

ANNUAL REPORT 2016 2017



**CENTRAL HIMALAYAN INSTITUTE FOR NATURE AND APPLIED
RESEARCH
(CHINAR)**



Introduction

Registration of Trust

Three like-minded development workers namely Pradeep Mehta, Ram Singh Koranga and Ghanshyam Kalki Pande formed a Trust by the name of CHINAR (Central Himalayan Institute for Nature & Applied Research) to work for the sustainability of environment and livelihoods of the communities mainly residing in the mountain areas. The Trust was registered under Trust Registration Act 1882 on 28th of October 2016 at Nainital in Uttarakhand. The Trust got its registration No - 1754/2016.

The Trust was formed with the following mission and objectives:

Mission of the Organization:

Sustainable mountain ecosystems for sustainable livelihoods

Aims & Objectives of the trust:

- * To work for livelihood improvement of the Himalayan Communities irrespective of caste, creed, culture and religion through various interventions i.e., in agriculture, technologies, energy, skill development, etc
- * to raise the quality and standard of living
- * To document and promote indigenous knowledge of the Himalayan communities
- * To raise awareness on environmental, cultural and social issues of Himalaya among citizens/society at large
- * To build the capacity of Himalayan communities for ecological restoration, livelihoods, natural disaster and cultural improvement
- * To research and document the ecological and cultural richness of the Himalaya and work for its betterment
- * To research, develop and promote appropriate technologies for the Himalaya
- * To do any other act for the advancement of Himalayan communities not carrying on any activity for profit without distinction of caste, creed or religion
- * To improve the education standard through experiential learning, new methodologies and capacity development of teacher; and
- * To undertake environmental studies/survey/research and development programmes anywhere in India.



Thematic Areas:

The organization will be taking research & development, survey and capacity Development activities in the following key thematic areas:

- * Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services
- * Sustainable Agriculture
- * Climate Change
- * Livelihoods
- * Energy (Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy)
- * Freshwater
- * Education (mainly environment education)
- * Capacity Development,
- * Skill Development,
- * Health, etc.

Logo:

The Trustees finalized the logo of the organization which resembled the name of the organization. The logo of the organization is the leaf of Chinar tree (*Platanus orientalis*) which resembles the name of the organization. Like the tree of chinar is known for providing multiple ecosystem services in Himalaya, CHINAR as an organization aims to provide its services to the people of Himalaya and serve Mother Nature.



Constitution of Advisory Board

Chinar approached a group of intellectuals to be part of its advisory board and four renowned person from the field of research and development accepted our invitation. The detail of the four advisory board members are:

Dr. B. S. Bisht - Is currently the Director of Birla Institute of Applied Sciences, Bhimtal (since July 2013) and also Chairman, Research Advisory Committee, CIPHET; Chairman, Governing Council of two Engineering Colleges; and Member, Finance Committee, CAU Imphal. Previously he was Principal Scientist, Director, All India Project Coordinator, Assistant Director General, Vice Chancellor The GB Pant University of Agriculture & Technology, Pantnagar; Director, IDBI Bank; Member, Governing Committees/ Boards of Central/ State Universities.

Neeraj Negi- Works at the Global Environment Facility Independent Evaluation Office (GEF IEO), Washington DC, in different capacities since 2005. Since 2012, he has been working as the Senior Evaluation Officer at the GEF IEO. He is a natural resource economist by training and has operational experience of working on natural resource management and rural livelihood issues. Previously he worked with Seva Mandir, an NGO working on rural livelihood concerns of the tribal population in Western India. From 2002-2003 he also had a co-terminus appointment at the Poverty Action Lab (JPAL-MIT). Neeraj has also worked as intern at Seva Mandir (1997), Bombay Burmah Trading Corporation (1998), International Finance Corporation (2004), and American India Foundation (2004).

Dr. S. S. Samant - He has a Ph.D. in Botany and specialized in Biodiversity Conservation and Management, and has conducted research in the Indian Himalaya for more than 30 years. He is Doctor of Science, and is Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences (FNASc; 2010) India and Fellow of the Society of Ethnobotanists (FSE; 2010). Presently he is Scientist "F" and Scientist In-charge at G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment and Sustainable Development, (An Autonomous Institute of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India), Himachal Unit, Mohal-Kullu, Himachal Pradesh. As a lead scientist, he has managed several national and international projects. He has > 250 publications including books, booklets (Hindi), bulletins and received many National and International Awards. He is the Member of various Committees at State and National levels. Also, he is the member of various professional societies.

Dr. Neeraj Khera (Ms.) - Senior Advisor, Management of Coastal and Marine Protected Areas Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH Biodiversity Programme Office. She leads the capacity development team for Coastal and Marine Protected areas and has designed and delivered trainings for wide audience like forest front line staff, IFS probationers, senior IFS, media students, NGO's and university faculty. Before joining GIZ she worked as Associate Professor at TERI University, Research Associate at NBPGR, ICAR. She is specialized in Biodiversity, Capacity Development, Climate Change, curriculum development, and policy.



Activities

Partnership

Xavier's University Bhubaneswar a reputed University joined hands with CHINAR to give knowledge and experience to its management students in the mountain ecosystem

Internship

Two enthusiastic interns Dev Kumar Dutta and Soumendra from Xavier's School of Sustainability, Xavier's University Bhubaneswar joined us for their internship as part of their Sustainability Development Programme. The students worked on Renewable Energy and Eco-tourism in the mountain states. Both the students completed their internship and submitted final report which was also appreciated by the university.

Website Launch

In order to reach to a wider audience, CHINAR launched its website www.chinarindia.com in December 2017. The website features the detail of our mission and objectives along with detail of trustees, advisory boards and programme details with thematic areas, capacity development programme.

Skill Development Training on Construction of Smokeless Stoves :

A one day skill development training workshop on construction of smokeless stoves was organized at Bhanardana hamlet of Bhanar village in one of the remotest development block of Kapkote in Bageshwar district. 15 participants representing different families participated in the training workshop.

The participants were briefed about the benefits of smokeless energy efficient stoves and were given hands on experience in construction of smokeless energy efficient stoves through locally available material.





The training helped participants to understand the impact of smoke on their health and the impact of excessive use of fuel wood on forest health and burden on mountain women. The training empowered men, women and youth and developed their skills. The long-term outcome of this training will be on the health of the communities mainly women and children and improvement in adjoining forest. It will also improve the livelihood of the people and some local youths may also earn their livelihoods by providing their services and charging for their services.



Research on Avifauna

As part of biodiversity programme, research on documentation of avifauna in and around Nainital was initiated by CHINAR. Monitoring of avifauna species during the winter season was done and seventy species of birds were documented along with their IUCN status. The observations were mainly made near Naina Devi Himalayan bird conservation reserve. This area has become a paradise for bird watchers in past few years. This documentation will help to prepare a seasonal checklist that can be useful for bird watchers and researchers. CHINAR is also keen in documenting the migratory trend of the birds in this area in coming years.

A book on important bird species of Nainital is also being compiled by CHINAR which will be published and circulated in 2017. The book is being compiled by Ghanshyam Kalki Pande.

This is a non-funded project so far but CHINAR plans to involve more youths in this sector and organize bird watching camps and train new youths from the region which can become guides to earn their living. To sustain our research, we have plans to involve citizen and use the model of citizen science that will help to generate qualitative as well as quantitative data.



Rufous -breasted Accentor (*Prunella strophiata*)



Grey Bush chat (*Saxicola Ferreus*)



Registration on Government and Private Forums

CHINAR has registered on various forums like Niti Aayog, NGOPORTAL and NASSCHOM Foundation to improve its outreach.

Concepts and Proposals Submitted

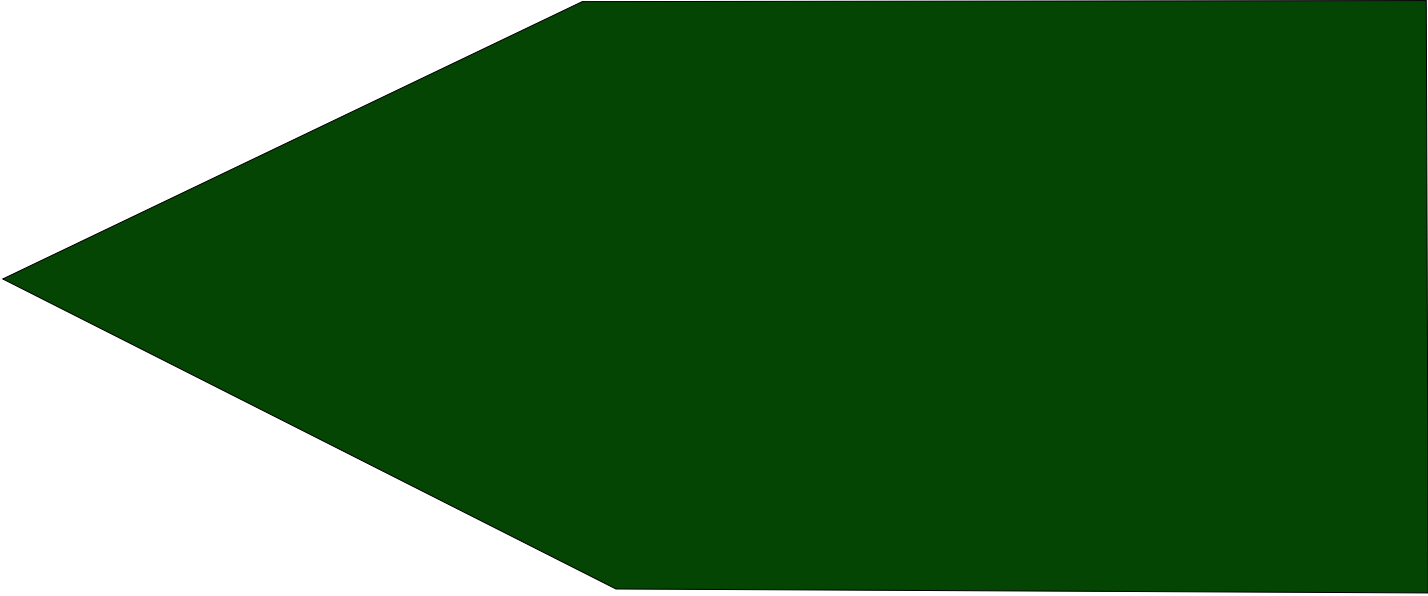
In order to have grassroots projects related to the thematic areas, various donor, funding agencies have been approached and projects related to livelihoods of mountain women, energy, etc., have been proposed. Some of the donors/funding organizations approached are National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS), Vitamin Angels, Cargill, The Genesis Charitable Trust (UK), and Asia Foundation.

Vitamin Angels an International NGO working in health sector has agreed to partner with CHINAR and will be providing medicines for children and women. The project will be executed in 2017 in selected villages of Bageshwar district and approximately 1000 families will be benefitted from the project.





Rhododendron arboreum, also known as **Burans** is a small tree with a showy display of bright red flowers. It is the state tree of **Uttarakhand** and state flower for **Himachal Pradesh** and **Nagaland**



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