



Report
on
the Celebration of
International Day for the Conservation
of the Mangrove Ecosystem 2022



Organized by

ENVIS Resource Partner

on

Forest Genetic Resources and Tree Improvement
Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding
(Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education)
Coimbatore

Observance of International Day for the Conservation of Mangrove Ecosystem - 2022

As part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) and Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB), ENVIS Resource Partner on Forest Genetic Resources and Tree Improvement at the Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore organized an awareness campaign on 26.07.2022 to commemorate International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem 2022. The main aim of this event was to raise awareness about the significance of mangrove ecosystems and to promote solutions for their sustainable management and conservation.

Dr Rekha R Warriar, Scientist F and ENVIS link officer during her introductory remarks highlighted that mangrove forests make up one of the most productive and biologically diverse ecosystems on the planet. Mangrove ecosystem plays a critical role in supporting human well-being by delivering the necessities of life like food, shelter and livelihoods. Mangroves reduce loss of property and vulnerability of local communities, mangrove forests also help mitigate climate change, pulling massive amounts of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere and storing them in their soils, she added. Dr Warriar emphasized that mangroves are vital biodiversity hotspots. They help to filter coastal waters, they provide nutrient-rich habitats for a vast array of species around the world including birds, fish, reptiles, monkeys, penguins, sharks, flamingos, manatees, and even to a species of tiger.

Dr C Kunhikannan, Director, IFGTB during his inaugural address, explained, that this day is celebrated to raise awareness about the importance of mangroves as a unique, special and vulnerable ecosystem. Mangrove forests nurture our estuaries and fuel our nature-based economies. Mangroves are important to the other ecosystems too. Their dense roots help bind and build soils. Their above-ground roots slow down water flows and encourage sediment deposits that reduce coastal erosion. Mangroves give protection to the coastline and minimize natural disasters, he added. Director also highlighted, mangroves are magical forests where we discover nature's secrets. They straddle the connection between land and sea and nature and humans. By giving an insight to mangrove habitat loss and the need for their conservation and restoration, Dr Kunhikannan urged all to join hands to conserve the most valuable ecosystem.

As a part of this commemoration, a Mobile Photography Contest on the theme “ Significance of Mangroves” was conducted from 10.07.2022 to 25.07.2022, in which people from different walks of life participated. E certificates were awarded to all of them. Copies of the awareness poster released during the occasion signifying the status, contributions and conservation of mangroves and handouts were distributed to students and the general public and also the softcopies were electronically transmitted to various stakeholders. Dr S Vigneswaran, Senior Programme Officer, ENVIS proposed the vote of thanks.











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INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE MANGROVE ECOSYSTEM - 2022

Mangroves are rare, spectacular and prolific ecosystems on the boundary between land and sea. These extra ordinary ecosystems contribute to the wellbeing, food security, and protection of coastal communities worldwide. They support a rich biodiversity and provide a valuable nursery habitat for fish and crustaceans. Mangroves also act as a form of natural coastal defence against storm surges, tsunamis, rising sea levels and erosion. Their soils are highly effective carbon sinks, sequestering vast amounts of carbon.

Mangrove Forest Cover Worldwide

As per Global Forest Resource Assessment, (FRA), world over, 113 countries have Mangrove forests covering an estimated 14.79 million hectares.

The largest Mangrove Forest area reported in:

Asia	5.55 million hectares
Africa	3.24 million hectares
North and Central America	2.57 million hectares
South America	2.13 million hectares
Oceania	1.30 million hectares

More than 40 percent of the total area of Mangroves was reported to be in just four countries:

Indonesia	19 percent of the total
Brazil	9 percent
Nigeria	7 percent
Mexico	6 percent

1. Sundarbans, West Bengal

Not many must be aware that the great Sundarbans in West Bengal are the largest mangrove regions in the world! A UNESCO World Heritage Site, Sundarbans is densely populated by mangroves and is home to the Royal Bengal Tigers. The forest is also home to more than 180 species of trees and plants.



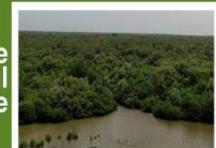
2. Pichavaram Mangroves, Tamil Nadu

Counted among the largest mangrove forests in India, Pichavaram mangrove is situated close to Chidambaram in Tamil Nadu. The whole region is exquisitely scenic and houses a large number of Aquatic birds.



3. Godavari – Krishna Mangroves, Andhra Pradesh

Set in the eastern coast of India, the Godavari-Krishna mangroves lies in the deltas of the Godavari and Krishna rivers and extend from Odisha to Tamil Nadu. The forest is under protection for Calimere Wildlife and Pulicat Lake Bird Sanctuary and is home to some rare animal species and aquatic birds.



4. Bhitarkanika Mangroves, Odisha

The second largest mangrove forest in India is Bhitarkanika in Odisha. The forest is created by the two river deltas of River Brahmani and Baitarani. It is one of the most significant Ramsar wetlands in India.



5. Baratang Island Mangroves, Andamans

Another gorgeous swamp of mangroves is set on the Andaman's Baratang Island. It's a great place for wildlife explorers and birdwatchers, located just 150 km away from Port Blair.

