



ENVIS Centre on Himalayan Ecology

ENVIS Newsletter

A Quarterly Publication Vol.14(4), 2017

The "ENVIS Centre on Himalayan Ecology" is housed at G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment and Sustainable Development (GBPNIHESD), Kosi-Katarmal, Almora, Uttarakhand, which is an autonomous Institute of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India, New Delhi, India.

Coordinator ENVIS

Dr. G.C.S. Negi
Scientist-F

Editor-in-Chief

Kireet Kumar
Director In-charge

Executive Editor

Dr. G.C.S. Negi

Editorial board

Prof. R.S. Tripathi, FNA
Dr. Eklabya Sharma, FNA
Dr. G.S. Rawat
Prof. A.R. Nautiyal
Dr. R. S. Rawal

The "ENVIS Centre on Himalayan Ecology" collects, collates, compiles and build quantitative and qualitative databases of information in the field related to the Himalayan Ecology. The information is disseminated regularly via online as well as hard copies to several valuable stakeholders and various users such as DICs, Universities institutions along with other ENVIS Centre running parallel to support overall Environmental Information System in India.

ENVIS Team

Dr. Mahesha Nand, Program Officer
V.C. Sharma, information officer
Satish K. Sinha, IT Assistant

Disclaimer: The information furnished in this Newsletter is based on the inputs received from authors/organizations; the Institute/editorial board will not be responsible for any mistake, misprint or factual error, if any.

The authors are solely responsible for the scientific facts presented herein and the copyright for any reproduced / quoted lines from other sources. All rights reserved.

The views expressed in the Newsletter are the authors' personal opinions and do not necessarily represent those of the organizations they represent.

Editorial Note

'Wetland' is a generic term for water bodies of various types, and includes diverse hydrological entities, namely, lake, marshes, swamps, estuaries, tidal flats, river flood plains and mangroves. Wetlands provide transitional habitats or seral stages in succession from open water to land. Wetlands are now considered to be distinct ecosystems with specific ecological characteristics, function and values. Wetlands can be regarded as world most productive ecosystem and cradles of biological diversity that provision clean water, provide unique habitat to harbour rich diversity of animals and plants, and also characterized by high biological productivity. In the recent years wetlands have been recognized to provide the much needful ecosystem services such as groundwater recharge and mitigation of climate change.

World Wetland Day (WWD) is celebrated every year on 2nd February to commemorate the signing of the International Treaty, 'Ramsar Convention on Wetlands- 1971' for the conservation of wetlands at the global level. India is also a party to the convention since 1982, and has so far identified 26 wetlands as Ramsar sites across the country covering 15 states. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) is the nodal ministry for celebration of WWD and proactively involved in conservation and management of these Ramsar sites and other wetlands of the country.

The ENVIS Centre of GBPNIHESD celebrated this occasion focusing on this year WWD theme (Wetlands for a sustainable urban future) with Intermediate school children at Bhimtal on 2nd February, 2018. A number of educational and awareness generating activities were organized involving school teachers, nature lovers and senior citizens in the area. GBPNIHESD scientists and invited resource persons deliberated talks on various aspects of "wetlands" and emphasized on the vital functions of wetlands for human survival and emphasized upon a need to conserve and sustainably manage them. This issue of ENVIS Newsletter focuses on "WWD" organized by us with a hope that readers will appreciate the value of wetlands for sustainable urbanization and other activities. Suggestions for improvement from our valued readers are welcome.

G.C.S Negi
Executive Editor

Address to Students on WWD

My dear children, the future scientists and researches of the world.... I am sure that all of you have not only enjoyed the video presentation on the "World Wetland Day" but also learnt a lot about the wetlands and their importance for sustainable future of mankind and other organisms through the talks delivered by scientists of GBPNIHESD and other distinguished guests/resource persons of today's celebration on the occasion of WWD.



We all know that rich variety of animals and plants exist on the earth. Our very existence depends on how we look after the natural assets of our mother earth; the only planet with life on it. If we continue the way we are presently consuming the available natural resources, it will have a far reaching impact on the coming generations, affecting the long-term sustainability of our mother earth. So we need to wake up right now and do our bit to conserve our natural resources.

My dear children the future of any nation depends on its youth. You need to know the current threats, and strive to devise innovative solutions to the challenges to safeguard biodiversity and protecting ecosystems that supports life. I, on behalf of Hermann Gmeiner School (SOS), thank the team of scientists from GBPNIHESD and staff of ENVIS Centre for coming all the way to us and creating curiosity and awareness among our school children on importance of natural resources for sustaining life on the earth, particularly water, wetlands, forests and biodiversity.

I also extend my gratitude for the enlightenment of the students on very sensitive issues by Mr. Peter Smetacek; better known as the "Butterfly man" and Advocate Chetan Joshi on protection of nature for our posterity. It was a wonderful programme and there should be more and more of such programmes to awaken the spirit of the youth in future. Thank you.

R. K. Wadhwa (principal.bhimtalhgs@soscvindia.org)
Principal, Hermann Gmeiner School (SOS),
Bhimtal, Nainital,
Uttarakhand