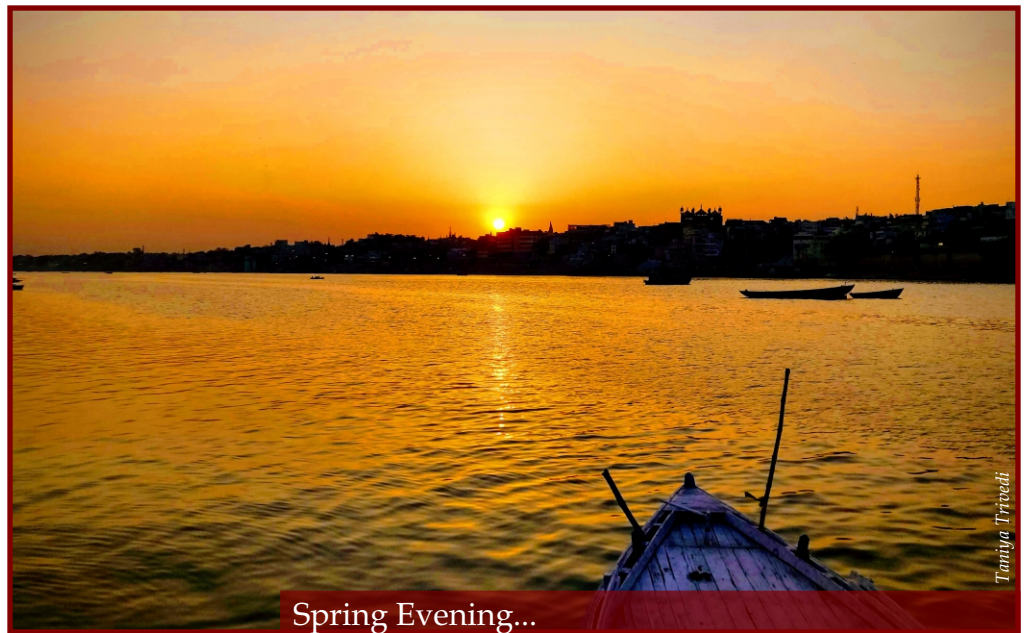


## IN THE ISSUE

- PA Network
- Around the Campus

## Next Issue

- World Heritage Day Celebrations
- World Environment Day Celebrations
- Dugong Day Celebrations



Spring Evening...

Taniya Trivedi

## Current Protected Area Network of India

Position as on March 31, 2020

National Parks – 101; Area 40,564.04 km<sup>2</sup> (1.23%)  
Wildlife Sanctuaries – 553; Area 1,19,756.97 km<sup>2</sup> (3.64%)  
Conservation Reserves – 86; Area 3,858.25 km<sup>2</sup> (0.12%)  
Community Reserves – 163; Area 833.34 km<sup>2</sup> (0.03%)  
**Total – 903; Area 1,65,012.59 km<sup>2</sup> (5.02%)**

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Shirva Ram



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## Around the Campus



### XXXV Certificate Course in Wildlife Management concluded

The XXXV Certificate Course in Wildlife Management started on 1 November 2019. In all, 19 officer trainees of the rank of Range Forest Officers and equivalent levels underwent the training course at WII, which included one each from Madhya Pradesh and Mizoram, two from Uttarakhand, six each from Malaysia and Myanmar and three from Bangladesh.

The course curriculum was divided into six modules and ten units covering wide-array of theoretical and hands-on training. Total eight weeks were spent at Institute for learning, while the remaining five weeks were spent in field tours in the various Protected Areas across India and Sri Lanka. As an integral part of the course, field tours for providing field exposure were undertaken to Mussoorie, Asan Conservation Reserve and Dehradun Zoological Park. The officer trainees undertook the Orientation-cum-Techniques Tour at Chilla Range of Rajaji Tiger

Reserve from 23 November to 4 December 2019. The Management Tour was conducted from 3-22 January 2020 at various protected areas in India and Sri Lanka. After the successful completion of the tour, the trainees made presentations on 24 January 2020 detailing their learning during the visit.

Prior to end of the course, feedback session and *Viva-Voce* for officer trainees were held on 27 January 2020. To bid farewell to the officer trainees on successful completion of the course, Valedictory Function was organized on 31 January 2020 at the Institute. Dr. Rajiv Bhartari, IFS, PCCF (Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warde, Govt. of Uttarakhand graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. He also distributed the certificates and prizes to officer trainees. All the officer trainees have successfully completed the course.

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**Landscape-Level Stakeholders/Experts Consultation Workshop, Panna Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh, 18-19 January 2020.** The two-day workshop was organized as a part of 'Development of Landscape Management Plan and Monitoring regarding Ken-Betwa River Linking Project' in Panna Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh. The workshop, organized by Wildlife Institute of India, was mandated by National Tiger Conservation Authority in collaboration with Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh Forest Departments and supported by National Water Development Agency. The agenda of the workshop was to consult with stakeholders/experts for identifying gaps in completed work and prepare an outline of the landscape management plan. The workshop was attended by 75 participants. Besides presentations, a field trip was organized for the participants in Panna Tiger Reserve to understand various issues concerning Landscape Management Plan.

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**National Workshop on Habitat Management for Elephants to Mitigate Human-Elephant Conflict, Dehradun, 20-21 January 2020.** Managing elephant habitat in rapidly changing landscapes is a huge challenge. For effective management of elephant habitats, a comprehensive understating of the elephant-habitat interactions, population dynamics, social organization and dietary needs of elephants is essential. The threats to elephant habitats due to fragmentation and degradation have increased. Understanding these threats to elephant habitat and how the interventions like restoration of corridors could help in improving the resilience of habitats are essential to deliberate. There is also a necessity to understand management practices across different elephant habitats in the

country and flag best practices that can be shared. With these objectives, the Project Elephant Division of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India in partnership with the Wildlife Institute of India organized a two-day workshop in Dehradun. A total of 59 participants, which included foresters, serving young officers, wildlife scientists and young field biologists, attended the workshop.

Officers from Assam, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, Karnataka, Kerala and West Bengal made their presentations on the best practices to manage elephant habitats. Working groups on the suite of habitat management themes deliberated on challenges and best practices.

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**Training Course on Health Management of Captive Wild Animals, Dehradun, 21-25 January 2020.** Based on the request from Bihar Forest Department, the Wildlife Institute of India organized a five-day course on Health Management of Captive Wild Animals. The target group included faculty members of Bihar Veterinary College and Veterinary Officers working with Bihar and Uttar Pradesh Forest Departments. 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. A total of 13 participants attended the course.

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### **Certificate Course in Bird Identification and Basic Ornithology, Dehradun, 30 January - 13 February**

2020. ENVIS Resource Partner 'Wildlife and Protected Areas', Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, Uttarakhand organized a residential course under Green Skill Development Programme of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India in Wildlife Institute of India. Twenty participants from Uttarakhand, Leh-Ladakh, Assam, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, and Mizoram joined the course. The main aim of the course was to skill the participants in Bird Identification and Basic Ornithology so that they can create employment opportunities and become self-dependent. National Skill Development Authority approved the course with an NSQF Level 5. Besides course modules, group exercises and practical exposure were also emphasized. Bird-watching sessions and visits to Asan Conservation Reserve, Rajaji Tiger Reserve, Jhimil Conservation Reserve, Benog Wildlife Sanctuary, and Forest Research Institute were conducted for field exposure.

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### **Consultative Meeting of Chief Wildlife Wardens and Independent Regional Expert Committees for Management Effectiveness Evaluation of National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries, 2018-19, New Delhi, 3-4 February 2020.**

In collaboration with MoEFCC, Govt. of India, Wildlife Institute of India (WII) organized a two-day Consultative Meeting of Chief Wildlife Wardens (CWLWs) and Independent Regional Expert Committees (REC) for Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) of National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries, 2018-19' at India International Centre, New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Shri Soumitra Dasgupta, IGF(Wildlife), MoEFCC. A total of 33 participants on 3 February 2020 and 24 participants on 4 February 2020 including 29 State/UTs attended the meeting. The objective of the meeting was to discuss the findings, sharing the outcomes and publication of the report of MEE of 146 PAs evaluated during 2018-19. The crucial discussions were made to improve the MEE process and to take the MEE exercise in a more significant way.

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### **National Training Programme for Ganga Praharis Spearhead Team, Dehradun, 3-10 February 2020.**

Under the Wildlife Institute of India - National Mission for Clean Mission Ganga project 'Biodiversity Conservation Initiative Phase II, an 8-day national training programme was



conducted at the Wildlife Institute of India for spearhead team of Ganga Praharis from the five Ganga States. The objective of the training was to train the spearhead team of Ganga Praharis - Guardians of the Ganga. They will lead the conservation activities in their respective areas especially conducting cleanliness and plantation drive, volunteering with State forest departments in the population census of different aquatic species of Ganga River and mobilization of school children at their respective states. The training workshop was attended by 50 Ganga Praharis from Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal. Detailed information on technical issues of biodiversity conservation activities was shared with the participants to enable them to lead and carry forward the Ganga conservation activities. During the training, the participants were also imparted with relevant IT skills and the usage of various applications like Bhuvan Ganga App, Aqualife Data App and the App Digital Micro Planning of Villages. These IT-based applications will enable the Ganga Praharis to monitor and report the issues about the Ganga River in their surrounding area.

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### **One-Week Training Course on “Management of Coastal and Marine Biodiversity in India: Challenges and Prospects”, Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, 10-14 February 2020.**

One week refresher training course for Indian Forest Officers on “Management of Coastal and Marine Biodiversity in India: Challenges and Prospect” was inaugurated by Mr Tarun Coomar, PCCF of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Dr V.B. Mathur, Chairperson, National Biodiversity Authority. This one-week course was jointly organized by Wildlife Institute of India in association with Department of Environment & Forest, Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

Management agencies in India are still having a limited understanding of the management of multiple-use coastal and



## Thirteenth Conference of Parties of Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS CoP13), Gandhinagar, 15-22 February 2020.

"Migratory species connect the planet, and together we welcome them home" was the theme of a major UN Wildlife Conference dedicated to migratory species in India that was held at Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The CoP13 was officially inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi on 17 February 2020. Senior government officials, environment advocates, activists, researchers and biodiversity leaders from as many as 130 countries participated in this conference.

Wildlife Institute of India (WII) showcased the conservation efforts of India and WII on several threatened migratory species such as Dugongs, Great Indian Bustard, Gangetic Dolphin, Amur Falcon and Snow Leopard etc. WII stall was visited by a large number of conference delegates and students. WII conducted a side event in partnership with CMFRI and WTI on 'Marine Animals Conservation Programme: Sea turtles, Whale shark, Arabian Sea Humpback Whales and Dugongs in India'. This side event was co-chaired by Shri Soumitra Dasgupta, IGF (WL), MoEFCC, GoI with Dr Dhananjai Mohan, Director, WII. WII also organized a side event at the India Pavilion and showcased the conservation efforts under National Mission for Clean Ganga of WII on migratory species of Ganges. More than 20 scientists and researchers from WII participated in this conference and side events organized at the conference.

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marine areas. Given this scenario, the challenge lies in reconciling livelihood needs and development *vis-a-vis* conservation. Therefore, this course was conducted to address the following issues: (i) promoting the integration of biodiversity conservation and livelihood enhancement? (ii) What are the existing and potential threats to the conservation of coastal and marine biodiversity? (iii) What are the current policy and governance challenges to coastal and marine biodiversity conservation? What is the role of community in the governance and management of marine protected areas and ecologically sensitive coastal areas? Thirty IFS officers from eleven state cadres participated in the course.

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## Meeting on Compilation of Bio-Diversity Accounts, Dehradun, 11 February 2020.

Smt. P. Bhanumati, Deputy Director-General; Smt. Kajal Jain, Director, Social Statistics Division, National Statistical Office,

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, and Ms Aastha Dwivedi, Assistant Director, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi visited Wildlife Institute of India for the compilation of biodiversity accounts and to discuss the following issues: (i) Biodiversity information: Flora and Fauna, endangered Species, Red List and management; (ii) Data availability, level of disaggregation and frequency; (iii) Methodology of data collection; (iv) Evaluation of Protected Areas; and (v) Institutional system for availability of regular data.

A team of faculty members, researchers and officers of the Institute discussed with the visiting group and made presentations on the above topics. Additionally, other relevant topics on environment/ecosystem accounting were also discussed. The delegation also visited the Computer & GIS Laboratory and Forensic Laboratory of the Institute.

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## NMCG Activities

### **Exhibition at Shiv Ghat on Makar Sankranti, Haridwar, 14 January**

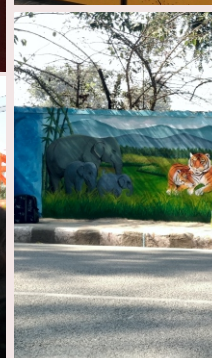
**2020.** On the occasion of Makar Sankranti, the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) under the project “Namami Gange” conducted an awareness campaign in Shiv Ghat, district Haridwar. The team of WII organized an exhibition under the banner named “Biodiversity Conservation and Ganga Rejuvenation”. It was an environmental awareness program that emphasized problems of Ganga and its effects on its aquatic biodiversity. The aim of the campaign was to aware and motivate people to save the pious river Ganga and also discourage the single-use of plastic and aware people how plastic is a significant threat to environment, human and animal health. People participated in a signature campaign to show their support for cleaning and to rejuvenate the river Ganga. More than 150 people participated in the campaign. Awareness was raised by distributing pamphlets, stickers, bookmarks and badges.



**Celebration of World Wetland Day 2020, in Asan Wetland Conservation Reserve; Surajpur Bird Sanctuary; and Soor Sarovar Bird Sanctuary, 2 February 2020.** On the occasion of World Wetland Day, 2020 Awareness Programs were conducted in three sites namely, Asan Wetland Conservation Reserve in Uttarakhand; and Surajpur Bird Sanctuary and Soor Sarovar Bird Sanctuary, both in Uttar Pradesh.

Bird festival was celebrated in Soor Sarovar (Keetham Lake) Bird Sanctuary, Uttar Pradesh. The festival was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Uttar Pradesh, Shri Dara Singh Chauhan. The festival had many events like bird watching, photo exhibition, drawing and painting competitions and cultural programs. The Institute under the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) set up an exhibition on wetlands and its biodiversity. The theme declared by the Ramsar for the wetland day was “Wetlands and Biodiversity”. The exhibition had a huge footfall and was appreciated.

Two student awareness workshops in Asan Wetland Conservation Reserve and Surajpur Bird Sanctuary were organized. A total of 58 and 141 students participated in the workshops, respectively. A small presentation on wetland conservation followed by painting and quiz competition was organized. All the students were given the awareness materials and the winners were given prizes and certificates. The events were organized with the support of Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh Forest Departments.



**Exhibition Inaugurated at USAC, Dehradun, 10 February 2020.** On the inauguration of USAC Uttarakhand Antariksh Bhawan on Uttarakhand State Geo-informatics Meet on 10 February 2020, a one-day exhibition was organized to represent Wildlife Institute of India. The occasion was honoured by the presence of the Hon'ble Chief Minister Uttarakhand Shri Trivendra Singh Rawat. ISRO former Director Shri A.S. Kiran Kumar conducted lecture sessions explaining the use of Geoinformatics in Spatial sciences. Awareness was conducted actively and meaningfully to share information on the work being done by WII on Namami Gange explaining the importance of biodiversity and river conservation. More than 80 people visited at the stall, and showed keen interest in learning about the priority species of Ganga.





### Wall Painting Competition – Doon Smart City, Dehradun, 8-18

*February 2020.* A wall painting competition was organized by Doon Smart City, which involved the painting of various walls of Dehradun to make the city beautiful and colourful. The theme of the painting was “Wildlife of Dehradun” and was made with WII team and the eco-club formed in school “Eklavya Adarsh Awasiya Vidyalaya” involving four children and two teachers. The paintings were made during 8-18 February 2020.



### World Wildlife Day Celebration, Chakrata, 3 March 2020.

World Wildlife Day was celebrated under the theme "Sustaining all life on Earth", encompassing wild animals and plant species as key components of the world's biodiversity. To conduct a workshop, the NMCG team of WII tried to find a village with more human-wildlife conflicts so that their issues may be addressed. The workshop was conducted in collaboration with the Chakrata Forest Department at a village in Chakrata named “Sawai”. A total of 52 members including the Gram Pradhan, Shri Preetam S Chauhan participated in the workshop.



An activity was performed with the villagers, which involved villagers mapping down their village, then marking the resources. An open discussion was held to know about their issues and any suggestions. The village kids came up with a skit, which showed the importance of wildlife. They even made masks of various animals found there and wore them while acting. The workshop ended with the closing remarks by the SDO, Chakrata Forest Department, Shri Vijaypal S Patwal.



### Workshops on International Day of Action on Rivers, Kalagarh Tiger Reserve and Sarnath, Varanasi, 14 March 2020.

On the occasion of International Day of Action on River, 2020, a workshop was organized at Dhautiyal Village near Kalagarh Tiger Reserve, along with Offbeat India. A total of around 21 women participated in the workshop and were explained the theme “**Women, Water and Climate Change**”. The explanation was followed by a round of activities, such as studying their agricultural cropping patterns and human-wildlife conflicts that they face on an everyday basis. The idea behind conducting the activities was majorly focused on understanding



their modes of the utilization of their water and other resources. The material distribution was done and all the women, who wholeheartedly participated in the workshop were appreciated for their sincere efforts.

International Day of Action on Rivers was celebrated at Sarnath too. The NMCG team decided to hold a workshop with only women and make them understand how they can play a role in conserving water. The workshop was conducted in the Interpretation Center in Sarnath, Varanasi. A total of 58 women gathered for the workshop from the nearby villages. The workshop started with a short film, which showed them how women in different parts of India are working together towards getting a regular and cleaner supply of water. The concept of *Jal Panchayat* and various issues related to the water were discussed.



## 71<sup>st</sup> Republic Day celebrated

The 71<sup>st</sup> Republic Day was celebrated at the Wildlife Institute of India on 26 January, 2020. Dr. Dhananjai Mohan, Director hoisted the National Flag. Addressing the Institute faculty, staff & researchers, he said that the Institute had performed various tasks assigned by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India very successfully. 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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## Special Course on Wildlife Protection, Law and Forensic Science for Officers of Customs & CGST, Rajasthan Zone, Dehradun, 27-29 February 2020.

The Wildlife Institute of India conducted a three-day special course for the officers of Customs & CGST of Rajasthan zone. A total of 30 Officers (28 participants and 2 faculty members) participated in the course. The course provided extensive inputs on forensic science and its relevance in combating Wildlife crime. The first day concentrated on theoretical inputs on forensic and hands-on training for identification of wildlife products. Training on second-day was conducted with the classroom inputs. The trainees were taken on a field trip to Rajaji Tiger Reserve, where they understood the challenges in the protection of the animals from the poachers. All the 30 officers successfully completed the course and obtained certificates. The overall feedback of the course was very good.

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## Certificate Course on “Wildlife Management using Geospatial Techniques”, Dehradun, 24 February - 21 March 2020.

The Certificate Course was organized by the Institute under Green Skill Development Programme (GSDP) of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India at Wildlife Institute of India for science graduates. A total of 20 candidates participated in the course.

The course had both the theory and practical sessions efficiently managed to enable the trainees with geospatial skills for applicability in wildlife management. During the course, two separate field visits were arranged keeping in view various geospatial and wildlife management practices, one to Asan Conservation Reserve and other to Rajaji National Park. The last week of the course comprised of guided project work, wherein the participants were divided into six groups. A project was assigned to each group based on which evaluation was done.

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*When I arrived on the planet, there were only two billion. Wildlife was more abundant, we were less so; now the situation is reversed.*

**Sylvia Earle, American Scientist**

Source: [https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/sylvia\\_earle\\_540259?src=t\\_wildlife](https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/sylvia_earle_540259?src=t_wildlife)