

OPEN ELECTIVE

Course Name – HIMALAYAN WILDLIFE ECOLOGY

Course Code –

Course Objectives: This course introduces the students to the ecology and conservation of Himalayan wildlife, with a focus on the diversity, distribution, adaptation, and threats of the fauna and flora in this region. The course explores the socio-cultural and economic aspects of wildlife conservation in the Himalayan context, such as human-wildlife conflicts, community-based conservation, ecotourism, and policy issues. The student will identify and describe the major biogeographic zones and wildlife species of the Himalayas. By the end of this course, the students will be able to analyze the current status and trends of Himalayan wildlife populations and habitats and able to evaluate the main threats and challenges to Himalayan wildlife conservation.

Learning Outcomes: The learning outcome of this course is to develop the students' knowledge, skills, and attitudes for understanding and addressing the complex and dynamic issues of Himalayan wildlife ecology and conservation. The course will help the students to: Enhance their scientific literacy and critical thinking skills in wildlife ecology. Foster their appreciation and respect for the natural and cultural diversity of the Himalayas and cultivate their sense of responsibility and commitment for Himalayan wildlife conservation. Apply the principles and tools of wildlife ecology and conservation to design and implement effective management strategies for Himalayan wildlife. Communicate effectively about Himalayan wildlife issues to various audiences using oral, written, and visual media that will develop skills in field methods, data analysis, and report writing in Himalayan wildlife ecology.

UNIT – I

Himalayas- Origin and evolution. Diversity of Eastern and Western Himalayas with special reference to faunal assemblage.

UNIT – II

Ecology of high-altitude habitats with special reference to Himalayan Ecosystem. Climate Change and the Himalayan Ecosystem.

UNIT – III

Faunal assemblage, species diversity & abundance in Himalayan ecosystem. Inter species interaction of major fauna of Himalayan ecosystem

UNIT – IV

High altitude rangelands, pastoralism and wildlife conservation in the Himalayas. Habitat degradation and habitat loss. Impacts of anthropogenic pressures.

UNIT-V

Human based community conservation approach. Sustainable development practices in conservation of Himalayan ecology. Role of local communities in conservation. Local and

cross boundary approaches for Himalayan wildlife conservation and management.

REFERENCES

1. Singh, Chetan. 1998. Natural premises: Ecology and peasant life in the western Himalaya, 1800–1950. Studies in Social Ecology and Environmental History. Delhi: Oxford Univ. Press.
2. Prabhakar, V. K. 2001. Himalayan ecology. New Delhi: Anmol.
3. Maithani, Dev Dutt, ed. 1991. Central Himalaya: Ecology, environmental resources, and development. New Delhi: Daya.
4. Kapoor, A. K., and Satwanti Kapoor. 1994. Ecology and man in the Himalayas. New Delhi: M. D.
5. Guneratne, Arjun. 2010. Culture and the environment in the Himalaya. New York: Routledge.
6. Shaila Seshia Galvin (2021). Ecology of the Himalaya. DOI: 10.1093/OBO/9780199830060-0139
7. Budh Dev Sharma. Himalaya: Ecology, Wildlife and Resource Development. Asiatic Publishing House