Wetlands in Uttarkashi
Rejuvenation and Protection

Workshop on Conservation of Wetlands in the Ganga Basin
February 1, 2021
Uttarkashi at a glance:

- **Area:** 8016 sq. Km.
- **Population:** 3.5 Lakhs.
- Forest area approx. 87% of Total Geographical area.
- Two National parks, one Wildlife sanctuary, Eco-sensitive zone, High altitude cold desert.

Challenges:

- Remote Himalayan Border District
- Prone to Severe Disasters round the year like Cloud Bursts, Earthquakes, Flashfloods, Landslides, Forest fires, Himalayan Tsunami.
- Limited scope for infrastructure expansion.
Rejuvenation and Protection of Water Bodies

- Inter-departmental coordination, Public participation, Awareness drives have helped DGC rejuvenate traditional water bodies.
- GIS Technology used in spring-shed approach for sustainably rejuvenating the water bodies.
- Emphasis was laid on naturally cascading the effect of water downstream to abate soil erosion.
- Creation and Rejuvenation of total 1138 water bodies.
- Rejuvenation of Alpine Wetland – Nachiketa Tal, Goi Tal, Barnala Tal.
- 125 million litres of water conserved.

Total Number of Waterbodies Rejuvenated

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SN</th>
<th>Water Body Type</th>
<th>Nos.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Water Bodies</td>
<td>145</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Chal Khal</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Farm Pond</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Check Dam</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Recharge Pit</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Rainwater Harvesting Tank</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Rejuvenation of Water Source</td>
<td>195</td>
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</tbody>
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Bio-diversity Conservation

- Strengthening of 196 BMCs 292 Van Panchayats in Ganga Valley.
- To Check the over exploitation of the ecologically fragile and biologically diverse Ganga Zonal Master Plan of Bhagirathi Eco Sensitive Zone (1st ZMP of the country) has been formulated and approved.
- Eco-restoration of Dayara alpine meadow using Coir- Geo textile, Pine needle and Bamboo through community participation.
- 1.5 hectares of Taxus Bacata (Thuner) forest has been conserved successfully in Sukki Village.
Community Participation & Livelihood Creation

- Organised community-based events like “Garbage Gladiators” - Competition amongst school kids, High Altitude Himalayan Hurdle Race, Plogging, Engaging religious leaders through Havan, Ganga Aarti, Ganga Pledge, Satsang etc and sensitising against single use plastic.

- Community has been roped in as a responsible partner during rejuvenation and cleanliness drives thus imparting a sense of ownership.

- Pine Needles – Installation of First pine needle power plant.

- MGNREGA has been instrumental in Ponds, Lakes, Chal Khals.

- Construction of soak pits in rural areas through MGNREGA has helped in SLWM in rural areas.

- Marketing of traditional and local products through Kisan Outlet thus fetching remunerative prices for local entrepreneurs.
Steps ahead in Wetlands Conservation

• Step 1: Baseline survey
• Step 2: Rapid Assessment of wetland conditions
• Step 3: Prioritizing wetlands
• Step 4: Identifying management actions
• Step 5: Implementation
• Step 6: Rapid Assessment post implementation
• Step 7: Re prioritizing and so on
Wetlands in Uttarkashi

Source: Wetlands of Uttarakhand (2012), Report jointly published by the Uttarakhand Forest Department and WWF India
Prioritising Wetlands

- Bharadhsar
- Kanasar
- Gugui-Kanasar
- Saru Tal
- Bakre Tal
- Kana Tal
- Manera Tal
- Kedar Tal
- Maldaru Tal
- Ruinsara Tal
- Bali Kund
- Saptrishi Kund I&II
- Dodital
- Khera Tal, East and West
- Sat Tal
- Nachiketa Tal

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Thank You