

Restoration of Bairam Hills Ecosystem

(World Environment Day 2024 Celebration)

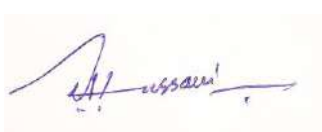
Government Degree College Beerwah in collaboration with Range Office Beerwah (Tangmarg Forest Division), J&K Forest Department on the eve of World Environment Day 2024 kick started the programme on ‘Restoration of Bairam Hills (Beerwah) Ecosystem’. The programme was in line with this year’s World Environment Day Theme ‘Land Restoration, Desertification and Drought Resilience’ and the slogan was ‘Our Land. Our Future. We are #Generation Restoration’.

The Bairam Hills ecosystem is an important historical, cultural and environmental asset of Beerwah town. The Bairam Hills contain the cave dedicated to Abhinavagupta, a great Trika Kashmir Shaivist Scholar and saint. The Hills are a major land mark of the area and have high visibility and aesthetic appeal. It is a picnic area for the local people and has great landscape and aesthetic value. But, because of continued quarrying in the past and deforestation, grazing pressures, soil erosion and landslides, the hills have been converted into a nude and barren upland. So, the restoration of the Bairam Hills assumes great importance.

The long term goal of the ‘Restoration of Bairam Hills Ecosystem’ programme is to restore the degraded Bairam Hills ecosystem. This process is intended to be a source of acquiring new knowledge and achieving the goal of lush green and biodiversity rich Bairam Hills forest. The present decade 2021-2030 has been declared as the decade for ecosystem restoration by the United Nations Organization and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 15 (protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss) is the guiding principal for the programme.

The Programme started in the morning of 5th June 2024 from the college campus and was flagged off by the principal of the college Prof. Syed Iffat Ara. The students of the college, the teaching and non-teaching staff members, the officials and the field staff of the Range Office Beerwah started a march from the college campus to the Bairam Hills, Beerwah. Students carried banners and placards and voiced slogans on different aspects of conservation of resources and protection and restoration of the earth's ecosystems. A cleanliness drive was organized in the Bairam Hills area followed by large plantation drive for planting of pines including *Pinus*, *Abies* and *Cedrus* saplings. The preparations on ground started a week before for a well-organized and futuristic outcome.

The collaborative effort is spearheaded by Dr. Qazi Ashiq Hussain (Head Department of Environmental Science, GDC Beerwah) and Mr. Sofi Farhan Mearaj (Range Officer, Range Office Beerwah). The collaborating units of the college include The NSS, NCC and the NGC, whose volunteers and cadets participated in large numbers and were very enthusiastic and disciplined in the field. Noteworthy contributions were made by the NSS programme officers namely Prof. Bashir Ahmad Sheer Gojree and Dr. Syed Raashid Maqsood and NCC Programme officer Dr. Sumeer Mohi Ud Din. Other members of the college fraternity who contributed greatly in the programme include Dr. Bilal Ahmad Dar, Prof. Mohammad Iqbal Bhat, Prof. Zahoor Ahmad Bhat and Mr. Javid Ali Dar among others. The 'Restoration of Bairam Hills Ecosystem' programme is registered with the Society for Ecological Restoration (<https://makeadifferenceweek.org/events/restoration-of-bairam-hills-ecosystem/>) and has been appreciated by UNEP.



HoD

Environmental Science



Principal

Certificate of Appreciation

Congratulations for contributing to **World Environment Day 2024** through your event or activity. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) expresses its appreciation to

Government Degree College, Beerwah & J&K Forest Department

from

Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir, India

for joining the **#GenerationRestoration** movement and making World Environment Day 2024 a huge success. Together, we can restore land, build drought resilience and combat desertification.

*UNEP is not in a position to verify the accuracy of information provided about events and activities for World Environment Day

Our Land. Our Future
We are
#GenerationRestoration



worldenvironmentday.global



Department of Environmental Science
Government Degree College Beerwah
in Collaboration With
Range Office Beerwah, J & K Forest Department
(Tangmarg Forest Division)
Celebrates World Environment Day 2024
on 5th June, 2024

Theme:	Programme
<p>Land Restoration, Desertification and Drought Resilience</p> <p>Slogan: Our Land. Our Future. We are #Generation Restoration</p>	<p>➤ Background: The Bairam Hills are an important historical, cultural and environmental feature of Beerwah, Budgam, J & K. The area is highly degraded because of deforestation, soil erosion and land slides and needs immediate restoration.</p> <p>➤ Focus: Restoration of Bairam Hills Ecosystem</p> <p>➤ Activities: Cleanliness drive in the Bairam Hills Area Plantation Drive in the Bairam Hills Area to Kick Start Restoration</p>

Patron: Prof. Syed Iffat Ara (Principal GDC Beerwah)
Coordinators:
Dr. Qazi Ashiq Hussain (GDC Beerwah)
Mr. Sofi Farhan Mearaj (Range Officer Beerwah)

Collaborating College Units













