



Holistic Environment



Webinar Report

Wildlife Week 2020

October 7, 2020

Organised by:

JNU ENVIS Resource Partner on Geodiversity & Impact on Environment
School of Environmental Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University
New Delhi - 110 067

Wildlife Week 2020

The School of Environmental Sciences celebrated the Wildlife Week, October 07, 2020. On this occasion a webinar was organized by JNU ENVIS RP in collaboration with the Young Holistic (YoHo) group, SES, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

The panel was selected carefully which included senior Policy makers and eminent wildlife researchers such as **Mr. Siamkhanmuan Guite**, India Forest Service (IFS), **Dr. Gautam Talukdar**, Head Protected Area Network, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, **Dr. Surya Prakash**, Wildlife Researcher, SLS, JNU, **Prof. U.C. Kulshrestha**, Dean SES & JNU ENVIS Coordinator and **Dr. Usha Mina**, Associate Professor JNU & Co-coordinator JNU ENVIS. The Young Holistic leader **Mr. Manjul Panwar** represented the student YoHo group, while **Ms. Swati Singh**, Programme Officer, ENVIS, SES executed the programme.

Professor Umesh Kulshrestha, moderated the panel discussion. It was attended by more than 100 participants, through Google-Meet and Facebook Live platforms. The participants included university students, researchers, faculty members and common citizens from different parts of the country. He welcomed all the speakers and the participants. Prof. Kulshrestha mentioned the importance of wildlife in human life and for whole ecosystem. He reminded that most of our moral stories have wildlife characters not to forget the livelihood values of animals. He provided a brief introduction of all the eminent panelists and a brief description of activities of YoHo programme and JNU-ENVIS. He then invited the first speaker Mr. Siamkhanmuan Guite to deliver his talk.



The poster features logos of the Ministry of Environment, Government of India, the Wildlife Institute of India, and the School of Environmental Sciences, JNU. It includes illustrations of various wildlife species like a deer, elephant, tiger, snake, rhinoceros, and giraffe. The main title is 'Wildlife Week 2020' with the date and time: 'Webinar Date : 7th October, 2020 | Time : 11.30 am-12.30 pm'. A 'YO Seminar HO' logo is also present.

Panelists

						
Mr. Siamkhanmuan Guite Indian Forest Service (IFS)	Dr. Gautam Talukdar Head, Protected Area Network, WII	Dr. Surya Prakash Wildlife Researcher SLS, JNU	Prof U.C. Kulshrestha ENVIS Coordinator SES/JNU (Dean)	Dr. Usha Mina ENVIS Co-coordinator & Associate Prof. SES/JNU	Mr. Manjul Panwar YoHo Lead / Student, SES/JNU	Ms. Swati Singh Programme Officer JNU ENVIS RP

Registration Link : <https://forms.gle/48uHyLgLGyQpjZsB9>
e-certificate will be provided to all participants.

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Webinar On Wildlife Week
Date : October 7, 2020 | Timing : 11:30 am - 12:30 pm

Speakers	Time
Welcome Address by Prof. U.C. Kulshrestha , ENVIS Coordinator/Dean, SES, JNU	11:30 AM - 11:35 AM
Mr. Siamkhanmuan Guite Indian Forest Service (IFS)	11:35 AM- 11:45 AM
Dr. Gautam Talukdar Head Protected Area Network, Wildlife Institute of India	11:45 AM- 11:55 AM
Dr. Surya Prakash Wildlife Researcher, SLS, JNU	11:55 AM - 12:05PM
Dr. Usha Mina ENVIS Co-Coordinator, & Associate Professor, SES, JNU	12:05 PM- 12:15 PM
Mr. Manjul Panwar YoHo Lead, SES, JNU	12:15 PM - 12:20 PM
Concluding Remarks by Prof. U.C. Kulshrestha	12:20 PM - 12:25 PM
Vote of thanks by Ms. Swati Singh Programme Officer, JNU ENVIS RP	12:25 PM - 12:30 PM

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Fig.1: Poster and Schedule of the Webinar widely circulated on the social media platform.



Fig.2: Prof. Umesh Kulshrestha, Dean & ENVIS Coordinator, SES, JNU

Mr. Siamkhanmuan Guite, Indian Forest Service (IFS) – He mentioned Article 48 A of the Indian Constitution which calls upon the citizens of the country to “ Protect and improve the environment and safeguard of forests and wildlife. The State shall endeavour to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country ”. He highlighted the importance of word ‘Compassion’ in the field of Wildlife. Without compassion one will not be patient enough to work with wildlife. Also talked about New Policy intervention by the Government in the form of ‘ Peace Surveillance ’ which was introduced in Kaziranga National Park and few other parks. He mentioned there are ample of policies specially related to wildlife protected areas.

He once again impressed upon the Duties of Indian Citizens to have compassion towards wildlife. He said that the Government and Research Scholars should pass the message of compassion towards wildlife to the citizens at the lowest level in the remotest areas. Researchers should devise mechanisms and methods how to pass on knowledge and capacity building of citizens in remote areas.

His mantra for wildlife researchers is :

Have Compassion → leads to patience → which leads to passion



Fig.3: Mr. Siamkhanmuan Guite, Indian Forest Service (IFS)

Dr. Gautam Talukdar, Head, Protected Area Network, WII– He said India has many feathers in its cap. Mentioning that we have the largest number of Tiger, Asiatic Elephants and the Great Indian Bustard. India is signatory to important International Treaties on Biodiversity and Wildlife, like the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

At the National level we have Biodiversity Act, 2002 which talks about conservation, wise usage of forest resources and rights of the local people. He further said India has 2.4% of global geographical area and 17% of the world population, next only to China, but we have tremendous biodiversity irrespective of tremendous population pressure.

He said value system of younger generation towards nature is losing, which should be built back. Infrastructure development is key focus and importance for human well - being. Due to these developmental activities land pressure is felt which causes loss of wildlife . He also talked about salient features of India's National Wildlife Action Plan and said it is a substantial policy document. He encouraged researchers to contribute towards wildlife policy and planning.



Fig.4: Dr.Gautam Talukdar, Head Protected Area Network, WII

Dr. Surya Prakash, Wildlife Researcher SLS, JNU – He started his discourse by quoting 'प्रकृतिः रक्षति रक्षितः'. Anthropogenic pressure causes loss of forest cover due to which animals are exposed to poachers and are been killed. He raised the issue of grassland restoration to save the entire habitat, e.g. we are losing the Great Indian Bustard due to habitat loss.

Focus should also be laid on Human - animal conflicts in the urban areas, he mentioned how Delhi - NCR is losing its biodiversity every year. Stray dogs, pigs, monkeys, cattles, create havoc in urban areas. In 2018 many lions died in the Gir forest range, later it was analysed

that they were affected by Rabies which got spread through stray dogs. Similarly in the Asola Wildlife Sanctuary Nilgai got disease disseminated through stray cattles. Also mentioned about the Sand Mafia in the Yamuna River bed and how it is affecting the wetland grassland ecosystem. He mentioned various proactive steps taken by JNU in wildlife conservation and protection in the campus.

He mantra "Rather Saving Egosystem, We Should Save Ecosystem".

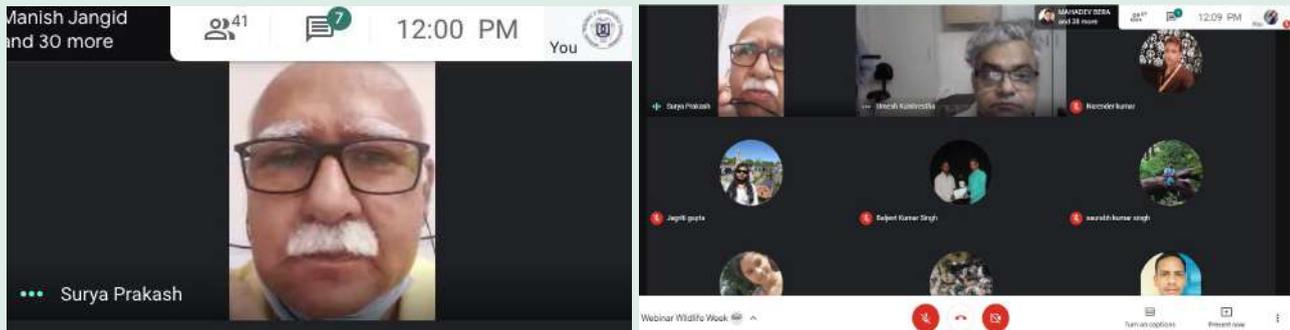


Fig.5: Dr. Surya Prakash Wildlife Researcher SLS, JNU

Dr. Usha Mina, ENVIS Co-coordinator, SES, JNU - Since 1952, whole week from 2nd - 8th October is celebrated as the Wildlife Week. The celebration provides us opportunity to reaffirm our commitment towards conservation of wildlife and co - existence of all. This reaffirmation is very important in the backdrop of 2019, United Nations Report which reported that the extinction rate is about 1 million species of plants and animals within a decade. Major cause for this extinction is anthropogenic, though International & National conventions and mechanisms are present and the Government is taking steps to implement them, but still there are gaps. Regional and national languages should be used as medium for awareness creation, indigeneous knowledge should also be taken into account.

Online Eco - tourism, wildlife tourism should also be promoted. Human development has taken place by observing animal behaviour since historical times, like hunting, fashion industry, architecture and in engineering as bio - mimicry, eg) Mosquito's suck and bite ability to design less painful needles. Elephant trunk design for robotic arms, firefly inspires to make LED more efficient, underwater mollusc to design strongest adhesives available, woodpecker skull's shock absorber helps to design airplane black box. It is important to generate awareness that coexistence of wildlife and humans is very essential for development and welfare of all.

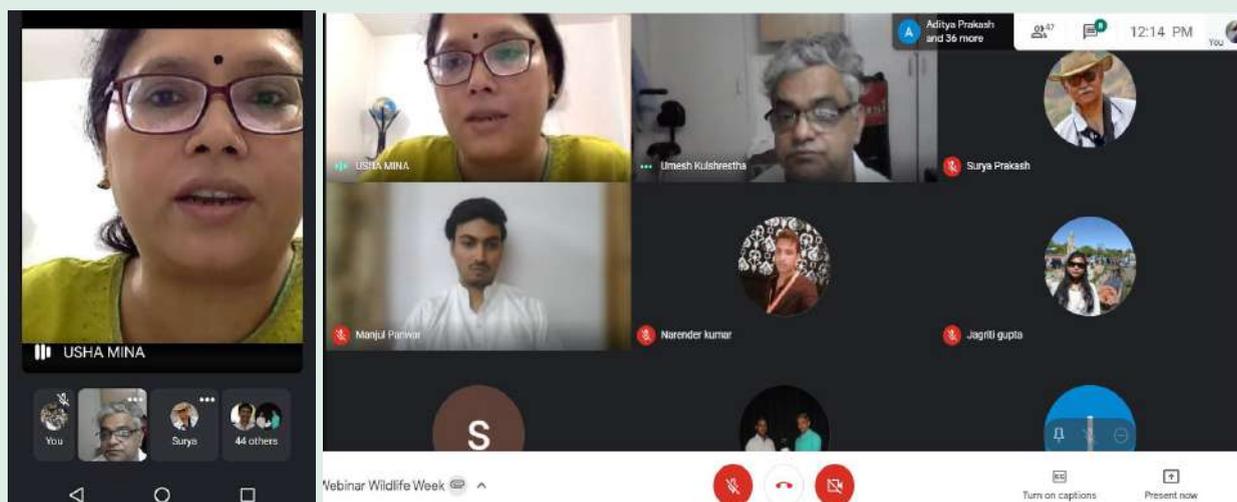


Fig.8: Dr. Usha Mina, ENVIS Co-coordinator, SES, JNU

Mr. Manjul Panwar, YoHo Gyan Lead, SES, JNU – He talked about YoHo Activities initiated in SES, JNU and how it benefits students. With respect to Wildlife he said that as a country we have done a lot, but now we should focus on individual efforts. Also said that the Government should not only focus on flagship and charismatic wildlife species but also work on protection of small animals, fishes, insects etc.

At individual level he asked to raise small gardens, to plant fruit bearing species and other innovative ideas and plans to be developed. Water pots for animals and birds should be placed and gave an example of JNU, how these water pots helped to save wildlife of JNU specially Nilgai during summer times. He highlighted the problem of decreasing sparrow population and measures that could be taken up. He further talked about how individual choices can affect the environment, like every paper counts, avoiding wood furnitures, sustainable fashion, recycling etc. He also shared his case studies in protected areas and how we can learn from local people about conservation efforts.

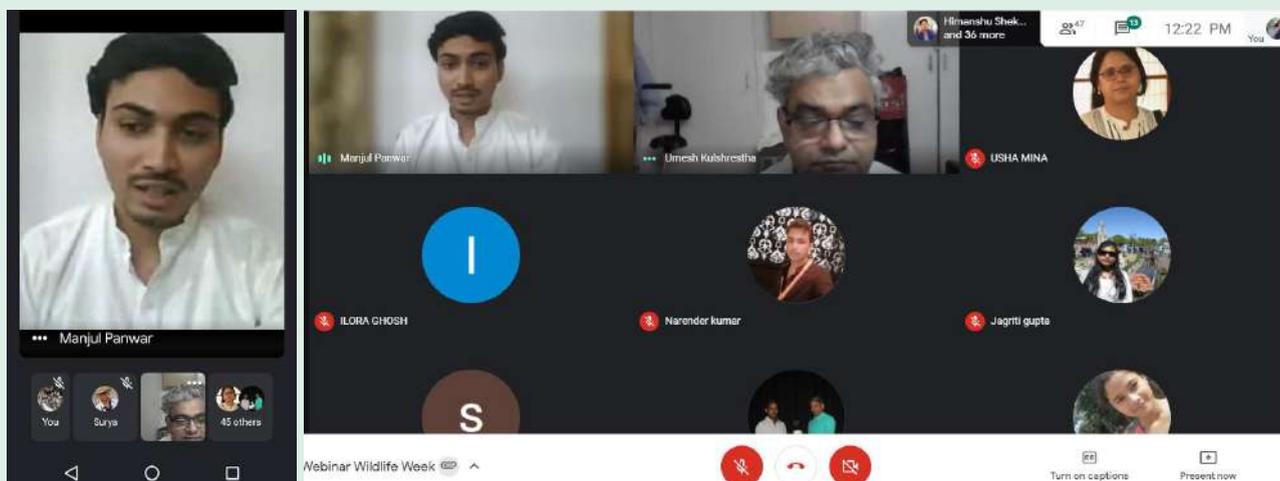


Fig.9: Mr. Manjul Panwar, YoHo Gyan Lead, SES, JNU

Vote of Thanks was extended by **Ms. Swati Singh, Programme Officer, JNU ENVIS** - Swati Singh announced the result of online photography and poster contest winners . She thanked all the speakers, participants, students and the faculty for making the event successful.



Wildlife Week 2020

Result of Wildlife Photography Contest
(Total Entries: 20)

1 Great Hornbill
Name : Aastha Pattanaik
DOP : 15/02/2020
Time : 9:36 am
Loc. : Kaziranga National Park
AASTHA PATTANAIAK

2 SAURABH KUMAR SINGH

3 DIVYESH GHELANI

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Result of Wildlife Poster Contest
(Total Entries: 28)

1 **AISHA PANDA**

2 SHASHANK KUMAR MEHTA
Protect Wildlife for a Healthy Future

3 **B. DIVYADHARSHINI**
Observe Great Life from a Distance

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Fig.9: Ms. Swati Singh, Programme Officer, JNU ENVIS announced result online



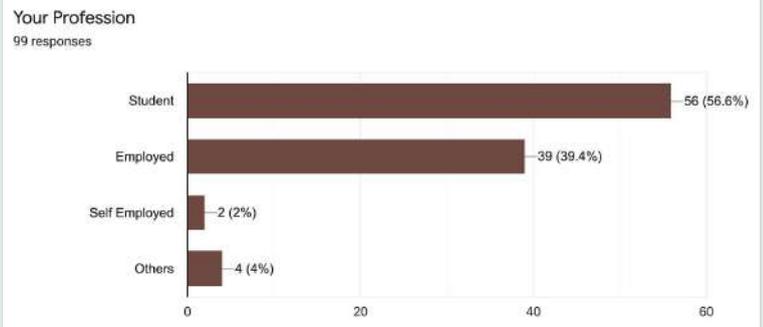
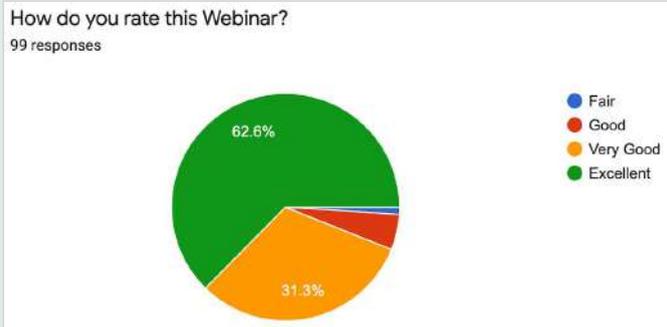
Fig.9: Panelists & Participants of the Panel Discussion

The session came to an end with the distribution of e-certificate to all the participants. Very positive feedback was received from the participants.

Recommendations:

1. Innovative methods should be devised for awareness about wildlife and capacity building of local people in the remotest areas of the country.
2. Young researchers should actively be part of Wildlife Policy and Planning.
3. Along with Ecosystem restoration now focus should be laid on Grassland Restoration, which will ensure protection of the entire habitat.
4. Focus should be laid on the Human - animal conflict in urban areas.
5. Conservation efforts should move beyond flagship and charismatic species and holistic approach should be adopted.
6. National and Regional languages should be used for wildlife awareness generation at grassroot levels.

Feedback:



Your short line feedback

74 responses

Very excellent sir and provide a broad knowledge of species conservation of wild fauna from sanctuary and in national park . Thank you sir 🙏

Too much informative about wildlife biodiversity 🍌🍌

Great step to highlight UN designated wildlife around the country and the world. So happy to see the dynamic and vast scope of Ecology and Biodiversity conservation

Webinar was informative

Some topics need to be define pervasively. All in all good webinar

Very interesting Webinar

Nothing

It was very informative webiner

Webinar Live Session on the FB page <https://www.facebook.com/jnuervis/> :
<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=645609632983113>
