



ENVIS NEWSLETTER

Wildlife Conservation (Including Species and Habitat) using Geospatial Techniques

ENVIS Resource Partner, WWF - India



From the Co-ordinator's desk

Dear All,

First and foremost, I hope that this newsletter reaches to you when you and your family are safe during these critical times of crisis. With lives opening up and slowly and gradually life returning to normal, I sincerely hope that you are taking all the necessary precautions for safety and wellbeing. We are delighted to share with you, the latest edition in the series of ENVIS quarterly newsletter.

The main focus for this newsletter will be on reports and activities carried out as part of observance of various important environment days, awareness programme to avoid use of single use plastics and other activities conducted by WWF ENVIS RP. We are pleased to share this information with you and look forward to your feedback and suggestions that are most valuable to us and have at all times guided us in building our successive newsletters. It has made our newsletter more functional and educational to its users.

Dr G Areendran

Coordinator - ENVIS Programme

WWF – India

For further details, visit our website, www.wwfenvis.nic.in



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Supported by:

Ministry of Environment
Forest and Climate Change
Government of India





Awareness programme to avoid the use of single use plastics-Organized by WWF ENVIS RP and other Delhi based ENVIS RPs:

A glimpse about the issue:

The volume of plastic produced in the world has increased significantly and an increasing amount of plastic litter ends up in terrestrial and aquatic eco system. Plastic litter is hazardous to the terrestrial and marine environment because plastics are durable, buoyant, waterproof, indigestible and non-biodegradable. Plastic debris injures and kills fish, seabirds and marine mammals. Pollution due to single use plastic items has become an important environmental challenge confronting all countries. India is committed to take action for mitigation of pollution caused by littered Single Use Plastics. Plastic has multiple uses and the physical and chemical properties lead to commercial success. However, the indiscriminate disposal of plastic has become a major threat to the environment. In particular, the plastic carry bags are the biggest contributors of littered waste and every year, millions of plastic bags end up in to the environment vis-a-vis soil, water bodies, water courses, etc and it takes an average of one thousand years to decompose completely. Therefore, to the address the issue of scientific plastic waste management, new regulations namely, the Plastic Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011 were notified in 2011, which included plastic waste management.

Awareness Generation initiatives taken by the Government

The Union Government through various central ministries and government agencies has been involved in generating public awareness on plastic waste management including single-use plastics. Some of the public awareness campaigns run by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, and Society for Integrated Coastal Management (SICOM) are given below:

- A three-phase campaign “Swachhta Hi Sewa” was undertaken in 2019 where citizens collected Single Use Plastic from the houses, streets etc. and deposited the waste at designated locations for recycling.

- Further, for spreading awareness among the coastal cities and towns, beach cleaning drive was also taken up across 50 beaches.
- Under the National Green Corps (NGC) programme of the Ministry, about one lakh schools have been identified as Eco-clubs, wherein, nearly thirty lakh students are actively participating in various environment protection and conservation activities including plastic waste management.

A multi-pronged strategy has been adopted for implementing the announcement of Hon’ble Prime Minister on World Environment Day in 2018 to phase out Single-use plastic (SUP) by 2022. The strategy comprises of (i) Awareness generation and behavioral change, (ii) regulatory regime for phase out of identified single use plastic items under Plastic Waste Management (PWM) Rules, 2016, (iii) engagement with central ministries, State Governments, Local Bodies for better enforcement and wider penetration of alternatives to single use plastic items, (iii) engagement with industry and industry associations for assistance and capacity building, and (iv) strengthening of institutional mechanism for enforcement of PWM Rules.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is implementing Environment Education, Awareness and Training scheme. Under the National Green Corps (NGC) programme of the Ministry, about one lakh schools have been identified as Eco-clubs, wherein, nearly thirty lakh students are actively participating in various environment protection and conservation activities including plastic waste management.

The Government has also been taking measures for awareness generation towards elimination of single use plastics and effective implementation of Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016. A two-month long Awareness

Campaign of Single Use Plastic 2021 has been organized. The Ministry has also organized pan India essay writing competition on the theme for spreading awareness amongst school students in the country.

To encourage innovation in development of alternatives to identified single use plastic items and digital solutions to plastic waste management, the India Plastic Challenge – Hackathon 2021, has been organized for students of Higher Educational Institutions and startups recognized under Startup India Initiative.

The Ministry launched the Green Good Deed (GGDs) movement which is social movement with the aim of bringing about mass environmental awareness in the society at all levels.

Further, for spreading awareness among the coastal cities and towns, beach cleaning drive was initiated to clean 50 beaches from 11th Nov to 17th Nov, 2019.

Advisories/Instructions were also issued to Chief Electoral Officers in the State during General Election 2019 regarding phase out of Single Use Plastic. Instructions were also issued to Ministries, Departments, Offices under the jurisdiction of the Governments, Regional Offices, Schools, Corporates, Major PSUs, Institutions in 2018 & 2019 to prohibit SUP products

including water bottles, take away coffee cups, lunch wrapped in disposable plastic packaging, plastic bags, disposable food containers, plates and containers made of polystyrene foam, plastic straws etc. from their offices.

Events conducted by Delhi-based ENVIS RPs to celebrate the Iconic Week

Delhi based ENVIS RPs (WWF ENVIS RP, Sulabh ENVIS RP, CPCB ENVIS RP, SPA ENVIS RP) conducted “Awareness programme to avoid use of single use plastics” at Sarvodaya Bal Vidyalaya and Kendriya Vidyalaya, Jor Bagh. Movie screening related to plastic pollution was held and quiz sessions were conducted at Sarvodaya Vidyalaya (Jor Bagh) and Kendriya Vidyalaya (Pragati Vihar) on 8th October, 2021. The target group constituted of about 75 students and 20 school teachers.

The campaign was conducted keeping in view the Iconic week i.e, 4th- 10th October, 2021 under “Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav” celebrations for holding paradigmatic and impactful events, supported by MoEF&CC. The programme was indeed imparted knowledge among the students about the need of the hour to avoid the usage of single use plastics. The students and teachers showed enthusiasm in participating in the quiz and were very keen to know more about impacts of plastic pollution. Banners, placards and resource material were also provided to the students for dissemination of the messages.



Awareness programme conducted at Sarvodaya Vidyalaya, Jorbagh



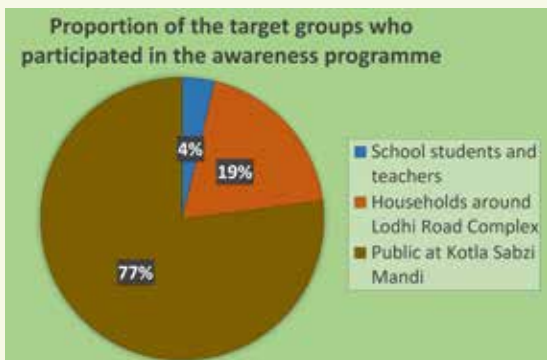
Kendriya Vidyalaya, Pragati Vihar

On 9th October, activities such as public address, movie show and march past were conducted at Lodhi Road Complex Park and Kotla Sabzi Mandi where general public also participated. Banners, placards were used for dissemination of the messages that proved to be very important as it helped to draw attention of different age groups. The target group here constituted of about 500 households around Lodhi Road Complex and about 2000 participants in Kotla Sabzi Mandi. Movie screening related to awareness campaign about plastic pollution attracted many people as visual media made it easier for the public to understand the problem and hopefully it will also make them to think about how they could contribute towards the betterment.



Awareness programme conducted at Kotla Sabzi Mandi

Awareness programme conducted at Lodhi Road Complex Park



Pie-chart depicting the Proportion of the target groups who participated in the awareness programme

A map is provided below that gives an account of the states/UTs where notifications has been issued banning manufacture, use, sale import and handling of single use plastic products (Based on the data available in submitted Annual reports by SPCBs/PCCs). According to the data, there is a complete on manufacture, use, sale import and handling of single use plastic products in 26 states/UTs, partial ban on 7 states/UTs and no ban in 2 states.

List of States/UTs where Notification for banning manufacture, use, sale import and handling of single use plastic products has been issued

(Based on the data available in submitted Annual reports by SPCBs/PCCs)

S.No	Name of State/UT	Complete or Partial Ban	Date of Gazette or Executive Order	Remarks
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Complete ban	02.08.2010 (Gazette)	Complete ban on manufacture, store, import, distribution, transportation, recycle, sell& use of plastic carrybags.
2	Andhra Pradesh	Not Banned	Not Available	Not Banned
3	Arunachal Pradesh	Complete ban	03.07.2012 (Executive Order)	Complete ban on manufacture, store, import, transportation, sell& use of polythene/ plastic carrybags
4	Assam	Complete Ban	30.04.2019 (Gazette)	Plastic carrybags, banners, buntings, cups, cling films, flex, flags, plates, sheets (used for spreading on dining tables irrespective of thickness) including the above items made of thermocol and plastic which use plastic micro beads.
5	Bihar	Complete ban	11.12.2018 (Gazette)	Complete ban on manufacture, store, import, transportation, sell& use of plastic carry bags
6	Chandigarh	Complete ban	30.07.2008 (Gazette)	Complete ban on manufacture, storage, import, sale, use transportation & disposal of plastic carrybags
7	Chhattisgarh	Complete ban	24.12.2014 (Gazette)	Complete ban on manufacture, store, import, transportation, recycle, sell& use of polythene/plastic carrybags.
8	Daman Diu & Dadra Nagar Haveli	Complete ban	24.01.2014 & 22.09.2017 (Gazette)	Forbidding the use, sale/ storage of all kinds of plastic bags
9	Delhi	Complete ban	23.10.2012 (Gazette)	Complete ban on manufacture, import, store, sell & use of plastic products (poly Propylene, non-woven fabric type carrybags), plastic film or plastic tube to pack or cover any book including magazine & invitation/ greeting cards.



S.No	Name of State/UT	Complete or Partial Ban	Date of Gazette or Executive Order	Remarks
10	Goa	Partial ban	16.03.2015	Government imposed ban on Manufacture, stock, import, transportation, recycle, sale & use of plastic (carrybags, cups, forks, paper plates, spoons) in ChorlaGhat area Mandi Wildlife sanctuaries.
11	Gujarat	Partial ban	28.06.2011 (Gazette)	Complete ban on plastic products in Gandhi Nagar
12	Haryana	Complete ban	20.08.2013 (Gazette)	Complete ban on manufacture, stock, import, transportation, recycle, sell& use of plastic (carrybags, cups, forks, paper plates, straws, spoons& containers for the usage of foodstuffs)

Source: Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change



Compiled the report on the activities conducted jointly by Delhi-based ENVIS RPs on awareness about plastic pollution

The report titled "Awareness Programmes to Avoid the Use of Single Use Plastics" was compiled that included the information about the activities conducted by Delhi-based ENVIS RPs for dissemination of information regarding plastic pollution and its consequences.



Important Environment Days

Celebration of Wildlife Week, 2021-ENVIS

WWF ENVIS RP celebrated "Wildlife Week", 2021 from 2nd- 8th October, 2021 with an aim to protect and preserve wildlife. In this context, WWF ENVIS, TERI ENVIS, CPCB ENVIS and SULABH ENVIS organized an Article Writing, Online quiz Competition and Fun activities along with MOVING WORLD, the details of the competitions are provided below.

- 1) Topic for the competition: "Role of forest communities in sustaining wildlife"
- 2) Topic for the Online quiz competition: "Wildlife conservation"
- 3) Google forms were prepared and circulated for both the competitions.
- 3) Registered Participants were provided with a time limit of half an hour to complete and submit the quiz



ARTICLE WRITING COMPETITION ON WILDLIFE WEEK (2 - 8 OCTOBER, 2021)

Greetings of the day!

This is to kindly inform you that in order to celebrate Wildlife Week, 2021, WWF ENVIS, TERI ENVIS, CPCB ENVIS and SULABH ENVIS is organising an Article Writing Competition along with MOVING WORLD.

Topic for the competition: "Role of forest communities in sustaining wildlife"

Rules for participating in the competition:

1. Word limit for the article is 300-500 words (Font size -12, Font Style - Times New Roman).
2. Please upload the articles in either Word or PDF format.
3. Please rename your article with the name of the participant (Applicant name and name of the participant should be same).
4. Maximum file size is 5 MB.
5. You can use case studies or examples relevant to the topic.
6. The competition is open to all.
7. Duplicated articles are not acceptable.

The top 5 best articles will be published in the ENVIS Newsletter. Certificate of appreciation will be awarded to the top 5 winners and participation certificates will be given to rest of the participants. Deadline for the submission is till 8pm on 8th October, 2021.

Google form link to participate in the competition:

We request you to please participate and share among your family and friends. This competition will surely brush up your knowledge and will help to know more about the importance of wildlife and its conservation.

Happy Wildlife Week, 2021!

Green cheers

ARTICLE WRITING & ONLINE QUIZ COMPETITION TO CELEBRATE WILDLIFE WEEK

TOPIC FOR ARTICLE:
ROLE OF FOREST COMMUNITIES IN SUSTAINING WILDLIFE

TOPIC FOR ONLINE QUIZ:
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

COLLABORATORS: WWF ENVIS, TERI ENVIS, CPCB ENVIS, SULABH ENVIS, SPA ENVIS & MOVING WORLD

Wildlife Week 2020 2-8 October

Online Quiz Competition on Wildlife...

This quiz is **active**

Jointly Organized By: WWF ENVIS, TERI ENVIS, CPCB ENVIS, SULABH ENVIS, SPA ENVIS and MOVING WORLD

Topic of the quiz: Wildlife Conservation

Time Count: 30 minute (00:00:00:00 pm)

Eligibility: This online quiz is open to all students.

Start

2021/10/02 11:50:00 AM

8 of 10 points

Question 1/10

Solar Energy

V.C.

P.C.

P.H.



Detail / explanation

Wrong! Right!

Name

ajayshree

We received a total of 54 articles. Out of which, five articles were selected as top 5 winners by the panelists.

 WINNERS OF ARTICLE WRITING COMPETITION 		
In order to celebrate Wildlife Week - 2021, WWF ENVIS, TERI ENVIS, CPCB ENVIS and SULABH ENVIS RP organised an Article Writing Competition along with MOVING WORLD.		
Topic for the competition: "Role of forest communities in sustaining wildlife"		
Name	Educational Qualification	University/Institute/Organization/School Name
Ujjwal Kandpal	Postgraduate	GGSSIP UNIVERSITY
Rohit jain	Undergraduate	IGNOU, Bhopal
TIYA MEHTA	School Student	St Marks Girls Sr Sec School
Dr.Pankaj Kumar	Undergraduate	Nagpur Veterinary College
Bhoomi Anand	School Student	St. Marks Girls Senior Secondary School

Articles of the winners of the competition:

1

ROLE OF FOREST COMMUNITIES IN SUSTAINING WILDLIFE

"The world has enough for everyone's needs, but not everyone's greed" –Mahatma Gandhi

Participant Name – **Ujjwal Kandpal**, GGSIP University

There could not be a better living example of this statement than the age-long harmonious existence of several tribes & communities with the Jungle. We are well aware of the brilliance of our ancestors that connected the most ecologically important species of flora and fauna, with either religion or spirituality, to ensure their perennial survival in the ecosystem. This understanding of the importance of a particular species has also been present in various traditions of many tribes and communities. When we deliberate about the wildlife of a region, the keystone species of the area plays a significant role in balancing the food chain and the ecosystem. We also know that without the presence of the keystone species, the entire ecosystem will slowly collapse. One of the most prominent examples of preservation of a Keystone species is the practice of worshipping the majestic Tiger. Tigers have been revered and respected widely in the forest community. There are several examples of these practices seen in the Garo tribe of Meghalaya, the Gond tribe of Madhya Pradesh, and the Tulunadus of Karnataka etc who regard the tiger as their protector, the Santhals and the farmers of Odisha who refer to the tiger as "Bagheshwar" and "Banjara".

The presence of several shrines and temples in dense forests show their firm beliefs. These communities continued the legacy of conflict-free inhabitation with animals, as they are well aware of the role these



species play. Meticulously designed traditions motivate people in their tribe to live fearlessly with tigers. This is achieved by worshipping it as a positive entity and by respecting its boundaries and presence in the Jungle. These communities have diligently followed Sustainable Development and the idea of living in cooperation with nature, not in competition with it. There is a sense of belongingness in these forest-dwelling communities who consider themselves to be a part of the system and only take what they need. Their devotion safeguards their ecosystem by prohibiting external forces, such as poachers, to kill & hunt. By reinforcing the importance of the Tiger in the ecosystem, these communities balance power and peace & teach the lesson that Coexistence is achievable. It's time we, as a larger society, reignite such ethics in our lives as well.

2 "If you can't excite people about wildlife, how can you convince them to love, cherish, and protect our wildlife and the environment they live in?" –**Steve Irwin**

Participant Name – Rohit Jain, IGNOU, Bhopal

Forest communities are the people who live in harmony with nature! They have the natural affinity for the mother earth and for its creatures. Forest and Local communities are at the frontline of protection and conservation of wildlife and management of disaster events and climate change impacts - they need to be involved when decisions are made by the local government and civil society organizations, to design efficient and successful measures.

We also have a lot to learn from the wealth of traditional practices and knowledge indigenous people for protection of wildlife and reducing climate risks.

Examples include, traditional fire management practices but also ancestral wisdom for addressing environmental and psychological stress in times of turmoil.

Having originated within highly developed 'western' societies many of the key principles of the current conservation movement have traditionally been based on systems of predominantly restrictive control, set up and enforced by Nation States, NGOs only.

Colonial versus Cultural model of conservations

•Colonial Model of Conservation: In this model, human presence is taken as threat to nature and denies indigenous peoples' rights and provoked long-term social conflict.

Western ideology which dictates that culture and nature cannot co-exist, culture being civilised and nature being wild. As a result, 'nature' was 'to be mastered, tamed, brought under "man's control, bent to his will, forced to reveal her secrets, compelled to satisfy his needs and minister to his happiness'

Exclusion may be harmful rather than beneficial to wildlife as well as humans, and the integration of local forms of knowledge and behaviour related to resource use, critics say, is a more equitable and sustainable way of furthering both social and environmental goals. However, the underlying assumption that to protect territory and species one must exclude certain categories of outsiders or specific activities judged to be harmful has come under considerable criticism in recent years.

Cultural model of Conservation: It respect for the rights of indigenous peoples and other bearers of to "traditional knowledge" and prevents social conflicts.

The Kinshasa Resolution of 1975 (under IUCN) provides international recognition to cultural model of conservation Application by Cultural model of conservation in different tribes of India

- The Idu Mishmi people of Arunachal Pradesh traditionally follow an animist and shamanistic faith and believe that tigers are their elder siblings. Tigers are never hunted by Idu Mishmi and even If a tiger

is killed in self-defense, it will receive the same burial as a human being

- Bishnoi Tribe of Rajasthan: Bishnois consider trees as sacred and protect the entire ecosystem including animals and birds that exists in their villages. Tribe has organized their own Tiger Force which is a brigade of youth actively pursue wildlife protection.
- Chenchu Tribe of Andhra Pradesh: They are involved in tiger conservation at Nagarjunasagar Srisaillam Tiger Reserve (NSTR).
- Maldhari Tribe in Junagadh(Gujarat): The success of lion conservation in Gir forest area is due to peaceful coexistence of tribe with lions.
- Bugun Tribe of Arunachal Pradesh: They protect the critically endangered bird Bugun Liocichla. For its efforts Singchung Bugun Community Reserve won the India Biodiversity Award 2018.

forest communities have long histories with their lands, which have provided sustenance in a very direct and intimate way. "When you understand the potential uses and the values of hundreds of species, you see a forest differently than if you don't recognize that". Empowerment of women and local communities through implementation work, sensitization campaigns and the promotion of sustainable livelihoods can be an extremely wise and sustainable project investment. Women have the potential to play a critical role in this process, as they use and manage land and other natural resources, while meeting water, food and energy needs in households and communities.

Empowerment of forest community brings ownership and innovation. Wildlife conservation ensures a world worth living in for our future generations. And Conservation measures need to be inclusive.

3

ROLE OF FOREST COMMUNITIES IN SUSTAINING WILDLIFE

TODAY YOU ARE HUNTING THEM, TOMORROW THEY WILL HUNT YOU...

Participant Name – **Tiya Mehta**, St. Marks Girls. Sr. Sec. School

Historically, human lives have evolved over ages along with their coexistence with animals. Destruction of animal habitat has often created the gap between man-animal coexistence and man-animal conflicts that is on the rise now. People living close to wildlife, i.e., nomadic tribes, local communities and forest dwellers are the most susceptible to any changes in wildlife. Local communities can be a major difference between conservation or destruction of Wildlife. Local communities have the best knowledge of the local conditions and their involvement has been a success in many places including India.

Hence, while it is prudent to involve them in wildlife conservation, there is a contradicting opinion that such closeness could be detrimental to human lives. Proponents of such opposition insist on evicting the local communities from being affected by man-animal conflicts. Such a move can result in distress migration and loss of their livelihoods since they are dependent on the forests for their food, fuel etc.

Meanwhile, contemporary evidences such as increase in Lion population in Gir forests, Tiger population in India accounting to 70% of world's population, decline in wild elephant attacks in Valparaiso of Tamil Nadu show that proactive involvement of local communities in and around forests has ensured success in wildlife conservation efforts. In Valproic, Tamil Nadu with the help of locals Early Warning Systems have been installed which warn about Elephants.

Local communities are benefitted by carnivores that control the population of herbivores which frequently destroy standing crops. These communities have reciprocated by protecting the animals from poachers, resisting retaliation when wild animals prey on cattle, and even building parapet walls around farm-wells to minimize the accidental death of animals that may fall into them.



The poachers of Zambia's Luangwa Valley are turning in their illegal snares and guns, and in return, they are being trained in farming, beekeeping, carpentry, and other livelihood skills. They are also turning the snare wire into decorative jewelry.

The Bishnoi's of Rajasthan are well known for protecting black bucks (chinkara) an endangered species, and herds of black buck, nilgai and peacocks can be seen as an integral part of the community and nobody harms them.

The inhabitants of five villages in the Alwar district of Rajasthan have declared 1,200 hectares of forest area the Bhairodev Dakav 'Sonchuri', enforcing their own set of rules and regulations. They don't allow hunting, and are protecting the wildlife against any outside encroachments. On account of nature worship prevalent mainly among the tribals, several virgin forests have been preserved in their pristine form as 'Sacred Groves'.

Herders and volunteer rangers in Eastern Mongolia are trained to rotate their pastures and enforce wildlife protection laws against illegal hunting. Hence, an active network of local communities, NGOs and Forest Department aided with early warning systems, conservation strategies could transform man-animal conflicts to man-animal coexistence.

4

Participant Name – **Dr. Pankaj Kumar, Nagpur Veterinary College**

India is blessed with rich biodiversity. India has nearly 3% world's land area but its share in global species diversity is around 8 - 9 %. As a result, India is one of the twelve mega diversity countries of the world. Although there are many natural factors which lead to the species diversity but role of community participation in sustaining wildlife is always an important factor which help in keeping and preserving local wildlife, including forest. Since an age long, cultural and religious traditions emphasized on protecting forest and wildlife. For example, Sacred Groves are tract of forest which are kept undisturbed, further trees and wildlife residing in these forest are worshiped and given total protection. Such forest tract are found in Khasi and Jaintia Hills in Meghalaya, Aravali Hills in Rajasthan, Western Ghat regions in Karnataka and Maharashtra and many more. When we trace history there are many examples when people had sacrificed their life in protecting forest. In 1731, the king of Jodhpur ordered his minister to bring the log of woods for constructing his new palace. To fulfill this demand ministers and workers reached to a forest near village of Bishnoi Community. The Bishnoi Community is known for conserving and respecting the forest and wildlife. When the Bishnoi people came to know about the workers, they reached to the site and asked workers to stop the cutting of trees but workers didn't stop. Then Bishnoi women Amrita Devi hugged trees and asked workers to cut her first before cutting the trees but workers cut down the trees along with Amrita Devi and hundreds of other Bishnois. When this news reached to the king he ordered his workers to stop cutting of the trees. Such an extraordinary example for protecting wildlife is found nowhere in the world. Sacrifice of Amrita Devi and other Bishnoi led to inspiration of the Chipko movement of Garhwal Himalayas. Another example of protecting forest and wildlife, is seen in Piplantri Village in Rajasthan. With each birth of a girl child in village, 111 trees are planted and given total protection. With increasing climate crisis, it is responsibility of each person to take care and respect forest and wildlife. We should give more and more emphasis in community conservation and strengthen their role by protecting them with strong laws. We should understand: "There is No Planet B"

5

ROLE OF FOREST COMMUNITIES IN SUSTAINING WILDLIFE

Participant Name – **Bhoomi Anand**

Forests have been referred to as a collection of trees by a number of individuals all round the globe. They can be seen as big business for developers and wood product manufacturers. But, their roles sway beyond merely being wild wood and leaves grouped together. Forests are among the most complex ecosystems in the world, exhibiting extensive vertical stratification; are essential for supporting critical

life forms within, undergrowth to the microbial life at the bottom floor of the forest. Wildlife and forests are interdependent on each other. Wildlife forms forests and helps them sustain and grow. In return, forests provide wild organisms with food, shelter and other resources. But forests are being destroyed and degraded at alarming rates which threatens a wide range of plant and animal species.

Forests also support the livelihood of a large section of the people, especially the tribal who depend almost entirely on this forest for their survival. Most of the tribes in and around the world are intimately associated with forest for their habitat and ecology. Tribal people have their own system of living with nature, without harming and destroying the forest. They have their own method of conservation of soil because they are honestly concerned about preserving the forests and exemplifying the age-old pattern of co- existence between man and nature. The removal of these communities from forests has led to heightened episodes of human-animal interactions in the region. This shows that these forest communities can help sustain wildlife by keeping the complex interdependence of man and animals balanced. Ways of assessing forest dependent communities can help in developing a more comprehensive understanding of the interrelationships between humans and the forest settings. Hopefully, further refinement of these emerging frameworks will also lead to agreement on more specific criteria and indicators for monitoring the sustainability of wildlife. With the initiation of participatory forest management in the 1990s, Tanzania became one of the first countries in Africa to formally recognize the role of communities in forest management and ownership. Villagers there shared responsibilities through joint forest management partnerships between the community and government body that owns the area. For village or private lands, the community-based forest management model enables villagers to participate both as managers and forest owners. Forests in India are also a home to some of the traditional communities. They have restricted many programmes that posed a harm to the wildlife –

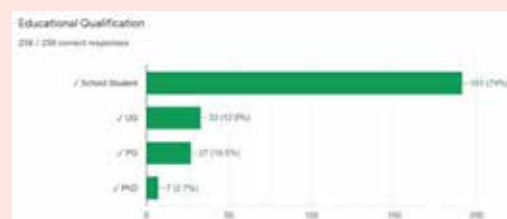
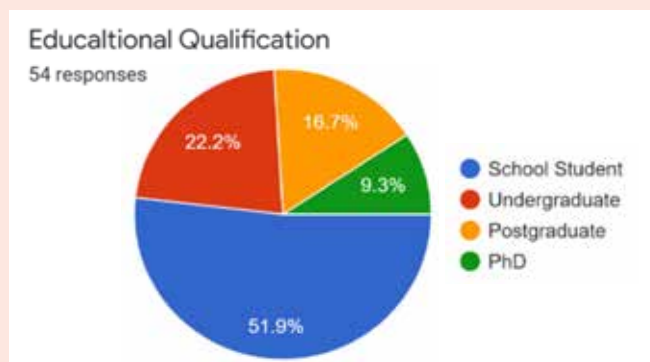
- 1] By citing the Wildlife Protection Act, villagers have fought against mining in the Sariska Tiger reserve.
- 2] In the state of Rajasthan (Alwar), 1200 hectares of forest have been declared as Bhairodev Dakav ‘Sonchuri’ by the inhabitants of five villages. They protect the wildlife against any outside encroachments with their own rules and regulations. They do not allow hunting of animals. In return for their protection activities, intermediary benefits like share in the timber harvested by successful protection, and non-timber forest produce are given to the members of these communities.

To conclude, we can say that yes, forest communities can and actually have helped in maintaining the long-term health and integrity of wildlife.

***Disclaimer- Credibility of the information provided in the articles solely depends on the participants.**

Proportion of the participants in the competitions:

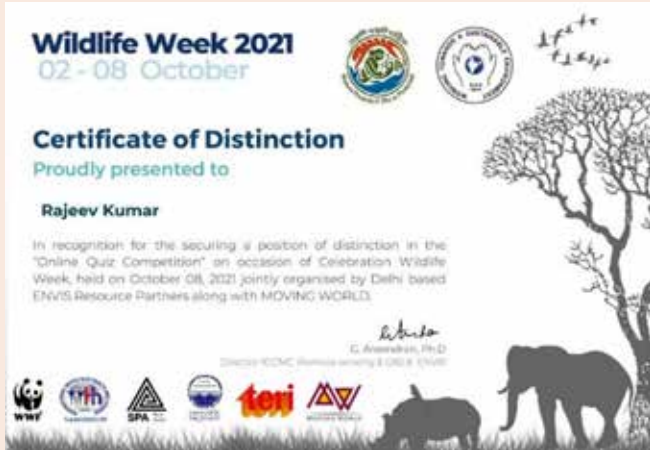
Approximately 900 participants registered for the online quiz, and 258 out of them submitted their responses.





Certificate of appreciation will be awarded to the top 5 winners and participation certificates will be given to rest of the participants. The registered participants

scoring 80% will be awarded certificates of appreciation and rest of the participants will be awarded participation certificates.



Fun activities were also prepared for kids:

Celebration of GIS Day by WWF ENVIS RP

The “Locate your Biodiversity” application is one such complete, form-centric solution for creating, sharing and analyzing surveys. Allowing us to create smart forms with skip logic, defaults, and support for multiple languages. It allows everyone to collect data via web or mobile devices, even when disconnected from the internet and analyze results quickly and securely upload them for further analysis. It reduces the dependency of

GPS devices and is seamlessly integrated our datasets with a standardized geospatial schema directly in our enterprise database saving both time and increasing efficiency of analysis. We received 139 entries where the people have actively participated in showcasing the biodiversity of their locality and found it really interesting and certificates were provided to all the participants that was automatically generated.

On the occasion of GIS Day, Dr. G. Areendran, Director, IGCMC and Coordinator-ENVIS delivered a presentation at WWF-India on various applications created for data visualization and for monitoring and management of various aspects pertaining to environment.



Observance of National Pollution Control Day- 2nd December, 2021

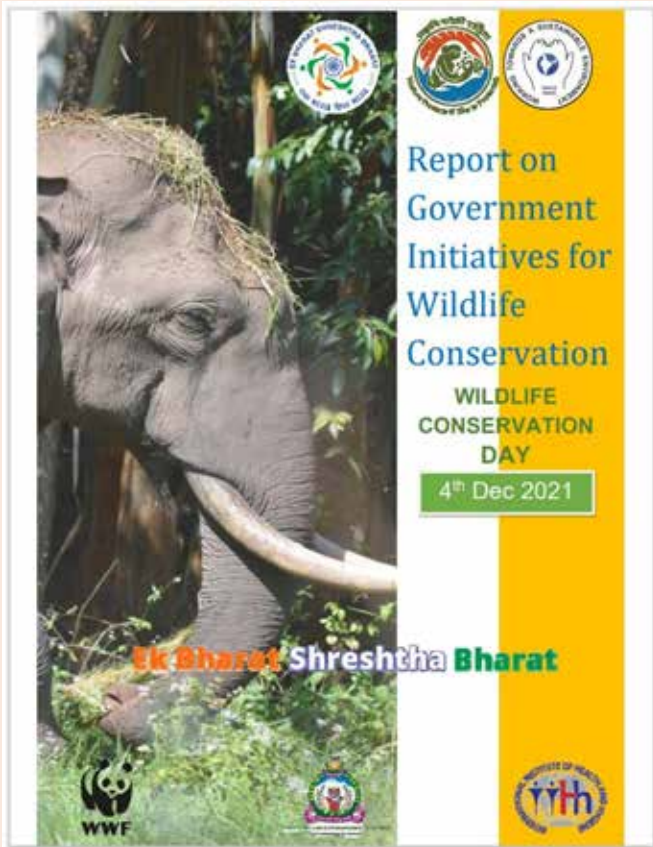
2nd December, 2021 was observed as National Pollution Control Day to disseminate information about the environmental pollution and its devastating consequences. In this regard, WWF ENVIS RP compiled a report highlighting the information on Air Pollution in Delhi NCR, Steps taken by the Central Government to control air pollution in Delhi-NCR and about Actions taken to control pollution. This compiled information would have helped in understanding the importance of this day and might have motivated many to come forward to become a part of the solution to reduce pollution.



Source of information included in the report: Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.



Celebration of Wildlife Conservation Day- 4th December, 2021



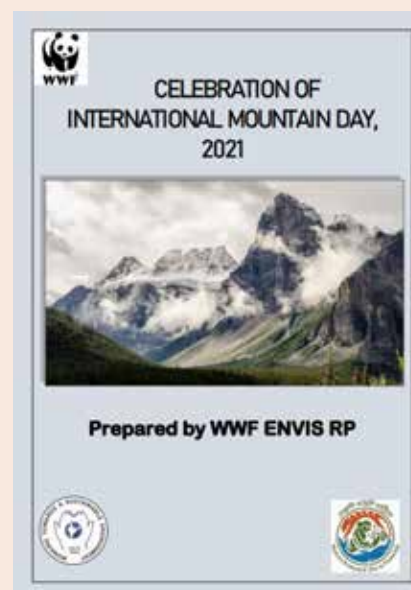
4th December, 2021 was celebrated as “Wildlife Conservation Day”. This day was celebrated to make people aware about the importance of wildlife conservation and the issues that are threatening the planet’s wildlife biodiversity balance.

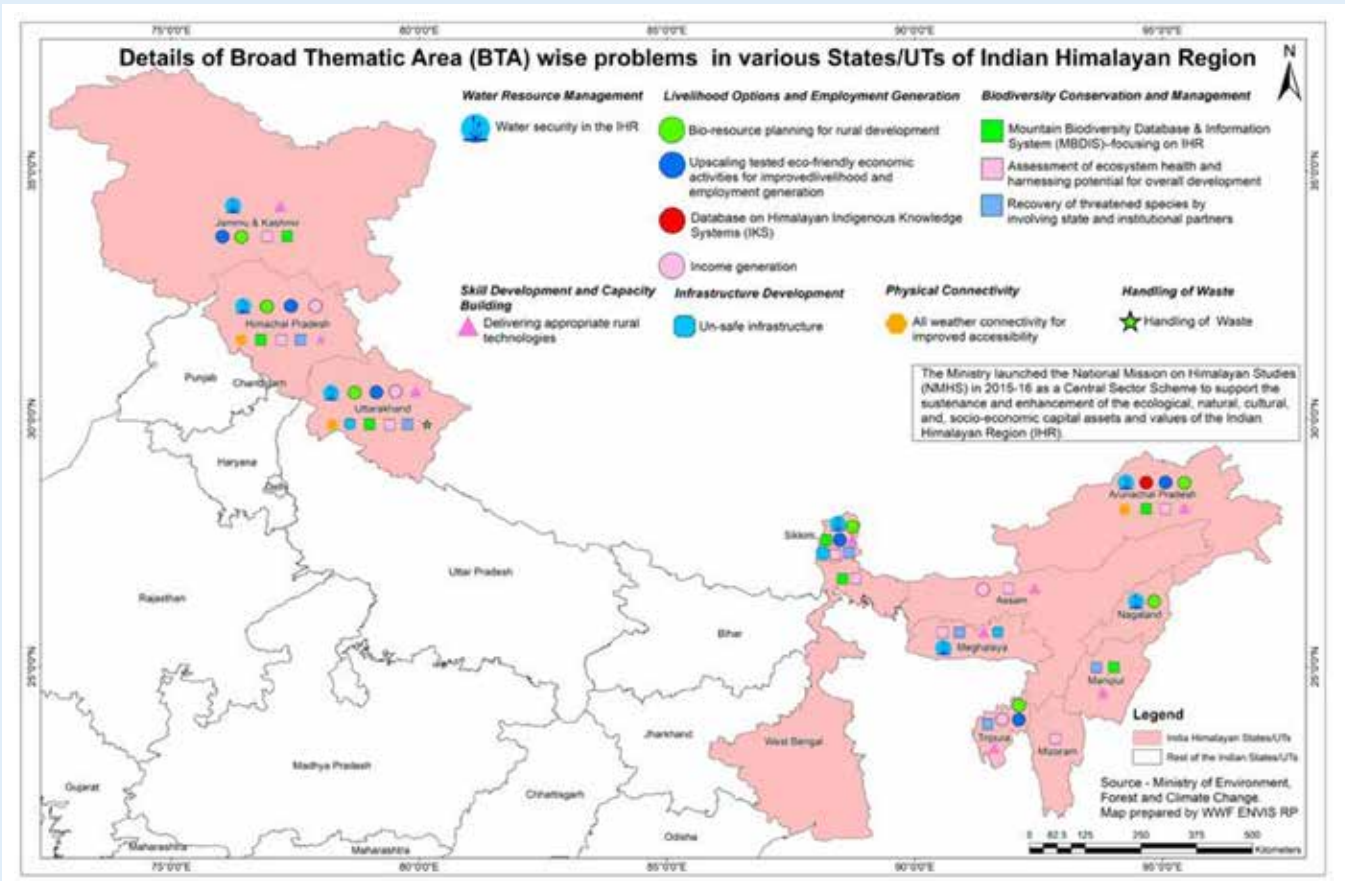
On this occasion, WWF ENVIS RP, SULABH ENVIS RP and SIKKIM ENVIS HUB, under “Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat Scheme” had jointly prepared a report highlighting various initiatives taken by Government of India towards wildlife conservation in the country. Hope that this compilation will be a reminder for everyone to be a part of conserving wildlife.



Celebration of International Mountain Day- 11th December, 2021

11th December is celebrated as International Mountain Day every year. The date was designated by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). According to the United Nations, the day creates awareness about the importance of mountains to life to highlight the opportunities and constraints in mountain development and to build alliances that will bring positive change to people and environment of the mountains around the world. The theme for this year was “Sustainable Mountain Tourism”. In this context, WWF ENVIS RP compiled a report highlighting the importance of the day and several initiatives taken by Government of India to protect the mountain ecosystems. The report also contains a thematic map showcasing the details of Broad Thematic Area (BTA) wise problems and their solutions in various States/ UTs of Indian Himalayan Region (IHR).

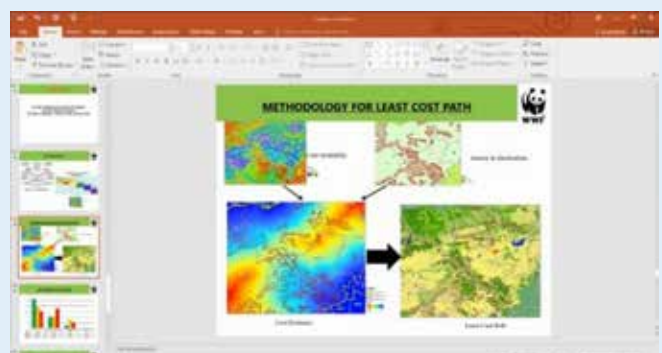




Other activities and events conducted by WWF ENVIS RP:

Talk on “Climate Challenges in our Cities” by Dr. G Arendran in the series of talk organized by SPA ENVIS RP

SPA ENVIS RP had organized a series of talks with the topic 'Climate Challenges in our Cities' aligning with the respective thematic areas of fellow Delhi Based ENVIS Centers. In this regard, Dr. G. Arendran (Director, IGCMC & Coordinator, WWF ENVIS RP) delivered a talk on "Wildlife Corridors, their Management and Importance".



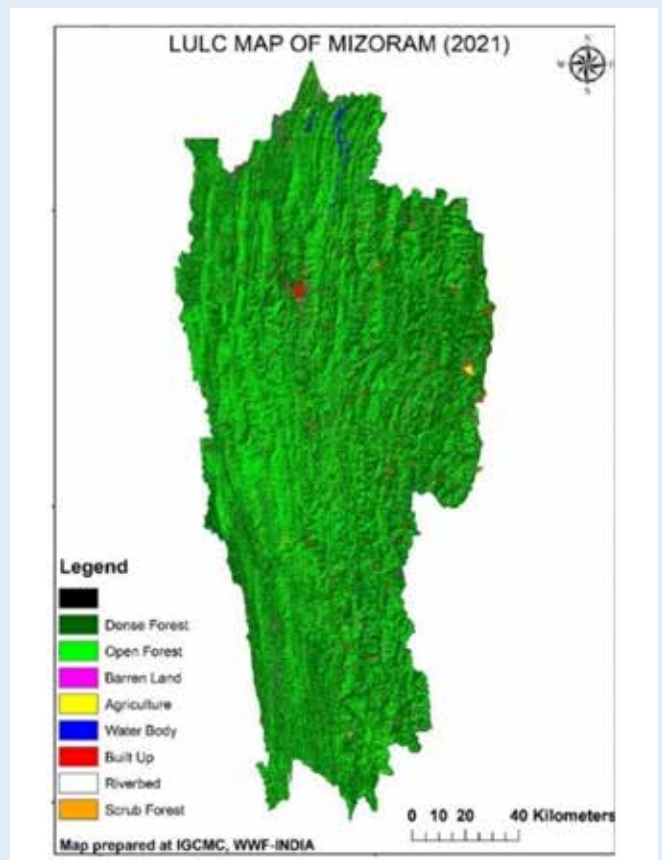
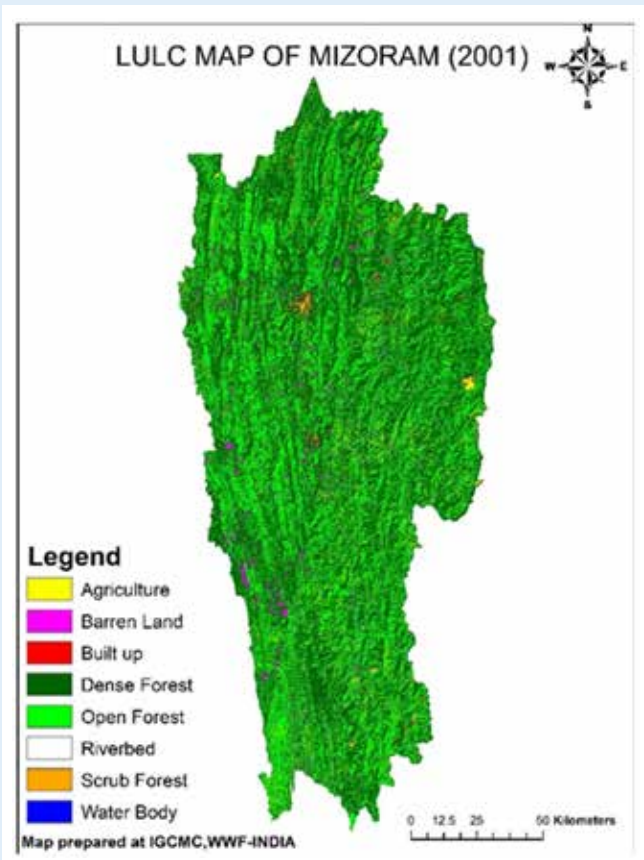
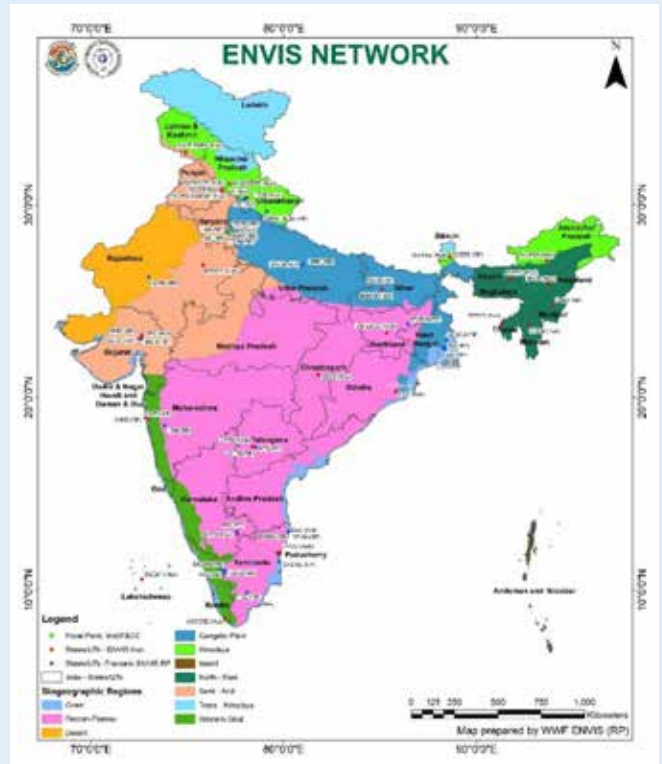


Updated the ENVIS Center Map:

New updated ENVIS Center map was prepared with all the updated ENVIS RP/Hubs Names

Land Use Land Cover map of Mizoram State (2001 and 2021):

The satellite data sets of year 2001 and 2021 were downloaded from United State Geological Survey (USGS) web portal. The images were classified using unsupervised image classification method and analysed respectively in ERDAS and ArcGIS Software. The remote sensing data were classified into 8 broad categories of land cover including: 1) Dense Forest, 2) Open Forest, 3) Scrub Forest, 4) Riverbed, 5) Agriculture Area, 6) Built-up Area, 7) Water Bodies and 8) Barren Land. Change detection analysis describes and quantifies differences between images of the same scene at different times.



Conduction of Mini-marathon:

Preparation of draft concept note and agenda for the mini-marathon

A draft concept note and agenda was prepared jointly by WWF ENVIS RP and TERI ENVIS RP for the event titled “Call for Climate Action: Mini-Marathon for a Reason”. The event will be organized jointly by Delhi-based ENVIS RPs for awareness generation about the impacts of climate change (on January/February, 2022), and will be supported by MoEF&CC. The concept note included the following information:

- Brief introduction
- Reasons for conduction of mini-marathon
- About the function
- Logistic arrangements
- Regarding permissions
- Promotional Requirements
- Route maps (for three different paths)

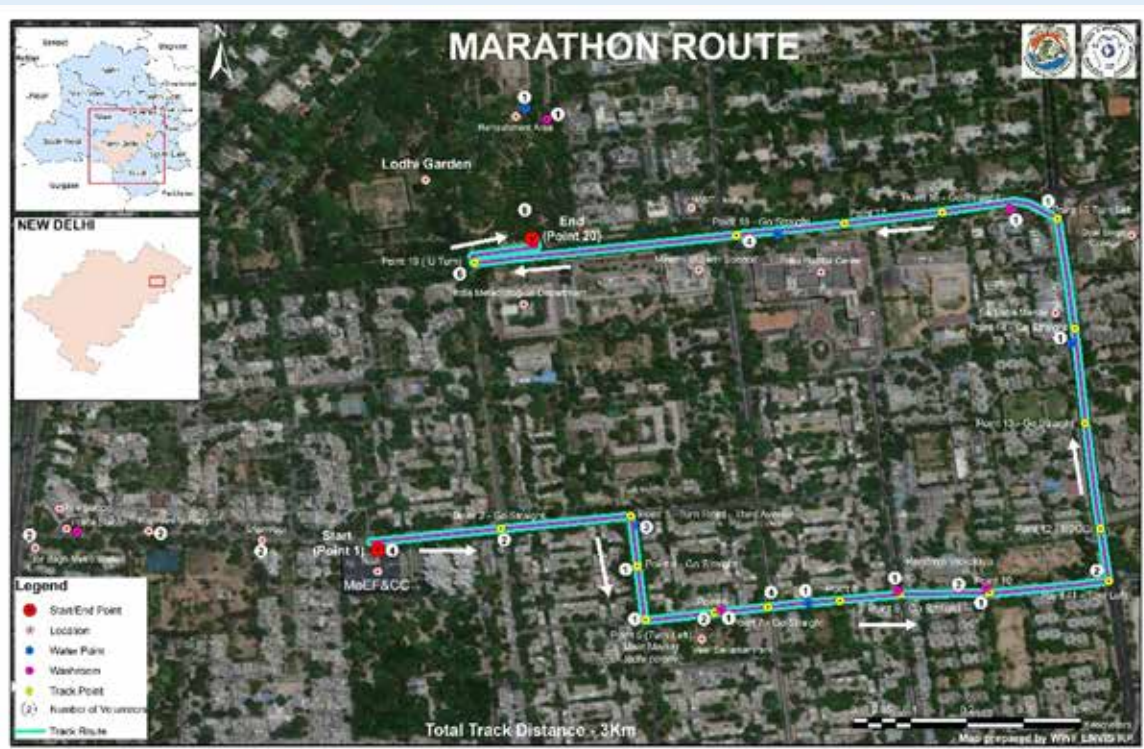


Finalization of Track for the Mini-Marathon

Delhi-based ENVIS RPs conducted a survey to finalize the route for conduction of mini-marathon. A map was prepared in which the following information was summarized:

- Start/end point

- Important locations
- Water points (where water dispensers will be installed for the participants)
- Washrooms
- Track points (where sign boards will be placed)
- Number of participants (at a particular location)



Route for mini-marathon



Conduction of Cleanliness Drive at Yamuna Ghat on 21st December, 2021

The Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) was celebrated by Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS) during 15th-25th December, 2021 across the country on the selected theme of "Celebrating Rivers of India" with the aim of ensuring maximum public outreach through Jan Bhagidari. In this context, one day had been earmarked to MoEF&CC for undertaking various events for Biodiversity Conservation, at selected sites across various rivers of India i.e., Ganga, Yamuna, Mahanadi, Cauvery, Brahmaputra etc. For making necessary arrangements for the cleanliness and awareness drive to be conducted on 21st December, 2021, a team of five (5) members visited the designated areas under the scheme i.e., Salimgarh Fort and Yamuna Ghat on 18th December, 2021.

To celebrate the event, Delhi-based ENVIS RPs: WWF ENVIS RP, SULABH ENVIS RP, SPA ENVIS RP, TERI

ENVIS RP, JNU ENVIS RP and CPCB ENVIS RP jointly conducted "Awareness drive for conservation of Yamuna River" on 21st December, 2021. The team planned on some activities with due consultation and with the help of the locals and the association members to be conducted on the event day:

- Having proper discussion with locals to gather indigenous knowledge for protection and cleaning of Yamuna River.
- To sensitize nearby residents to monitor visitors' activity and spread importance of cleanliness.
- Having proper discussion with locals to gather indigenous knowledge for protection and cleaning of Yamuna River.
- To sensitize nearby residents to monitor visitors' activity and spread importance of cleanliness.



Preparatory Planning for the cleanliness drive by Delhi Based ENVIS RPs



Cleanliness drive at Yamuna Ghat involving local residents



Map showing location of site where cleanliness drive was conducted



A report was compiled highlighting all the activities conducted and other information regarding the same.



Important press releases pertaining to the theme “Wildlife Conservation including specie and habitat using geospatial techniques”:

Tiger Deaths

20.12.2021, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, GoI

As per information received from States, there are 106 tiger deaths in the year 2020. There is no drastic increase or decrease in tiger mortality as compared to previous years.

There are 14 poaching incidents in 2020 as compared to 27 in 2019. The details of cause-wise tiger mortality in the year 2019 and 2020, as reported by States.

The National Tiger Conservation Authority has issued generic guidelines for formulating a Security Plan for each tiger reserve which is operationalized in the overarching Tiger Conservation Plan, legally mandated under section 38 V of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Details of cause-wise tiger mortality in the year 2019 and 2020, as reported by States

Year	N	UNP	US	P	Seizure	Total
2019	44	3	22	17	10	96
2020	20	0	71	8	7	106
N	Natural					
UNP	Unnatural not attributed to poaching (includes tigers died due to accidents, tigers eliminated in conflicts events etc.)					
US	Under Scrutiny					
P	Poaching					

Elite Global Tag

20.12.2021, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, GoI

Anamalai and Mudumalai Tiger Reserves have recently been accredited with international Conservation Assured | Tiger Standards (CA|TS). Details of other Tiger Reserves accredited with CA|TS.

Details of other Tiger Reserves accredited with Conservation Assured | Tiger Standards (CA|TS)

S. No.	Tiger Reserve	State
1.	Dudhwa	Uttar Pradesh
2.	Valmiki	Bihar
3.	Kanha	Madhya Pradesh
4.	Panna	Madhya Pradesh
5.	Satpura	Madhya Pradesh
6.	Pench	Maharashtra
7.	Bandipur	Karnataka
8.	Parambikulam	Kerala
9.	Manas	Assam
10.	Kaziranga	Assam
11.	Orang	Assam
12.	Sunderban	West Bengal

Career in Environment and Wildlife Conservation

20.12.2021, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, GoI

The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change is implementing the Environment Education, Awareness and Training (EEAT) Scheme with the objective to promote environmental awareness especially among school and college students and to mobilize their participation for conservation of environment. Under the National Green Corps (NGC) programme of this Scheme, more than one lakh Eco-clubs have been formed in schools and colleges to educate students and to spread awareness on environmental issues. Further, this Ministry also supports organization of field visits/ nature camps for school students in Protected Areas, Wildlife Sanctuaries, National Parks, etc. under the National Nature Camping Programme of EEAT Scheme with an objective to provide ‘nature experience’ to students and thereby to trigger

their sensitivity towards nature and its conservation. As per information provided by Department of Youth Affairs, awareness on environment conservation and enrichment is a component in the regular activities of National Service Scheme (NSS). Volunteers of NSS organize activities on environment conservation, climate change, use of renewable energy and other related issues in addition to plantation drives.

(b) & (c) This Ministry has launched the Green Skill Development Programme (GSDP) in June 2017 under the ongoing Environmental Information System (ENVIS) Scheme, on a pilot basis, at 10 locations, spread over 9 biogeographic regions of the country with the objective to skill youth in environment, forest and wildlife sectors and enabling them to be gainfully employed or self-employed. Based on the success of the pilot phase, the programme was extended to pan-India level in 2018-19 covering diverse fields like pollution monitoring (air/water/soil), emission inventory, operation of Sewage Treatment Plant(STP)/ Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP)/ Common Effluent Treatment Plant(CETP), waste management, environmental impact assessment, forest management, water budgeting and auditing, wildlife management, para taxonomy including Peoples Bio-Diversity Register(PBR), bamboo management and livelihood generation, etc. The training imparted under GSDP endeavours to enhance technical knowledge of the skilled workforce with a focus on hands-on training. The ENVIS Hubs/ Resource Partners and other institutions imparting training under the GSDP invite applications from all over the country and the placements take place based on employment opportunities available within or outside the State / Union Territory.

Corridors for safe passage of elephants

16.12.2021, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, GoI

The Government is consistently taking measures to reduce elephant deaths due to electrocution in the country by involving State/UT governments, civil societies and other stakeholders. Some of the steps taken by the Government are summarized below:

(i) Financial and technical assistance is provided to elephant range States/UTs under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Project Elephant' to protect elephants, their habitat and corridors, to address

issues of man-elephant conflict and the welfare of captive elephants. The Scheme has also a component for ex-gratia relief in case of human death/injury and damage to property/crop loss.

- (ii) The Ministry had constituted a Task Force for Suggesting Eco-Friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts of Power Transmission lines and other Transmission Infrastructure on elephants and other wildlife. The suggestions given by the Task Force were communicated to States/UTs and concerned stakeholders for necessary action.
- (iii) Wildlife Institute of India in consultation with the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change, National Highway Authority, National Tiger Conservation Authority and World Bank Group has published a document namely ' Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts of Linear Infrastructure' to assist project agencies in designing linear infrastructure, including electric transmission lines, in a manner that reduces human-animal conflicts.
- (iv) The States/UTs and Power Transmission agencies have been requested to take necessary steps for compliance of Electricity Rules & Regulations and to maintain minimum ground clearance for electric transmission lines for minimizing death of elephants due to electrocution.
- (v) Notification of critical elephant habitats as "Elephant Reserves" for better management of wild elephants.
- (vi) The elephant States/UTs have been directed to implement Guidelines for Management of Human Elephant Conflict issued by the Ministry on 6.10.2017.
- (vii) Various other Centrally Sponsored schemes being implemented by this Ministry contribute to the improvement in the natural habitat of elephants by augmenting water sources, planting of fodder trees, regeneration of bamboo etc. Such schemes include Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitat and Project Tiger. The Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act 2016 and the Rules made thereunder also provide for use of the Fund for development of wildlife habitats, including for elephants, establishment of animal rescue centres, etc. which also contribute to reduction in Human-Elephant Conflict.



International recognition for tiger reserves

16.12.2021, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, GoI

14 Tiger Reserves have been accredited with international Conservation Assured | Tiger Standards (CA|TS). The details are as under:

CA|TS accredited Tiger Reserves:

S. No.	Tiger Reserve	State
1.	Dudhwa	Uttar Pradesh
2.	Valmiki	Bihar
3.	Kanha	Madhya Pradesh
4.	Panna	Madhya Pradesh
5.	Satpura	Madhya Pradesh
6.	Pench	Maharashtra
7.	Bandipur	Karnataka
8.	Mudumalai	Tamil Nadu
9.	Anamalai	Tamil Nadu
10.	Parambikulam	Kerala
11.	Manas	Assam
12.	Kaziranga	Assam
13.	Orang	Assam
14.	Sunderban	West Bengal

Conservation Assured | Tiger Standards (CA|TS) is an international conservation tool to assess minimum standards for effective management of tigers and promote these within tiger conservation areas. CA|TS is based on seven major domains covering different management issues like Importance and status, Management, Community, Tourism, Protection, Habitat Management and Tiger Population.

Species of Vulture

13.12.2021, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, GoI

Nine species of vultures are recorded from India. They are Oriental White-backed Vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*), Long-billed Vulture (*Gyps indicus*), Slender-billed Vulture (*Gyps tenuirostris*), Himalayan Vulture (*Gyps himalayensis*), Eurasian Griffon (*Gyps fulvus*), Red-headed Vulture (*Sarcogyps calvus*), Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*), Bearded Vulture (*Gypaetus barbatus*) and Cinereous Vulture (*Aegypius calvus*).

As per information available in the Ministry, the population of three species of Vultures, viz., *Gyps indicus*, *Gyps bengalensis* and *Gyps tenuirostris*, had

drastically declined during the 1990s. The major cause of mortality of vultures was found to be the veterinary non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug 'Diclofenac', given to cattle in pain and inflammation. However, due to the concerted efforts by the Government, the population of these vulture species has stabilized now. The population estimation of other species of Vultures is not collated in the Ministry.

Oriental White-backed Vulture, Long-billed Vulture and Slender-billed Vulture are endangered and have been listed in Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 according to them the highest degree of protection.

The important steps taken by the Government to save the vultures and increase their number include:

- (i) All the species of Vultures have been listed in the Schedules of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
- (ii) The vial size of the drug diclofenac has been restricted to 3ml to prevent its use in livestock.
- (iii) Safety testing of various veterinary non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, available in the market to identify their toxicity to vultures.
- (iv) Establishing vulture safe zones in different parts of the country for conservation of the remnant population of vultures.
- (v) Raising awareness especially among users of veterinary formulations.
- (vi) Ministry sponsored films 'The Last Flight' and 'Vanishing Vultures' are frequently telecasted on radio and television in order to raise awareness on vulture conservation. States have been requested to develop education and awareness materials, keeping the Animal Husbandry sectors and farmers in mind.
- (vii) Eight Vulture Conservation Breeding Centers have been established in India.
- (viii) The Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI) led a research study to identify a safe alternative to diclofenac by carrying out safety-testing of the shortlisted drug meloxicam on vultures, in collaboration with BNHS and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, an international bird conservation organization based in the United Kingdom. Meloxicam was proved to be safe for

vultures and was promoted as an alternative to diclofenac.

- (ix) India has launched an Action Plan for Vulture Conservation (2020-2025) on 9th November, 2020.
- (x) Government of India provides funding support to the States under Centrally Sponsored Scheme- Development of Wildlife Habitats for conservation of Vultures under the Species Recovery Programme.

Migratory Species

13.12.2021, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, GoI

The Government of India is implementing the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), which comprises of eight missions in specific areas of solar energy, energy efficiency, water, agriculture, Himalayan ecosystem, sustainable habitat, green India and strategic knowledge on climate change.

One of the eight Missions, viz., the National Mission for a Green India (GIM) aims at protecting, restoring and enhancing India's forest cover and responding to Climate Change. The objectives of the Mission are to increase forest/tree cover and improve quality of forest cover, improve ecosystem services including biodiversity and hydrological services, increase forest-based livelihood income of households living in and around the forests, and enhance annual CO₂ sequestration.

In addition, the Ministry has launched the third "National Wildlife Action Plan (2017-2031)" in the year 2017 which is the future road map for wildlife conservation in India. The Plan is unique as this is the first time that India has recognized the concerns relating to climate change impact on wildlife and stressed on integrating actions that need to be taken for its mitigation and adaptation into wildlife management planning processes.

The important steps taken by Government to promote wildlife friendly renewable energy include the following:

1. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy had requested the power transmission line agencies and wind energy farm developers to identify critical power transmission lines and wind energy firms passing through the Great Indian Bustard (GIB)

habitats in Rajasthan and Gujarat in consultation with the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and concerned States Governments and accordingly, take up risk mitigation measures against bird hits like putting up bird diverters on the conductors, painting of vane tips of the wind turbines, etc.

2. The Central Electricity Authority has issued directives to avoid laying of transmission lines through Protected Areas and wildlife corridors and has developed technical specifications for bird diverters and has requested the power agencies to install good quality diverters on transmission lines to reduce bird mortality.
3. A Task Force has been constituted by the Ministry for suggesting Eco-friendly measures to mitigate impacts of power transmission lines and other power transmission infrastructures on wildlife including the migratory birds. The recommendations of the Task Force were accepted by the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife and the same were circulated to all States/ Union Territory Administrations.

The important steps taken by Government to promote awareness on migratory species in the country include the following:

1. The Government of India successfully hosted the 13th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, during 17th-22nd February, 2020 at Gandhinagar, Gujarat representatives from many countries besides Heads of several biodiversity related Inter-Governmental Organizations. The "Gandhinagar Declaration" was adopted during the COP which envisages "Connectivity" amongst landscapes, habitats, amongst the various conventions and also between the people and ecosystems for ensuring better conservation of migratory species across the globe.
2. The Ministry has launched the 'National Action Plan for conservation of Migratory birds along the Central Asian Flyway (CAF)' in November 2018. The Action Plan emphasizes on coordination and cooperation between various Central Government Ministries, State Government Departments, and managers of Protected Areas, local communities, Civil Societies and Private sector.



3. Awareness generation camps are being organized by the State/ UT Administrations on the importance of conservation of migratory species and their habitats.
4. Financial assistance is provided to the State/ Union Territory Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats for providing better protection to wildlife and improvement of habitat which includes funding for awareness generation programmes.

Ecological and economic loss due to invasive species

09.12.2021, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, GoI

The ecological and environmental impacts of alien invasive species are evident at all levels including the gene, species, habitats and ecosystem level.

As per records, the estimate of economic loss due to invasive species has not been quantified.

Acacia mearnsii, or 'black wattle', is a native of Australia, and one of the most invasive species in the world. It has invaded the high-altitude grasslands of the shola-grassland ecosystem in the Nilgiris.

Some of the important steps taken by the Government to safeguard the native biodiversity include survey, inventorization, taxonomic validation and threat assessment of floral and faunal resources; assessment of the forest cover to develop an accurate database for planning and monitoring; establishment of Protected Area Network of National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Conservation and Community Reserves; designating Biosphere Reserves for conservation of representative ecosystems; undertaking of species oriented conservation programmes; ex-situ conservation of plants etc.

In addition, the Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972 and the Biological Diversity Act 2002 have also been enacted with the aim to conserve biological resources of the country and regulation of access to these resources to ensure equitable sharing of benefits arising out of their use. Under these acts, the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) and the State Biodiversity Boards

(SBBs) have been set up for implementing the provisions of the Act. Besides, the Government operates many centrally sponsored schemes and provides financial assistance to states and UTs, such as Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitat; Project Tiger, and Project Elephant for better protection and conservation of wildlife and their habitat; and Identification of Forest Management Scheme towards protection and management of forests.

Quarantine facilities in airport and seaport have been established to regulate the invasive and exotic species.

In order to prevent regulation for marine invasion, ballast water regulation is in force as per the International Marine Organization (IMO) norms which are being monitored by DG Shipping, Mumbai.

National Board for Wildlife

06.12.2021, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, GoI

Government has been considering matters pertaining to conservation and protection of wildlife and their habitats. Important matters considered include the following:

1. Conservation of Vultures through ban on diclofenac
2. Creation of Eco-Sensitive Zones around National Parks and Sanctuaries
3. Constitution of Tiger Task Force for review and management of Tiger Reserves
4. Setting up of Wildlife Crime Control Bureau
5. Developing a framework for involving the World Conservation Union (IUCN) in conservation of wildlife and international cooperation.
6. Need for curbing illegal trade in wildlife
7. Training of veterinary doctors required for treatment of wildlife
8. Need for enhancing funds under Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats for taking up species recovery programmes
9. Recovery programmes for saving critically endangered species and habitats under the on-going Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Development of Wildlife Habitats' for focused conservation action on 22 identified critically endangered species including

Humpback whale, Snow leopard, Hangul, Sangai deer, Marine turtle, Bustards, Red Panda, Nicobar Megapode, Jerdon's Courser, Caracal and vultures.

10. Implementation of guidelines named, 'Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts of Linear Infrastructure on Wild Life',
11. Action Plan for Vulture Conservation,
12. National Wildlife Action Plan (2017-2031),
13. Conservation of Gangetic River Dolphin,
14. Advisory on Human Wildlife Conflict Mitigation,
15. Monitoring implementation of terms and conditions of recommendation of SCNBWL,
16. Directions to States/UTs to comply with Sustainable Sand Mining Management Guidelines, 2016 and Enforcement and Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining, 2020,
17. Advisories to States/UTs for expansion of protected area network.

Conservation of Wildlife and Forests

06.12.2021, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, GoI

The functions of the National Board for Wild Life include framing policies and advising the Central Government and the State Governments on the ways and means of promoting wildlife conservation and effectively controlling poaching and illegal trade of wildlife and its products; making recommendations on setting up of and management of national parks, sanctuaries and other protected areas and on matters relating to restriction of activities in those areas; reviewing the progress in the field of wild life conservation in the country and suggesting measures for improvement.

The total forest cover of the country as per the India State of Forest Report-2019 published by the Forest Survey of India is 7,12,249 sq. km which is 21.67 percent of the country's geographical area. The total forest and tree cover in the country is 8,07,276 sq.km which is 24.56 percent of the geographical area of the country.

The important steps taken by the Government for development, promotion and conservation of forest areas and wildlife in the country, including Chhattisgarh are as follows:

1. Providing financial assistance to States/Union

Territories under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of 'Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' for development of wildlife and its habitat, recovery programmes for saving critically endangered species, implementation of activities like creation and maintenance of water holes for wild animals in Protected Areas, soil and moisture conservation measures, establishment of anti-poaching camps, strengthening wildlife veterinary care, eradication of weeds, creation and maintenance of fire lines etc;

2. The Ministry implements two major afforestation schemes, namely, National Mission for a Green India (GIM) for plantation on landscape basis and National Afforestation Programme (NAP) for tree plantation in degraded forests through Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at village level.
3. The funds under Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA), inter-alia, are used for forest and wildlife management related activities including compensatory afforestation.
4. The Ministry also promotes tree plantation as people's movement in urban areas through Nagar Van Yojana and sensitizes students in greening programmes through School Nursery Yojana.
5. Ministry supplements the efforts of State/Union Territories in prevention and control of forest fire by providing financial assistance under the Centrally Sponsored Forest Fire Prevention and Management Scheme for creation of infrastructure viz. communication system, development of Management Information System, watch towers, water storage structures, control rooms at Division & Range level, FG barracks and inspection huts etc..
7. Creation of Eco-Sensitive Zones around National Parks and Sanctuaries;
8. Implementation of guidelines named, 'Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts of Linear Infrastructure on Wild Life';
9. Adoption of National Wildlife Action Plan (2017-2031);
10. Issuing advisory to States/Union Territories on Human Wildlife Conflict Mitigation;



11. Directions to States/Union Territories to comply with Sustainable Sand Mining Management Guidelines, 2016 and Enforcement and Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining, 2020;
12. Issuing advisories to States/Union Territories for expansion of protected area network.

Development of App for Tiger Count

02.12.2021, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, GoI

The National Tiger Conservation Authority in collaboration with Wildlife Institute of India has developed “M-STrIPES” (Monitoring System for Tigers’ Intensive Protection and Ecological Status) application for assistance in All India Tiger Estimation-2022 Cycle.

The MStrIPES program uses Global Positioning System (GPS), General Packet Radio Services (GPRS), and remote sensing, to collect information from the field, create a database using modern Information Technology (IT) based tools, analyses the information using GIS and statistical tools to provide inferences that allow tiger reserve managers to better manage their wildlife resources.

Source: <https://ntca.gov.in/our-work-m-stripes/#m-stripes>

Illegal Trafficking of Endangered Animals

29.11.2021, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, GoI

The important steps taken by the Government to protect wildlife including controlling poaching and illegal wildlife trafficking are as follows:

1. The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 provides for punishment for violation of its provisions. The Act also provides for forfeiture of any equipment, vehicle or weapon that is used for committing wildlife offence(s).
2. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) has been created for control of wildlife crimes at the Central Government level which work in close coordination with State Forest Departments and other law enforcement agencies.
3. Protected Areas, viz., National Parks, Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves covering important wildlife habitats have been created all over the country under the provisions of

the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to conserve wild animals, birds and their habitats.

4. Financial assistance is provided to the State/ Union Territory Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of ‘Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats’, which inter-alia, includes Development of Wildlife Habitats, Project Tiger and Project Elephant, for providing better protection to wildlife including birds and improvement of habitat.
5. A specific component of ‘Recovery programmes for saving critically endangered species and habitats’ is provided in the on-going Centrally Sponsored Scheme of ‘Development of Wildlife Habitats’ for focused conservation action on 22 identified critically endangered species including Humpback whale, Snow leopard, Hangul, Sangai deer, Marine turtle, Bustards, Red Panda, Nicobar megapode, Jerdon’s Courser, Caracal and vultures. Financial assistance is provided to States/UT Governments for recovery programme of the critically endangered species of birds and animals.
6. The law enforcement agencies like Border Security Force, Central Industrial Security Force, etc who assist in control of wildlife crime have been trained by the WCCB.
7. India is a Party to Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora (CITES), South Asian Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN) and coordinates with international agencies in control of wildlife crime.

Shri Bhupender Yadav launches ‘Wetlands of India’ Portal, a single point access to all information relating to wetlands

02.10.2021, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti and heralding the Iconic Week of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav of MoEFCC (4-10th October 2021), a web portal – ‘Wetlands of India Portal’ (<http://indianwetlands.in/>), giving details on wetlands of the country, was launched by the Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav. The portal is a single point access to all information relating to wetlands.

The portal is a dynamic system for processing information and making it available to the stakeholders



in an efficient and accessible manner. The portal also hosts capacity building material, data repository, videos and information for students. Importantly, a dashboard for each State and UT has been developed to access the portal and populate it with information of wetlands in their administration. The portal would be populated by the different States and UTs and additional features may be added in the coming months.

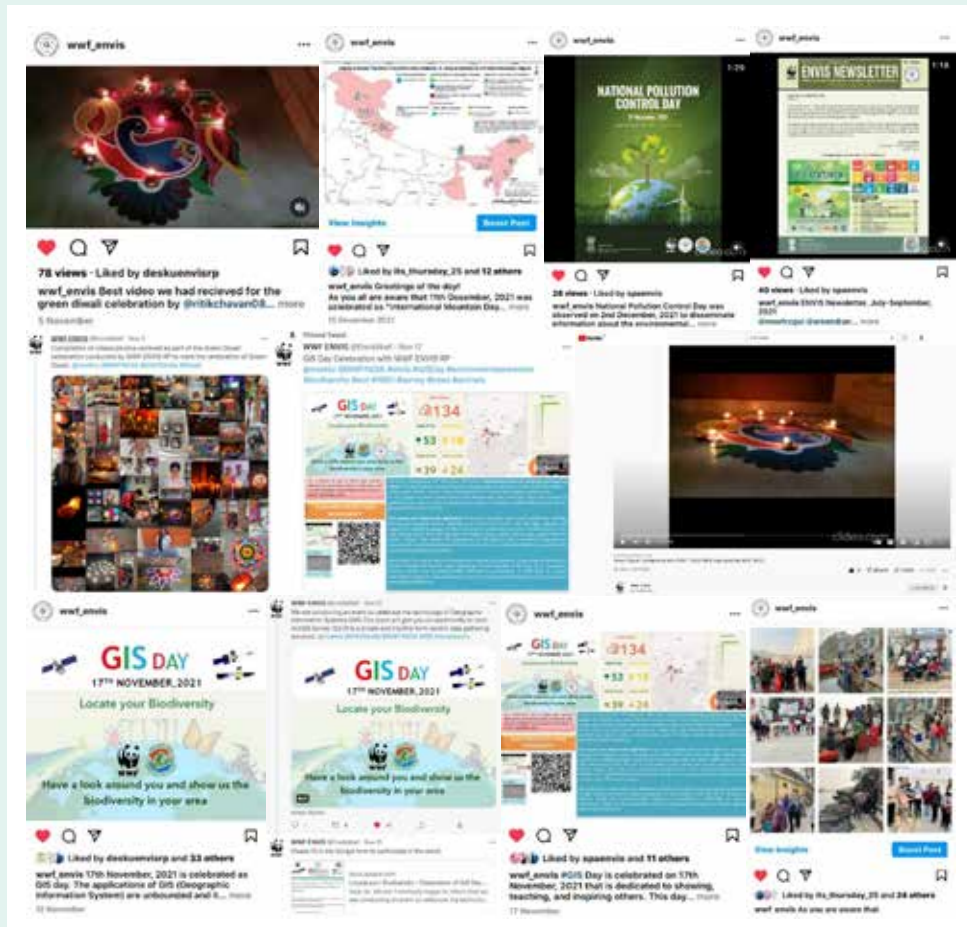
Login credentials have also been provided for Knowledge Partners. The portal also enables citizen

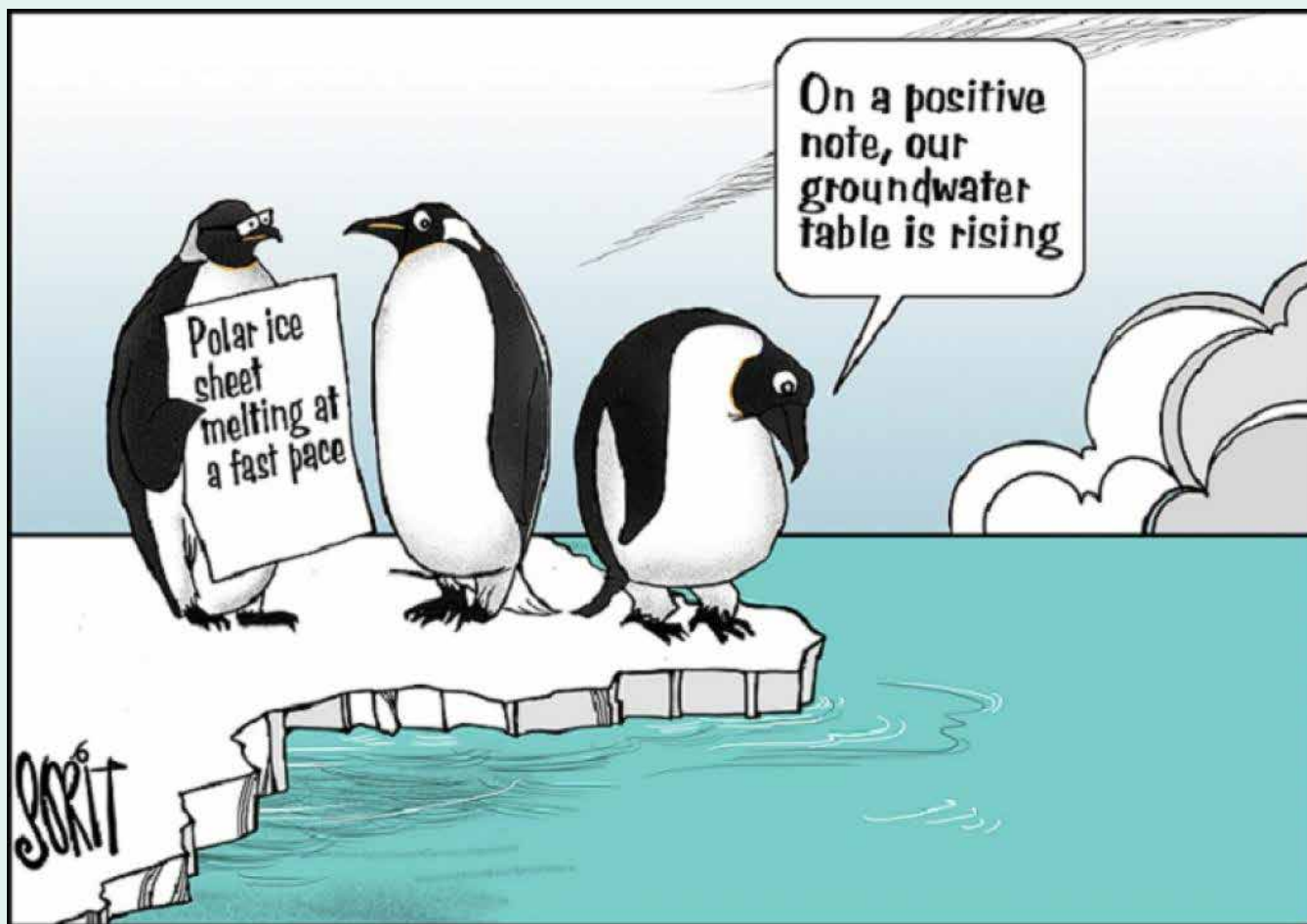
engagement. Currently citizens can register themselves and upload wetland related pictures across different themes. Importantly, registered citizens can opt to take the pledge to become wetland mitra and indicate their State/UT and areas of interest. This information would allow States and UTs to contact interested persons for various programs and initiatives.

The portal has been developed under a Technical Cooperation project “Wetlands Management for Biodiversity and Climate Protection” (Wetlands Project) of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) in partnership with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. The project is commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) under the International Climate Initiative (IKI).

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1760293>

Social media corner





Sources of information (for press releases and other data):

- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC, GoI).
- <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1760293>
- <https://ntca.gov.in/our-work-m-stripes/#m-stripes>
- <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/cartoon/simply-put-the-positives-of-polar-ice-melt-80410>
(source of image included in the last page)

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All queries, feedback and further details regarding the specific subjects/ environmental issues are invited from individuals, organisations and institutions etc.

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