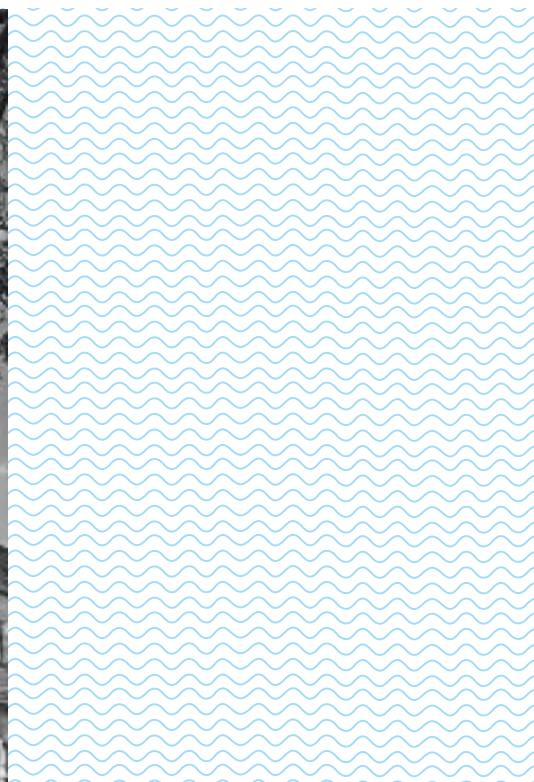




The area of the Centre is approximately 1000 sq. metre, and it has been setup to house laboratories for eco-toxicological research, conservation biology and spatial analysis in respect to aquatic biodiversity. Apart from the research labs, the Centre for River Research has a classroom with 20 seating capacity, a library and an auditorium for conducting teaching and training activities. The Centre is equipped to conduct advanced ecological and ecotoxicological research and systematic conservation planning for rivers in the face of increasing anthropogenic pressures and climate change impacts. The fully operational Centre for River Research will collect, collate and disseminate information on the ecology and conservation of freshwater ecosystems and will also develop a cadre of young professionals for science-based management of freshwater ecosystems in India.



जल संसाधन, नदी विकास और गंगा संरक्षण विभाग

Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation



भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान
Wildlife Institute of India

**GANGA AQUALIFE
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**GANGA AQUALIFE
CONSERVATION
MONITORING CENTRE**

CENTRE FOR RIVER RESEARCH

Freshwater ecosystems are among the most endangered biomes globally. Drivers and pressures such as an increased demand for food, energy and water, expansion of human habitation, water pollution have led to changes in the freshwater ecosystems. In the current era, climate change is acting as an overarching threat that is impacting multiple aspects of the ecosystem level processes, particularly in the context of freshwater ecosystems.

Freshwater conservation needs to be rooted in scientific evidence based effective and efficient management. This is especially important in the face of rising pressures due to competing demands for freshwater resources and availability due to the climate and land use changes. Improving effectiveness and efficiency of conservation actions in freshwater ecosystems faces important challenges that must become a priority to reverse the steep decline that freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity are now experiencing. Given the dramatic declines in global freshwater biodiversity, which far exceed those observed in terrestrial or marine ecosystems, it is pertinent to understand the aquatic ecosystem level processes, their biodiversity, and pinpoint the problematic areas that need ameliorative measures.

Under the Namami Gange programme, a Centralized Knowledge Centre known as 'Ganga Aqualife Conservation Monitoring Centre' has been established at the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun to cater to the need for conservation and management of the freshwater resources, in wake of the country's growing demand for freshwater. The financial support for setting up of this Centre was provided by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) through the project "Planning and Management for Aquatic Species Conservation and Maintenance of Ecosystem Services in the Ganga River Basin for a Clean Ganga". Initially it was working to cater to the demands of Ganga Basin, it has now been upscaled to cater to the need of river conservation at the country level as a Centre for River Research, with an additional financial support by the National River Conservation Directorate (NRCD), Ministry of Jal Shakti through the project "Assessment of ecological status of select Indian river for conservation planning".

The main aim of creating this centre was to develop a resource repository on freshwater ecosystem and aid the Government of India as a decision support institution for planning and conservation of freshwater sources, such as rivers and wetlands, and its biodiversity. The objectives of the Centre are to collect, collate and disseminate information on the freshwater resources and its biodiversity. The high-end analytical laboratories housed within the Centre will aid conservation and management decisions through application of advanced and contemporary tools and techniques. The Centre will promote sustainable river management, and facilitate the conservation and protection of freshwater ecosystems through research and monitoring, capacity building on integrated water resource management and biodiversity conservation, stakeholder engagement, policy advocacy and knowledge dissemination.

The Centre is one of its kind in the country, which will provide technical inputs to the Ministry of Jal Shakti and the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India on water resource management and river biodiversity conservation in a holistic manner by using cutting edge science & technology and by involving a multitude of stakeholders. The Centre will train some of the best of tomorrow's science and technology leaders through a combination of innovative and novel curricula and pedagogy.

