

Department of Environmental Sciences  
GDC Ganderbal J&K.

No.: EVS/09/24

Dated: - 05 -2024

**International Bio-diversity Day 2024: Be Part of the Plan**

**Report**

**Introduction:**

Every year on May 22, 'International Bio-diversity Day' is celebrated worldwide. The universal observance commemorates the adoption of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on 22 May 1992 and provides an opportunity to foster wide support for the Convention, its Protocols and related action frameworks. The theme for this year's International Bio-diversity Day' 2024 is 'Be Part of the Plan' is a call to action for all stakeholders to halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity. Everyone has a role to play and therefore can be part of plan.

Department of Environmental Sciences, Government Degree College Ganderbal commemorated International Bio-diversity Day 2024 on 22<sup>nd</sup> May in collaboration with Wildlife SOS - J&K, an organisation established to make lasting change to protect and conserve India's natural heritage, forest and biodiversity. Experts from which delivered presentations, showcased documentaries and held demonstrations.

**Opening Ceremony:**

The program started at 11.15 am in the college conference hall and program patron Principal, Professor Fouzia Fatima, formally welcomed the participants. Principal madam also delivered the Keynote address emphasizing the need of conserving and restoring natural areas and the biodiversity they contain for overall environmental protection

**Program Overview:**

Following the welcome address, Dr. Mansha Nisar, Head, Department of EVS, provided an overview of the program. She highlighted the importance of International days and weeks as occasions to educate the public on issues of concern, to mobilize political will and resources to address global problems and in this context she announced the schedule for the upcoming 'World Environment Week 2024' in June and urged the students to ensure maximum participation.

**Presentations**

- **Ms Aaliya Mir**-project Head & Education officer at Wildlife SOS- Jammu and Kashmir, India- presented a synopsis of the inception and the work done by the organisation throughout the country in general and J&K in general with supporting documentaries. Next, she delivered a comprehensive presentation regarding 'Bio-diversity of J&K.'
- **Dr. Dr. Shabir Ahmed Mir**- Superintendent, District Veterinary Hospital, Baramulla- possessing an exemplary profile, particularly in the field of wildlife conservation, delivered a detailed presentation on the man wildlife conflict in the UT. The expert stressed grim scenario we are facing through data comparison on regional, country and global level.

**Documentary**

Documentaries were shown to the students to make them aware of the various issues facing the wild life of our country, the themes dealt were commercial exploitation of the wildlife especially bears for entertainment purposes and changing dietary patterns of wild animals' especial Himalayan brown bears and its impacts on their physiology and behaviour.

**Demonstration session.**

The experts Dr Shabir and Ms Aaliya gave a live demonstration of different techniques and equipment used in the rescue, release tracking of wild animals. The session was received enthusiastically by the students who interacted and questioned the experts.

**Attendance and Moderation:**

Faculty members and over 75 students actively participated in the program. Dr. Behjat Huma, Assistant Professor of Department of Environmental Science compered the program.

**Conclusion:**

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The International Bio-diversity Day' 2024 event, themed 'Be Part of the' served as a platform for knowledge sharing, interaction towards combating the challenges facing our natural resources and respecting, protecting, and repairing our biological wealth. The program being collaborative effort between educational and NGO underscored the pan sectoral approach needed to address environmental challenges effectively. The event concluded with a formal vote of thanks given by Dr. Behjat Huma, Assistant Professor of EVS.

## Report Compilation:

The report prepared and compiled by Dr Behjat Huma, Assistant Professor Department of Environmental Sciences.



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