

**UNESCO Category 2 Centre on World Natural
Heritage Management and Training for the Asia-
Pacific Region at Wildlife Institute of India**

**REPORT ON CELEBRATION OF
WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY,
5th JUNE, 2015**



Background

World Environment Day (WED) is held each year on June 5. It is one of the principal vehicles through which the United Nations (UN) stimulates worldwide awareness of the environment and enhances political attention and action. World Environment Day was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1972 to mark the opening of the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment. Another resolution, adopted by the General Assembly the same day, led to the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). It is hosted every year by a different city and commemorated with an international exposition through the week of June 5. Through WED, the UNEP is able to personalize environmental issues and enable everyone to realise not only their responsibility, but also their power to become agents for change in support of sustainable and equitable development. WED is also a day for people from all walks of life to come together to ensure a cleaner, greener and brighter outlook for themselves and future generations.

UNEP Theme for World Environment day 2015: “Seven Billion Dreams. One Planet. Consume with Care.”

The well-being of humanity, the environment, and the functioning of the economy, ultimately depend upon the responsible management of the planet’s natural resources. Evidence is building that people are consuming far more natural resources than what the planet can sustainably provide.

Many of the Earth’s ecosystems are nearing critical tipping points of depletion or irreversible change, pushed by high population growth and economic development. By 2050, if current consumption and production patterns remain the same and with a rising population expected to reach 9.6 billion, we will need three planets to sustain our ways of living and consumption.

The WED theme this year is therefore "Seven Billion Dreams. One Planet. Consume with Care." Living within planetary boundaries is the most promising strategy for ensuring a healthy future. Human prosperity need not cost the earth. Living sustainably is about doing more and better with less. It is about knowing that rising rates of natural resource use and the environmental impacts that occur is not a necessary by-product of economic growth.

World Environment Day celebration at Wildlife Institute of India



The Wildlife Institute of India celebrated World Environment day on 5th June, 2015 in its campus at Dehradun with great enthusiasm. It was organised by the newly established UNESCO Category 2 Centre on 'World Natural Heritage Management and Training for Asia and the Pacific Region', the only centre of its kind in the World, intended specifically for Natural World Heritage Sites. To raise awareness among the youth, students from the Graphic Era University, Dehradun were invited for the event. The UNESCO C2C team coordinated with the Biotechnology Department of the University which selected nearly 100 students from their B.Tech, M.Tech and PhD Courses to participate in the Extempore Speech Contest and also perform some of their own activities during the programme.

Highlights of the Main Event

1. Inaugural Address (Dr. Malvika Onial, Scientist-E, UNESCO C2C, WII)



Dr. Malvika welcomed the audience and exhorted the students to inculcate the habit of sustainable use. She urged the students to take actions, individually and collectively, in their day-to-day lives and their lifestyles that will have a positive impact on the environment.

2. Philately Exhibition (Mr. J. D. Pati, IFS)



Mr. J. D. Pati shared his fascinating philately collection, where he gave a presentation on his collection of postage stamps depicting biodiversity from across the world.

3. Extempore Speech Contest



An Extempore Speech Contest was organised for the students of Graphic Era University. An extempore speech is intended to reveal a participant's ability to develop a point of view on a general topic and to deliver an impromptu oration within limited preparation time. Five students from the University participated in the contest.

Following rules were framed for the event:

- Topics were based on environment related issues which were assigned to each participant by a draw of lots.
- Participants were not allowed to refer to any material / books after receiving the topic.
- Participants were given 3 minutes for preparation.
- Time for the actual speech was 5 minutes.

Four judges were appointed for evaluating the performance of the speakers, namely, Dr. S. S. Srivastava (Editor WII), Dr. Malvika Onial (Scientist UNESCO C2C WII), Dr. Nishikant Gupta (Project Scientist WII) and Dr. Nishant Rai (Asst. Professor, Dept. of Biotechnology, Graphic Era University).

Specific criteria were outlined for judging the performance:

1. Identification of issues and relevance of content [15 marks]
2. Analysis of the topic and logical thinking [15 Marks]
3. Language and communication [10 Marks]
4. Overall presentation skills-body language, confidence, poise, composure etc [10 Marks]

Prizes were awarded according to:



- Total marks based on the criteria outlined above determined the position of the candidates.
- Positions were awarded to the first (Ms. Vijeta Negi) and runner-up (Ms. Meenal Lohani) speakers, both B.Tech students of the Department of Biotechnology, Graphic Era University. The prizes included best-selling books on nature and wildlife by renowned writers like Ruskin Bond and Jim Corbett.
- The winner spoke on the topic – “Biotechnology: boon or bane for human society’s relation with the environment?” The runner-up spoke on – “Protecting the environment is not a priority for today’s youth!”
- All the other contestants were also awarded certificates of participation.

Following were the shortlisted topics for the extempore speech contest:

- Do commemorative events like World Environment Day really make a difference?
- Protecting the environment is not a priority for today’s youth!
- Genetically Modified crops are the only answer to feeding the burgeoning population of the World.
- Biotechnology: boon or bane for human society’s relation with the environment?
- Environment protection is hampering Economic development
- The earth provides enough for human needs, but not enough for human greed.
- Terrorism or Environmental degradation: which is the bigger problem in the world today?
- Do you really think our existence depends on the survival of wildlife?
- Is Climate Change for real?
- Can our consumption levels today leave a Greener Earth tomorrow?
- Living on Planet Earth is better than living on Mars
- Fossil fuels or Nuclear Energy.....which is the future of India?

5. GEU ACTIVITY



There was active participation by students of the Graphic Era University, Dehradun, who also performed several activities on the occasion of World Environment Day at WII.

Graphic Era University students who were members of IYSERT (International Youth Society of Ecofriendly and Renewable Technology) presented their activities for a 'Clean Dehradun' campaign. They specifically focussed on waste management and eco-friendly practices.

Students from GEU sang a beautiful song encouraging youth to be more positive and aware about environmental issues. They urged all to unite together to make environment pollution-free. Small efforts from every individual can one day, will lead to a green environment.

A student presented his self made poem on natural calamity and the resulting devastation that occurred in Kedarnath , Uttarakhand in 2013.

6. Launch of UNESCO C2C India Website



On the occasion of this year's World Environment Day at WII, the official website of UNESCO C2C was launched by Dr. Lok Man S. Palni, Dean Biotechnology Department, Graphic Era University and Dr. V. B. Mathur, Director WII. This website will provide information about the objectives, functions and activities of UNESCO C2C India. This includes information about latest news, activities e.g. workshops, events etc., programmes, research and training for World Natural Heritage sites in Asia and Pacific Region. A photographic gallery carries portraits from natural sites in India. The website is designed using theme colour theme of UNESCO C2C and photographs of biodiversity and ecological elements from World Natural Heritage Sites in the region. Currently, this website is under construction and will be released in the public domain shortly.

7. Release of “Campus Snakes” Booklet



A pictorial guide “Knowing Campus Snakes” was launched by the Director, WII and the Dean Biotechnology department , Graphic Era University. Wildlife Institute of India Campus, nestled in the Shivalik foothills, provides home to a diverse array of flora and fauna. Snakes, both venomous and non venomous, form an integral, yet poorly known component of this diversity.

A team comprising of WII Scientists Dr. Abhijit Das, Dr. Sanath Krishna, Dr. Parag Nigam and supported by students Keshav Gagoi, Preeti Sharma and Naitik Patel have come up with a pictorial guide to help us increase our knowledge about the snakes found on our campus. This booklet is designed by Mukesh Arora.

8. Address by Dr. V.B. Mathur, Director WII



Dr. Mathur focussed upon the current year’s theme of the World Environment Day, ‘Seven Billion Dreams. One Planet. Consume with Care’, and highlighted the pressure on the planet

at a global level. He dwelled on the era of 'Globalisation' and lifestyle of people, underlining the high consumption levels of the developed as well as developing countries. He spoke about the origin of World Environment Day and the significance of other commemorative days like World Heritage Day, International Biodiversity Day, etc, which are celebrated globally.

9. Address by Dr. L. M. S. Palni, Dean, Biotechnology Department, Graphic Era University



Dr. Palni was invited as Chief Guest for this programme based on his long experience in the field of ecology and environment. Dr. Palni was formerly Director of the G. B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development, Almora before his current assignment as Dean, Biotechnology Department, Graphic Era University, Dehradun. He highlighted the significance of the World Environment Day and referred to the historical actions at the global level that have contributed towards the movement for environment protection. He further emphasised the importance of taking practical actions in our everyday lives towards a sustainable future.

10. Nature Trail



As part of the World Environment Day celebration on Wildlife Institute of India's campus on 5th June, 2015, a guided Nature Trail walk was organised for the students & faculties of Graphic Era University to provide them exposure to the natural surroundings of the WII campus. The objective was to enhance the awareness and motivate the young students towards biodiversity around us and its importance in maintaining a healthy ecosystem.

The nearly 100 students were divided into six groups and each group was guided by members of UNESCO C2C (Dr. Bhumes Singh, Sri. Dhruv Verma, Ms. Persis Farooq and Sri. Anukul Nath) & researchers of Wildlife Institute of India (Amit Kumar, Zehidul Hussain, Ravi, Urjit Bhatt, Shravana Goswami, Shruti Sengupta, Naitik, Dimpi Patel and Sameer). On the nature trail a brief introductory class was taken on bird/butterfly watching. Amit Kumar, researcher at WII, highlighted the key plant species of the campus. Students of Graphic Era University were also oriented on the use of handheld GPS equipment.

It was an exciting experience for the students & faculties to get a feel of nature and have the opportunity of walking through a forest-like environment within the urban landscape.

11. Vote of Thanks



Good Evening! I feel honored and privileged to propose a vote of thanks on this happy occasion.

June 5, 2015 is indeed a very important day as we, UNESCO Category 2 Centre, is celebrating World Environment Day for the first time. I would like to conclude this event with a famous quote by John F. Kennedy, the youngest President of United States of America – THE FUTURE PROMISE OF ANY NATION CAN BE MEASURED BY THE PRESENT PROSPECTS OF ITS YOUTHS – it means if the young people are charged, involved in their community, that nation is alive – so to all the young minds present today, it's time to take charge and secure our planet for a sustainable future!

I on behalf of UNESCO Category 2 Centre, Wildlife Institute of India convey my deep regards and hearty thanks to our Chief Guest, Dr. Lok Man S. Palni, Dean of Graphic Era University for sparing his valuable time for our event. We are greatly encouraged by his gracious presence and immensely benefited by the inspiring address. Dr. Nishant Rai, Associate Professor, Dept. of Biotechnology, was instrumental in co-coordinating with Graphic Era University which made it a smooth effort. Thank you Dr. Nishant Rai.

I thank all faculty, research scholars and especially the students of Graphic Era University to make time for our event in between their semester exams.

I thank Mr. J.D. Pati, IFS, for sharing his philately collection on biodiversity on this occasion.

Our gratitude to the Judges – Dr. S. S. Srivastava, Dr. Malvika Onial, Dr. Nishikant Gupta & Dr. Nishant Rai – for their difficult task of evaluating the speakers.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to Dr. V.B Mathur, Director, Wildlife Institute of India for his encouragement, guidance & providing a stimulating environment for the event.

I also wish to express my sincere thanks to
Dean, Wildlife Institute of India & Registrar, Wildlife Institute of India
Dr. Bitapi C Sinha, Nodal Officer for Audio Video & wildlife extension cell,
Dr. Pranab Pal for arranging the auditorium with necessary amenities,
Mr. Rajesh Thapa, System Manager and
S. Wilson & Vinod Verma for Audio Video assistance
Mrs. Alka Agarwal from IT & RS-GIS Cell

I would like to thank Director's Office & supporting staff who helped in managing the event.
I thank all the faculty and staff of WII for their encouragement & research scholars for their presence.

And the last but not the least, my special and hearty thanks to the entire team of UNESCO Category 2 Centre for their support, dedication, team work and untiring efforts. We all worked smilingly shoulder to shoulder to make this event successful.

Thank you all very much.

List of Participants

Graphic Era University and Wildlife Institute of India

S.No	Name	Course
1	Palak Sangal	B.tech
2	Ishita Joshi	B.tech
3	Meenal Lohani	B.tech
4	Vijeta Negi	B.tech
5	Shubham Anthwal	B.tech
6	Prakhar Srivastav	B.tech
7	Rahul Biswas	B.tech
8	Rishlee Nargass Mondol	Sunrise academy of management studies
9	Madhusudan	GEU
10	Karan Singh Bisht	GEU
11	Janki Saun	GEU
12	Anju Mehra	GEU
13	Sumaila Muzafar	GEU
14	Shipra Meyan	GEU
15	Shubham Gupta	GEU
16	Tushar Sharma	GEU
17	Nitin Bisht	GEU
18	Ruchi Rawat	B.tech 3 rd Year
19	Anushka Pundir	B.tech 3 rd Year
20	Sakshi Tripathi	B.tech 3 rd Year
21	Shivangi Shukla	B.tech 3 rd Year
22	Shweta Chauhan	B.tech

23	Ketan Sharma	B.tech
24	Kamalakshi K. Chowdhury	B.tech
25	Neha Negi	B.tech
26	Srishti Kumari	B.tech
27	Ayesha Suttana	B.tech
28	Sanjay	B.tech (Bio) 4 th Year
29	Sakhi Painuli	Ph.D Scholar
30	Prabhakar Semwal	Ph.D Scholar
31	Himani Badoni	Ph.D Scholar
32	Jigisha Anand	Ph.D Scholar
33	Dheeraj	M.tech
34	Pranshu Dangwal	M.tech
35	Rajani	BCA
36	Sreshtha Uniyal	B.A (H) Eng
37	Vartika Srivastava	M.Tech
38	Shilp[ra Kumari	M.Tech
39	Nivedita Rawat	BA (H) Eng
40	Saumya Lakhera	BA (H) Eng
41	Shivani Mehta	M.Sc. Biotech
42	Pooja Rani	M.Sc. Biotech
43	Ankita Kukreti	M.Sc. Biotech
44	Tanu Latwal	M.Sc. Biotech
45	Meenakshi	M.Sc. Biotech
46	Sujan Dahal	M.Sc. Biotech
47	Versh Joshi	B.Tech

48	Priyanka Nautiyal	B.Tech
49	Ankita Rawat	B.Tech
50	Ashtha Jaiswal	B.Tech
51	Komal Chaurasia	B.Tech
52	Geeta Pandey	B.Tech
53	Ayush Shukla	B.Tech
54	Sargam Sharma	B.Tech
55	Prateek	B.Tech
56	Aisho Sharma Adhikari	Researcher (WII)
57	Manish Kaneria	Researcher (WII)
58	Mohan	Researcher (WII)
59	Rajat Saha	Researcher (WII)
60	Ranjana Pal	Project Fellow
61	Akansha Saxena	Project Fellow
62	Prith Dey	SRF (WII)
63	Pallavi G	Msc (WII)
64	Pamella Bhattacharya	Project Fellow
65	Krishnendu Mondal	WII
66	B. Navaneethan	WII
67	Zehidul Hussain	WII
68	Shravana Goswami	WII
69	Vineet K. Dubey	WII
70	Nilesh Abaso Patil	WII
71	M. Naveen	WII
72	Shameer T.T	WII

73	Harshwardhan Singh Rathore	WII
74	Sougata Sadhukan	Researcher (WII)
75	Dr. Bhumesh Singh	Technical Officer
76	Mr. Niraj Kakati	Technical Officer
77	Anukul Nath	Assistant Technical Officer
78	Chitiz Joshi	Assistant Technical Officer
79	Dhruv Verma	World Heritage Assistant
80	Jyoti Negi	World Heritage Assistant
81	Persis farooqy	World Heritage Assistant
82	Rupa	World Heritage Assistant
83	Poonam Sati	Office Assistant