



G. B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment
(An Autonomous Institute of Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change, GoI)
Kosi- Katarmal, Almora 263 643 (Uttarakhand)

Concept Note

Celebrating International Day for Biological Diversity (22nd May 2021)

Webinar on

'Biodiversity conservation research in IHR: a futuristic view for solutions'

Background:

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.

Despite being rich and representative, Himalaya suffers from issues of high dependence of people, poor management, and lack of holistic understanding of biodiversity. All this has led to severe degradation and endangerment of biodiversity. Further, increasing pressure of development infrastructure, concurrent habitat loss, over and unscientific harvesting accompanied by increasing people's apathy, have increased the threats on IHR biodiversity. A recent report on threatened species of Indian Himalaya indicates the presence of 456 taxa under various threat categories of IUCN. The vulnerability of the Himalayan region to various threats calls for being a part of solution to save this precious biodiversity.

Realizing the above, the GBPNIHE initiated biodiversity conservation research right from the early days of the Institute and tried to cover most of the subject/geographical areas across the IHR. Institute joined hands with regional, national and international organization and published a number of knowledge products that catered to the need of academia/researchers and policy makers. However, this knowledge of biodiversity

conservation research still requires inputs from various stakeholders to achieve the desired goals.

The Webinar:

Keeping above in view, and to mark the International Day for Biological Diversity 2021 (IDB 2021), G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment (GBP-NIHE) is organizing a webinar on the "**Biodiversity conservation research in IHR: a futuristic view for solutions**". The proposed webinar is designed as per the theme of IDB for this year '*We're Part of Solution*'. This theme, very well coincides with the changing outlook of the world under COVID 19 Pandemic scenario.

This webinar is envisaged to invite inputs from the diverse group of stakeholders to deliberate on solution for conservation and sustainable utilization of Himalayan biodiversity. Experts are expected to suggest way forward for action oriented solution for conservation and sustainable utilization of Himalayan Biodiversity for (i) generating wider awareness towards biodiversity based livelihood options, (ii) encouraging and effectively utilization of diverse group of stakeholders for biodiversity conservation and its sustainable utilization, and (iii) provide alternate options of livelihoods to rural youth, including the COVID 19 returnee.

The broad event schedule of the webinar is as follows:

Welcome & Introduction	(11.00-11.10 hrs)
Setting the stage	(11.10-11.30 hrs)
Panel discussion	(11.30-13.30 hrs)
Way forward	(13.30-13.45 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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