



Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

WILDLIFE WEEK 2021



Organized by

ENVIS Resource Partner

on

Forest Genetic Resources and Tree Improvement

Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding

(Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education)

Coimbatore

Wildlife Week 2021 Celebrations by IFGTB ENVIS

As a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav 2021, ENVIS Resource Partner on Forest Genetic Resources and Tree Improvement at the Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore organized Wildlife Week 2021 Celebrations digitally through Facebook live on 07 October 2021. An online elocution competition was also conducted for students and public on the topic “Importance of Wildlife”. The celebrations attracted the attention of the Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Shri Bhupendar Yadav.

The digital event began with Prakruthi Vandanam, an invocation on nature in Sanskrit based on Yajur Veda by Dr Kannan CS Warriar, Scientist F and ENVIS Coordinator. During his introductory remarks, Dr Warriar explained the significance of wildlife week celebrations. Though traditionally wildlife refers to undomesticated animal species, it includes all organisms living free in nature without being introduced by human. And therefore, it consists of both animals and plants, he added. Dr Warriar highlighted that wildlife conservation that is conservation of the wild animal and plant species aligns with UN Sustainable Development Goals 1, 12, 14 and 15, and their wide-ranging commitments on alleviating poverty, ensuring sustainable use of resources, and on conserving life both on land and below water to halt biodiversity loss.

Dr C Kunhikannan, Director IFGTB in his inaugural address pointed out that the national wildlife week celebrations commensurate with the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, who was symbol of non-violence. He explained that wildlife plays an important role in balancing the environment. Wildlife provides stability to different processes of the nature. Wildlife plays an essential role in the ecological and biological processes that are yet again significant to life. The normal functioning of the biosphere depends on endless interactions amongst animals, plants, and microorganisms. This, in turn, maintains and enhances human life further; he emphasised. These ecological processes are important for agriculture, forestry, fisheries and other endeavours that support human life. Moreover, there are several biological processes wherein wildlife plays a key role, such as pollination, germination, seed dispersal, soil generation, nutrient cycling, predation, habitat maintenance, waste breakdown, and pest control, Dr Kunhikannan added. He urged that every individual should contribute towards conserving wildlife for the better future.

Results of the Online Elocution Competition held on the theme “Importance of Wildlife” were declared by the Chief Jury Dr John Prasanth Jacob, Scientist G. Peoples from all walks of life have participated in the competition. Master R Shreyas, 1st grade, GRD Public School, Coimbatore, Ms. Kajal Sah, 10th grade Khanna High School for Girls, Kolkata and Ms Srishti R, 7th grade, GRD Public School, Coimbatore won the first, second and third prizes respectively. Elocutions of Baby. Anira V.S, 1st grade, Adrian Loyal School, Karur and Ms. Sonal Patel, University of Lucknow were awarded consolation prizes. Prizes were awarded to the winners and E Certificates to all the participants. An awareness poster highlighting the importance of wildlife conservation was released during the occasion and its digital copies were shared with students and all the stakeholders. Dr S. Vigneswaran, Senior Programme Officer, ENVIS proposed the vote of thanks. The online event can be accessed at <https://bit.ly/33A4u8s>.









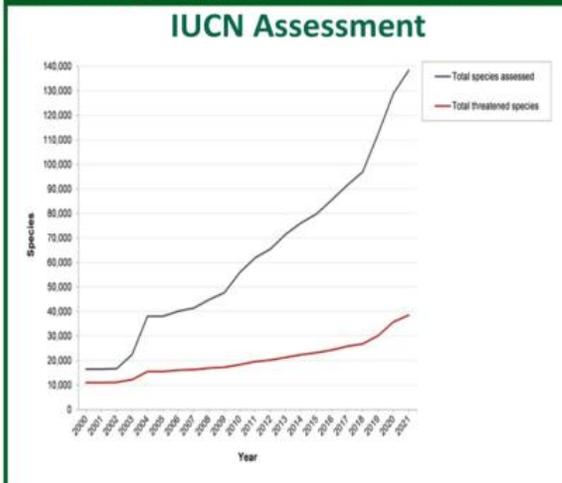
**ENVIS Resource Partner on Forest Genetic Resources and Tree Improvement
Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding**

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WILDLIFE WEEK - 2021

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Key numbers

Assessed globally
138,374
Species on the red list

Threatened with extinction
38,500
Species

Target
160,000
Species which the IUCN red list aims to assess

Threats to Wildlife

- Habitat destruction
- Invasive species
- Overexploitation
- Illegal wildlife trade
- Pollution
- Climate change
- Human intrusions
- Poor agriculture & aquaculture practices

Ways to Protect Wildlife

