

Announcement : 2010 International Conference on Wildlife & Biodiversity Conservation *vis-à-vis* Climate Change

Climate change is a key environmental concern around the globe, with governments, Non-Governmental organizations, environmentalists, conservationists and donors around the globe focusing on this issue. Since the industrial revolution the mean surface temperature of Earth has increased by 10°C, and temperatures are likely to continue to rise, with serious consequences for biodiversity, natural ecosystems, agricultural productivity, food security and human livelihoods. In the last 15 years we have experienced 10 of the warmest years in global meteorological history. Over the last two decades global warming was easily dismissed as the natural fluctuation in an ever changing global climate. Today, we understand that although there are natural fluctuations in climate, human induced changes are predominantly driving the current global warming trend (Anonymous 2005).

The biodiversity loss and water stress owing to the Climate change are among the greatest challenges around the world over the coming decades. Climate change poses a serious threat to species diversity, habitats, forests, wildlife, fisheries and water resources globally. Freshwater wetlands alone support 20 per cent of the known range of biodiversity in India (Deepa and Ramachandra, 1999). The impacts of Climate change on eco-husbandry and behaviour, reproduction and disease susceptibility of wild mammalian and avian fauna and the habitats particularly water resources of the high altitudes are of great ecological concern amongst the naturalists and conservationists world over. The climatic changes resulting in changing weather movements are relatively unpredictable, but could be important in the context of the primary incursion of different diseases like avian influenza (HPAI). The need of the hour is to address primarily on key global issue of how to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from industrial, energy and transport sources through reduction in fuel use and improved technologies with focuses on immediate actions to promote cleaner and renewable energy.

Special deliberations through symposiums and conferences are required to address and emphasize on the serious impacts of climate change on the global biodiversity, ecosystem functionaries (forests, wildlife, fisheries water resources, animal husbandry and agricultural crops) on which human livelihood depends, to reap benefits of ecosystem and biodiversity conservation for the local communities.

Purpose of Conference

The aim of this conference is to bring together experts from all over the world to deliberate on the climate change effects on the Wildlife ethologic aspects (ecohusbandry and behaviour), reproduction and disease susceptibility of the wild mammalian and avian fauna of the high altitudes. This

would also cover discussions and knowledge sharing on aspects of mountain wild animals' management in captivity under temperate and tropical environments and the serious impacts of climate change on the high altitude biodiversity, ecosystem functionaries (forests, wildlife, fisheries water resources, animal husbandry and agricultural crops) on which human livelihood depends.

Venue and Date

This International Conference will be organized at the Sher-e-Kashmir International Convention Complex (SKICC), near Dal Lake, Srinagar, Kashmir, J&K. Welcome party on 27 April; closing 29, April 2010.

Scientific Programme

Five scientific sessions will provide a platform for knowledge about impacts on high altitude species conservational prospects. Besides local participants, expert lead lectures will be invited from leading international organizations working on wildlife conservation, husbandry and health management and disease investigations including toxicology and environment ecology and medicine, as well as a special session on the identification of healthy and sick wild animals.

English will be the official language for all oral and poster presentations.

The more specific objectives or sessions of the conference will include Importance of Mountain Wildlife biodiversity conservation; Impact of Climatic /Environmental Changes on Species Eco-husbandry, Breeding Biology, food & Feeding and Disease Occurrence; Natural ecosystems, biodiversity conservation and nature-based solutions to increasing resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change; Status & Distribution of Endangered Temperate Wild Herbivores, AND State of Art of Himalayan large carnivores Densities and Predator-Prey relations in forecasting Species Conservation; Climate change & Wild animal population Genetics, Behavior & Captive Breeding; Conservation of Himalayan Endangered Avifauna; Seasonal Migration Patterns of Migratory Avifauna and their role in Disease Transmission; *In-situ* and *ex-situ* integrated role in Wildlife Biology and Conservation; Climate change and Wetlands, water bodies Management; Aquatic Wildlife Conservation: Prospects, Climatic & Environmental Implications; Displacement of Wildlife & Approaches in their rescue, Health care and Rehabilitation/Relocation for Management and conservation Biology.

**WL/Biodiversity v/v Climate Change
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