

Annual Report 2015-16

'Sustaining Mountain Ecosystems'



Annual Report 2015-16¹

Centre for Ecology Development

and Research

Centre for Ecology Development and Research (CEDAR) works on issues of ecology, environment, and development primarily in the Himalayas. CEDAR works with communities, policy makers, and development practitioners to bridge the gap between theory and practice, policy and implementation. We do so by linking applied research to ground initiatives on the one hand and the output of such collaboration to various external stakeholders on the other hand. We believe that such initiative would help establish a better understanding of the ground realities while, at the same time, help document best practices for replication, subsequent programme design, and optimal allocation of funds.

Partners:

Department of Geography, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom Yale Himalayan Initiative (YHI), Yale School of Forestry, USA South Asia Institute of Advanced Studies (SIAS), Kathmandu Nepal International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Kathmandu, Nepal Central Himalayan Rural Action Group (CHIRAG), Odakhan, Nainital The Energy Research Institute (TERI), New Delhi Funders: Department of Science and Technology, (SERB), India Ministry of Environment and Forest, (Climate Change), India Ecosystem Services and Poverty Allevation Program, UK International Development Research Centre, Canada International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Kathmandu, Nepal Navajbai Ratan Tata Trust M.G. Shahani & Co (Delhi) Ltd. Pevibai Motiram Shahani Trust, Delhi

¹ DRAFT

Moving ahead.....

From a focus on the forests of the Himalaya in our formative years, CEDAR has considerably broadened its vision and strategy. The heavily populated zone of the lesser Himalaya continues to be our area of focus. The importance of forests in this zone is unquestionable. Despite an economy that is slowly modernising, fuelwood for cooking, leaf fodder for cattle and forest litter for fertiliser remain pillars on which the rural agro-economy is based. This was an active year for CEDAR for data collection from forests impacted by human use. Our network of long term monitoring plots in the Nainital area was expanded, and work on two projects funded by the Department of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change helped us build our understanding of chronic human disturbance in forests. As our datasets get stronger, CEDAR hopes to be able to contribute significantly and establish a lead role in this thematic area.

Forests do much more than provide biomass to surrounding villages. They are essential for providing ecosystem services, especially water related, to surrounding areas. While the mechanics are not perfectly understood, the importance of forests in providing hydrological services to surrounding towns has been understood for over a century, and forest preserves such as Kilburry and Binsar maintained around towns such as Nainital and Almora. However as urban populations grew, and the springs and streams around mountain towns struggled to cope with providing water supply, especially during the dry summer season when tourism also peaked, planners turned their attention away from these forests. Capital intensive and costly to maintain lift schemes that piped in water from distant sources gained credence, and a desire to be able to best the vagaries of nature and showcase human engineering might was born. Experience has shown that such schemes that lift water from thousands of feet below, or tens of kilometres distant, are not necessarily viable solutions. Through a partnership with Cambridge University and ESPA, CEDAR has focussed on identify sustainable solutions. We recognise the limitations of local springs and the need for engineering solutions to supplement local sources. However, the need to identify and protect critical water zones which allow for recharge of dependable springs and water sources is essential. The distribution of water in these vulnerable cities and issues of equity have also been explored by CEDAR's interdisciplinary team. Further broadening our work, CEDAR has begun to

explore the impacts of climate change on Himalayan towns and cities and the adaptation measures that local populations undertake. A partnership with HI-AWARE- ICIMOD and TERI help facilitate this linkage.

We see this broadening of CEDAR's role from primarily rural and forested areas, to issues of resource supply and demand in urban settlements in the Himalaya as our thrust for the next few years. Mountain development needs to be looked at holistically. As rural populations migrate to small urban settlements, the pressure on the natural environments are changing. Through a mix of primary research in forests and predominantly secondary data gathering and collation on impacts of climate change and water needs, CEDAR hopes to achieve its aim of improving natural resource management in mountain regions.

On behalf of all of us at CEDAR, I would like to thank all our well-wishers, partners and donors. The support we have received from our board, the state administration and Uttarakhand forest department, as well as academicians from several research institutions has been invaluable, and has allowed CEDAR to grow and contribute to the body of knowledge that exists on the Himalayan ecosystem.

Rych Thadani

Rajesh Thadani Executive Director

Background

The Centre for Ecology, Development and Research (CEDAR) was established in January 2006 by a group of academics and development professionals with the aim to work on issues pertaining to environment, ecology and rural development in the mountain regions. Applied research and policy issues are of particular interest to CEDAR. In pursuance of its mandate, CEDAR aims to bridge information gap constricting field practitioners and decision makers in the field of environmental management. Towards this end, CEDAR proposes to develop as a field research and monitoring agency with an arm dedicated to supporting NGOs and building their capacity in the relevant areas.

Focus

The research activities of the Centre essentially focus on generating and interpreting socioecological field-data that can improve the management of natural resources. Central to CEDAR's ideology is the recognition that local communities must participate in the conservation of their habitat. In addition to core research in forest ecology, water security and social sciences, CEDAR also works towards strengthening links between communities and ecosystems by networking with organisations.

Vision

CEDAR sees itself as being a platform to carry out research work of relevance to people and their environment. We aim to get together a mix of researchers, development professionals, and visionaries to identify areas where gaps in information and knowledge exist. These gaps may then be filled by in-house resources, and by collaborating with likeminded institutions and individuals.

CEDAR does not see itself as a research agency or a grassroots intervention agency, instead, as an agency with an ability to work closely with both. CEDAR currently focuses on the Western Himalaya.

Ongoing Projects:

1. Understanding the impacts of Climate change and Forest Degradation on carbon stock and population dynamics in the Oak zone of the Central Himalayas.

Project area: Mukteshwar, Nainital

Funding agency: Department of Science and Technology, Government of India

Duration: 36 Months

The study to focuses on the impact of climate change and forest degradation on carbon stock and population dynamics in Oak zone of the Central Himalayas, one hundred sample plots, each sized 400 m², have been laid down across a range of disturbance regions between 1600-2100 m altitudinal range (Fig 1). Forty of these plots (ten in each disturbance category) have been monitored for following various parameters of growth and stand development while the remaining 60 plots will be measured for biomass, regeneration and disturbance indicators



only one time but with accurate GPS readings to enable a return at a later date. In the permanent plots, the focus is on monitoring annual changes in tree diameter (DBH), biomass, canopy closure, regeneration levels and ground cover. Seasonal litter fall is also being

followed along with ectomycorrizal density and presence of sporocarps and nutrient analysis of soil.

While the data analysis is underway some key findings are represented in table below:

S.N.	Trait	Undisturbed (<u>+</u> Std. error)	Low Degradation (Mod-A)	Medium Degradation (Mod – B)	Degraded
1	% Litter cover	69.7 (<u>+</u> 3.1)	46.6 (<u>+</u> 5.3)	41.0 (<u>+</u> 6.5)	40 (<u>+</u> 6.2)
2	% Grass & Pine needles	8.8 (<u>+</u> 2.2)	8.7 (<u>+</u> 1.9)	30.8 (<u>+</u> 8.6)	34.6 <u>+</u> (7.9)
3	% Annual increase in oak Basal area	1.03 (± 0.11)	0.69 (<u>+</u> 0.24)	0.39 (<u>+</u> 0.18)	0.21 (<u>+</u> 0.21)
4	Avg Basal Area of oaks (m ² /ha)	30.73 (<u>+</u> 2.65)	24.45 (<u>+</u> 2.41)	17.65 (<u>+</u> 4.24)	12.50 (<u>+</u> 3.40)
5	Basal area (total) m ² /ha	43.2 (<u>+</u> 2.03)	29.3 (<u>+</u> 2.90)	31.1 (<u>+</u> 4.68)	21.4 (<u>+</u> 2.55)

Table 1 Impact of Disturbance on various parameters

Oaks are most prone to degradation as they are preferentially lopped for fuelwood and fodder. Thus in areas where anthropogenic disturbance is common, the oaks are among the first species to be impacted. Consequently, as would be expected, the growth rate of oaks gets impacted in areas where degradation is high. The percentage change in basal area of oaks is almost five times higher in undisturbed plots as compared to degraded plots (Table 1).

Long term monitoring of biomass Stocks and Forest Community Structures in temperate zone of Western Himalaya Project Area: Uttarakhand

Sanctioned by: Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India Duration: 36 months.

There is a growing demand for accurate estimations of biomass stocks and carbon sequestration rates. This study aims to provide more accurate data on biomass and carbon sequestration rates in relatively undisturbed forest sites, while developing a method to rapidly access the same using leaf area index (LAI) as an indicator of productivity. The project also aims to understand the shift in altitudinal belt of important tree species due to changes in climatic regimes and future composition of the forests. The project will contribute and expand CEDARs network of permanent plots and the data will be made available to Himalayan researchers. These plots and data assume importance as a result of REDD + and related mechanisms suggested by UNFCCC.

The study is being conducted in Nainital district of Kumaun Himalaya between 1600 and 2400 m. 48 permanent plots of $400m^2$ nested with $100m^2$ plots for intensive study are being established at an interval of 100m rise in altitude (Fig. 1). These data include information on altitude, tree diameter (DBH), total basal area, dominant vegetation, Slope of the plot, number of trees, seedlings, saplings and poles. To sample the understory, a Point Line Intercept Transect (PLIT) method is being been used within the nested $100m^2$ plot (Fig 2).



Fig 1. Map showing permanent plots in Mukteshwar area

A point line intercept transect was used to quantify understory. A 100 cm rope, with prominent knots at every 10 cm was used. Over a random point, the two ends of rope were stretched using two nails. Objects that fell under each knot were recorded. The process was repeated ten times at 10 cm intervals to get one hundred data points so to get clear representation of the forest floor. The following objects were notes in the understory (Table 2)



Figure 1: Preparation of a transect to study the forest floor

Object Recorded	5. Fern	10. Grass
1. Soil	6. Small herb (<15 cm)	11. Pine litter
2. Leaf litter/ Humus	7. Large herb (>15 cm)	12. Coppice
3. Wood litter/ Seed/	8. Shrub	13. Rhododendron
Acorn		flower
4. Moss	9. Tree seedling	14. Rock

Table 2: Objects and their code on the transect

Biomass estimation has been done in both sites (Killbury & Mukteshwar) using previously developed allometric equations the same would be conducted in October 2016 to calculate the biomass change hence the carbon sequestration rate. Leaf Area Index (LAI) measurements are taken in October (growing season) LAI. The relationship between LAI and C sequestration would be examined to standardise the technique of biomass measurement using LAI.



Fig 3. Tree height measurement using clinometer

3. Political Economy Water Security, Ecosystem Services and Livelihoods in the Western Himalayas

Sites: Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh

Funded by: Ecosystem Services and Poverty Alleviation Program (ESPA) of UK (*The ESPA programme is funded by the Department for International Development (DFID), the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), as part of the UK's Living with Environmental Change (LWEC) programme.*

Duration: 2.5 years

The study being conducted by the University of Cambridge, England, in collaboration with the Centre for Ecology Development and Research (CEDAR) and Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies in Nepal is examining the ways in which small towns in the mountains of South Asia depend on springs, streams and rivers for their water supply. The study has developed the concept of 'Critical Water Zones' which can be implemented to ensure water security in the face of rapid urbanization in these regions. The project is looking at six towns - four in India including Nainital and Mussoorie (Uttarakhand), Rajgarh and Palampur (Himanchal Pradesh) and two in Nepal (Bidur and Dhulikhel) - to understand how small towns in Himalayan region are are coping with the ever-increasing demand for water. These towns are particularly important in hill and mountain regions of India and Nepal because they have grown very rapidly but with little planning for infrastructure and for water supply in particular. There is an imperative need to secure and nurture the Critical Water Zones² (CWZ) so that the primary water resources can be kept healthy and alive.

The study suggests that considerable investment is required for rejuvenation of the natural springs, a lifeline for people in the Himalayas. Mussoorie still sources drinking water from a system of 21 springs, which supplies water to the town through a series of pumping stations that were installed during the British era. Nainital, which mostly relies on Naini lake to meet its drinking water needs, contains important springs which are recharged by a valley fill "Sukhatal" upstream of the Naini lake to provide water to its residents (Fig 4). The project is also studying water sources - Palamour and Rajgarh - in Himachal Pradesh and Dhulikhel and Bidur in Nepal. Climate change, urbanization and land use changes have adversely affected the natural water sources. The study is also exploring the possibility of avoiding damage caused by urbanization by using systematic housing schemes suited to the geography of the hilly terrain, plantation and water conservation techniques to retain groundwater and recharging of identified CWZs and community participation.

² water resources that charge the primary water bodies that cater to the needs of a particular area.



Figure 4. Showing geological Connection between CWZ (Sukhatal) and Naini lake

4. Himalayan Adaptation, Water and Resilience (HI-AWARE) Research on Glacier and Snowpack Dependent River Basins for Improving Livelihoods

2.5 Years

Funders: ICIMOD – HI- AWARE – Strategic Partners TERI- Operational Partners

HI-AWARE is a 5 year research initiative aiming at developing climate change adaptation approaches and increasing the resilience of the poorest and most vulnerable women, men, and children in the mountains and plains of the Hindu Kush Himalayan (HKH) region (Fig 5). The HI-AWARE consortium is conducting integrative research across scales on the

biophysical, socioeconomic, gender, and governance drivers and conditions leading to vulnerability in order to understand climate change impacts and to identify critical moments for adaptation. It focuses on the Indus, Ganges, and Brahmaputra river basins, where the impacts of climate change on the livelihoods of the poor are uncertain but likely to be severe. Adaptation policies and practices, based on robust evidence, are urgently required in these basins to increase the resilience of the poorest and most vulnerable populations and improve their livelihoods in a quickly changing climate.



Figure 5. Figure showing Study sites (Source HI-AWARE- ICIMOD)

CEDAR is a strategic partner with HI-AWARE program lead by International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Kathmandu, Nepal and operational patners with the country lead The Energy Research Institute (TERI) for the Upper Ganga Basin region under this project. CEDAR under HI-AWARE is involved in conducting research on different aspects of the project along with coordinating the research group's programme in Upper Ganga Basin (upstream in Rudraprayag district wherein we will be covering the Gaurikund area, Ukhimath block and the Guptakashi area, Mid hills of Tehri Garhwal district which covers the Devprayag and Chamba blocks and downstream of Haridwar district which covers Haridwar, Rishikesh and Roorkee). Tools such as Multi Criteria Analysis (MCA), Participatory Approaches, GIS and synthesis of secondary literature are used for the same. Based on Preliminary surveys on people's perception across the study sites in Upper Ganga basin the following issues have been observed:

- Overall more erratic rainfall
- Decreased winter precipitation
- Shorter and warmer winters
- Shift in fruiting and flowing patterns of some species
- Increased man animal conflict and
- Out migration
- Increased frequency of disasters

Workshops and Seminars:

1. Expert member workshop on: The hydrological connectivity and geological forms between Sukhatal and Nainital- anthropogenic pressures and implications



On April 9th & 10th , 2015, Centre for Ecology Development and Research (CEDAR) hosted a two day workshop entitled "The hydrological connectivity and geological forms between Sukhatal and Nainitalanthropogenic pressures and implications" in Nainital, at Vikram Vintage Inn, Nainital. The workshop was a part of

Expert member deliberationCEDAR's ongoing water "The PoliticalEconomy of Water Security, Ecosystem Services and Livelihoods in the Western Himalayasin collaboration with Combridge University, UK, & SIAS Nenel, The project is funded by

in collaboration with Cambridge University, UK & SIAS Nepal. The project is funded by Ecosystem Services for Poverty Alleviation (ESPA), Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) & DFID, United Kingdom (UK). The purpose of the workshop was to bring together experts of hydrology, geo-hydrology & geologists to review the existing information, physically inspect the site and to deliberate and develop expert opinions on: i) The hydrological and geological forms and connectivity between Sukhatal and Nainital; ii) the significance of these; iii) the impact of different anthropogenic activities on the lake bed and its catchment as well as on its recharge capacity to Nainital; and iv) the impact of artificial pumping on the underground water reservoir, and effects on the holistic Naini system through synthesis of existing research and physical verification of the site .



Site visit: Experts in discussions with stakeholders

Key Observations and Recommendations:

- 1. Since the dumping of construction material has increased the bed level and reduced the storage capacity of the lake, dumping must be stopped with immediate effect.
- 2. Dredging of the lake bed should be undertaken to enhance its water holding capacity, and infiltration rate.
- 3. No new construction should be allowed on the lake bed and within the identified rim line.
- 4. The high lake levels during extreme events (keeping in mind the 1993 floods followed by heavy rains) should be identified, no further construction should be allowed in this zone.
- 5. Overland pumping during the monsoon reduces infiltration and aquifer recharge. Therefore it should be avoided.
- Drains coming to the Sukhatal lake should be free of obstructions and care must be taken to check polythene/ sewage disposal and other polluting items/ agents entering the drain.

- In the dry season, the use of the lake bed should be compatible with the ecology and recharge functions. Earlier uses such as dry season playground may be continued. Landscaping should be on the sides.
- 8. Recreational boating is not feasible, as it will require sealing of the lake bed which will reduce the infiltration from Sukhatal including to Nainital lake.
- 9. Periodical monitoring should be undertaken of:
 - ➢ Ground Water levels at Sukhatal and Nainital flats using piezometers.
 - > Spring discharges particularly of *Pardhadhara*.
 - > Water quality of springs and groundwater
- 10. Recommend further studies:
 - ▶ Water Balance for Sukhatal lake using isotopic and conventional methods.
 - Geophysical investigation (e.g. Ground Penetrating Radar and resistivity) to map the sub-surface geology of Sukhatal and estimate sediment thickness.



Experts with the District Magistrate of Nainital

2. Stakeholder consultation on "Water Access And Availability In Mountain Areas Of Upper Ganga Basin" 4th December, 2015 Tehri Himalayan Residency in New Tehri.

CEDAR together with their partner TERI conducted a workshop on 'Water Access and Availability in the mountain areas of Upper Ganga Basin' on 4th December, 2015 in Hotel Tehri Himalayan Residency in New Tehri.

The workshop aimed for shared understanding on the issue across stakeholder groups and deliberation on challenges and opportunities for response actions.



Presentation on Upper Ganga Basin HI-AWARE

The workshop was represented by Academicians, NGO's and local people.

Following recommendations were made at the end of the workshop

- 1. Research institutes should be given more importance and included in the decision making process.
- 2. Information sharing should be two way between government research institutes and implementing departments.
- 3. There is an information deficit when it comes to spring mapping, snowfall data, discharge data, mapping of sectoral demand of water, and vulnerability mapping.
- 4. There should be a central repository of information, interventions and actions.
- 5. Coordination is required between different departments and institutions so as to avoid duplication of efforts and ensure holistic coverage.

6. Any intervention made should take into account any natural disasters that may occur in the region.

3. "Climate Change Adaptation in Upper Ganga Basin" 4th March, 2016 Hotel: Four Points, Rajpur Road, Dehradun

The workshop on "Adaptation to Climate Change in the Upper Ganga Basin" held on 4 March 2016 in Dehradun, India brought to the attention of all concerned some of the major



climate risks and adaptation challenges facing the people of the Western Indian Himalaya in general and Uttarakhand in particular. Jointly organised by the Centre for Ecology, Development and Research

Session Chair: Chairman CEDAR and PI-HIAWARE

and Resources Institute

(TERI) as part of the HI-AWARE Academy, the workshop focused primarily on climate change adaptation in the Upper Ganga Basin. A diverse group of researchers, practitioners, students, and prominent senior scientists from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Italy and the

Netherlands, including government representatives from the state of Uttarakhand, attended the workshop.

The aim of the workshop was to have a dialogue on various issues related to monitoring and assessment of adaptation



Sharing his knowledge; Dr. Ravi Chopra

practices with a view towards prioritising adaptation measures, strategies, and options. The participants were asked to give scores to the adaptation options such as developing policies for climate change awareness and investing in disaster-resilient infrastructure by applying the weighted criteria. The group exercises gave the participants a "feel" for the trade-offs involved in ranking adaptation options and about decision making under uncertainty. Even those with many years of field experience were caught wondering if the



Group Photo: Participants from different countries

choices they'd made were the best under the given circumstances. The beauty of the group exercises lay in how the participants cross-questioned each other, thereby greatly adding to the rigours of the discourse.

The day-long consultation workshop, comprising a series of presentations, panel discussions and experts-led group

exercises, brought to the fore major climate change risks and adaptation challenges facing Uttarakhand in a more nuanced way and also an appreciation for the multi-scale transdisciplinary research work that needs to be done in the future, ensuring that its results would be taken up by policymakers and practitioners to enhance the climate resilience and adaptive capacity of the poor and vulnerable communities living in the HI-AWARE study basins.

Publications:

S.P. Singh and Singh V. 2016.

Addressing rural decline by valuing agricultural ecosystem services and treating food production as a social contribution. Tropical Ecology 57(3): 381-392, 2016

B. Vira, Kovacs E. Singh V, 2015.

Not a Drop to Drink! Research Horizons, Feature. Special Issue on India, University of Cambridge. 8: pp. 16-17

S.P. Singh and Thadani R. 2015

Complexities and Controversies in Himalayan Research: A Call for Collaboration and Rigor for Better Data. Mountain Research and Development Nov 2015, Vol. 35, No. 4: 401-409.

Ashish Parmar and Shahabuddin G, 2015.

Elephantine Block. Down to Earth. 1-15 August, 2015

R. Thadani, Singh V., Chauhan D.S., Dwivedi V., and Pandey A. 2015

Climate Change In Uttarakhand: Current State of Knowledge, CEDAR and M/s. Bishen Singh and Mahendra Pal Singh, Dehradun. ISBN – 978-81-211-0928-4

People

Board Members

Prof. S.P. Singh, FNA

Former Vice Chancellor, HNB Garhwal University, Srinagar, Chair of Excellence, Forest Research Institute, Deemed University

Prof. B.K. Joshi Former Vice Chancellor, Kumaun University, Nainital, Director, Doon Library, Dehradun

Dr. Ravi Chopra Director, Peoples Science Institute Dehradun

Dr. Rajesh Thadani (Secretary) (Ex-Officio) Executive Director, Centre for Ecology Development and Research

Dr. Ghazala Shahabuddin Independent Consultant, New Delhi

Dr. Malavika Chauhan Executive Director, Himmotthan Society, Dehradun

Research Advisory Board

Prof. K. Sivaramakrishnan,

Dinakar Singh Professor of India & South Asia Studies, Anthropology; School of Forestry & Environmental Studies United States of America

Dr. Margaret D. Lowman, Director of Environmental Initiatives, New College of Florida, USA

Dr. Bhaskar Vira, Director, University of Cambridge Conservation Research Institute United Kingdom

Dr. Rajendra Dobhal, Director General, U-COST, Dehradun

Dr. Himanshu Kulkarni: Director, Advanced Centre for Water Resources Development and Management (ACWADAM) Pune- India

Voluntary Compliance

Voluntary Compliance with the Norms of Credibility Alliance

The Credibility Alliance has evolved minimum and desirable to promote better Governance within the Voluntary sector. While CEDAR is not a member of the alliance, we declare this information voluntarily to promote accountability and transparency.

Governance:

None of the Governing board members are related to each other or related to any of the senior salaried staff by blood or by marriage.

None of the Governing Board members (including the Chairman and Executive Director) have received any salary, consultancy or other remuneration from CEDAR. Travel costs, as per actual ticket submitted that were budgeted into projects were however reimbursed.

The Governing Board has met more than twice in the last year with the required quorum.

9th Annual General Meeting held on September 1st, 2015, 5 pm Venue: 41/I, Vasant Vihar, Dehradun

Salary: Maximum salary paid was of were Rs 61500 /- month.

Travel: Maximum cost of any single rail/ticket purchased was less than 2000 /- rupees Maximum cost of any single air ticket purchased was less than 10000/- rupees

Statutory Auditor:

Mr. R.Balasubramanian Partner, S.Ramanand Aiyar & Co. 708, Surya Kiran, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi 110001

Our Bankers:

ICICI Bank, New Delhi Indian Overseas Bank, Dehradun

Memorandum of Understanding

Department of Forestry, Kumaun University, Nainital, Uttarakhand Department of Forestry, HNB Garhwal University, Srinagar, Uttarkhand

Registrations

Cedar is registered under Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860 Registration No S-54758 of 2006

Registered Under Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), Registration No 347900178 (Educational Social)

The society holds a status of a Scientific and Research Organisation (SIRO) registered under Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India