

Effects of Anthropogenic Activities in High Altitude Areas of Garhwal Himalaya: An Overview

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Abstract

Garhwal Himalaya is lying between 77°33'5" to 80°E longitude to 29°31'9" to 31°26'5" N latitude and is known for the home of various Rare, Endangered and Threatened (RET) species. Since last few decades uncontrolled anthropogenic activities have increased in this region. All such illegal activities poses serious threat to populations of various important species of flora and fauna. The uncontrolled pilgrimages in sacred places and nearby alpine pastures, grazing by domestic animals, exploitation of important natural flora by local unskilled collectors and their illegal collection and trade are the major activities which are increasing day by day in the region. There are no strict rules and laws for tourism and other

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activities to restrict their visits in high altitude areas of the region. Due to overexploitation, illegal collection and trade, a number of important plant species have been listed in endangered category in the region. A rational approach is needed to maintain the sensitivity of alpine pastures by controlling such illegal activities. If such anthropogenic activities are not controlled within time, the coming days may be very painful for the human being and biodiversity of the region. The present paper reveals the effects of uncontrolled anthropogenic activities in high altitude areas of Garhwal Himalaya

Introduction

Anthropogenic pressures are the disturbances caused by human induced activities on the surrounding environment. Since the beginning of human civilization, man induced pressures have influenced the forest ecosystems of the world. The worldwide destruction of floral diversity is continuing at an alarming rate due to multiplicity of causes like grazing, logging,

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