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Study on microbial, floral and faunal resources of State

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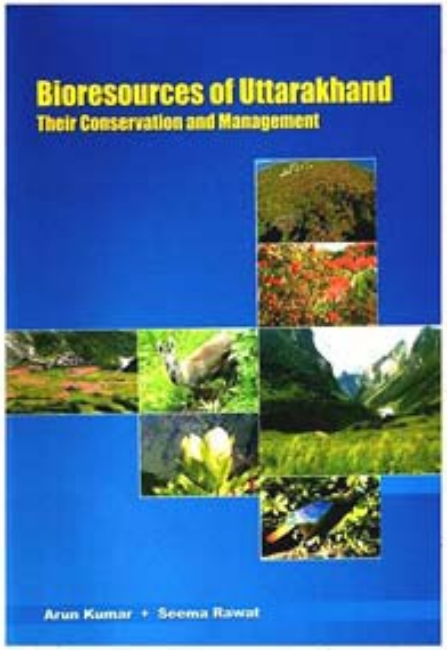
Bioresources of Uttarakhand: Their Conservation and Management", which has been brought out recently, provides extensive information on the biodiversity of wildlife, agricultural and horticultural resources of the hill State, besides including information on living microbes, floral and faunal resources of Uttarakhand.

Written by well-known scientist Dr Arun Kumar and Seema Rawat, the book has been brought out by Uttarakhand State Council for Science and Technology (UCOST) and dwells on the Protected Area Network in Uttarakhand. The study also takes into account the threats to biodiversity and the strategies and action plans for its conservation in the State. It is undoubtedly one of the few, if not the only, comprehensive account of available formal sector knowledge regarding the full range of biodiversity at State-level in our country.

The book has seven chapters, where in chapter one contains background information on the State including a brief on its natural resources and the efforts made for in-situ and ex-situ conservation of these resources. The Chapter two deals with forest resources in the State including forest products and the management of forest resources. Chapter three is devoted to agriculture diversity in the State. Information has also been provided on horticulture, floriculture, ethno-botanical uses, live stock, fisheries, etc in the State. Chapter four is on the biodiversity status of the State and includes enumeration of microbes; diatoms, non-flowering and flowering plants, ethno-botanical species, both invertebrate and vertebrate fauna of the State have been listed based on the most recent knowledge. The chapter also deals with the conservation status of both the flora and fauna under IUCN and CAMP criteria. It also highlights the bioresources under different schedules of Indian Wildlife (P) Act, 2003 and the species of bioresources of the State under various appendices of CITES.



THE STUDY ALSO TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE THREATS TO BIODIVERSITY AND THE STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS FOR ITS CONSERVATION IN THE STATE

The Protected Area Network including all the national parks, sanctuaries, conservation and tiger reserves of the State have been dealt with in Chapter five which also provides information on the major flora and fauna of the individual Protected Area. The challenges in protection of these PA's in Uttarakhand and their conservation strategies have also been discussed. An attempt has been made to provide the major information on threats to the biodiversity of the State in Chapter six which extensively touches on various threats to bioresources in the State, both man made and natural. In chapter seven, an attempt has been made to discuss the biodiversity related issues in Uttarakhand and suggestions have been provided on the strategy and action plan for the conservation of biodiversity in the State. Eleven remote sensing and GIS maps of various natural resources of Uttarakhand have been provided at the end of Chapter seven.

The bioresources recorded form the State have been listed in a set of 94 annexure to provide comprehensive information to the readers on microbes, plants and animal resources from Uttarakhand. These are arranged on fossils, microbial, floral, medicinal plants, ethno-botanical and faunal resources and the conservation thereof.

The book will be helpful not only to increase knowledge among readers but more importantly, as a base for actions relating to conservation, sustainable use, and equity in the governance and sharing of benefits of biodiversity. It is hoped that it will form a basis for even greater understanding of the vast traditional and evolving knowledge of local communities that inhabit this State. The book should serve the need of the civil society at large for formulating strategy and action plans for sustainable use and equitable sharing of the biological resources of the State.