The first ever digital conference on nature conservation for students across India

MODEL CONFERENCE OF PARTIES - I REPORT

22nd & 23rd MAY, 2020
About WWF

WWF India is committed to creating and demonstrating practical solutions that help conserve India’s ecosystems and rich biodiversity. Marking 50 years of conservation journey in the country, WWF India works towards finding science-based and sustainable solutions to address challenges at the interface of development and conservation. Today, with over 70 offices across 20 states, WWF India’s work spans across thematic areas including the conservation of key wildlife species and their habitats, management of rivers, wetlands and their ecosystems, climate change adaptation, driving sustainable solutions for business and agriculture, empowering local communities as stewards of conservation, combatting illegal wildlife trade and inspiring children and youth to take positive action for the environment through education and awareness programmes. WWF India is part of the WWF International Network, with presence in over 100 countries across the globe.

WWF-India's Environment Education

Environment Education has been the core part of the WWF India since its inception in 1969. It follows a three-pronged approach to build environmental awareness and knowledge, develop requisite capacity and skills, and enable action for conservation. The programmes continuously inform and empower the children, youth and citizens of India to act and create impact for a sustainable planet. The division works under 5 flagship initiatives that reach out to diverse urban and rural audiences and aim to create a generation of critical thinkers, problem solvers and environmentally conscious individuals.

Acknowledgements

WWF-India would like to thank its partners Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), National Biodiversity Authority, United Nations Development Program, United Nations Environment Program, International Union for Conservation of Nature’s Commission on Education and Communication and our outreach partner, Centre for Environment Education and Fledge, for all their assistance during the Model Conference of Parties -1 event.

Message from the Director

The current environmental situation we face demands an all-hands-deck approach and must include our younger generation. On many occasions, the opinions of the younger generation are overlooked, but this cannot be ignored any more, especially in case of conservation issues as it directly impacts their future lives.

During my tenure at WWF, I have had the privilege of interacting with and learning from young environmentalists across India. The youth should be considered as an equal stakeholder in long-term decision-making processes and to do so, they should be encouraged to think critically and lead in this movement to protect nature.

Despite the uncertainties this generation faces about their environmental future, they have a unique advantage – access to information from across the world. The Internet has allowed widespread dissemination of knowledge and information, which has enhanced innovative and creative thinking in the youth. With the MCOP, WWF-India hopes to provide a platform to young leaders to present innovative ideas and develop them in a meaningful manner. Having the opportunity to learn about SMART targets and how international environmental governance works provides these young conservationists a concrete path to formulate their innovative ideas into real-time possibilities. I wish the students all the best and believe that they will be able to translate the goals they have set out for themselves into positive conservation action on ground. I believe each and every student can realize their potential and blossom into the green leaders they were born to be.

Ideation & Concept

Since 1969, education has been the core aspect of WWF-India’s conservation efforts. Recognising the role of children and youth as major stakeholders, WWF-India has created programmes to build a generation of environmentally conscious individuals. The strategy follows a three-pronged approach of building environmental awareness and knowledge, developing requisite capacity and skills, and enabling action for conservation and sustainability. The Model Conference of Parties is an initiative that perfectly embodies WWF-India’s environment education approach.

The idea of Model Conference of Parties (MCOP) was conceived with the thought of creating a platform for students that builds their understanding on how nations collaborate to address global environmental issues. The governments set targets for themselves based on which, they draft & implement National Action Plans for conservation of biodiversity and healthy ecosystems of the country that will contribute to sustenance of life on Earth. Environmental issues today require our undivided attention. Model Conference of Parties (MCOP) envisions to build an understanding of the role conventions such as CBD (Convention of Biological Diversity) play in driving governments and businesses to take action towards healthy ecosystems, prevention of biodiversity loss, sustainable living and equitable sharing of nature’s benefits to all.

The year 2020 being the ‘Super Year for Nature’ further emphasized upon the need to launch a platform that skills our future generations in environmental change-making processes and advocacy. Hence WWF-India decided to emulate the UN Convention on Biological Diversity’s Conference of Parties; which led to the genesis of the Model Conference of Parties.
INTRODUCTION

In our world today, climate change and environmental degradation are on the rise. Twenty-nine countries from around the world recorded their all-time highest temperatures during a blistering heatwave in the summer of 2019. The sharp rise in temperatures caused an increase in forest fires, which is just one of the many reasons why forest cover has been decreasing. The three years with the highest forest-cover loss in recorded history have been reported in the last five years. A UN report finds that more land-based animals and plant species are now endangered and are on the verge of extinction than ever before (IPBES, 2019). Marine ecosystems are suffering equally, as WWF’s ‘Living Planet’ report finds that biodiversity hotspots underwater like coral reefs are being rendered inhospitable as ocean acidification and plastic pollution pervades all major marine ecosystems. These man-made environmental crises are reaching a point of no return.

Today, 60 per cent of the marine ecosystems that humans depend on for their livelihoods are being used unsustainably, with scientists predicting a mass extinction of marine biodiversity in the coming decades (Grooten & Almond, 2018). However, if sustainable practices are not adopted, all economies worldwide would suffer, not only the ocean-dependent ones.

A study presented at the World Economic Forum found that 44 Trillion US Dollars, or, half of the World’s GDP is dependent on nature (World Economic Forum, 2020). As nature continues to be exploited unsustainably, it loses the capacity to provide these services to the world global economy in the long-term. Along with economic loss, there are distinct threats to the continuation of human life itself, as exemplified by the events of 2020 itself - Australia suffered widespread bushfires; both coasts of India have been buffeted by multiple cyclones and uninterrupted illegal wildlife trade has led to the biggest pandemic of our lifetimes, COVID-19.

The threat posed by environmental problems can no longer be ignored, as a World Economic Forum risks report finds that climate change is the number one long-term risk to the planet (Jackson. et al., 2020). To overcome this challenge, strong leadership is required and the world saw the rise of such a group of environmental leaders: The Children & Youth in the year 2019.

RATIONALE

Over the last few years, the youth worldwide have raised their voice on environmental issues and implored their leaders to consider their actions towards building a sustainable and healthier planet. School students have led from the front, fearless in voicing their opinions and seeking solutions to the environmental challenges facing the planet. In late 2019, youth mobilization reached its peak when all around the world the “Fridays for Future” movement gained momentum. Originally from Sweden, the movement gained popularity worldwide, with thousands of students leaving classes on Fridays to protest for stronger action on climate change to secure their futures. The bravery and leadership of these young conservationists has created a global ripple effect that has led to governments, companies and organizations all over the world to stand up and take notice. The World Economic Forum’s Global Risk Report 2020 predicts that the youth, as the voters of tomorrow, will lead to a “social reordering” of both economic and political sectors. The youth’s demands to strengthen the fight against climate change will catalyze society’s efforts on environmental protection.

Global change-making bodies such as the UN and World Economic Forum have taken notice of this group, inviting youth leaders to conferences to inspire them and give them an insight into the functions and decision-making processes of such international organizations. While such opportunities cannot be given to every young leader, WWF-India felt that a conference could be simulated for the school-going conservationists in our nation. Specifically, WWF-India aims to provide a platform to the students that simulates the Convention of Biological Diversity’s (CBD) governance body, the Conference of Parties (COP).

To provide these young voices such a platform, WWF-India, in partnership with MoEFCC, National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), International Union for Conservation of Nature - Commission for Education and Communication (IUCN-CEC), Centre for Environment Education (CEE) and The Forum for Law, Environment, Development and Governance (FLEDGE) held the first ever digital conference on nature conservation for students: The Model Conference of Parties – I (MCOP-I).
The inaugural MCOP-I was launched on the 22nd and 23rd of May, 2020, to mark International Biological Diversity Day and Super Year 2020. WWF-India believed it was essential to hold the first conference of its kind during the Super Year, due to the year’s importance in setting environmental action agendas for the decade ahead. International meetings will be held this year among the key global environmental groups to rethink and reset goals with a stronger commitment to safeguarding our natural resources and biodiversity.

While these multilateral bodies act on this tremendous challenge on the international level, India must mobilize all its stakeholders and commit to protecting its incredibly diverse environment on a national level. The MCOP-I provides the environmental leaders of the coming decade and beyond with a platform to gain an early insight into governance processes used worldwide for decision making and essential knowledge on the current state of the environment, innovative solutions, Aichi Biodiversity Targets and Sustainable Development Goals.

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

1. **POVERTY**
2. **ZERO HUNGER**
3. **GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**
4. **QUALITY EDUCATION**
5. **GENDER EQUALITY**
6. **CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION**
7. **AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY**
8. **SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH**
9. **INDUSTRY INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE**
10. **REDUCED INEQUALITY**
11. **SUSTAINABLE COASTS AND OCEANS**
12. **RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION**
13. **CLIMATE ACTION**
14. **WATER QUALITY**
15. **LIFE ON LAND**
16. **PEACE, SECURITY AND STRONG INstitutions**
17. **PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS**

72 Students
36 Schools
28 States
7 UTs
METHODOLOGY & OBJECTIVES

After a rigorous selection process, two students and one teacher were selected from each of the 28 States and 7 Union Territories (except Lakshadweep due to connectivity issues). For these students and teachers, the MCOP was an ideal platform to explore environmental issues from around the country and learn about the solutions from government ministers, officials from multilateral organizations, experts on conservation and sustainable business, as well as grassroots-level organizations working in the field of environmental protection. This knowledge would be used by the student delegates to present their state’s environmental interests in an exercise to decide the future of India’s environmental protection planning. At the conference, students were addressed by and interacted with government ministers, experts on conservation and sustainable business, as well as grassroots-level organizations working in the field of environment. Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the selected students and teachers would join WWF-India for an e-conference, as opposed to an in-person event.

At the MCOP, the young delegates aimed to achieve the following objectives:

1. To meet the goals under the Convention of Biological Diversity’s Vision for 2030
2. Identify Environmental Priority Areas that need attention in Each State
3. Set State and National Targets for each priority
4. Draft the Delhi Declaration
5. Commit to taking Individual Action

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE OF PRE-COP

In order to succeed in meeting these objectives, the students required training. Prior to the main event, the young conservationists participated in preparatory sessions for three days from the 18th to 20th of May, where they learned about CBD, its COP process, Super Year 2020 and how to set attainable goals in a time-bound manner. After the program was inaugurated by Ms. Radhika Suri, Director, Environment Education, WWF-India and introductions were made between students and WWF staff, the students began their first day of preparation for the MCOP. To start the day, the students were addressed by Dr. V. B. Mathur, Chairperson, National Biodiversity Authority.

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<td>Inauguration and Introductions • What is CBD and its importance?</td>
<td>Ms. Radhika Suri, Director, Environment Education, WWF-India • Dr. V. B. Mathur, Chairperson, National Biodiversity Authority</td>
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<td>Session - 2</td>
<td>Decision making processes and • SMART target development</td>
<td>Ms. Vidya Soundarajan, Director, Ecological Footprint, WWF India</td>
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<td>Session - 3</td>
<td>Decision making processes and • SMART target development</td>
<td>Ms. Neha Raphav, Senior Manager, Environment Education, WWF-India • Mr. Prashanth Vishwanath, Coordinator, Governance, Law and Policy WWF India</td>
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Dr. Mathur began by informing the students about CBD’s establishment in 1992 and how it functions. He described the:

- Arrangement of the institutions within CBD
- CBD’s objectives and main thematic programme areas of work
- CBD’s governance body: the Conference of Parties (COP)

Having been a part of the CBD COP11 in Hyderabad in 2012, Dr. Mathur recounted his own personal COP experiences to emphasize that while cooperation and compromise are essential, delegates should not lose sight of the goals they had come to the COP to achieve.

Next, the students were addressed by Ms. Vidya Soundarajan, Director, Ecological Footprint, WWF-India about how goals can be decided upon, how consensus can be built when many stakeholders are at the table and how to do so in an efficient manner.

Ms. Soundarajan began by elaborating on the decision making process that occurs at international conventions such as the CBD. Ms. Soundarajan stressed upon the importance of:

- Having structured, goal-focused discussions.
- A clear and organized implementation method of ambitious ideas.
- Accounting for global targets like SDGs and Aichi Biodiversity targets and the interests of all stakeholders while setting priorities.
- Asking questions such as “Is the ambition realistic?”, “Does the goal have a clear start and end date?” and “Can I measure my success?”, to create SMART Targets.
Ms. Soundarajan’s talk was followed by a brief session taken by Ms. Neha Raghav, Senior Manager, Environment Education, WWF-India and Mr. Prashanth Vishwanath, Coordinator, Governance, Law and Policy WWF India to explain to the students the structure and objectives of MCOP-I, as well as their roles during the conference. The young delegates were informed of the MCOP objectives and that they would be representing their states and to present their states’ respective environmental protection targets. The delegates were told that they would be exploring major environmental concerns in their respective states under three of the goals advocated by the Vision of the Convention of Biological Diversity. These goals were proposed as the MCOP-I goals, and are as follows:

- Goal A: No loss of freshwater, marine and terrestrial ecosystems by 2030.
- Goal B: Halve the footprint of production and consumption by 2030.
- Goal C: Ensure healthy natural ecosystems to provide benefits to all people (food and improved nutrition for 1.3 billion, safe drinking water and fresh air, reduce health risks, healthy environment)

With this introductory information, the young delegates completed their first day of the Pre-MCOP.

The second day of the Pre-MCOP began with a talk from Ms. Vishaish Uppal, Director, Governance, Law & Policy, WWF-India, about the Super Year 2020.
Ms. Vishaish Uppal started her address by outlining the multitude of problems that mankind will face in the future due to biodiversity loss and climate change. She continued her address, speaking about:

- Flattening the curve of biodiversity loss and carbon levels
- How the curve can be flattened by strongly pursuing the Sustainable Development Goals.
- The Aichi Biodiversity Targets.
- Restoration of biodiversity after flattening the curve.
- Super Year 2020: an essential year for environmental conservation.
- The actions taken by numerous multilateral bodies to create a New Deal for People and Nature for a greener future.

After learning about the efforts environmental organizations globally are undertaking to protect the environment, the students now had to align their ideas with the actions that can be taken locally. In the next session, the delegates of each state and their respective teachers were separated into Zoom Breakout Rooms to brainstorm ideas on what state-specific environmental priority areas they could design to meet the three goals under the Vision of CBD. After creating these priorities and targets, the students returned to present their work to a jury of experts who provided them with requisite feedback to make the targets more “SMART”.

Keeping this valuable feedback in mind, the state groups took the rest of the day to incorporate the wisdom gained from the jury members to make their targets, more achievable and time-bound before presenting the final product on Day 3.
The young conservationists were greeted on the morning of Day 3 of their pre-MCOP by Dr. Balakrishna Pisupati, Chairperson, The Forum for Law, Environment, Development and Governance (FLEDGE) and Regional Vice Chair, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

**SESSIONS** | **THEME** | **RESOURCE PERSONS**
---|---|---
Session - 1 | • Successes and opportunities through COPs | • Dr. Balakrishna Pisupati, Chairperson, FLEDGE and Regional Vice Chair IUCN CEC South and Southeast Asia

Session - 2 | • Finalised Targets presentation and adoption | Jury Members:
- Ms. Vishaish Uppal, Director WWF-India
- Ms. Vidya Soundarajan, Director WWF-India
- Dr. Ruchi Pant, Head, Natural Resource Management and Biodiversity, UNDP
- Dr. Suchismita Mukhopadhyay, Associate Director, WWF-India

Dr. Pisupati spoke about the origins and functions of multilateral governing bodies such as the United Nations and how to successfully achieve goals during a COP process. For the delegates, he had the following advice:

- Patience, communication and being well prepared are the best attributes of a negotiator at such conferences.
- Informal conversations with delegates are just as important as formal ones to push your own agenda.

Dr. Pisupati closed his address by reflecting on his own experiences at conventions, reminiscing on the successes and ruminating on the failures, all the while providing essential experiential advice to the future change-makers.
The first of its kind Model Conference of Parties began on the 22nd of May and was formally inaugurated by the Honourable Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Prakash Javadekar.

### SESSIONS

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<td>Session 2 - Plenary: Biodiversity and its linkages with human well-being and sustainable development.</td>
<td>Dr. Ashok Khosla, DA &amp; Former President IUCN, Mr. Atul Bagai, Country Head, UNEP India, Dr. Chong Shimray, Associate Professor, NCERT, Moderated by Neha Raghav, WWF-India</td>
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<td>Session - 3</td>
<td>Round Table Discussion Need for bending the curve of Biodiversity loss</td>
<td>Dr. K. Ramesh, Scientist, Wildlife Institute of India, Mr. Suresh Babu, Director, Rivers, Wetlands and Water Policy, WWF-India, Dr. Erach Bharucha, Director, BVIEER, Dr. Shiraz Wajih, President, Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group, Dr. Merwyn Fernandes, TRAFFIC, WWF-India, Moderated by Mr. Prashanth Vishwanath, WWF-India</td>
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<td>Session - 4</td>
<td>Experts Speak How to bend the curve of Nature-loss?</td>
<td>Dr. Sejal Worah, Programme Director, WWF-India, Mr. Nuklu Phom, Founder, Lemsachenlok Society, Ms. Megha Tata, Managing Director, Discovery Communications India, Moderated by Ms. Chetna S Kaith, WWF-India</td>
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Following Dr. Pisupati’s address, the young conservationists were given another session to integrate the guidance they had received during Session 1. They received assistance in their breakout rooms from Ms. Neha Raghav and Mr. Prashanth Vishwanath to appropriately curate their final targets and priority areas. After putting the final touches on their work, the state teams returned to present their work to the same jury.

After presenting their state priorities, the teams debated with the jury and on accepting their feedback, the State Teams finalised their State Level Environmental Targets and Priorities. With their respective state agendas prepared and the knowledge of CBD & the COP processes gained, the delegates were now ready to discuss and debate with one another in order to create National Level Priorities and Environmental Targets during the Model Conference of Parties.
On the 22nd and 23rd of May, 2020, the 72 young conservationists and 36 teachers joined the e-conference to begin their debate and deliberation with one another to prioritize the most pressing environmental matters in the nation. To inaugurate the event, Ms. Radhika Suri, Director, Environment Education, WWF-India, welcomed the Chief Guest, Shri Prakash Javadekar, Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MOEFCC).

Shri Prakash Javadekar wished the students on International Biodiversity Day and carried on by elaborating on the environmental work being done on a state and national level by the MoEFCC. The Honourable Minister instilled confidence in the students, telling them that environmentalism is the future and the number of green jobs will increase in India. Along with that, Shri Javadekar informed the students of environmental leadership programs available for young leaders to learn from and further their careers in the environment sector. Following his address, the Honourable Minister took questions from the young conservationists about the future of the environment in India.

After an enlightening address from Shri Prakash Javadekar, a plenary session was held with eminent speakers Dr. Ashok Khosla, Founder, Development Alternatives and Former President, IUCN, Mr. Atul Bagai, Country Head, India, UNEP, and Dr. Chong Shimray, Associate Professor, NCERT.

Dr. Khosla believes that seeing a loss in their economy, change-makers will be encouraged to implement environmental protection policies in a quicker manner.

Dr. Ashok Khosla

After outlining a number of man-made environmental problems and threats to biodiversity, Dr. Khosla spoke about the seemingly paradoxical problem of balancing environmental protection and economic development. Dr. Khosla said the following:

- This paradox exists due to inefficient use of resources, leading to over-extraction of resources
- In terms of solutions, Dr. Khosla believed that:
  - Resource use must be optimized to limit over
  - Economic value must be attached to the loss of natural resources and environmental degradation to show.
Mr. Bagai picked up from where Dr. Khosla ended his thoughts on economic valuations of nature. Mr. Bagai said:

- Infinite economic growth is incompatible with the finite natural resources that the global economy is dependent on.

- Humans currently take advantage of nature’s gifts, but do not provide enough in return. This lack of a symbiotic relationship is unsustainable.

- The youth of India and the whole world will play a key role in re-integrating humans back with nature.

Dr. Chong Shimray added to Mr. Bagai’s discussion on the role of youth by giving the young delegates an understanding of where the NCERT stands on environment education, as well as what one can do with this education. Dr. Shimray said:

- Nature must be used as a tool to educate young minds
- In the modern concrete urban jungles we live in today, people are forgetting their roots in nature, so students must:
  - Gain knowledge about the environment
  - Gain skills to protect the environment
  - Take action by combining the knowledge and skills
On the roundtable panel were renowned speakers and change-makers—Dr Erach Bharucha, Director, Bharatiya Vidyapeeth Institute of Environment Education and Research; Dr Shiraz Wajih, President, Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group; Dr K. Ramesh, Scientist, Wildlife Institute of India; Mr. Suresh Babu, Director, Rivers, Wetlands and Water Policy, WWF-India, and Dr Merwyn Fernandes, TRAFFIC, WWF-India. These foremost experts addressed the students on the need to bend, flatten and eventually restore the curve of biodiversity loss.

Dr Erach Bharucha continued the conversation on nature’s complex linkages, but in relation to the impact on human health. Dr Bharucha noted:

- The COVID-19 crisis emerged as a result of illegal wildlife trafficking.
- In cities with higher man-made air pollution, citizens would be more susceptible to COVID-19 due to poorer immunity systems and lower lung capacity.
- Both man-made environmental crises became interlinked despite looking completely unrelated on the surface.
- However, lockdowns nationwide have led to clearing of the skies and revitalization of natural habitats, which Dr Bharucha feels will cause an increase in human sensitivity to nature.

Dr Ramesh spoke of the complex linkages in biodiversity that are often overlooked, causing huge environmental losses.

- Harming one environmental factor can set off an unexpected domino effect.
- Dr Ramesh explored this idea through the example of pollination.
  1. Pollinators such as butterflies, bees, bats and other insects are essential in the reproductive cycle of plants, and biodiversity loss has threatened their habitats.
  2. Without pollinators, the reproductive cycles of plants are cut short, which will in turn lead to further reduction in biodiversity and global food insecurity.

Dr Shiraz Wajih spoke about an ecosystem about which humans are generally neither sensitive nor even aware of: the soil. Dr Wajih stated that:

- Soil is a self-sustaining, contained ecosystem in itself, with rodents, ants, worms and between 100 million to a billion individual bacteria living in it.
- Healthy soil is essential to grow food to feed humanity.
- Soil is threatened by widespread pollutants and this must be rectified in order to secure long-term food security.
The conversation about depleting resources was continued by Mr. Suresh Babu, who spoke about the importance of wetlands in India. Mr. Babu informed the delegates about:

- The rapid rate at which wetlands have been vanishing in India, despite being of extreme economic importance.
- The success story of WWF-India’s Hamare Talab, Hamari Dharohar campaign, which restored a wetland in Moradabad in just two years with the help of training programs to create “Wetland Mitras”.

“Wetland Mitras” created awareness, maintained the cleanliness, restored the water catchment area and monitored the progress of their wetland.

Dr. Merwyn Fernandes began his talk on wildlife trafficking by informing the delegates about the extent to which the crime has proliferated in India and worldwide. Dr. Fernandes provided:

- A list of the most trafficked animals in India.
- A simple solution: stop buying wild animals.
- A complete drop in demand will equate to a complete drop in supply, rendering wildlife trafficking unprofitable.
During the final session of the day, the conversation was primarily focused on action. The three speakers in this session, Dr Sejal Worah, Programme Director, WWF-India, Ms. Megha Tata, Managing Director, Discovery Communications India and Mr. Nuklu Phom, Founder, Lemsachenlok Society were three distinctly different stakeholders with the same end goal in mind: environmental restoration and protection. The eminent speakers addressed the students on the different ways in which the curve of biodiversity loss can be bent.

Bringing in the perspective of a different stakeholder, large enterprises and corporations, was Ms. Megha Tata. Ms. Tata spoke about:

- The need for companies to re-evaluate their strategies to look at the Three Ps: People, Planet and Profit.
- The meaningful environmental work being done by the Corporate Social Responsibility projects of Multinational Corporations such as Nestle, BMW and Nike.

Dr. Sejal Worah began the conversation on nature restoration by providing the example of a WWF-India rewilding program of the Jabarkhet Nature Reserve in Uttarakhand.

- A 100-acre plot of dilapidated, polluted and unsustainably used land was restored into a community forest.
- WWF-India used a sustainable model for conservation, generating employment linked to the reserve for locals.
- Incentivizing locals with green jobs led to the community's betterment, as well as the enrichment of the reserve.
An example of a successful grassroots movement was displayed by Mr. Nuklu Phom’s Lemsachenlok Society of Yaongyimchen Village, Nagaland.

- Mr. Phom convinced a hunting community in Nagaland to give up their weapons in order to protect their biodiversity.
- Once a hunted species in the region, the migratory Amur Falcon’s preferred roosting spot is now the Yaongyimchen Village where it is protected by the community.
- For their efforts, the Lemsachenlok Society won the India Biodiversity Award of 2018.
- Mr. Phom believes his effort can be emulated by others to create such successful movements.

Above, the Yaongyimchen community members of all ages can be seen taking part in environmental activities such as birdwatching and setting up camera traps.

After hearing from the eminent panelists on a very diverse array of topics, the delegates were ready to discuss their state targets and priorities to prioritize which environmental issues require the most urgent attention. From all state groups combined, the discussion began with 180 priorities, from which they were asked to narrow the number down to 12. First, the delegates found and removed the common priorities proposed by different states. Next, they systematically went through each of the remaining priorities, discussed and debated their thoughts on which priorities they felt were most pressing. The delegates discussed the “SMART”-ness of each priority, editing the wording of the priorities as they reached agreements.

Example of SMART Target Setting of Priorities

**Priority:** By 2050, at least 50 wetlands have been protected through community conservation measures and at least 10 wetlands reclaimed and restored from urban expansion, through policy action.

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<tr>
<th>SPECIFIC (How?)</th>
<th>MEASURABLE (How many/much?)</th>
<th>ACHIEVABLE</th>
<th>REALISTIC (What’s the baseline?)</th>
<th>TIME BOUND (By when?)</th>
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<td>Protected through community conservation</td>
<td>50 Wetlands</td>
<td>Restored from urban organisation, through policy action</td>
<td>At least 10 wetlands reclaimed</td>
<td>By 2050</td>
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After exploring all 180 priorities, the students reached a consensus on 49 unique priorities that aligned to the 3 proposed goals under the Vision of CBD. These 49 shortlisted priorities were selected to be the long-term goals for environmental protection in India, which had to be addressed by 2030. These 49 priorities would be further discussed during the final day of the MCOP-I and be reduced to 12 the most urgent, and highest priority issues that India would have to address by 2022.
Having had the rest of the 22nd May to process all the quality information provided by all the speakers of Day 1, the delegates returned on the morning of the 23rd to a few special guests.

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<td>Keynote Addresses How can MCOP contribute towards India developing a strong post-2020 global biodiversity framework?</td>
<td>Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Executive Secretary, Secretariat of the CBD; Dr. Sujit Bajpayee, Joint Secretary, MOEFCC</td>
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<td>Plenary Tabling and consensus building on National Priorities</td>
<td>Mr. J. Justin Mohan, Secretary, National Biodiversity Authority India; Ms Vishaish Uppal, Director, Governance Law and Policy, WWF-India; Dr Dipankar Ghose, Director, WWF-India; Ms Vidya Soundarajan, Director, Ecological Footprint, WWF-India</td>
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<td>Session - 3</td>
<td>Development of SMART Targets</td>
<td>Dr. Ruchi Pant, UNDP; Ms Vishaish Uppal, WWF-India; Ms Vidya Soundarajan, WWF-India; Ms Radhika Suri, WWF-India; Dr Mervyn Fernandes, WWF-India; Mr Prashant Vishwanath, WWF-India; Dr Suchismita Makhapadhyay, WWF-India; Mr Pravir Deshmukh, India Business &amp; Biodiversity Initiative; Ms Neha Rajhav, WWF-India; Ms Chetna Singh, WWF-India</td>
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<td>Session - 4</td>
<td>Presentation of targets by groups Negotiations and deliberations</td>
<td>Jury Members – Dr. Balakrishna Pisupati, Chairperson, FLEDGE and Regional Vice Chair IUCN CIB; South and Southeast Asia; Ms. Chantal Robichaud, Youth Focal Point, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity; Mr. Kartikaya Sanabhai, Founder Director, Centre for Environment Education; Ms. Radhika Suri, Director, Education, WWF-India</td>
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<td>Session - 5</td>
<td>Delhi Declaration Presentation and Adoption</td>
<td>Ms. B V Uma Devi, Additional Secretary MOEFCC; Mr. Ravi Singh, SG &amp; CEO, WWF India; Dr. VB Mathur, Chairperson, National Biodiversity Authority; The Student Delegates</td>
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Having had the rest of the 22nd May to process all the quality information provided by all the speakers of Day 1, the delegates returned on the morning of the 23rd to a few special guests. The future leaders were greeted by Ms Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Executive Secretary, Convention of Biological Diversity. Ms Maruma Mrema felt excited to see the youth taking interest in environmental governance, saying that such opportunities were difficult to find in her youth.

Ms Maruma Mrema encouraged the delegates on their environmental journey, stressing that they are the ones who can play a big role in flattening the curve and taking control of global climate change. Ms Maruma Mrema ended her address wishing each delegate well and hoped to see them all at the real COP one day.

To motivate the delegates further, Dr. Sujit Bajpayee, Joint Secretary, MoEFCC, addressed them on the dependence of humans on biodiversity and how the youth are essential in creating environmental change in India.

Dr. Bajpayee began by explaining the intimate linkages between human life and the environment, and went on to say that the younger generations are the ones that will create the necessary change the world requires today.

Dr. Bajpayee uplifted the students with his final remarks, saying that the contributions during MCOP will be taken into consideration by the MoEFCC while developing a strong post 2020 biodiversity conservation framework. Echoing Ms. Maruma Mrema, Dr. Bajpayee felt the mobilization of youth in the environmental movement is the push it has needed for many years.
**DAY 5  
SESSION 2**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>THEME</th>
<th>RESOURCE PERSONS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Plenary</td>
<td>Tabling and consensus-building on National Environment Priorities.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr J. Justin Mohan, Secretary, National Biodiversity Authority India</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Vishaish Uppal, Director- Governance Law and Policy, WWF-India</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Dipankar Ghose, Director, WWF-India</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Vidya Soundarajan, Director, Ecological Footprint, WWF-India</td>
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Within the 3 goals dictated by the vision of the CBD, the state delegates had narrowed down the goals from 180 to 49. However, this number had to be reduced further to decide the 12 most urgent priorities. To do so, the delegates, with the advice provided by the plenary members, would vote on their most preferred priorities using Zoom Polls. Mr. Justin Mohan, Secretary, National Biodiversity Authority, Dr. Dipankar Ghose, Director, Wildlife & Habitat, WWF India, Ms. Vidya Soundarajan, Director, Ecological Footprint, WWF India and Ms. Vishaish Uppal, Director Governance, Law & Policy, WWF-India assisted with the consensus building and provided feedback to students as the delegates chose between the 49 priorities.

Above each of the goals, the four priority areas which received the highest votes were selected to be the National priority areas as can be seen in the figure below. After the 12 highest-voted priority areas were noted, the delegates had the chance to raise concerns about any of the selections and argue the case for any of the other priority areas. If their argument gained traction, a revote could be asked for. After the debate and deliberation was completed, the final 12 National Priority Areas for immediate action were selected.
To discuss the SMART-ness of each of the 12 priorities, the delegates were divided into 12 mixed groups with each group deliberating upon 1 of the 12 National priorities. These 12 groups were placed into Zoom Breakout Rooms and were assigned one Group Facilitator from the list of esteemed guests seen in the table above.

Each of the facilitator’s guided the breakout sessions and assisted the students in improving the wording and specificity of the SMART Targets under the National priority assigned to them. Once finalized, the 12 groups returned to present their priority areas to a jury for a final time.

The 12 groups then presented the targets under the priority area assigned to them to a jury consisting of Ms. Chantal Robichaud, Youth Focal Point, Secretariat of the Convention of Biological Diversity, Dr. Balakrishna Pisupati, Chairperson, FLEDGE and Regional Vice Chair, IUCN, and Mr. Kartikeya Sarabhai, Founder and Director, CEE. The jury cross questioned them on the targets and mentored them on conducting further study to identify the baseline so the targets can be made more realistic.
After each group received feedback on their Priority Area, the delegates were addressed by Ms. Chantal Robichaud, Youth Focal Point, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Ms. Robichaud provided the delegates an insight into the process of creating priority areas and current status of target setting for Super Year 2020. Ms. Robichaud spoke about:

- The numerous conferences that CBD has had in 2019-2020 to create meaningful and concise targets that are inclusive of the needs of all stakeholders.

- The importance of creating universal frameworks which include strong implementation mechanisms, capacity building models and methods to monitor progress.

- Students’ ability to partake in decision making by reaching out to governments, working with NGOs, creating their own environmental groups, and more.

The young delegates created a modus operandi for the future of environmental conservation in India named the “Delhi Declaration”, prioritizing twelve issues under the three goals at the national level to be addressed by 2022 and 49 longer-term issues to be addressed by 2030. The final presentation was held in the presence of Ms. Uma Devi, Additional Secretary, MoEFCC, Dr. V.B. Mathur, Chairperson, NBA and Mr. Ravi Singh, SG and CEO of WWF, India. Before presenting the Delhi Declaration, the students pledged to uphold 8 environmental commitments to be the “agents of change” who actively support the SDGs, as they recognized that the government could not hold sole responsibility for creating change.

Following the pledge, the delegates presented the Delhi Declaration to the panelists. The panelists showed their awe, admiration and appreciation for the delegates for creating such a well-researched, clearly planned and complete document at this age, and in just a short five days.

The panelists were also very impressed by the personal commitments the students were willing to take in order to protect the environment, saying that before changing the behaviours of society, one must change their own first. With the final remarks from the three esteemed panelists, the MCOP-I 2020 came to a close.
THE DELHI DECLARATION

Our Planet today is under a great stress and needs our help. We the youth of this country appeal for immediate action to reverse the loss of nature and biodiversity to ensure the health of this generation and those to come.

We, the representatives of the youth and children of India have come together from 28 States and 7 Union Territories of India to deliberate upon the importance of strengthening the connection between nature and people and demand solutions for building a healthy and sustainable future.

We are thankful to be a part of this highly interactive and participatory virtual forum, Model Conference of Parties (MCOP-1) organized by WWF India and other partners from May 22nd-23rd, 2020. The MCoP-1 has been a perfect platform to understand the processes and undertakings of a crucial international treaty. The MCOP has given voice to the concerns of the youth of this country that emphasizes upon the pressing need to protect and conserve our Planet Earth.

We as youth are passionate, active, enthusiastic and informed. We are the present and future of our country. We stand here today to strongly urge and call upon our Government and all other stakeholders to address our concerns.

OUR COMMITMENTS

- We all commit to reconnect, explore and experience the natural world.
- We will commit to adopt eco-friendly habits and a sustainable lifestyle.
- We all commit to take individual actions at our schools, household and community level to protect the planet.
- We all commit to enhance our knowledge, values and skills to protect and find solution to environment issues now and in the future.
- We all commit to spread awareness and influence the behavior and attitude of our parents and community members towards the nature.
- We all commit to adopt good tradition and tribal practices in our daily lives at school and houses.
- We ‘the agents of change’ as recognized by the UN General Assembly, commit to actively support the Sustainable Development Goals.
- We all commit to become conservation leader and support the work of local government bodies towards protection and sustenance of Biodiversity.


**OUR RECOMMENDATIONS**

We request all citizens as well as our national, state and local governments to come together and make a pledge for protecting and conserving mother earth.

### NATIONAL PRIORITY AREAS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal 1</th>
<th>By 2030 we need to ensure no loss of freshwater, marine and terrestrial ecosystems through:</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Conserving and restoring wetlands, including important rivers, high-altitude as well as urban wetlands to enhance biodiversity.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Promoting groundwater conservation and effective recharge of aquifers to enhance water security.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Reducing rate of degradation, fragmentation and loss of forest and grassland ecosystems through sustainable management practices.</td>
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<td>Conserving and enhancing the nation’s forests to reach 33% forest cover.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Combating desertification and reclaiming degraded land and soil including land affected by drought and floods, and strive to achieve land degradation neutrality.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Conserving mountain ecosystems including their biodiversity to enhance their capacity to provide ecosystem services that are essential for sustainable development.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Protecting species through effective management of human-animal conflict.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Improving protection and effective management of key species populations of India and along with conservation of their habitats and the associated ecosystem services.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Enhancing our preparation for preventing and managing forest fires to maximise the benefits of protection of forests.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Restoring coastal and marine ecosystems, including critical habitats like coral reefs.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Taking effective measures for reducing ocean acidification and coral bleaching and avoiding, minimizing and mitigating the impacts of marine debris on marine and coastal biodiversity and habitats.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Saving and restoring mangroves and coastal wetlands.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Safeguarding and promoting agrobiodiversity and genetic diversity of native crops.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Preventing degradation of ecosystems from pollution of all forms, especially plastic pollution through effective regulation and improved technologies.</td>
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### Goal 2

By 2030, Halve the footprint of production and consumption through:

#### NATIONAL PRIORITY AREAS

- Achieving zero garbage at schools and colleges by adopting 5Rs i.e. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Refuse and Recover.
- Sensitizing public about their carbon footprint, waste generation and its ecological impacts.
- Promoting enhanced green energy production and use such as solar energy, wind energy etc., for meeting energy needs in commercial and domestic sectors.
- Implementing technologies and policies to eliminate black carbon caused due to diesel engine exhaust and incomplete combustion of fossil fuels, biomass etc.
- Promoting e-mobility, public transport, and non-motorised transport (NMT) such as walking and cycling, by increasing monetary, adequate infrastructure, and policy support to enable widespread adoption by people.
- Eliminating single use plastics, reuse and reduce other plastics where possible; process plastics in a way they don’t enter natural ecosystems and create a circular economy for plastics to minimise further production.
- Reducing the per capita food waste at the retail and consumer level as well as food loss due to poor storage, production and supply chain.
- Developing and implementing tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products.
- Addressing and mitigating negative effects of chemical intensive agriculture on air, water and soil.
- Implementing modern sustainable agricultural methods such as drip irrigation, integrated pest management etc., with the government’s aid.
- Enforcing effective waste management of large scale industries through good standard operation procedures.
- Avoiding unplanned urbanization and unscientific mining activities.
- Promoting paperless e-governance to reduce consumption of paper and other logistics for reduction of carbon footprint.
- Mandating sustainable infrastructure for all commercial and residential complexes.
- Mainstreaming segregation, recycling and safe disposal of solid waste, and discouraging consumption of luxurious non-essential items.
1. Conserve at least 30% of all types of wetlands through public awareness, collective action and effective implementation of regulations by 2025.

2. By 2025, reduce the pollution load in wetlands by 20% through treating waste from industries.

3. By 2025, restoration of 30% of degraded wetlands by removing invasive species, reducing pollution and damage due to construction and illegal activities.

4. By 2025, improve groundwater replenishment rate by 30% (from 2020 levels) with implementing effective measures rain water harvesting and wetland conservation.

5. By 2025, reduce damage to natural aquifers from over extraction of water and chemical intensive agriculture by at least 20%.

6. Adoption of sustainable groundwater use framework by involving private, government, and civil society stakeholders by 2021.

7. Restore the forest cover to at least 25% by 2025 with participation of all stakeholders.

8. Conserve forests and reduce over-exploitation of forest resources by 30% by 2022.

9. By 2025, increase by 20% the population of these key species of India and conserve their natural habitats.

10. Where required, promote reintroduction of endangered species into suitable habitats and landscapes.

11. Ensure conservation of all wildlife habitats of key species natural regeneration, rejuvenation and restoration as needed.

12. By 2022, prevent frequent forest fires, effect of infrastructure, mining and industries on the habitats of these key species.

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NATIONAL PRIORITY AREAS

Reducing air pollution in the 21 most polluted cities of India and secure health benefits to the most affected people.

Promoting sustainable agriculture and organic farming to ensure long term health of soil and secure livelihoods of farmers.

Reducing inequality in sharing natural resources among citizens through poverty eradication and bridging the gap between rich and poor.

Promoting forest growth in and around farmlands to enhance pollinators through incentives for agroforestry.

Robust monitoring to prevent and control spread of zoonotic and infectious diseases from vectors and wild animals to humans.

Instilling in people value of traditional knowledge of conservation, judicious use of resources and living in harmony with nature to prevent the loss of biodiversity.

Conserving and improving diversity of soil microorganisms and micro fauna.

Eliminating invasive exotic species from the forests and improve diversity and abundance of endemic species.

Preventing genetic erosion of agro biodiversity and creating markets for local varieties of crops.

Enhancing systems of crop insurance and disaster warning systems to protect farmers’ livelihoods.

Promoting integrated watershed management adopting a river basin perspective with mass community participation for soil and water conservation and biodiversity conservation.

Reviving agro biodiversity sites of national/global importance and traditional farming practices.

Engaging active participation of the village bodies, NGOs, policy makers, and education institutions for spreading awareness on biodiversity conservation.

Identifying, mapping and prioritising mangrove and wetland areas that are important for ecosystem functions and services.

Converting barren lands surrounding the industrial sectors, highways and other areas into biodiversity parks.

Establishing gene banks, seed banks and herbariums of locally important plants so that native biodiversity and traditional knowledge is preserved.

Decentralizing conservation to village panchayats to ensure optimum participation of the local community making them stakeholders for efficient forest conservation, agro-biodiversity maintenance and protection of flora and fauna.
TARGETS TOWARDS REDUCING HUMAN FOOTPRINT ON NATURE

1. By 2025, implement effective incentives to ensure adoption of renewable energy in at least 30% of households, industries, and municipalities.

2. Invest in the development of renewable energy options to ensure 25% of the country’s energy is generated from renewable sources by 2022.

3. By 2021, conduct analysis of 100% agriculture land for scope of the organic farming methods through modern technology.

4. By 2025, 20% farmers adopt more modern, scientific, sustainable ways of farming like drip irrigation, rain water harvesting, waste water reuse.

5. By 2025, achieve zero single use plastics throughout the country.

6. Undertake national campaign under Swachh Bharat Mission to clean up plastics from our public spaces in every district by 2025.

TARGETS TOWARDS ENSURING NATURE’S BENEFITS TO PEOPLE BY 2025

1. Achieve smart and sustainable disposal mechanisms for dry waste by all stakeholders to reduce greenhouse gases emissions caused by burning waste from landfills and agricultural waste by 50% till 2025.

2. Mandate 100% CNG vehicles in public transport and achieve effective rollout of BS-6 norm in private vehicles.

3. Reduce private vehicles on road by 25% through an addition of 20% more public transport and achieve 15% electric vehicles, and better NMT infrastructure for walking and cycling on roads by 2025.

4. By 2025, conserve 100 endangered endemic species of plant by leveraging traditional knowledge across India.

5. By 2022, roll out education on traditional practices of nature conservation (plants, water, soil) in at least 50% schools throughout India.

6. By 2025, restore urban biodiversity in at least 40% of community parks and green areas with the help of local bodies.

7. By 2022, include environment and health education compulsorily in the school curriculum beginning from elementary levels in all schools.

8. By 2025, empower at least 30% of village panchayats to conserve their local fauna and flora.

9. Provide incentives to Panchayats which adopts sustainable agricultural practices with immediate effect to ensure at least 20% of Panchayats to uptake and implement.

10. Promote technology enabled large scale removal and recycling of invasive species from 10 priority land/river and seascapes.

11. Achieve an overall reduction of 50% invasive species through adoption of diverse mitigation measures.

12. Set up exclusive markets mandatorily for local and native food grains in each district.

13. Promote seed banks and offer minimum support price for traditional food crops in at least 10 Indian states by 2025.
FINDINGS & CONCLUSIONS

Given the current environmental situation today, it demands an all hands-on deck approach and that must include the younger generation. Despite the uncertainties this generation faces about their environmental future, they have a unique advantage – access to information. The internet has allowed widespread dissemination of knowledge and information, which has given rise to innovative and creative thinking in the current youth population. However, due to a host of reasons, much of this demographic is losing its interest in nature and focusing their creative energies elsewhere. At a time like this, re-familiarizing students with nature is absolutely essential. The more students that can be involved in the fight against climate change, the more innovative, new and fresh ideas can be explored, mapped and implemented.

In the current moment, the MCOP-I provided the young conservationists of India an opportunity to gain experience in environmental problem solving and consensus building, as well as knowledge from world leaders in their lines of work. The MCOP Delhi Declaration is an outcome of this exercise, a document which outlines the environmental dialogues that should be taken forward in the respective states of the young leaders, as well as the country, while involving the administration to take action. These actions will determine the future of the environment in not just the states that these brilliant young minds hail from, but for the future of the environment in the entire country as well. The students have also committed to altering their own environmentally harmful behaviours, and also to educating others in their community to do the same.

The MCoP-I was a transformative week in the lives of these young delegates and the thousands of students who attended the conference online. The first cohort of the WWF India MCOP-I came together from all across the country as strangers who thought they would be competing with one another, but over the course of the week they cooperated and synchronized to form a single unit with a single goal: protect the environment today for a greener tomorrow. These delegates will continue this partnership into the future to see their goals to fruition and create impactful positive outcomes for the country.

29 states and 7 union territories joined hands to bring out solutions for the contemporary environmental problems that India faces. Under the umbrella of WWF, India came together to conquer the environmental issues from the 18th to the 23rd of May, 2020. I, Devwani Thakur and my classmate Shreyhana Bali got selected via an interview as the representatives of Himachal Pradesh. Through the virtual forum “Model Conference of Parties I” the student delegates deliberated and analysed the priority areas and the targets for environmental improvement in India. My fellow delegates and I were trained and given instructions during the 3 day pre-MCOP sessions where we drafted the resolutions for not only our state but also for the entire country. We were enlightened and encouraged by esteemed speakers from all around the world. The final sessions were on the 22nd and 23rd where the final declaration was drafted and presented to the authorities. This MCoP urges the citizens to work for the betterment and protection of the environment and the biodiversity. India is home to enormous flora and fauna, which is dying out due to the reckless nature of humans. We can foster it as we are the “agents of change”.

The whole experience was very enlightening and we as students got to know about the challenges we as society have to deal with when it comes to our planet. This initiative taken by WWF helped all the students from all states to come up with creative ideas and discuss the problems each state is dealing with when it comes to climate and our biodiversity.

- Devwani Thakur, Himachal Pradesh

STUDENT TESTIMONIAL

The talk that I enjoyed most was given by Dr. Sejal Worah.
Her charismatic nature combined with her inspiring work caught my attention.
Dr. Sejal Worah restored the Jabarkhet Forest Reserve near Mussoorie from a deforested land area to a storehouse of biodiversity through a 4 year project.
Keeping in mind the theme for the MCOP, her endeavours fit in perfectly and made each one of us feel responsible towards protecting the environment.
The main reason however, this talk resonated with me, was because I hail from an area nearby the Reserve and have seen the deforested land a few years ago first hand.
Her firm resolve reflected in the presentation given by her and overall created a strong impact on me.
She managed to convey to us, that nothing in this world comes easy however with a strong determination, anything can be achieved.
I am immensely grateful to the entire WWF team for bringing such experts to talk to students and provide them massive exposure.

- Hansika Nath,
Welham Girls’ School, Uttarakhand
TEACHER TESTIMONIAL

The MCOP was an excellent opportunity for students to learn about environmental action being taken around India and the world. An event like this can inspire students by seeing all the hard work being put into improving a difficult situation.

The environment requires much more attention than it receives and I believe students are the ones who must take it forward. The sessions were very informative and well conducted in a well-organized manner. All the experts who were a part of this conference spoke remarkably well. The discussions in the breakout rooms were also worth the efforts. I would like to congratulate the team of WWF for their efforts for making this a grand success, believe me children have learnt so much throughout. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the team of WWF for taking this wonderful initiative to conduct this virtual conference and making us a part of it.

- Ms. Almas Nasir, Madhya Pradesh

MEET THE DELEGATES

Faraan Ahmed Hashmi, Andaman & Nicobar
Ms. Rekha Sudhakar, Andaman & Nicobar
B. Sanjana, Andhra Pradesh
D.N.V.H Malliharjun, Andhra Pradesh
Rishmitha Sai Manne, Andhra Pradesh
Sarah Mahreen, Arunachal Pradesh
Adhiraj Kar, Assam
Navaneel Chakraborty, Assam
Ms. Niva Singh, Bihar
Bhanu Arora, Chandigarh

Dhruv Kapoor, Chandigarh

Ms. Shipra Jain, Chandigarh

Anurag Yadav, Chhattisgarh

Mr. Raman Sahu, Chhattisgarh

Pratha Patel, Chhattisgarh

Divyansh Sharma, Dadra Nagar Haveli

Mohit Patil, Dadra Nagar Haveli

Ms. Jayapriya S., Dadra Nagar Haveli

Adita Saxena, Delhi

Tia Garg, Delhi

Vatsal Sharma, Delhi

Eric Siqueira, Goa

Ms. Monica Dandekar, Goa

Shlok Kalangutkar, Goa

Arunay Sameer, Gujarat

Ms. Pooja Srivastava, Gujarat

Vyomini Mehta, Gujarat
Ms. Heena Khan, Maharashtra
Parameshwari Ramesh, Maharashtra
Sanskriti Pattapu, Maharashtra
Saksham Pandey, Madhya Pradesh
Yashas Shende, Madhya Pradesh
Kilangsongla Tsudir, Nagaland
Asem Melody Devi, Manipur
Longjam Yabharemboi Devi, Manipur
Monalisha Soubam, Manipur
Ms. Neilazonuo Khruomo, Nagaland
Thejakhrienlo Iralu, Nagaland
Ayush Kumar, Odisha
Aanya Singh, Mizoram
Kanchita Kaushik, Mizoram
Ms. Almas Nasir, Madhya Pradesh
Mansa Sahu, Odisha
Mr. Bibek Rout, Odisha
Harshine Karthikeyan, Puducherry
Ms. Sri Thircca, Puducherry
Shruti Reddy, Puducherry
Ishaan Marwaha, Punjab
Inal Rai, Sikkim
Mr. Bijay Sharma, Sikkim
Gayathri, Tamil Nadu

Ms. Neeru Issar, Punjab
Safal Luthra, Punjab
Bhumí Maheshwari, Rajasthan
Karthika V.G., Tamil Nadu
Ms. Gomathy Parthasarathi, Tamil Nadu
Pankhudi Tripathi, Telangana

Disha Chauhan, Rajasthan
Mr. Jagdish Paliwa, Rajasthan
Anupama Gurung, Sikkim
Ciea Verma, Tripura
Mr. Billow Jamatia, Tripura
Sayesha Debbarma, Tripura
Aranyika Kapur, Uttar Pradesh
Ms. Urmic Chakraborty, Uttar Pradesh
Sarthak Shrivastava, Uttar Pradesh

Hansika Nath, Uttarakhand
Ms. Reema Pant, Uttarakhand
Shanvi Bansal, Uttarakhand

Balkrishn Mandal, West Bengal
Esha Barmon, West Bengal
Mr. Anand Kumar Gupta, West Bengal

Ms. Aindrila Samanta, West Bengal
Nisha Agarwal, West Bengal
Sreejita Mahapatra, West Bengal
ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION
TEAM BEHIND THE SCENES

Master of Ceremonies

Chetna Kaith presided over the administration of the MCOP proceedings with an energetic presence, keeping the participants engaged on the edge of their seats during this virtual conference.

Tech Team

The Tech Team smoothly transitioned what should have been an in-person conference into a dynamic virtual setting that appealed to both participants, panelists and external audiences.

Coordination & Participant Management

With the help of Panda Alerts and congenial conversations, 100+ participants and 25+ esteemed panelists were expertly coordinated with to ensure a fluid and uninterrupted conference.

Media & Outreach

The media team reached out to thousands of schools and many media outlets across India inviting them to witness the inaugural MCOP. 3,329 viewers joined the MCOP livestreaming.

Delegate Selection

The 16 state teams of WWF India worked tirelessly and played an integral role in selecting the student delegates from each state and union territory. They also played a major role in outreach management and reaching out to regional media.


• UN Environment Programme. (2019). 2020 is a super year for nature and biodiversity. UNEP - UN Environment Programme.
WWF was founded in 1961

+100
WWF is in over 100 countries, on 6 continents

+5M
WWF has over 5 million supporters

+5,000
WWF has over 5,000 staff worldwide

Why we are here
To stop the degradation of the planet’s natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

www.wwfindia.org