



G. B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment

(An Autonomous Institute of Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change, GoI)

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Concept Note

Celebrating International Day for Biological Diversity (22nd May 2020)

Webinar on

'Himalayan Biodiversity and Future Solutions'

Background:

The Himalaya, one of the global Biodiversity Hotspots, is recognized for its ecological and economic values. However, diversity of representative biodiversity elements and their sensitivity to human and/or climate-induced perturbations, and more importantly the dependence of up-land and downstream communities on its goods and services, makes the Himalaya an important candidate for action both for long-term maintenance and sustainable use of biological diversity.

The Indian Himalayan Region (IHR) constitutes a large part of the Himalayan Biodiversity Hotspot (HBH) and significantly contributes for its biodiversity richness and representativeness. IHR represents a considerable diversity of India. With only 16.2% of India's land cover, IHR contribute for about one third of forest (32.1%) and 100% of alpine cover. Both these ecosystems are together responsible for much of the biodiversity in the region. The indigenous communities, since millennia, are intensively dependent on this biodiversity for sustenance and income generation.

The Webinar:

Keeping above in view, and to mark the International Day for Biological Diversity 2020 (IDB 2020), G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment (GBP-NIHE) is organizing a webinar on the "**Himalayan Biodiversity and Future Solutions**". The proposed webinar is designed as per the theme of IDB for this year '*Our Solutions are in Nature*'. This theme, very well coincides with the changing outlook of the world under COVID 19 Pandemic scenario. Scientific community believes, the cure lies within domains of nature. Therefore, nature based solutions are attracting wider attention.

This webinar is envisaged to deliberate on solution providing potential of Himalayan Biodiversity, especially in view of the slogan of "**Vocal for Local**" given by the Prime Minister of India during his Address to the Nation on May 12, 2020. Experts are expected to suggest way forward for harnessing benefits of Himalayan Biodiversity to: (i) improve life quality of local indigenous communities, (ii) develop local products, markets, and supply chains, (iii) provide alternate options of livelihoods to unemployed rural youth, including the ones compelled to return to villages in Himalayan hills under COVID 19 outbreak situation.

The broad event schedule of the webinar is as follows:

Welcome & Introduction	(11.00-11.10 hrs)
Setting the stage	(11.10-11.25 hrs)
Panel discussion	(11.25-13.25 hrs)
Way forward	(13.25-13.45 hrs)

Domain experts, bureaucrats, academicians, managers, planners, NGOs/CSOs, teachers and students will form the group of panellists/discussants. Following the inputs received, Institute intends to develop an approach paper on 'Biodiversity Based Solutions for Himalaya' as an output of the webinar.

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