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Indo-German Biodiversity Programme Newsletter



This newsletter shares project updates and thematic news from our programme
A service by IGBP, GIZ

Dear Reader

The sixth issue of this newsletter comes at a time when we're all grappling with COVID-19 pandemic. Social distancing is the current norm and many of us are working from home. Coronaviruses are zoonotic, i.e. they are transmitted between animals and people. This has renewed attention to human health-biodiversity interlinkages. Scientists are pointing that the rise in zoonotic diseases in recent decades, such as Nipah, Ebola, Avian Influenza, Zika, Coronavirus, is linked to biodiversity loss and climate change. Though the inter-linkages between biodiversity, ecosystem services and human health are inherently complex, they are crucial for our survival. It is clear that we need concerted efforts towards implementing the One Health approach — working at the local, regional, national, and global levels — recognising the interconnection between people, animals, plants, and their shared environment. We are reminded of the CBD COP-11 slogan '*Nature Protects if She is Protected*'.

Our sixth issue features articles on forest fire management in Himachal Pradesh, CMS COP 13 India, and a short film on the Pong dam lake, a wetland of international importance. We welcome your ideas, contributions and feedback towards further improving our engagement with you.

Stay safe and healthy.

Warmly,
Ravindra Singh, Programme Director

UPDATES FROM THE PROJECTS

- » Access and Benefit Sharing
- » Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation
- » Private Business Action for Biodiversity
- » Wetlands Management for Biodiversity and Climate Protection

SPOTLIGHT

- » Managing the Main Threat to the Forests of Himachal Pradesh
- » CMS COP 13: Managing Habitats for Migratory Species in India
- » Pong Dam Lake: Wetland, Biodiversity and People

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

Updates from the Projects

Access and Benefit Sharing

International Workshop on IT
Monitoring Tool



A five-day workshop was organised in January at Chennai, Tamil Nadu, for training on methods and tools for monitoring access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing in India under the Biological Diversity..

[News »](#)

Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation



National Workshop on Development of Guidelines

for Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation in India was organised in February at New Delhi to facilitate a common understanding and consensus among key stakeholders in India on approaches and...

[News »](#)

Private Business Action for Biodiversity



Indian Businesses and Global Biodiversity Framework

A consultation workshop focusing on facilitating interaction between agricultural and food sector businesses was organised in February at Kochi, Kerala, to ensure the role of businesses and their...

[News »](#)

Wetlands Management for Biodiversity and Climate Protection



Bridging Information for Wetlands and Waterbirds

The project organised a side event at CMS COP 13 in February at Gandhinagar, Gujarat. Key discussions focused on the criticality of regional collaboration in South Asia, need for a National Centre for Wetlands....

[News »](#)



Spotlight

Managing the main threat to the forests of Himachal Pradesh

Forest Fire Management training for the front-line staff and local communities

Forest fire is one of the largest human-caused disturbances that can influence a forest ecosystem. In India, forest fires are the main cause for forest degradation and consequent alteration or loss of ecosystem services. High frequency of forest fire drastically alters the species diversity, structure of the forest and regeneration of plants within the forest. Consequently, the diversity of faunal species dependent on undisturbed forest, would decline, leading to loss in the overall biodiversity. Regular fire affects the water availability by decreasing soil moisture as well as humus content of the soil. As

a result, the water holding capacity of soil is decreased and most of the water during rainfall is washed away, removing the top fertile soil of the forest, leading to further degradation.

For example, in Himachal Pradesh, forest fire plays a major role in the oak-pine forest dynamics. Pine trees regenerate in open areas under high levels of sunlight. They are adapted to...

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Managing Habitats for Migratory Species in India

IGBP at CMS COP 13 India

The Thirteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS COP13) was the first of a series of international nature-related meetings in 2020. This will culminate in the UN Biodiversity Conference at the end of the year, when a new global biodiversity strategy for the next decade will be adopted - the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. India, as COP13 host, will assume the role of COP Presidency for the next three years.

Projects working towards the direct and indirect management of migratory species and their habitats under the Indo-German Biodiversity Programme organised various side-events and...

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Spoon-billed storks near Point Calimere Wildlife Sanctuary ©GIZ/Neha Owaisy

Pong Dam Lake

Wetlands, Biodiversity and People

Pong dam's location on the trans-Himalayan flyway of migratory birds, along with the variety of habitats, assumes great biodiversity value. Over 100,000 migratory birds make Pong their home during migratory season. This includes one of the largest congregations of the Bar-headed Goose, making it a wetland of international importance. The lake also provides livelihood to over 2700...

[Watch the film »](#)



21 MARCH
INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FOREST

FORESTS AND BIODIVERSITY
Too precious to lose



About the Programme

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India, in partnership with **GIZ India** is implementing the Indo-German Biodiversity Programme (IGBP).

Indo-German
**BIODIVERSITY
PROGRAMME**

Commissioned in India on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), the programme addresses the challenges of biodiversity conservation in five projects:

- Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)
- Himachal Pradesh Forest Ecosystem Services (HPFES)
- Private Business Action for Biodiversity (PBAB)
- Human Wildlife Conflict Mitigation (HWC)
- Wetlands Management for Biodiversity and Climate Protection



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**Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
(GIZ) GmbH**

Registered offices
Bonn and Eschborn, Germany

Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 32 + 36
53113 Bonn, Germany
T +49 228 44 60-0
F +49 228 44 60-17 66

Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1 - 5
65760 Eschborn, Germany
T +49 61 96 79-0
F +49 61 96 79-11 15

E info@giz.de
I www.giz.de

Registered at

Local court (Amtsgericht) Bonn, Germany: HRB 18384
Local court (Amtsgericht) Frankfurt am Main, Germany: HRB 12394

VAT no. DE 113891176
Tax no. 040 250 56973

Chairman of the Supervisory Board
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Thorsten Schäfer-Gümbel

In charge of this newsletter:
Ravindra Singh, Programme Director

Editor(s):
Neha Owaisy, Junior Communication Officer

With contributions from:
IGBP Team

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