



First Indian Biodiversity Congress IBC 2010

INDIAN BIODIVERSITY Expo (IBE 2010)

27-31 December 2010

Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

Organized by



centre for innovation
in science & social action



Kerala State
Biodiversity Board



University of
Kerala



Navdanya
New Delhi

Report





IBC 2010



**Indian Biodiversity Congress
& Indian Biodiversity Expo**

IBC & IBE 2010



Indian Biodiversity Congress

The United Nations has declared 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB) to create awareness about the crucial importance of biodiversity to society, to communicate the human costs of biodiversity loss, and to enthuse people, particularly youth, throughout the world in the fight to protect all life on Earth. The pressures leading to biodiversity loss, particularly those resulting from adopting unsustainable developmental paradigms, are, in many cases, intensifying, despite several national and international initiatives. This is a challenge not only for the conservation of biodiversity but also for preventing biodiversity loss as envisaged in "Biodiversity Target" 2010. Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is the key for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and for the fair and equitable sharing of benefits. India is about to hold the eleventh Conference of Parties (COP) to the CBD in October 2012 in New Delhi. The hosting of this COP shows not only India's role as a major mega-diverse country, but also its commitment to playing a global leadership role in biodiversity conservation.

We need a new vision on biological diversity for a healthy planet and a sustainable future for humankind. Biodiversity and ecosystem changes could be prevented or significantly reduced or even reversed if strong action is initiated urgently, comprehensively and appropriately, at international, national and local levels. In the International Year of Biodiversity, the need for a common platform in India to assess the status of biodiversity and to discuss strategies and action plans for conservation and sustainable utilization of biodiversity, was very much essential. As a partner organization of CBD in India for IYB, Centre for Innovation in Science and Social Action (CISSA) has taken initiative to hold the first Indian Biodiversity Congress (IBC 2010) along with Kerala State Biodiversity Board, University of Kerala and Navdanya during 27-31 December 2010 at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.



The major objective of IBC 2010 was to formulate a vision and alternate strategic plan for the conservation of biodiversity in the context of prevailing concept of "development at ANY cost".

Venue

All the programmes associated with IBC, except the Documentary Film Festival, were held at Chandrasekharan Nair Stadium, Thiruvananthapuram. The Documentary Film Festival was conducted at the Conference Hall of the Science and Technology Museum, Thiruvananthapuram.

Programmes

- Indian Biodiversity Expo (27-31 December 2010)
- Capacity Building Workshops (27 December 2010)
- National Seminar (28-30 December 2010)
- Civil Society Meet (28-30 December 2010)
- Children's Conclave (28-30 December 2010)
- National Photography Exhibition (27-31 December 2010)
- Documentary Film Festival on Biodiversity (27-29 December 2010)

INDIAN BIODIVERSITY Expo

(IBE 2010)



The Indian Biodiversity Expo held in conjunction with IBC 2010 brought together Government and Non government organisations, academic and R&D organisations, civil societies and business group to show case the rich heritage, wisdom and potentials of the biodiversity of India. This exhibition, the first of its kind organised in India, was appreciated by all for the rich academic content, explaining the concept and scope of biodiversity.

The Participants in IBE 2010 includes Kerala State Biodiversity Board, National Museum, New Delhi, NABARD, WWF India, Malabar Botanical Garden, State Horticulture Mission, FRLHT Bangalore, Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems Chennai, CP Ramaswamy Environmental Education Centre Chennai, ICAR institutions including Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Central Spices Research Institute and Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kerala State Council For Science, Technology and Environment, Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology, Pankajakasthuri Ayurveda Medical College, Sahajasamudra, Save Rice

Campaign, MS Swaminathan Research Foundation, various civil society organisations, business groups working for biodiversity conservation, photographers conservationists, publishers, etc.

A craft fair involving traditional craftsmen from various parts of India was also organised in connection with the Expo. In addition, exhibition of medicinal and horticulture plants was also arranged. One of the highlights of the Expo was the biodiversity exhibition stalls put up by selected schools and colleges from across Kerala. Putting up informative stalls and interesting exhibits and models, schools from across the state enriched the content of the Indian Biodiversity Expo.

The IBE was inaugurated by Shri K.C. Shashidhar, Chief General Manager of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). He said that initiatives aimed at conserving biodiversity should go beyond sensitisation and there is lack of grassroots-level institutions to take up such moves beyond seminars. "Banks, R&D centres and self-help groups can join hands for biodiversity conservation". NABARD





will promote organic farming in Kerala in association with banks and non-governmental organisations who will introduce over 10,000 farmers to organic farming in the first phase”, said Shri Shashidhar. The meeting was presided over by Dr. R.V. Varma, Chairman, Kerala State Biodiversity Board. The former Chairman, KSBB Dr. V.S. Vijayan, Dr. Sreemahadevan Pillai, Dr. G.G. Gangadharan, Dr. Hareendran Nair, Dr. K. Prathapan, Shri K.P. Krishnakumar, Shri B. Rajeev and Dr. C. Sureshkumar participated in the inaugural session.

The awards for the best stalls in the expo were presented in the Valedictory Session. Dr. P. Pushpangadan, former Director of National Botanic Garden and Research Institute was the Chief Guest and the meeting was presided over by Shri L. Rahakrishnan IAS. The session was attended by Prof. M.K. Prasad, Dr. G.G. Gangadharan, Dr. R.V. Varma, Dr. K.G. Ajitkumar, Dr. R. Prakashkumar and Dr. N.S. Pradeep. Malabar Botanic Garden that exhibited rare varieties of aquatic plants won the first

prize in the Expo, while the second position was awarded to Pankajakasthuri Ayurveda Medical College for showcasing over 500 medicinal plants listed in Charaka Samhitha, the oldest text in Ayurveda. The third prize was won by Central Tuber Crops Research Institute for their display on the rich genetic variety of tuber crops in India and MS Swaminathan Research Foundation for showcasing the genetic diversity of indigenous crops.

The awards for the best school pavilion were won by the following schools:

Kendriya Vidyalaya No.1

Calicut (1 Prize)

Holy Angels Convent

GH Jn., Thiruvananthapuram (2 Prize)

Govt Model Girls High School

Pattom, Thiruvananthapuram (3 Prize)

The awards for the best College pavilion were won by the following College:

MG College Thiruvananthapuram (1 Prize)

NSS College for Women, Neeramankara (2 Prize)

All Saints College, Thiruvananthapuram (3 Prize)



CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOPS

Pre-Congress Capacity Building Workshops were organised on 27 December 2010 with the aim of providing a holistic overview on selected topics to the young professionals, researchers and students engaged in biodiversity studies, documentation, conservation and awareness. The workshops were organised on two topics: "Environment Impact Assessment (EIA), with special emphasis on biodiversity" and "Biodiversity Education". Each workshop included introductory lectures, case study presentations and group activities. Manuals and reference materials were supplied to the participants. About 100 participants attended the workshops.



The workshop on EIA was inaugurated by Dr. Ajaykumar Varma, Member Secretary, Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment and the course director was Dr. S. Sankar, Scientist, Kerala Forest Research Institute. The workshop was coordinated by Dr. P.K. Shaji of Environmental Resources Research Centre, Thiruvananthapuram. Dr. R.V. Varma, Chairman, Kerala State Biodiversity Board inaugurated the workshop on biodiversity education. Various sessions of the workshop were handled by Dr. T. Sundaramoorthy (Head, Biodiversity Conservation Education, C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre, Chennai), Shri T.P. Padmanabhan (Director, Society for Environmental Education Kerala) and Prof. E. Kunhikrishnan (University of Kerala). The workshop was coordinated by Dr. K.G. Ajitkumar, Secretary, CISSA.



INDIAN BIODIVERSITY CONGRESS

IBC National Seminar

IBC 2010 was the largest colloquium of biodiversity experts in India for discussing the current status of biodiversity in India, scope for using the greater biodiversity of the country for alleviating poverty, to fight globalisation, and to formulate developmental paradigms and policies for conservation and sustainable utilisation of biodiversity besides sharing of benefits as envisaged in Convention on Biological Diversity.

IBC National Seminar was inaugurated by the founder director of Navdanya Dr. Vandana Shiva. She said that the replacement of biodiversity with monoculture, emergence of monopolies in the agriculture sector and genetically-engineered products posed a serious threat to India over the next 20 years. The depletion of fossil fuel resources had led to a race to monopolise biomass resources. This, she said, was promoting monoculture across the world. Linking the rise of monopolies with the increased threat to biodiversity, she said Bt Cotton had become a symbol of slavery in India. "Today, monopolies control 95 per cent of the cotton industry in the country. Farmers are forced to buy genetically-engineered seeds and pesticides, leading them to high indebtedness and ultimately driving them to suicide. One cannot imagine the situation if the monopolies turn to other crops like rice and banana."

Dr. Shiva cautioned that a 'toxic culture' was leading to the total loss of ecosystem productivity in India. In Punjab, the number of cancer patients was on the rise, following the increase in the use of pesticides. She said the transformation from biodiverse systems to mono culture would lead to less production.

"Mono culture of the mind prevents us from seeing the abundance of biodiversity," she added. The meeting was presided over by Dr. A. Jayakrishnan, Vice-Chancellor, University of Kerala. Smt. B. Sugathakumari, environmental activist, Smt. Ishita Roy IAS, Secretary, Environment Department. Shri T.M. Manoharan, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Dr. R.V. Varma, Chairman, Kerala State Biodiversity Board, Dr. C.T.S. Nair, Executive Vice President, Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment, Prof. M.K. Prasad, Dr. A. Biju Kumar, Dr. C. Sureshkumar and Dr.G.G. Gangadharan, President, CISSA were present in the inaugural session.

The message of Mr. Ahmed Djoghla, Executive Secretary, United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was read out in the session. He observed that massive further loss of biodiversity is projected to occur before the end of this century and that ecosystem is approaching tipping points beyond which irreversible degradation will take place with dire consequences for human well being. He wished that India will take the lead in the fight to save life on earth.

The multifaceted themes deliberated upon and discussed in the Congress both in Plenary and in Parallel sessions included the focal theme "Mainstreaming biodiversity into policy making", special session on "Biodiversity Conservation in Western Ghats-Status, Challenges and Opportunities" and the following themes:

- Biodiversity documentation/inventorisation
- Agro-biodiversity and Food Security
- Biodiversity Vs. Development paradigms
- Innovations in taxonomy and conservation
- Biodiversity and local communities
- Indigenous Knowledge, Intellectual Property, Trade and Biopiracy
- Cultural, Spiritual and linguistic links of biodiversity
- Effectiveness of existing legislations and policies related to biodiversity
- Biodiversity Communication, Education and Public Awareness

Out of the 304 papers submitted 210 presentations were made on the theme areas, including 115 poster presentations.



Dr. Vandana Shiva delivered the key-note lecture on the topic “Biodiversity and Sustainable Development: Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Development Policies”. The plenary lectures were delivered by Dr. V.S. Vijayan (former Chairman, KSBB), Shri Ashish Kothari (Kalpavriksh, Pune), Dr. P. Rajora, (Professor and Senior Canada Research Chair in Forest and Conservation Genomics and Biotechnology and Director, Canadian Genomics and Conservation Genetics Institute), Dr. Nanditha Krishna (Director, CPR Environmental Education Centre, Chennai), Dr. N. Gopalakrishnan (Hon. Director, Indian Institute of Scientific Heritage) and Shri Kartikeya V. Sarabhai (Director, Centre for Environment Education, Ahmedabad).

Dr. S.K. Khanduri (Director, Environment Management Agency Kerala), Dr. C. Bhaskaran (Professor, Kerala Agricultural University), Dr. R. Sukumar (Professor, Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore), Dr. M.P. Nayar (Former Director, Botanical Survey of India), Dr. Subhash Chandran (Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore), Dr. D.J. Bhat (Department of Botany, Goa University), Dr. B.R. Ramesh (French Institute, Pondicherry), Dr. K.V. Jayachandran (Professor, College of Fisheries, Kerala Agricultural University), Shri Rahul G. Kumar, Balan Madhavan (Fellow, International League of Conservation Photographers), Shri Mohan C. Varghese (Kanan Devan Plantations), Dr. P.S. Easa, Dr. S.N. Hegde (President, The Orchid Society of Karnataka), Dr. R.S. Lal Mohan (Chairman, Conservation of Nature Trust, Nagercoil, Tamil Nadu), Dr. Manoj Srivastava (PPV&FRA, New Delhi), Dr. S. Usha (Thanal), Dr. K.C. Velayudhan (Principal Scientist & Officer in Charge, NBPGR), Dr. N.V. Nair (Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore), Dr. Remany Goplalal Krishnan (Coconut Development Board, Kochi), Dr. Yogesh Gokhale (TERI, New Delhi), Dr. K. Haridasan (FRLHT, Bangalore), Dr. K.V. Saji (IISR, Kozhikode), Yeshwanth Shenoy (Advocate, Mumbai), Dr. S. Rajasekharan (Head, Div. of Ethnomedicine and Ethnopharmacology, TBGRI), Dr.

P.R.G. Mathur (Palakkad), Dr. Priyadarsanan Dharma Rajan (ATTREE, Bangalore), Dr. K.D. Prathapan (Department of Entomology, Kerala Agricultural University), Dr. S. Ragupathy (Department of Integrative Biology, University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada), Dr. Pawan K. Dhar (Director, Centre for Systems and Synthetic Biology, University of Kerala), Dr. Rebecca Ellis (Lancaster Environment Centre, Lancaster University, United Kingdom), Dr. N. Ayyappan (French Institute, Pondicherry), Shri T. Damu (Taj Hotels, Cochin), Dr. C.R. Rajagopalan (Dept. of Malayalam, Kerala Varma College, Thrissur), Dr. Achuthsankar S. Nair (Director, Centre for Bioinformatics, University of Kerala), Dr. P. Ranjit (Centre for Post Graduate Studies, Thrissur) and Shri Sridhar (Thanal) delivered the invited lectures.

poster presentation awards for best were won by the following:

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| Theme : | Biodiversity documentation/ inventorisaton |
| Title : | Aquatic biodiversity plays a role in the development of North Bihar |
| Authors : | Vidyanath Jha, Verma A B and Prajna Jha |
| Theme : | Agro-biodiversity and Food Security |
| Title : | Promotion and prospects of vermiculture practice in Bangalore |
| Authors : | Yeshwanth B R, Kale R D, Jayashankar M and Ramakrishna S |
| Theme : | Innovations in Taxonomy and Conservation |
| Title : | RET plant diversity in Sacred groves of North Malabar, Kerala, South India |
| Authors : | Subramanya Prasad K and Raveendran K |
| Theme : | Biodiversity and Local Communities |
| Title : | Ethnozoological analysis and conservation strategies in some protected areas of the South Indian Ghats |
| Authors : | Avinash K, Jayashankar M, Nagendra N, Jeevan Chakravarthy and Mary Roberts |

A side event on “Forest Certification and Biodiversity Conservation” was facilitated by Global Forest & Trade Network – India, WWF India with the support of EC SWITCH Asia programme on 30 December 2010. The programme was coordinated by Dr T.R. Manoharan, Head- Forest Programme, WWF India, New Delhi.

The Valedictory Session of the Seminar was presided over by Shri Binoy Viswam, Minister for Forests, Government of Kerala. Dr. Thomas Issac, Minister for Finance, Govt. of Kerala delivered the key-note address. The meeting was attended by Dr. R.V. Varma, Shri Karthikeya V. Sarabhai, Dr. Vandana Shiva, Dr. G.M. Nair, Dr. G.G. Gangadharan, Dr. K. Prathapan, Shri K.P. Krishnakumar and Dr. C. Sureshkumar. Shri K.C. Shashidhar, Chief General Manager, NABARD was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

RECOMMENDATIONS -IBC 2010

Achieving Aichi Target

The conference requested the government to take concerted efforts to achieve "Aichi Target" or the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity for addressing the underlying causes of biodiversity loss, reduce the pressures on biodiversity, safeguard biodiversity at all levels, enhance the benefits provided by biodiversity, and provide for capacity-building.

The conference demanded effective land use plan for reducing the loss of natural habitats including forests. As envisaged in CBD, there is a need to bring the rate of loss of natural habitats close to zero or at least to half; protect 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas and 10 per cent of marine and coastal areas; restore at least 15 percent of degraded areas and make special efforts to reduce the pressures faced by coral reefs.

Mainstreaming Biodiversity

The IBC demands integrating or including actions related to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity by re-orienting strategies relating to production sectors, such as agriculture, fisheries, forestry, tourism, energy, infrastructure and mining. The action plans suggested in the Final Technical Report of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) may be considered for guidance towards the same.

As the government claims to have adopted the concept of sustainable development in planning process, it is high time to put the concept of biodiversity and related livelihoods as central principles of all development. In order to address the issue of biodiversity loss, IBC forwards the need for landscape-level management of wilderness and human-impacted areas and community involvement in conservation initiatives.

Recognize in national development plans (including poverty reduction programmes and EIA procedures) the importance of the use and conservation of biodiversity in agro-ecosystems. This necessitates integration of approaches across government departments dealing with rural development, food security, poverty reduction, environment and climate change.

Agro-biodiversity

The genetic diversity of agricultural crops should be better documented and the lesser known food crops of the country should be fully utilised to achieve food security. Community seed banks should be established at local levels for the conservation of genetic diversity.

On-farm conservation of traditional varieties of crops should be promoted through financial support and subsidies. There is an urgent need to phase in biodiverse, organic farming and in the initial phase farmers engaged in organic farming should be supported by the government. Local expertise may be developed for value addition of the agriculture and fishery products.

Ecologically Sensitive Areas

Identify the ecologically sensitive zone for prioritising conservation across India, and in particular in biodiversity hotspots like western and eastern ghats, western desert regions, eastern and western Himalaya, the central forest belt, and the island groups. Frequent updating of information on RET species through participatory research. Increase the percentage of protected areas (PAs) through community conserved areas, gene pool conservation areas and heritage sites, using appropriate legislation including the Forest Rights Act, Wild Life Act, and the Biodiversity Act. Conservation of biodiversity rich areas outside the PA network should be given priority.

Databases

Though there are reports of local extinctions on flora and fauna, systematic check lists are not available for planning effective management of biodiversity, especially the Rare, Endangered and Threatened (RET) species. IBC demands immediate action for area specific data bases of RET species for their conservation and sustainable management. This should include a combination of traditional and modern knowledge.

Use of Technologies

For taxonomy, DNA barcoding technologies can be better utilised to minimise extensive collection and to realise the phylogenetic linkages. Moreover, GIS and remote sensing technologies could be utilized for effective management of ecosystems.

Building Partnerships

The demand driven research should be promoted for biodiversity conservation through building partnerships between academic and research institutions and civil society organisations. Sufficient funds should be earmarked for conservation related programmes which are localised and involving local communities.

Moving towards COP 11 in India with a concerted action.

The Declaration invites to strengthen educational and cultural processes in order to spread knowledge, awareness, sensitivity and operational capacity about the conservation of natural resources and their correct and equitable use.

Master plan for Biodiversity Economics of India

In order to fully realise the economic potential of biodiversity and to frame effective conservation measures at grassroots the IBC demands a master plan for biodiversity economics of India, and it was decided to bring out the document before the meeting of COP 11 in India in 2012. The purpose of the document is not to prioritise or talk only on the financial/economic value of biodiversity, but to take into account intangible and non-economic values of the greater biodiversity available outside the protected areas in India, particularly in villages.

Cultural and linguistic diversity

IBC demands for protection of cultural diversity and those actions should be taken to recognize and preserve cultural diversity and to blend traditional and modern knowledge systems, including science, technologies, practices, and wisdom. Efforts should be made to document the intricate linguistic linkages of biodiversity and to document knowledge in regional languages.

Preventing Erosion of Genetic Resources

In order to prevent the rapid erosion of genetic diversity, IBC demands strengthening on-farm conservation initiatives of indigenous varieties of flora and breeds of fauna, with proper recognition of and incentives for farmers and pastoralists involved.

Climate change

Biodiversity has so far served as the feedstock for sustainable food and health security and can play a similar role in the development of climate resilient farming and livelihood systems. In order to prepare for fighting climate change it is the need of the hour to have elaborated high quality data and information on climate, and on environmental, ecological and social systems affected by climate changes. The adaptation and mitigation measures should be partnerships with communities, individuals, and the private sector to frame effective measures to reduce the impact of climate change. Special attention should be given to islands. IBC also recommends synergies between climate mitigation strategies and development policies in areas such as energy efficiency, fuel substitution, renewables, afforestation, and land and waste management.

Hazardous chemicals

IBC demands immediate phasing out of hazardous chemicals, especially those listed under red and yellow categories, from India. This should be linked with phasing in of organic, biodiverse agriculture across India. Thrust should be given to develop biopesticides and eco-friendly pest/disease management measures.

Amendments to the National Biological Diversity Act, 2002

Considering the serious omissions and flaws in the current Biological Diversity Act, amendments to the same need to be made immediately focusing more on biodiversity conservation and community empowerment rather than its commercial trade and regulation.

The revised Act must have a bottom-up approach, giving the central role to the local communities, grama sabhas and the Biodiversity Management Committees in deciding matters related to conservation and sustainable utilization.

Sui generis legislation for the protection of traditional knowledge related to biodiversity has to be brought in at the earliest, with due consultation with communities and civil society. Intellectual Property Rights shall not be allowed over Traditional Knowledge.

Biodiversity Literacy

Launch an extensive and well designed biodiversity awareness and literacy campaign starting with school children and extending upto the adult population. Such a biodiversity literacy programme should involve the integrated use of traditional and new media. Village and City Knowledge Centres could be utilized for building on the knowledge of and sensitizing the local population on the threats to biodiversity and the names and locations of the rare, endangered and threatened (RET) species occurring in that area. University students and civil society organizations can be assisted in saving RET species. IBC reiterated the need for integrating climate change education in all environmental education and awareness programmes.

CIVIL SOCIETY MEET

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), including Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), faith-based organizations, indigenous people's organisations, social/people's movements, professional associations and foundations, labour unions, and others, and totally committed individuals who are not part of any 'system', are critical actors in the conservation initiatives. Their involvement in discussions and policy making would definitely give proper directions to the future conservation paradigms and policy making. The suggestions of the CSOs attended the IBC were discussed in a special meet of CSOs on 30 December 2010. The meet also discussed the strategies for interlinking the activities of CSOs for acting as pressure groups and to share expertise so as to achieve the goal of mainstreaming biodiversity issues to policy making and to ensure involvement of CSOs in conservation initiatives. The meet re-emphasized that biodiversity is central to poverty alleviation, food security and livelihood of the people and it underpins our environmental issues and ecosystem functions, in addition to fighting the battle against climate change.



Recommendations

The Civil Society Meet organised in connection with the IBC demanded concerted action to conserve biodiversity in the era of rampant biodiversity loss.

- The meet resolved that there is an urgent need to integrate conservation and sustainable use of biological resources into national decision-making, especially in the 12th five year plan, with all development programmes re-oriented towards biodiversity conservation and community empowerment. The recommendations of the Final Technical Report of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) may be considered for guidance towards the same.
- The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme of the Government of India is much appreciated for its contribution towards livelihood development, but it is noted with concern that the implementation of the same is not in tune with the objectives envisaged in the Act vis a vis biodiversity conservation. Steps should be taken to use the programme for biodiversity augmentation, and rebuilding the productive natural resource assets of communities, including supporting organic and ecological agriculture, forestry management and NTFP cultivation
- For wetland conservation, the CSO meet demanded formulation of a National Wetland Conservation Strategy and Action Plan to ensure conservation of all wetlands in the country and to bring wetland conservation under relevant Schedules of the Panchyath Raj Act ensuring the primary right of the local community on wetland conservation and management so as to ensure that the LSG, State Government and Central Government shall have no right to convert or change the characteristics of any of the wetlands.
- Considering the serious omissions and flaws in the current Biological Diversity Act, amendments to the same need to be made immediately focusing more on biodiversity conservation and community empowerment rather than its commercial trade and regulation
- The revised Act must have a bottom-up approach, giving the central role to the local communities, grama sabhas and the Biodiversity Management Committees in deciding matters related to conservation and sustainable utilization.
- Sui generis legislation for the protection of traditional knowledge related to biodiversity has to be brought in at the earliest, with due consultation with communities and civil society. Intellectual Property Right shall not be allowed over Traditional Knowledge.
- Under Coastal Regulation Zone Notification no construction, except small-scale additions that traditional fisher communities may need, shall be allowed in the regulated zone, especially for tourism and industrial promotion. There is a need to protect traditional fisher peoples' preferential access as well as their customary rights over coastal and marine spaces and, also for their dwelling. For this a "Traditional Fish Workers Community Rights (Coastal and Freshwater) Act be enacted similar to the Forest Rights Act.
- Ministry of Tribal Affairs at the Centre and the State Department of Tribal Development to reconsider and amend programmes under the Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) to create a scope for Biodiversity Conservation based community schemes (on water management, developing community tanks, fisheries, sericulture, NTFP harvesting/value addition/marketing, sustainable agriculture, kitchen gardens, bamboo cultivation, soil/moisture conservation, protecting wildlife habitats, and conservation for environmental functions).
- Set agenda for Tribal Advisory Council at the state-level so as to take stock of the implementation of all the environmental regulations including the Biological Diversity Act.

- Noting that the Forest Rights Act (FRA) 2006 has remained largely unimplemented in particular its provisions on community forest resource rights, Ministry of Tribal Affairs and state nodal agencies need to put in place independent, dynamic mechanisms to assess and guide implementation, including mandatory involvement of civil society organisations and penalties for officials who are obstructing or delaying implementation. The recently presented report of the MoEF-MoTA Committee on the FRA including the alternative recommendations on future forestry governance needs to be fully implemented.
- Considering the imminent threat of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) on biodiversity as well as the health and environment as realised from countries which have GM crops: (a) no open field trials or releases of GMOs shall be allowed in the country, applying the precautionary principle.
- With due recognition to the documented evidences on the impacts of Endosulfan on biodiversity and to human health and considering the fact that already this hazardous pesticide is banned or phased out by 74 countries, Endosulfan has to be banned in India without further delay.
- Further, it is recognised that states and local communities that are facing the hazards of many such pesticides have control over regulating its use and sale, and are in no position to ban it when necessitated. Hence, it is demanded that adequate regulations be made to give all rights to regulate, use and sale of pesticide with the local communities, LSGs and the State.
- Every State Government is asked to conduct a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment and a Public consultation process about the impact of pesticides on human and environmental health, and necessary regulatory actions be taken.
- Considering the disastrous consequences of the use of hazardous chemical pesticides and fertilisers on biodiversity, the Government must formulate an Organic Farming Policy and Action Plan for the country and phase out the use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers in 5 years. In implementing the above, the biodiversity hotspots such as Western Ghats, Eastern Ghats, Central Indian Forest Tract and Eastern Himalayas, as well as the habitats of primitive tribes, which are also the centres of biodiversity, should be prioritised.
- Considering the impacts of larger dams on the ecosystems, biodiversity and on local communities, proposals for constructing big dams shall not be permitted in the country and, in meeting water and energy requirement, thrust should be given to smaller eco-friendly projects and decentralised renewable energy resources.
- Considering the serious implications of mining on the ecology and human health, mining projects shall not be allowed in ecologically fragile, eco-sensitive zones and culturally sensitive areas. Any mining proposal must be
 - only upon a Free Prior Informed Consent of the local communities.
- Considering the severe loss of seed diversity and realising the need to preserve them for ensuring food security, sovereignty and diversity, the current seed bill shall be revisited to ensure that: (i) the farmers right over the seeds shall be ensured; (ii) seed import should not be allowed; (iii) the right to fix the price of the seeds shall rest with the local governments under State facilitation; and (iv) community rights over local varieties and cultivars shall be preserved. Any Seed Bill promulgated in the country should be to ensure seed sovereignty and availability of locally specific seeds.
- On-farm conservation of agro-biodiversity has to be promoted including indigenous livestock.
- In order to promote biodiversity conservation at the grass roots, the diversity of food plants at the local level should be realised and dependence on diversity should be strengthened to achieve food and nutritional security, as well as to ensure their sustainable utilization. Food Security as related to biodiversity can be ensured through a Public Distribution System that links local diverse production to local markets.
- In contrast to the advocates who tend to portray eco tourism as a means to protect biodiversity and enhance the well being of local people, the IBC consider that the whole concept of ecotourism needs to be revisited, as this process world over has resulted in more destruction to natural ecosystem and biodiversity and displacement of the local residents, including the indigenous people. There should be a better realisation that biodiversity does not require tourism but tourism does require biodiversity Therefore responsible tourism managed by local communities, and fully sensitive to the ecology and biodiversity of the region should only be allowed.
- The concept of zero waste shall be integrated into all waste management plans in the country and localised waste management plans shall be promoted.
- Biodiversity education should be made an integral component in school curriculum and in the continuing education programmes. It should emphasize biodiversity and skills/knowledge related to the locality and local level issues and concerns. The education programmes should be to inculcate necessary skills in the children and youth to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity.
- Industries should be made accountable for the loss of biodiversity and related livelihoods and proper measures should be taken by them under their responsibility to prevent as well as remediate such losses.
- Industrial and livelihood development plans should be focussed towards getting more biodiversity based livelihood generation and not for working on hazardous materials and industries.
- It was decided to set up an informal IBC Civil Society Forum to continue deliberations forward.



CHILDRENS CONCLAVE ON BIODIVERSITY

Students being the affected community in the era of heavy biodiversity loss, an interactive session was arranged for the students for better realising the potentials of biodiversity and conservation needs, involving and mobilising the student power. During the afternoon of 27-30 December 2010 students interacted with eminent scientists such as Dr. Vandana Shiva, Shri Ashish Kothari, Shri Kartikeya V. Sarabhai, Dr. Raman Sukumar, Dr. Om P. Rajora, Dr. V.S. Vijayan, Dr. S. Rajasekharan, and Dr. RV Varma. This was one of the active and interactive sessions associated with IBC. Students selected from various schools in Thiruvananthapuram and the students selected for "Inculcate", the science propagation programme of Government of Kerala, participated in the interaction sessions.



DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL ON BIODIVERSITY



A documentary film festival on biodiversity was organised in connection with IBC during 27-29 December 2010 at Science and Technology Museum. The film festival, coordinated by noted wildlife film maker Shri Suresh Elamon, was inaugurated by world renowned film maker Padmasree Shri Adoor Gopalakrishnan. Speaking on the occasion, he stressed the need to preserve the rich diversity of flora and fauna in India. He said humans had no right to disrupt the balance of the ecosystem. Indiscriminate use of plastic and pesticides like Endosulfan has adversely impacted on nature, he said. Patrick Rouxel's film Green was screened as the inaugural movie.

Shri M. Nandakumar IAS, Director, Information and Public Relations Department, Govt. of Kerala presided over the function. Dr. R.V. Varma, Dr. G.G. Gangadharan, President, CISSA, Shri K.A. Hashim,

Registrar, University of Kerala, and Dr. A. Biju Kumar, Organising Secretary, IBC attended the inaugural session.

The opening film screened in the Festival was "Green" directed by Patrick Rouxel, a film that has won the most coveted Wildscreen Golden Panda Award 2010, overall best film in Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival 2009, USA and about 20 other awards around the world. Some of the other films screened during the three days included Life of Mammals, Insects, Invasion of the Land, and Taking to the Air by David Attenborough, Home by Yann Arthus-Bertrand, Queen of Trees by Mark Deeble & Victoria Stone, The Pack by Krupaker-Senani, The Wildmeat Trail by Rita Banerjee and Shilpa Sharma, Kaippad by Babu Kambrath, and SOS- Save Our Sholas by Shekar Dattathri.





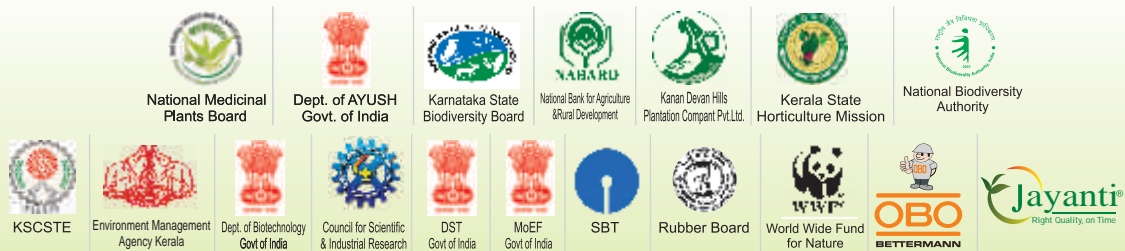
IBC 2012

It was decided to organise IBC in every two years and the next IBC will be organised at New Delhi just before the meeting of the Conference of Parties 11, to be held at New Delhi in 2012.





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