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Braving the winters for field work....

Current Protected Area Network of India

Position as on 31 December 2021

National Parks: 106; Area 44372.42 , (1.35%)

Wildlife Sanctuaries: 564; Area: 122509.33 , (3.73%)

Conservation Reserves : 99; Area: 4726.24 , (0.14%)

Community Reserves : 218; Area: 1445.70 (0.04%)

Total Protected Areas : 987; Area: 1,73,053.69 (5.26%)

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Next Issue

- Training Course on Climate Change Adaptation through Natural Resource Management for students of University of Montana,
- XXXVI Certificate Course in Wildlife Management



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Around the Campus

XLII Post Graduate Diploma in Advanced Wildlife Management commenced, 1 November 2021 to 31 August 2022.

The Post-Graduate Diploma Course in Advanced Wildlife Management for in-service Forest/ Wildlife Officers engaged in managing natural forest resources, particularly wildlife and protected areas, has commenced from 1 November 2021 at Wildlife Institute of India. This 10-month course is designed to enhance the capacity of forest officers to effectively manage Protected Areas (PAs), wildlife-related issues outside PAs and conservation of endangered species.

The course would provide abreast the participants in modern tools and techniques of Wildlife Management, including preparation of scientific management plans for Protected Areas and forested landscapes. Further, the course will provide a foundation of modern concepts in wildlife science and provide an understanding of the relevant global, regional, national and state-level conservation policies and legislation and their enforcement. Their Wildlife Orientation Tour was conducted in the Rajaji Tiger Reserve. Ten Officer Trainees from Assam, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Odisha, Telangana, and Uttarakhand joined the 42nd PG Diploma Course.

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XXXVI Certificate Course in Wildlife Management Commenced, Dehradun, 1 December 2021 – 28 February 2022.

The XXXVI Certificate Course in Wildlife Management started on 1 December 2021. Sixteen officer trainees of Range Forest Officers and equivalent levels (seven from Madhya Pradesh; five from Maharashtra; two each from Andhra Pradesh and Uttarakhand) joined the training course at WII. The three-month course will conclude on 28 February 2022.

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IUCN-ICCROM Heritage Place Lab, September -

November 2021. WII-C2C is part of a mixed team of researchers and practitioners selected for the inaugural Heritage Place Lab initiative within the ICCROM-IUCN World Heritage Leadership Programme (WHL). The team will develop over a span of six workshops scheduled in 2021 and 2022 a practice-based research agenda with the possible funding for implementation. Four virtual workshops were held during September-November, 2021 where WII-C2C represents the team's natural heritage perspective.

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Spearhead Training Programme for Ganga Task Force and Eco-Task Force on Biodiversity Conservation of Ganga River & its Tributaries, Dehradun, 27 September - 2 October 2021.

Under the Wildlife Institute of India-National Mission for Clean Ganga project 'Biodiversity Conservation Initiative' conducted a 6-day training programme for the spearhead team of Ganga Task Force (GTF) & Eco Task Force (ETF) from the Ganga river basin at the Wildlife Institute of India (WII). The objective of the training was to train the GTF & ETF personnel, who will lead the conservation activities in their respective areas especially conducting cleanliness and plantation drive, volunteering with State Forest Departments in population estimation and different aquatic species of Ganga River basin and mobilisation of school children, local communities, youth, local club etc. The training was attended by 25 personnel of Ganga Task Force & Eco Task Force with their Territorial Army Wing of Indian Army units established at Uttarakhand & Uttar Pradesh, respectively. The training programme aimed at building the capacities of the Ganga Task Force and Eco Task Force on various dimensions of conservation aspects, including restoration,



rejuvenation and management of Ganga River and its tributaries.

The participants were taken to Asan Conservation Reserve, Haiderpur Wetland, Bijnor and Himalayan Environmental Studies and Conservation Organization (HESCO) for field exposure and hands-on training.

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Skill Development for Tour Guides in Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area, Himachal Pradesh, 2-5 October 2021.

WII-C2C organised a "Skill Development Programme for Naturalist/Tour Guides of Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area" at the Sainj Offices in Kullu. It included a series of technical sessions by WII faculty and resource persons from the Indian Institute of Tourism & Travel Management (IITM)), Gwalior on values of the site and the role and requirements of a naturalist/ tour guide. Two batches of 30 participants each, including tour guides, local home-stay owners, officials from Himachal Pradesh Forest Department, benefited from the workshop.

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Teacher's Training Programme on World Heritage at Nanda Devi NP, Joshimath, 4-5 October 2021.

WII-C2C conducted a workshop on "Safeguarding Natural Heritage through Education, Awareness and Network Building among Teachers and Students" at Joshimath, Uttarakhand. The workshop aimed to build the capacity of teachers on the various aspects associated with the Nanda Devi and Valley of Flower World Heritage Site. A series of lectures was conducted on the role of teachers in heritage conservation, basic concepts of World Heritage, the importance of biodiversity documentation and a practical session on natural heritage monitoring. A total of 15 teachers participated from 10 different schools within the 5 km buffer of the World Heritage Site.

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Establishment of Central Asian Flyway (CAF) Secretariat in the Centre for International Conventions (CIC) at the Wildlife Institute of India and meeting to Strengthen the Conservation Actions for Migratory Birds and Their Habitats in the Central Asian Flyway, 6-7 October 2021. Wildlife Institute of India, with the support



from MoEFCC, Govt. of India and in collaboration with Secretariat of Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS Convention or Bonn Convention), organised a workshop at MoEFCC, New Delhi. The workshop was attended by key organisations working on migratory birds at National and International levels. It was officially decided to establish the Central Asian Flyway (CAF) Secretariat within the Centre for International Conventions (CIC) at Wildlife Institute of India.

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One-Week Training Course on Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) of Protected Areas and World Heritage Sites, Dehradun, 25-29 October 2021.

With the support from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India, Wildlife Institute of India (WII) conducted a 'One-week online training workshop on Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) of Protected Areas and World Heritage Sites' for Indian Forest Service Officers. Twenty-two Indian Forest Service (IFS) Officers who have participated in this course are of various seniority levels from PCCF to DCF.

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Vigyan se Swaavlamban: A Synergistic Alliance of Sustainable Rural Technologies and Biodiversity Conservation of Ganga River Basin for Ganga Praharis, Dehradun, 21-28 October 2021.

The Wildlife Institute of India, in collaboration with the National Mission for Clean Ganga, is implementing the project 'Planning and management for aquatic species conservation

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and maintenance of ecosystem services in the Ganga River basin'. This project aims to prepare a science-based aquatic species restoration plan for Ganga River Basin by involving multiple stakeholders. As part of the "Community based aquatic species conservation and outreach in the Ganga River Basin" component of the project, the eight-day workshop 'Vigyan se Swavlamban: A Synergistic Alliance of Sustainable Rural Technologies and Biodiversity Conservation of Ganga River Basin for Ganga Praharis' was conducted. The aim of this workshop was to build capacities of Ganga Praharis on the use of rural green technologies specific in the Ganga River basin.

Through the rural technology training workshop, the Ganga Praharis got acquainted with rural technologies related to sustainable and climate-resilient agriculture, water conservation, wastewater treatment, food technology and processing, solar energy etc. The Ganga Praharis also got hands-on experience through interactions with experts from prime institutions working in green technologies at the grassroots level. 46 Ganga Praharis from villages along the Ganga River and its select tributaries, i.e. Bhagirathi, Alaknanda, Yamuna, Gomti, Kosi, Ghagra, participated in the workshop. During the workshop, the participants visited model sites developed by various institutions such as Himalayan Environmental Studies and Conservation Organization (HESCO), Krishi Vigyan Kendra, using rural technologies such as fruit and vegetable preservation and value addition, mushroom production, bamboo production, bio-fertilisers and bio-pesticides, green energy sources such as solar energy, biogas and watermills. They were also trained in the treatment of grey wastewater by constructing a treatment site at the WII campus. Ganga Praharis were also taken to the Bijnor field site, where they interacted regarding the conservation and livelihood initiatives taken by local Ganga

Praharis. The workshop culminated at Bijnor in the presence of local communities and village panchayat members.

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Management Effectiveness of Protected Areas and World Heritage Sites for IFS Officers, 25-29

October 2021. As part of the 'One-Week Online training workshop on Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) of Protected Areas and World Heritage Sites' for IFS officers conducted by WII with support from MoEFCC, WII-C2C held sessions on World Heritage, reporting and monitoring mechanisms and use of Heritage Toolkit for MEE.

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Vigilance Awareness Week, 2021, observed at WII, Dehradun, 26 October 2021 to 1 November 2021.

The Vigilance Awareness Week, 2021 was observed from 26 October 2021 to 1 November 2021 at Wildlife Institute of India (WII) with the theme Independent India@75: Self Reliance with Integrity: "स्वतंत्र भारत@75: सत्यनिष्ठा के साथ आत्म निर्भरता", as directed by the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), Govt. of India.

The vigilance awareness week started with the "Integrity Pledge" by officers and staff led by Dr Dhananjai Mohan, Director, WII, on 26 October 2021.

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Observance of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, Dehradun,

31 October 2021. Rashtriya Ekta Diwas was observed at the Institute as per the instructions received from the Hon'ble Home Minister & Minister of Co-operation, Government of India. A pledge taking ceremony led by Dr Dhananjai Mohan, Director, Wildlife Institute of India, was held for this purpose. A number of officials and staff took the pledge of Rashtriya Ekta on this occasion.

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Virtual Meeting with MEE Chairpersons to Review the Progress MEE of 210 National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries, Dehradun, 12 November

2021. Wildlife Institute of India organised a virtual meeting with the Chairpersons of Independent Regional Expert Committees on 12 November 2021 to review the progress of the ongoing MEE exercise of 210 National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries. The Chairpersons attended the meeting and briefed them about the progress made so far, and shared their plans for completion of work.

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Webinar on "Bastions of Conservation: Natural World Heritage in the Asia-Pacific", Dehradun,

18 November 2021. WII-C2C organised a webinar on "Bastions of Conservation: Natural Heritage in the Asia Pacific" on 18 November 2021. The keynote speaker, Mr Guy Debonnet, Chief of Unit – Natural Heritage, World Heritage Centre, UNESCO Paris, shared outstanding examples of natural heritage from the Asia-Pacific while providing an overview of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), site reporting, monitoring mechanisms and the factors affecting the sites. Nearly 50 participants attended the webinar, including from other Asia-Pacific countries.

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Geography Week/GIS Day, Dehradun, 15-19

November 2021. On Geography Week / GIS Day, the WII-C2C for Natural Heritage Management in the Asia Pacific hosted a workshop on "Applications of Geospatial Data in Natural Heritage Management" in a Hybrid Mode (offline and online). A gathering of 80 researchers and staff were imparted instruction on the basics of GIS, GIS for World Heritage Management, Application of Drone Technology, Google Earth search engine and related applications. A series of presentations on 'The basics of GIS, Available free courses on GIS, GIS for World Heritage Management, Geostatistics in Stream Networks, and Application of Drone Technology' were made for the participants. A series of 2-3 minute lightning talks delivered by researchers set the tone for the hands-on workshop on the Google Earth Engine. Before concluding, the participants learned to apply the software Python, Circuitscape, Fragstat and Maxent/ Biomod. This event has been conducted for the third consecutive year.

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Workshop on "Capacity enhancement in controlling illegal killing, trade and other crimes on elephants", Dehradun, 22-23 November 2021.

The workshop was organized by Wildlife Institute of India under the aegis of Project Elephant Division, MoEFCC at Dehradun. This workshop was aimed to enable the field officers in improved law enforcement by sensitizing them to state-of-the-art vigilance and surveillance procedures, identification of habitual offenders and their prosecution and the rehabilitation of marginal poachers. It also aimed at providing an exposure to better investigation and prosecution techniques that include gathering prosecutable evidence



through use of appropriate forensic tools using classroom inputs, case studies and field practical.

The workshop was attended by eighteen field officers (ACF & DCF) working in different Elephant Reserves from 14 states including two each from Karnataka, Kerala, Uttarakhand and Odisha and one each from Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Madhya Pradesh, Nagaland, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Uttarakhand. The participants opined that the workshop was effective in enhancing their understanding and provided an opportunity for them to diversify their skill and gain knowledge proficiency in management of emergencies arising from illegal trade of wildlife products.

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Workshop on "Capacity building for managing human-elephant conflict in multi-use landscapes", Dehradun, 25-26 November 2021.

The workshop was organized by Wildlife Institute of India under the aegis of Project Elephant Division MoEFCC, Govt. of India, New Delhi. This workshop was aimed to enable the field officers to understand the approaches widely used in HEC



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management, the ecological basis of HEC, case studies on measures that worked across different sites in India and other essential considerations.

The workshop was attended by twenty field officers (ACF & DCF) working in different Elephant Reserves from 14 states including two each from Karnataka, Kerala, Uttarakhand and Odisha and one each from Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Madhya Pradesh, Nagaland, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Uttarakhand. The workshop included theoretical sessions on elephant ecology and behavior, overview of human–elephant conflict, drivers of human– elephant conflict, diversity of management strategies to address conflict and a panel discussion that flagged the main challenges and possible future directions. The participants opined that the workshop provided them an opportunity for them to diversify their skill in managing the human–elephant conflict situation.

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Himalayan Research Seminar organised at Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, 11 December 2021.

The Institute celebrated International Mountain Day by organising the Himalayan Research Seminar (HRS) on 11 December 2021. This year's International Mountain Day theme was 'Sustainable Mountain Tourism' as declared by the United Nations. The 5th Himalayan Research Seminar of the Wildlife Institute of India was inaugurated by Dr Rajendra Dobhal, Director General, Uttarakhand State Council for Science and Technology, Govt. of Uttarakhand. He also delivered the keynote address in the seminar. Dr Dobhal discussed the issue of melting glaciers in the mountain region. He emphasised encouraging the research to interpret the folklore of mountain regions.

Speaking on occasion, Dr Dhananjai Mohan, Director of Wildlife Institute of India, said, "The Himalayan Research Seminar has proved to be a very effective means for not only showcasing the Institute's research activities about Himalayan region but also to obtain valuable feedback from several professionals on the quality, content and coverage of research projects conducted by the Institute." There are almost 600 publications published by the Institute to date. Dr S. Sathyakumar, Scientist-G, highlighted the research done by the Institute in the last four decades.

The Himalayan Research Seminar has been an important feature of the Institute. It has proved to be an effective means



of providing a platform for discussing the outcomes of research projects about the Himalayan region and their management implications. A total of 13 oral presentations were presented in five technical sessions viz., Ecology of Mountain Mammals; Ecological Patterns; Vegetation Science; Aquatic Ecology; and Climate Change, Conservation Planning & Human-Wildlife Interface. The programme was conducted in both online and offline mode.

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Two-week Orientation Workshop on "Wildlife and Health Management" for Field Veterinary Officers, Dehradun, 13-25 December 2021. Wildlife Institute of India, in partnership with Madhya Pradesh Forest Department and MP State Veterinary Council, organised a two-week orientation workshop for veterinary field officers with the objective of enhancing basic skills and knowledge in dealing with wildlife emergencies and providing an overview on various aspects of wildlife conservation. The workshop was formally inaugurated by Shri Rajeev Gupta, IAS @, Chairman, Uttarakhand Public Service Tribunal in the presence of Dr



Dhanajai Mohan, IFS, Director, WII; Dr Ruchi Badola, Dean, FWS; Col. C.P. Churamani, Commanding Officer, MVH, Dehradun; Officers from Animal Husbandry Department, Uttarakhand, WII faculty and WII staff. A total of 25 veterinary field officers participated in the two-week course.

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WII and DU signed the Memorandum of Understanding, Dehradun, 18 December 2021.

Registrar, Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and Registrar, Doon University (DU) Dehradun signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 18 December 2021 for collaborative research and Ph. D. program from the current year (2021-2022). The students from WII, who have appeared in the entrance test



conducted by DU and qualified the same, will be treated as students through WII allotted seats for their interview.

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Farewell...



Dr. Anju Baroth, Scientist-C

Dr Anju Baroth is a Ph.D. in Environmental Toxicology and joined WII as faculty in March 2015 in Environmental Impact Assessment Cell. Before joining WII, she worked with GE India Technology Centre, Bangalore as Lead Engineer in Sustainability and Toxicity domain. A six sigma certified professional, Dr Anju has been actively involved in training and capacity building in the field of LCA and sustainability. She has made several presentations and given invited lectures on topics related to LCA and sustainability at national and international platforms.

Dr Baroth got a new job at Pune therefore she resigned from the services of WII in September 2021 to join the same.



Dr K. Sivakumar, Scientist-F

Dr K. Sivakumar joined the Wildlife Institute of India in December 1999. Dr K. Sivakumar did his M.Sc. in Zoology from Pondicherry University and obtained his M.Phil, researching on aquatic pathology from the same university in 1995. His first wildlife research was on the Nicobar megapode. He was involved in the preparation of 5th National Biodiversity Report of India and 3rd National Wildlife Action Plan of India. He has published more than 150 research articles/reports and supervised about 30 Post Graduate and Ph.D. students. He was the Nodal Officer for CITES and CMS cells of Wildlife Institute of India and advice the Ministry of Environment on these subjects.

Dr Sivakumar has been selected as a Professor in Pondicherry University therefore he resigned from the services of WII in December 2021 to join the same.

Farewell on Superannuation...



Shri Tikka Singh Negi
Cook



Shri Mangal Bahadur
Cook



Shri Rajesh Thapa
Principal Technical Officer



Shri Dinesh Balodi
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Shri Khushi Ram
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"If we don't have a place for nature in our heart, how can we expect nature to have a place for us."

— Abhijit Naskar

When Veins Ignite: Either Integration or Degradation

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