Wetlands Managers Training Program – Day 1

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Three days Wetlands Managers Training Programme for officials of H.P. Forest Department and NGO's was inaugurated by Dr Parikshit Gautam, Director, Freshwater and Wetlands, WWF India at Forest Training Institute, Sundernagar. The training is being organised jointly by WWF India, HP Forest Department and Centre for Sustainable Development under the Saving Wetlands Sky High! Project under sponsorship from WWF Netherlands. This project is being run in India, China, Pakistan, Nepal and Bhutan to protect and conserve high altitude wetlands which are source of important perennial rivers such as Ganga, Indus, Sutlej, Beas and Brahmaputra. The programme have experts from WWF India, HP Forest Department, GB Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development Kullu, IIRS Dehradun and Centre for Sustainable Development Sundernagar. The participants will be imparted training about the threats being faced by the wetlands, its impact and management. Several lakes in Himachal like Chandertal, Nako, Rewalsar, etc. are under threat due to increasing human interference. The program aims towards Capacity Building of field staff of HP Forest Department to apprise them of the issues concerning wetlands and their management. Programme began with a welcome speech from Ms. Vandana Thaplyal, State Director, WWF who welcomed all the participants and the resource persons. Inaugural session was followed by technical sessions from various experts such as Dr. Parikshit Gautam, Director, Freshwater and wetlands Division, WWF India, Archana Chatterjee, Programme Coordinator, WWF India, Pankaj Chandan, Programme Manager, WWF India, Sanjeev Sharma, Sr. Project Officer, WWF India and B.D. Suyal, Conservator of Forests who spoke on various issues such as threats, impacts, management and legal aspects concerning the wetlands.