

INSTITUTIONS IN ENVIRONMENT CONSERVATION

There is a growing interest in environmental protection and conservation of nature and natural resources. Several Government and Non- government organizations have led to environmental protection in our country. Among the large number of institutions that deal with environmental protection and conservation, a few well-known organizations include government organizations such as the BSI and ZSI, and NGOs such as BNHS, WWF-I, etc.

Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), Mumbai: the BNHS began as a small society of six members in 1883. It grew from a group shikaris and people from all walks of life into a major research organization that substantially influenced conservation policy in the country.

World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF-I), New Delhi: The WWF-I was initiated in 1969 in Mumbai after which the headquarters were shifted to Delhi with several branch offices all over India. It runs several programs including the Nature Clubs of India program for school children and works as a think tank and lobby force for environment and development issues.

Center for Science and Environment (CSE), New Delhi: Activities of this Center include organizing campaigns, holding workshops and conferences, and producing environment related publications. It published a major document on the 'State of India's Environment', the first of its kind to be produced as a Citizen's Report on the Environment. The CSE also publishes a popular magazine, 'Down to Earth', which is a Science and Environment fortnightly.

CPR Environmental Education Centre, Chennai: The CPR EEC was set up in 1988. It conducts a variety of programs to spread environmental awareness and creates an interest in conservation among the general public. It focused attention on NGOs, teachers, women, youth and children to generally promote conservation of nature and natural resources. Its programs include components on wildlife and biodiversity issues. CPR EEC also produces a large number of publications.

Centre for Environment Education (CEE), Ahmedabad: The Centre for Environment Education, Ahmedabad was initiated in 1989. It has a wide range of programs on the environment and produces a variety of educational material. CEE's Training in Environment Education program has trained many environment educators.

Bharati Vidyapeeth Institute of Environment Education and Research (BVIEER), Pune:

This is part of the Bharati Vidyapeeth Deemed University. Biodiversity Conservation is a major focus of its research initiatives. It develops low cost Interpretation Centres for Natural and Architectural sites that are highly locale specific as well as a large amount of innovative environment educational. It implements a large outreach programme that cover schools in which it trains teachers and conducts fortnightly Environment Education Programs.

Uttarkhand Seva Nidhi (UKSN), Almora: The Organization is a Nodal Agency which supports NGOs in need of funds for their environment related activities. Its major program is organizing and training school teachers to use its locale specific Environment Education Workbook Program. The main targets are linked with sustainable resource use at the village level through training school children.

Kalpavriksh, Pune: This NGO, initially Delhi based, is now working from Pune and is active in several other parts of India. Kalpavriksh works on a variety of fronts: education and awareness; investigation and research; direct action and lobbying; and litigation with regard to environment and development issues. Its activities include talks and audiovisuals in schools and colleges, nature walks and outstation camps, organizing student participation in ongoing campaigns including street demonstrations, pushing for consumer awareness regarding organic food, press statements, handling green alerts, and meetings with the city's administrators. Kalpavriksh was responsible for developing India's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan in 2003.

Environmental Calendar

World Forest day: March 21

Earth day: April 22

Anti-tobacco day: May 31

World Environment day: June 5

World population day: July 11

World Animal Welfare day: October 4

International Day for Biological Diversity: December 29

Salim Ali Center for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON), Coimbatore: This institution was Dr. Salim Ali's dream that became a reality only after his demise. He wished to support a group of committed conservation scientists on a permanent basis. Initially conceived as being a wing of the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) it later evolved as an independent organization based at Coimbatore in 1990.

Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun: This Institution was established in 1982, as a major training establishment for Forest Officials and Research in Wildlife Management. Its most significant publication has been 'Planning a Wildlife Protected Area Network for India' (Rodgers and Panwar, 1988). The organization has over the years added an enormous amount of information on India's biological wealth. It has trained a large number of Forest Department Officials and Staff as Wildlife Managers. It trains personnel in Eco development, wildlife biology, habitat management and Nature interpretation.

Botanical Survey of India (BSI): The Botanical Survey of India (BSI) was established in 1890 at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Calcutta. However it closed down for several years after 1939 and was reopened in 1954. In 1952 plans were made to reorganize the BSI and formulate its objectives. By 1955 the BSI had its headquarters in Calcutta with Circle Offices at Coimbatore, Shillong, Pune and Dehra Dun. Between 1962 and 1979, offices were established in Allahabad, Jodhpur, Port Blair, Itanagar and Gangtok. The BSI currently has nine regional centres. It carries out surveys of plant resources in different regions.

Contemporary Environmentalists

Name of the Person	Movement/ Contribution	Country
Sundarlal Bahuguna	Chipko Movement Tehri bachao Andolan	Indian
Medha patkar	Narmada bachao Andolan	Indian
Arundhati Roy	Narmada bachao Andolan	Indian
Rajendar Singh	Water Conservation Effort Magsaysay award	Indian
Salim Ali	Studies on Indian Birds	Indian
Maneka Gandhi	Wild Life Protection	Indian
Anil Agarwal	Founder Director Centre for Science and Environment	Indian
Wangari M Maathai	Sustainable Development, Democracy and Peace (Nobel Peace Prize, 2004)	Kenya