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Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Issue no. 9 | September 2020

## Indo-German Biodiversity Programme Newsletter



**This newsletter shares project updates and thematic news from our programme**

A service by IGBP, GIZ

**Dear Reader,**

Ahead of the UN Biodiversity Summit on 30 September 2020, the fifth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-5) was released in a virtual session of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The final report card of progress on the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (2010-2020) pointed out that while six targets have been partially achieved, the global community failed to fully achieve any of the 20 targets. The GBO-5 points that with business-as-usual, biodiversity and the services it provides will continue to decline, jeopardizing the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The report also highlights some ray of hope – exemplary successes with concerted efforts and conservation initiatives. For instance, globally the rate of deforestation during the current decade has fallen by about a third compared to the previous decade; biodiversity values have been incorporated into national accounting systems by almost 100 countries; coming into force of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing. These success stories can be the guiding force and motivate us to change the future trajectory.

GBO-5 notes that the 2050 vision of “living in harmony with nature” can be achieved by putting nature on the path of recovery through concerted actions in the areas of ecosystem restoration and conservation, climate change, reducing drivers of degradation, sustainable production systems and reducing consumption. Global leaders at the upcoming UN Biodiversity Summit must resolve and commit to transformative action towards the vision of “living in harmony with nature”. I remain optimistic about human ingenuity. Collectively, we can bend the curve!

The ninth issue of our newsletter features online workshops organised by the projects and articles on how healthier forests help reduce the impact of the pandemic, the One Health approach and urban human-animal encounters. We thank you for your continuous support and welcome your feedback

and ideas towards further improving our engagement with you.

**Stay safe and healthy.**

**Warmly,**  
**Ravindra Singh, Programme Director**

#### **UPDATES FROM THE PROJECTS**

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

#### **SPOTLIGHT**

- » Healthy forests stand sentry against COVID-19 impact
- » One Earth, One Health, One Future
- » Urban Human-Animal Encounters

#### **EXPERIENCES FROM PARTNERS AND BENEFICIARIES**

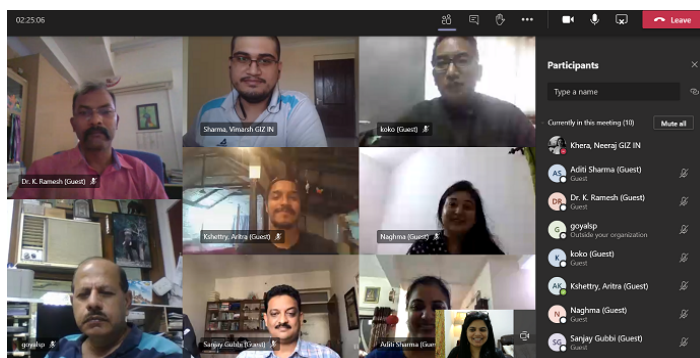
- » Testimony for the HP-FES Project

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### **ABOUT THE PROGRAMME**

## **Updates from the Projects**

### **Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation**



#### **Developing guidelines for mitigating human-leopard conflict**

An online meeting for the group of Coordinators and Authors for developing guidelines and SOPs for mitigating human-leopard conflict was organised on 25 August.

[News »](#)

### **Wetlands Management for Biodiversity and Climate Protection**



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#### **Virtual review workshops on wetland assessments**

A review workshop on hydro-ecological and livelihood-ecosystem interdependencies assessments of Point Calimere Ramsar site in Tamil Nadu was organised from 1-2 September.

[News »](#)





## Healthy forests stand sentry against COVID-19 impact

A collective effort by people can help rebuild their bond with nature

Since centuries, forests have played a major role in maintaining the ecological balance, contributing to biodiversity conservation, food security, protection of soil and water resources, mitigation of global warming and combating desertification. More than 1,70,000 villages in India are close to forests (FSI, 2000) and these forests provide a source of income and well-being, particularly to the forest-dependent communities. These communities also receive numerous Forest Ecosystem Services (FES) which provide a safety net, especially in times of crisis. However, the communities must also play their part to protect and conserve these forests for a sustained flow of FES which will continue to secure their livelihoods. Sustainable forest management practices, restoring damaged ecosystems and other nature-based solutions are vital to building upon the progress made towards the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) of the 2030 agenda and Global Forest Goals and targets.

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## One Earth, One Health, One Future

(Re)Emerging infectious disease outbreaks in India

In January 2001 patients with high fever and altered sensorium (inability to think or concentrate) were admitted to hospitals in the town of Siliguri situated in the foothills of Northern West Bengal. The doctors initially suspected Japanese encephalitis, endemic to the area. But the disease primarily affects children. Subsequently, they checked for other diseases due to variations in the epidemiological features of the disease and the affected age groups. By 23 February 2001, 45 patients, mostly hospital staff or primary caregivers, had died due to this unknown disease with a very high case fatality rate of 74%. Available samples were collected and checked for Malaria, Dengue, and other bacterial diseases; West Nile Virus, and Hanta Virus. What unfolded next was the startling identification of the first Nipah virus (NiV) outbreak in India.

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Source: Google Earth

## Urban Human-Animal Encounters

What can you do if you receive an unwanted visitor?

Rapid urbanisation and habitat modification has redefined the lines between cities and forests. Consequently, wildlife living in proximity to such expanding areas has to adapt in order to survive in urban habitats. Habitat fragmentation causes these mammals and reptiles to stray into and adapt to an urban environment due to easy access to prey/food and shelter.

Which (wild) animals do you see in your day to day life? Have you had an unexpected visitor? A monkey entering your home? A snake in your bathroom or a bird in your living room? Have you seen an injured animal on the street?

Do you know what to do in such a case?



Malabar Pit Viper caught in an inhabited area ©GIZ/Mira Amtmann

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## Experiences from Partners and Beneficiaries

### Testimony for the HP-FES Project

“We now look forward to a successful bamboo plantation and reduced water scarcity in the area after the project activities”

Read the story of how the residents of Kharota in Himachal Pradesh, a demonstration site of the Himachal Pradesh Forest Ecosystem Services (HP-FES) project, were encouraged to revive their old nature-based practices and focus on Forest Ecosystem Services by enhancing a good stock of local bamboo plantation which they raised and protected to attain raw materials sustainably.

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## Upcoming Events

### United Nations Summit on Biodiversity, 30 September 2020

» <https://www.cbd.int/article/2020-UN-Biodiversity-Summit>

### Wildlife Week in India, 1-7 October 2020

### GLF Biodiversity Digital Conference: One World - One Health, 28-29 October 2020

» <https://events.globallandscapesforum.org/biodiversity-2020>

## 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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