



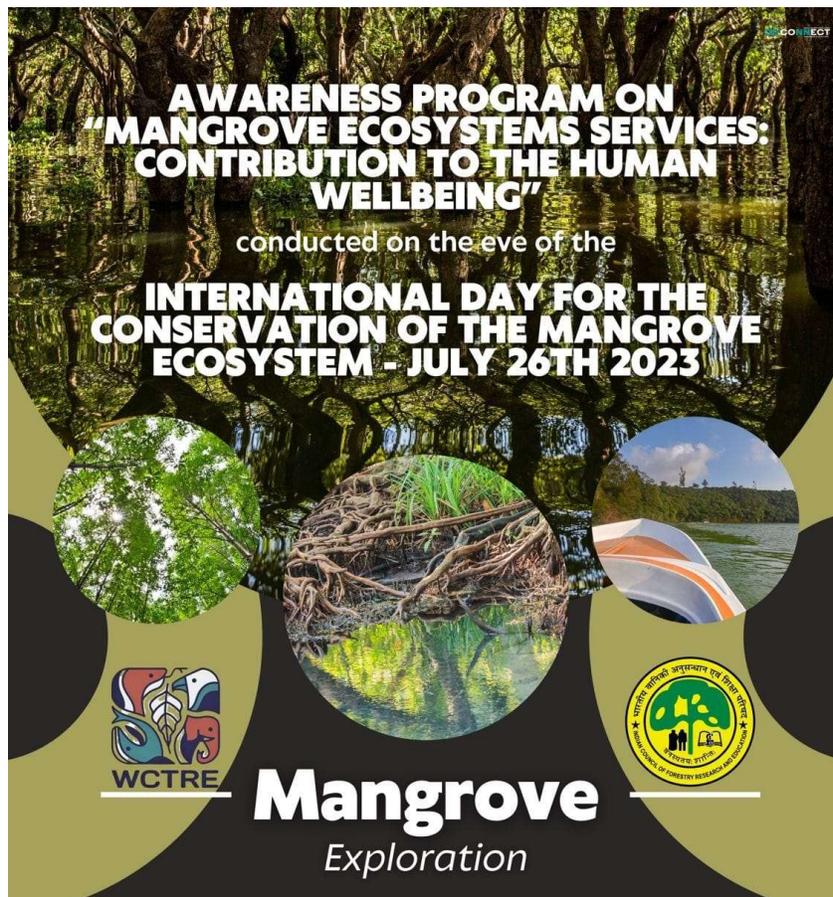
LIFE
Lifestyle for
Environment



मैंग्रोव पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र के संरक्षण के लिए अंतर्राष्ट्रीय दिवस पर एक रिपोर्ट - 26 जुलाई 2023

Report
on

**International Day for the Conservation of Mangrove
Ecosystems – July 26th 2023**



Organised by

ICFRE-COASTAL ECOSYSTEM CENTRE

ICFRE-Institute of Forest Biodiversity

Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India

Visakhapatnam – 530 003

International Mangrove Day 2023 Celebrations by ICFRE-CEC

International Day for the Conservation of Mangrove Ecosystems is celebrated every year on July 26. Its purpose is to increase global understanding of the significance of mangrove ecosystems as distinct, precious, and delicate environments. The day also seeks to advocate for sustainable practices in managing, safeguarding, and utilizing these ecosystems. This International Day was adopted by the General Conference of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 2015.

Mangrove forests hold significant ecological importance as their intricate root systems serve as protective nurseries for various organisms, shielding them from predators, extreme heat, and powerful tides. Additionally, these coastal forests are highly effective in removing five times more carbon dioxide from the atmosphere compared to terrestrial forests.

Unfortunately, over the past four decades, the extent of mangrove forests has nearly halved due to various threats. The primary risk arises from shrimp farming, where large portions of the forest are cleared to create enclosed ponds for shrimp breeding. This practice involves the excessive use of antibiotics and chemicals to prevent diseases and enhance yield, leading to irreversible damage to the ecological balance of the forests.

Moreover, the valuable wood from these forests is often exploited and sold for substantial profits, and it is also used in charcoal production, leading to severe deforestation. The construction of roads, buildings, and the diversion of rivers for irrigation purposes further disrupt the mangrove habitat, particularly since most mangrove forests are located on estuaries.

To address the issues related to degradation and create awareness among the local public an awareness program on “Mangrove Ecosystem Services: Contribution to the Human Wellbeing” was conducted on the eve of the International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem by ICFRE- Coastal Ecosystem Centre

(CEC), Visakhapatnam along with Wildlife Conservation Through Research & Education (WCTRE), NGO, Visakhapatnam at Gosthani river confluence area, Bheemili, Visakhapatnam. A total of 40 participants took part in the program. All the participants reached the venue i.e., St. Ann's High School, Bheemunipatnam by 7:00 in the morning. Participants along with WCTRE volunteers and ICFRE-CEC team started to the swampy region taking the 30 mangrove saplings along with them. The destination was the place where there are existing traces of mangroves. Within no time all of them reached the spot and unloaded the saplings also.

Then the participants gathered around for the live demonstration which was given by ICFRE- CEC team about mangroves and their habitat. Firstly, Mrs. T. Anusha of ICFRE-CEC team gave a brief introduction about CEC, its mandate, vision along with its achievements. Then she introduced Mangroves to the participants with their characteristic features, habitat in which they grow, their adaptations, reproduction, and their importance.

Later the session was continued by shri T. Srinivas, scientist - B of ICFRE-CEC by explaining the difference between mangrove and terrestrial ecosystems, threats to mangroves, need to conserve the mangrove ecosystems for future generations along with economic benefits of these ecosystems for fishermen community. Different livelihood development techniques like fish farming by cage culture, Mangrove crab culture techniques by box method was explained to the participants. He also discussed about the coastal ecosystem and its importance, different types of organisms present in the mangrove ecosystems and their role in ecological process and economy.

Later Mr. Vivek from WCTRE, Visakhapatnam spoke about the fauna in mangrove ecosystems. He explained about the role of mangroves as nursery grounds for many of avian and aquatic fauna. He also discussed about the issues related to the degradation of mangroves in Visakhapatnam District.

The participants raised many queries regarding Mangrove ecosystems, and every query was answered by the team with utmost endurance and attentiveness. Then the teams and participants planted saplings of mangroves in the area. All the participants actively participated in the sessions and made the event successful.







