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Indo-German Biodiversity Programme Newsletter



This newsletter shares project updates and thematic news from our programme

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Dear Reader,

In the last few months we've seen some landmark developments which may change the perception of Nature, especially in terms of measuring economic prosperity and human well-being. In March 2021, the 52nd United Nations Statistical Commission adopted the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting—Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA EA) as an international statistical standard. This measure will ensure that natural capital—forests, wetlands and other ecosystems—are recognised in economic reporting, something that will go beyond the GDP. Biodiversity was also at the heart of *The Dasgupta Review* which presented the world with some hard-hitting realities of institutional and collective failure to engage with Nature sustainably. The suggested solutions begin with reversing trends now, accepting that our economies are rooted within Nature and changing how we measure success.

We're also crossing three important days - 'International Women's Day' (8 March), 'International Day of Forests' (21 March), and 'World Water Day' (22 March – today). All three are intertwined when we talk about Nature and our future. These themes also find resonance in our new projects.

In the twelfth issue, we'll introduce you to two new Indo-German projects which will apply local solutions and interventions to improve habitats and the supply of ecosystem services at the local level. We've also included some resources which may pique your interest. We thank you for your continuous support and welcome your valuable feedback towards further improving our engagement with you.

Stay safe and healthy.

UPDATES FROM THE PROJECTS

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

SPOTLIGHT

- » Managing Forest Ecosystem Services in the Western Himalayas
- » Enhancing Spice Farmers' Capacities in Sustainable Farming

NEW RELEASES AND RESOURCES

UPCOMING EVENTS

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

Updates from the Projects

Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation



HWC management training on Leopards and Bears, Uttarakhand

A two-day training was organised for the forest officials and frontline staff of the forest divisions in the mid-and high-elevation region of Uttarakhand from 17-18 February 2021

[News »](#)

Private Business Action for Biodiversity



International Spice Conference

The project participated in the virtual International Spices Conference organised by All India Spices Exporter's Forum from 13 January to 11 March 2021.

[News »](#)

Wetlands Management for Biodiversity and Climate Protection



Pong Dam wetland©GIZ/CarrotFilms

Web Portal on Wetlands of India

On the occasion of World Wetlands Day, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) announced that the development of a web portal on wetlands has been initiated.

[News »](#)



Spotlight

Managing Forest Ecosystem Services in the Western Himalayas

‘Forest ecosystems are critical for our survival beyond what we perceive’

Have you ever come across the unique and diverse forests of India’s Western Himalayan region?

One of the most distinctive areas of the country, the Western Himalayas are home to a wide range of forest types. These forests play a crucial role in our well-being and survival. Apart from being a timber source, these forests also provide a variety of ecosystem services that sustain livelihoods, and enhance the supply of fresh water that flows into streams and larger rivers. Despite such a wide array benefits, our ecological knowledge for managing these ecosystem services is still limited. It is important to identify our role in conserving and managing these benefits.

The Indo-German HP-FES project was one such initiative that aimed to integrate the Forest Ecosystem Services approach into the forest management system of Himachal Pradesh. Integrating the lessons from the HP-FES, a follow-up project on the ‘Sustainable Management of Forest Ecosystem Services in the Western Himalayas’ will be implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and the Forest Departments of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand from 2021-2023.

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Waterfall at Shangarh, Himachal Pradesh ©GIZ/Aashima Negi

Enhancing Smallholder Spice Farmers’ Capacities in Sustainable Farming

New developPPP project in India

India has a long history of trading of spices and continues to be one of the world’s largest consumer,

producers and exporter of spices. Around 85 per cent of the spice production in India is done by small-scale farmers, who typically farm less than two hectares and seasonally rotate spices cultivation alongside other crops. Unsustainable practices such as overuse of pesticides and herbicides have resulted in a loss of the smallholder farmer's income and loss of biodiversity.

GIZ and AVT McCormick have partnered to implement a develop public-private partnership (developPPP) project in four Indian states, viz. Rajasthan, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. The project aims to sustainably strengthen the production of cardamom, cumin, and turmeric in these states, to increase the capacities of spice farmers, to make production practices more economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable.

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The project focuses on 3 spices: Cardamom, Cumin and Turmeric | Photo by Shantanu Pal from Pexels



New Releases and Resources

Forest Ecosystem Services: Managing Forests Sustainably

Forests contribute to human wellbeing. They provide numerous tangible and intangible benefits called 'Forest Ecosystem Services' (FES). The film showcases how the FES approach was integrated into the state forest management of Himachal Pradesh.

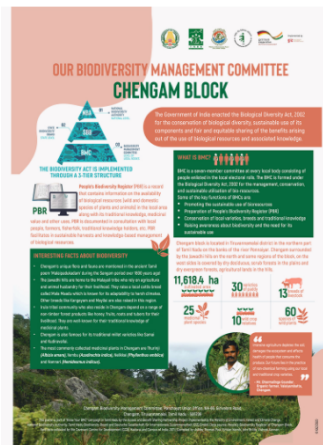
[Watch the film »](#)



Know Your BMC



Know Your BMC (Tamil) Factsheets



Know Your BMC (English) Factsheets

The 'Know Your BMC' poster campaign was launched in Tamil Nadu under the ABS partnership project to raise awareness about local Biodiversity Management Committees, their functions, and biodiversity of the block. These A1 posters feature outside the respective BMC/Panchayat offices.

Link to publications:

- » [Posters in English](#)
- » [Posters in Tamil](#)

Managing FES in 9 Sites of Himachal Pradesh



This factsheet compilation offers a glimpse into project interventions in the pilot sites of Himachal Pradesh. The HPFES project developed zone-wise management of Forest Ecosystem Services prioritised by local communities and the state Forest Department for all 9 sites in the state: Alha, Bohal, Loharlari, Cheola, Kharota, Ghanduri, Shangarh, Hamta and Pathrevi.

[English »](#)



Webinar on Gender and Biodiversity in South-East Asia and the Pacific, 25 March 2021

» <https://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2021/ntf-2021-018-gender-en.pdf>

Earth hour day | 27 March 2021

International Mother Earth day | 22 April 2021

» <https://www.un.org/en/observances/earth-day>

World Bee Day, 20 May 2021

» <https://www.un.org/en/observances/bee-day>

International Biodiversity Day, 22 May 2021

» <https://www.cbd.int/biodiversity-day/logo>



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:

- Sustainable Management of Forest Ecosystem Services in the Western Himalayas (HIMFES)^{New}
- Enhancement of Smallholder Spice Farmers' Capacities in Sustainable Farming ^{New}
- Human Wildlife Conflict Mitigation (HWC)
- Private Business Action for Biodiversity (PBAB)
- Wetlands Management for Biodiversity and Climate Protection



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