throughout the country. The cumulative data of countrywide tiger assessment, which WII has been compiling for more than a decade, is now institutionalized in the Cell. The Cell will also help the Centre by giving clearance to developmental projects in an area, which has a tiger population. The Cell will also have a national tiger photo database, which will be used for tracking poaching or wildlife crime incidents. For instance, if the Cell has camera trap images of a tiger, which is found dead or killed, then it could be easily identified by matching its stripes from the photo database. *Contact: jhalay@wii.gov.in*



Around the Campus

70th Independence Day Celebration at WII, 15th August, 2016.

India's 70th Independence Day was celebrated in Wildlife Institute of India campus on 15th August, 2016. Hoisting the national flag, Dr. V.B. Mathur, Director recalled the sacrifices of countrymen during the freedom struggle that finally led to India's Independence. He told that Government of India had assigned several new responsibilities to the Institute for planning and implementing species recovery programmes in respect of four critically endangered wild animal species, *viz.* Great Indian Bustard, Gangetic Dolphin, Dugong and Manipur Deer. The Institute had taken up the challenge of 'field conservation' in 14 States of the country, where these species occur. Similarly, under the National Mission for Clean Ganga the Institute has recently established a 'Ganga Aqualife Conservation and Monitoring Centre' in the campus. He urged the Institute's scientists, researchers, students and staff for their continued support in successfully meeting the challenges and new responsibilities assigned to the Institute.

The WII Staff Welfare Committee gave awards to the meritorious children for their outstanding performance in class X and XII Board Examination. The following children were awarded by Dr. V.B. Mathur, Director on this occasion: Rishabh Kumar, Yash Raj Singh Adhikari, Snigdha Singhal, Divyansh Kapruwan, Diwash Bhandari, Shivani Kukreti, Abhishek Aswal, Shikhar Jolly, Ritesh Kumar, Ritvik Gupta, Manvendra Singh Thakur, Muskan Aggarwal, Ananya Bist, Abhishek Kathayat and Aman Singh Dhamanda.

The flag hoisting ceremony was followed by a tree plantation programme in the campus by faculty, staff, researchers, students and children in which various fruit and flower bearing trees were planted.



WII Celebrated 7th Himalaya Day at Nayar River, 9th September, 2016. The 'Himalaya Day' is celebrated on 9th September since 2010 to create awareness to save the Himalayan range as it provides life line for millions of people living in the mountains and in the northern plains of India. The Wildlife Institute of India (WII) celebrates this day each year by organizing training workshops, talks and seminars. This year, the theme for Himalayan Day Celebration was 'Ecological Services of Rivers'. Therefore, WII celebrated the 7th Himalayan Day by organizing a training-cum-conservation Awareness Workshop on 'Ecological Services of the Himalayan Rivers' at the bank of River Nayar in Pauri District, which is one of the most important rivers for Golden Mahseer conservation in Uttarakhand, said Dr. K. Sivakumar, Scientist at WII. This workshop was organized under the National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem project funded by Department of Science and Technology. A total of 50 participants comprising of school students, forest officials and staff from Uttarakhand Forest Department and representatives of the fishermen community of the area participated in this workshop that was organised at Government Inter College at Bilkhet, Pauri.

In addition to the lectures, a hands-on training was given by the scientists from WII, on the river bank of Nayar. All the participants were then divided into groups and provided hand-on training on river habitat quality assessment and restoration techniques. Harmful effects of destructive fishing and dredging were also explained along with various scientific techniques.

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Training Workshop on Disaster Damage and Loss Assessment in Natural Heritage and Cultural Sites using Geospatial Techniques, Dehradun, 11th September to 2nd October, 2016.

Natural as well as human-induced disasters are causing



immense damage to cultural and natural heritage structures, hence it becomes important for all the countries to identify and list their cultural and natural heritage sites which are vulnerable to serious and specific dangers, such as the threat of disappearance caused by accelerated deterioration, large-scale public or private projects or rapid urban or tourism development projects; destruction caused by changes in the use or ownership of the land. For this, capacity building through education and information programmes for the heritage site managers is required.

In this regard, the first short course on "Disaster Damage and Loss Assessment in Natural Heritage and Cultural Sites using Geospatial Techniques" was organised at UNESCO Category 2 Centre for World Natural Heritage Management and Training for Asia-Pacific Region, Wildlife Institute of India (WII); and the Centre for Space Science & Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific (CSSTEAP), Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (IIRS), Dehradun.

In all, 24 professionals and specialists from 11 countries, viz. Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Tajikistan, Cambodia, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Vietnam and India working in government institutes, university system, educational institutes, and involved in active research in conservation, protection, restoration of natural heritage and cultural sites in the Asia-Pacific Region participated in the training programme.

Around the Campus



1st Himalayan Research Seminar, Dehradun, 23rd September 2016. The 1st Himalayan Research Seminar (HRS) was chaired by Dr. L.M.S. Palni, Professor & Dean, Biotechnology Department, Graphic Era University, Dehradun. A total of 23 presentations were made in three technical sessions, *viz.* National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE); Kailash Sacred Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative (KSLCDI); and Biodiversity Conservation & Rural Livelihood Improvement Project (BCRLIP).

The following were adjudged as the three best oral presentations by a panel of three external evaluators and the research personnel were awarded book prizes:

Name	Title of Presentation
I Ankita Bhattacharya	Space use and activity of mammalian community in Askot Landscape, Uttarakhand
II Aashna Sharma	Spatial distributional pattern of the fishes in the Bhagirathi river basin, Uttarakhand
II Pamela Bhattacharya	Response of soil bacterial communities to changes in climate in the Indian Himalayan Region – standardization of methods
III Vandana Rajput	Stream health assessment using ecological indicators: A case study from Askot landscape, Uttarakhand

XII Internal Annual Research Seminar, Dehradun, 26th September 2016. XII Internal Annual Research Seminar (IARS) was chaired by Dr. S. Chandola, Former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force, Government of Uttarakhand, Dehradun. A total of 16 presentations were made in four technical sessions, *viz.* Carnivore Ecology; Ungulate Ecology; Studies on Herpetofauna & Human Ecology; and *Ex-situ* Conservation & Conservation Genetics. The presentations were based on recently initiated and ongoing research studies and were made by research fellows of the Institute.

The following were adjudged as the three best oral presentations by a panel of 3 external evaluators and the research personnel were awarded book prizes:

Name	Title of Presentation
I Predit M.A.	Current population and genetic assessment of Nilgiri Tahr in selected areas of Western Ghats
II Shrutarshi Paul	Current status and distribution of Swamp Deer along Ganga river and its tributaries in North India
III Pallavi Ghaskadbi	A walk to remember: insights into tiger movement across human dominated landscapes in Maharashtra

XXX Annual Research Seminar, Dehradun, 29-30 September 2016. The Annual Research Seminar (ARS) has been an annual feature of the Institute since 1987. It has proved to be an effective means of providing a platform for discussing the outcomes of research projects and their management implications. Wildlife researches at the Institute are largely multidisciplinary in nature covering ecological, biological and socio-economic aspects across various ecosystems in the country. The research projects generate valuable scientific information relevant to the Indian ground conditions, and also create a group of trained field biologists, socio-economists and wildlife managers. The scientific information generated is utilized for management of protected areas.

The XXX ARS was conducted at WII under the Chairmanship of Dr. M.M. Kutty, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India; and Shri P.R. Sinha, Chairman, WII-Training, Research and Academic Council. For the first time, the live-streaming of ARS was done for the wildlife lovers sitting in any part of the globe. A total of 19 presentations were made in five technical sessions, *viz.* Recent Initiatives; Management of Carnivores and their Prey; Studies in the Himalaya; Wildlife Monitoring and Conservation Genetics. The presentations were based on the ongoing/completed research studies and were made by research fellows and faculty members of the Institute. In



addition, 21 *e-poster* presentations were also made by the researchers.

More than 250 delegates attended the ARS that included the Principal Chief Conservators of Forests, Chief Wildlife Wardens and other senior officials representing State Forest Departments, delegates representing Non-Governmental Organisations, scientists, wildlife experts, faculty members, researchers, M.Sc. students and officer trainees of the Post-Graduate Diploma Course in Advanced Wildlife Management and probationers undergoing training at the Central Academy for State Forest Service.

A panel of six eminent scientists and wildlife managers evaluated the relevance and quality of research presented through oral and e-Poster presentations. Both oral and e-Poster presentations made by the following researchers were adjudged the 'best presentations' during the XXX Annual Research Seminar of the Institute and researchers were awarded the book prize.

Name	Title of the Presentation
I Stotra Chakrabarti	Dominance & Promiscuity: Social Organization of Gir Lions, Gujarat
II Navaneethan B	Effect of predator and habitat on gaur group size and composition in Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh



III Shivam Shrotriya	Himalayan wolf and its prey: An opportunist in a landscape of scarcity	Apart from these, a Wildlife Photography Competition was also organized during ARS. The photographs were considered for evaluation in three categories, viz. Flora & Fauna; Field Activity; and Non-theme Category.
Name	Title of the e-Poster	
I Monika Sharma	Patterns of biomass production by the wet grasslands of Kaziranga National Park, Assam	Separate space was given to some shopkeepers to showcase and sell the books, other literature, equipments and various items useful to wildlife enthusiasts. A cultural evening was also arranged for the participants and delegates, in which the faculty members and researchers showed their talents by their cultural presentations.
II GIB Team	Great Indian Bustard Conservation	
II NMSHE Team	Assessment of Climate Change Effects on Wildlife Species in the Indian Himalayan Region: An Update	
II Neeraj Mahar	Application of Flight Initiation Distance (FID) of water birds for delineating buffer zone around wetlands: A case study from selected wetlands of Jammu and Kashmir	The concluding session of ARS was devoted to the participants for their remarks. All the activities, oral presentations, poster presentations and the arrangements have received excellent comments from the experts. The comments were made by the former Directors of the Institute, Shri S.K. Mukherjee, Shri S.S. Bisht and Shri P.R. Sinha; Senior Forest Department Officials, members from Non-Governmental Organisations and other agencies. It was also urged by the experts that WII should make efforts to get the Deemed University status.
III Dolphin Team	Development of Conservation Action Plan for river Dolphins	

भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान में हिन्दी पखवाड़े का आयोजन, 21 सितम्बर, 2016.

भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान में 21 सितम्बर, 2016 को हिन्दी पखवाड़े के अन्तर्गत संस्थान के अधिकारियों एवं कर्मचारियों के लिये एक हिन्दी श्रुतलेख प्रतियोगिता के अलावा एक हिन्दी कार्यशाला का आयोजन किया गया। कार्यशाला में लगभग 45 कर्मचारियों ने उत्साहपूर्वक भाग लिया और जानकारियाँ प्राप्त कीं।

कार्यशाला को श्री के०के० श्रीवास्तव, सम्पादक ने मुख्य वक्ता के तौर पर सम्बोधित किया। इस अवसर पर संस्थान के निदेशक, डा० वी०बी० माथुर ने कहा कि शासकीय कार्यों में राजभाषा के प्रयोग को बढ़ाने के लिये संस्थान में प्रयास किये जा रहे हैं। उन्होंने उपस्थित कर्मचारियों से राजभाषा हिन्दी के सम्मान को बढ़ाने के लिये शासकीय कार्यों में हिन्दी का उपयोग अधिक से अधिक करने का आह्वान किया। इस अवसर पर संस्थान के डीन, डा० जी०एस० रावत एवं संस्थान की विभागीय राजभाषा कार्यान्वयन समिति के अध्यक्ष एवं संस्थान के कुलसचिव, श्री अजय श्रीवास्तव भी उपस्थित थे। कार्यक्रम का संचालन श्री लेखनाथ शर्मा एवं आभार प्रदर्शन श्री वाई०एस० वर्मा ने किया। कार्यशाला का आयोजन सफल रहा।

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The quicker we humans learn that saving open space and wildlife is critical to our welfare and quality of life, maybe we'll start thinking of doing something about it.

- Jim Fowler

Source: <http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/keywords/wildlife.html>