

# **CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

**22nd May 2014**

**Focal Theme: Island Biodiversity**

*Jointly organized by:*

**Gujarat Biodiversity Board**

**Gujarat Science City**

**Gujarat Council on Science & Technology**

**One Day Workshop on Island Biodiversity**

**ISLANDS ARE ASSETS FOR BIOLOGICAL CONSERVATION**

The United Nations proclaimed May 22 as the International Day for Biological Diversity (IBD) to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues. Gujarat Science City (GSC) in association with Gujarat Biodiversity Board (GBB) and the Gujarat Council on Science & Technology is organizing several educational and outreach activities on bioresources and biodiversity to mark the celebration of International Day for Biological Diversity on 22nd May 2014. The theme of this celebration is "Island Biodiversity".

Biological diversity - or biodiversity - often understood in terms of the wide variety of plants, animals and microorganisms. The biodiversity of the present time is the fruit of billions of years of evolution, shaped by natural processes and, increasingly, by the influence of humans. It forms the web of life of which both animal and plants are an integral part and upon which all are fully depended.

United Nations has recognized Gujarat Science City as a partner agency for the outreach programmes for the Decade of Biodiversity being celebrated during 2011-2020. On this occasion, GSC in association with Gujarat Biodiversity Board and GUJCOST has organized a one-day workshop, exhibition, student competitions and hands-on activities, screening of scientific films, popular science lectures, nature and culture programmes, highlighting the importance of marine and coastal biodiversity to humankind. The theme "Island Biodiversity", celebrating of the central role of people in the management, conservation, and sustainable development of our marine biodiversity.

Our Earth is the only planet in the known universe with liquid water on its surface and the only planet with life. Life originated in the primordial ocean where it has evolved for millions and millions of years. The ocean covers 71 percent of the surface area of the globe and constitutes over 90 percent of the habitable space on the planet. It contains the largest animals ever to have lived on Earth and billions upon billions of the tiniest: there are more living things in the sea than there are stars in the universe.

Islands are home to some 600 million people — about one-tenth of the world's population. Many islanders are endowed with unique cultures and derive much of their economic, environmental and cultural well-being directly or indirectly from the rich natural resources in their immediate environment.

Islands harbour numerous discrete ecosystems, from mountain forests to wetlands and beyond, that provide food, fresh water, wood, fibre, medicines, fuel, tools and other important raw materials, in addition to aesthetic, spiritual, educational and recreational values, that support island livelihoods, economies and cultures. Island ecosystems also contribute to the maintenance of ecosystem functions: they provide defence against natural disasters, support nutrient cycling, and soil and sand formation; and they contribute to the regulation of climate and diseases.

The State of Gujarat, having rich biodiversity, has exclusive strengths in marine resources. The longest coastline confers enviable richness in terms of species diversity with about 462 marine species of flora and 782 species of marine fauna, offer a vast potential base for research and development.

**Shri H. K. Das, IAS**, Additional Chief Secretary, Forests and Environment Dept, Govt of Gujarat has consented to be the Chief Guest and to inaugurate the workshop on 22 May 2014 at 10.00 hrs in Auditorium I in Science City. **Dr. J. A. Khan, IFS**, PCCF and Chairman of Gujarat Biodiversity Board will deliver the key-note address during the inaugural session and workshop.

**Shri S. J. Haider, IAS**, Secretary, Dept of Science & Technology, Govt of Gujarat, **Shri Rajeeva, IFS**, PCCF and Head of Forest Force, Gujarat State, **Dr. C. N. Pandey, IFS**, PCCF (Wildlife), and **Dr. A. P. Singh, IFS**, Member Secretary, Gujarat Biodiversity Board will be the Guests of Honour of this programme.

Many eminent resource persons from university and forest departments have been invited to the IBD 2014 celebration and to conduct various interactive sessions with the participants during the workshop. About 200 scientists, researchers, science communicators, teachers and forest officers are being invited to participate in the seminar and the celebration.

Gujarat Biodiversity Board is an autonomous body, set up by Government of Gujarat for the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of biological resources.

The Gujarat Science City offers fun and informative exhibits on our biodiversity presented in an interactive world. One can learn and have fun with science and innovation through hands-on experiences in the Planet Earth, Hall of Science, Hall of Space, Energy Park, IMAX 3D movies, Motion Simulators and educational activities in Children Activity Centre. GSC is also showcasing the environmental film "Under the Sea" in IMAX 3D format which has a strong message with amazing visual effects that showcase an inspirational marine ecosystem.

GUJCOST plays a significant role in bringing awareness and understanding on Biodiversity at the community level through its dedicated Community Science Centers and its Science Clubs also. About 18 CSCs and 2000 Science Clubs are working with various programmes and outreach activities round the year across the state.

The science of biodiversity is the science of our future. It's time to take a stand and protect the grand diversity of life. The IBD 2014 celebration is all about to inspire curiosity and provide a life-long learning and experiences.

Let's work together for its conservation and to ensure a new and sustainable relationship between humanity and the natural world for the generations to come.

We request one and all to be a part of this world wide celebration to conserve and protect our rich marine resources.

# Celebration of the International Day for Biological Diversity - 2014

22 May 2014

## One Day Workshop on Island Biodiversity

Venue: Auditorium I, Science City, Ahmedabad

### Programme Schedule:

Time	Details
09:00 to 10:00	Registration
10:00 to 11:00	<b>Inaugural Session</b> Chief Guest: Shri. H. K. Dash, IAS Addl. Chief Secretary, Forests and Environment Department, Government of Gujarat Guest of Honour: Shri S. J. Haider, IAS, Secretary, Science & Technology Department, Government of Gujarat.
11:00 to 11:15	Tea Break
11:15 to 11:45	Islands of India and their Ecological Significance by Dr. H. S. Singh, Ex- PCCF & Chairman, GBB, Gandhinagar
11:45 to 12:15	Island Biodiversity in Gujarat by Shri Bharat Pathak, IFS, Director, GEER Foundation, Gandhinagar.
12:15 to 12:45	Biodiversity of Piram Beyt, Bhavnagar by Dr. Indra Gadhavi, Associate Professor, Bhavnagar University
12:45 to 13:15	Islands Biodiversity of Marine National Park, Jamnagar by Shri R.D. Kamboj, IFS, Director, Marine National Park, Jamnagar
13:15 to 14:15	Lunch Break
14:15 to 14:45	Biodiversity of Purna River Estuarine Islands of Navsari District by Dr. A.P. Singh, IFS, MS, GBB, Gandhinagar
14:45 to 15:15	Process Documentation Research on : Robben Island, South Africa by Dr. Aeshita Mukherjee- Wilske, SPC, GBB, Gandhinagar
15:15 to 15:45	Floral Diversity of Pirotan and its surroundings Islands of Marine National Park by Dr. Dhermendra Shah, Assistant Prof. M.S. University of Baroda, Vadodara
15:45 to 16:30	Discussion and Conclusion

16:30 onwards	Tea Break.
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-Inaugural Programme overleaf

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**22 May 2014**

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**Venue: Auditorium I, Science City, Ahmedabad**

#### **Draft Agenda for Inaugural session:**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Details</b>
10:00 to 10:05	Prayer
10:05 to 10:10	Lighting of lamp
10:10 to 10:15	Welcome & Introduction to the Programme by Dr. A. P. Singh IFS, MS, GBB, Gandhinagar
10:15 to 10:20	Welcome of Dignitaries by floral bouquet.
10:20 to 10:30	Address by Dr. J. A. Khan, IFS, PCCF & Chairman, GBB, Gandhinagar
10:30 to 10:35	Address by Dr. C. N. Pandey, IFS, PCCF Wildlife, Gujarat State.
10:35 to 10:40	Address by Shri Rajeeva, IFS, PCCF & HoFF, Gujarat State.
10:40 to 10:45	Address by Shri S. J. Haider IAS, Secretary, Science and Technology Department, Government of Gujarat.
10:45 to 10:55	Inaugural address by Shri H. K. Dash, IAS, Adl. Chief Secretary, Forests & Environment Department, Government of Gujarat.
10:55 to 11:00	Vote of Thanks by Shri R. K. Mehta, Executive Director, Gujarat Science City Ahmedabad.