



# Smarter Strategies for Biodiversity Conservation Webinar



**22 MAY 2020**

**INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR  
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

**Our solutions are in nature**

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**

# International Day for Biological Diversity 2020

## Webinar on

### **Smarter Strategies for Biodiversity Conservation**

ENVIS Resource Partner on Forest Genetic Resources and Tree Improvement at the Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore with the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change organized a Webinar on “**Smarter Strategies for Biodiversity Conservation**” to mark the **International Day for Biological Diversity** on 22.05.2020. As a precautionary measure to contain the spread of the COVID-19, the event was conducted through Google Meet. Participants numbering 280 from various parts of the country had registered for the event.

Shri S Senthilkumar, Director, IFGTB released an awareness poster on the varying dimensions of biodiversity.

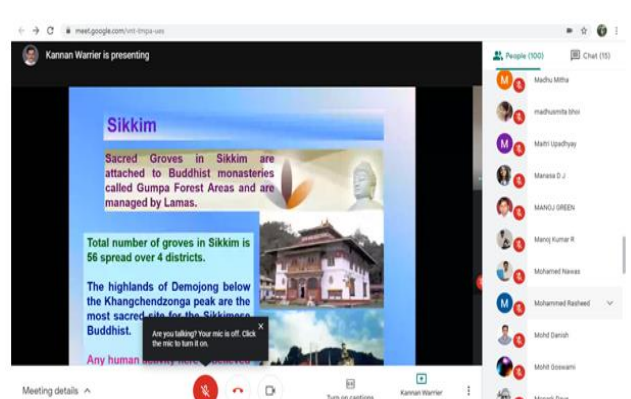
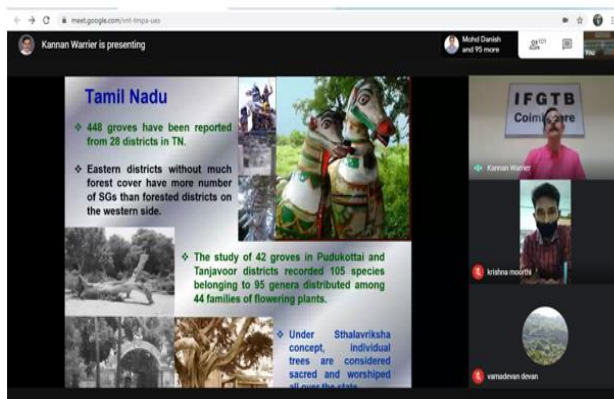
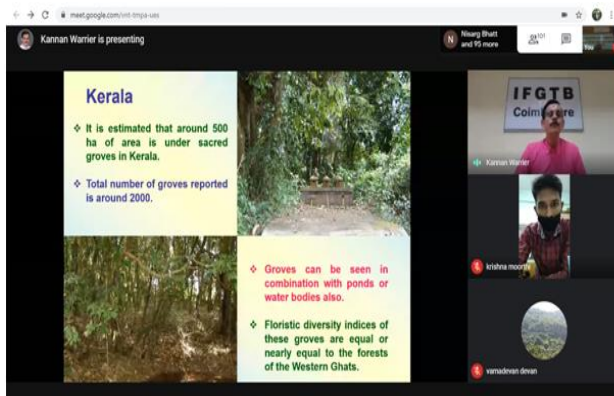
Dr C Kunhikannan, Scientist G spoke on “**Our Solutions are in Nature**”. He elaborated on the importance of basic principles of ecology, the ecosystem functions; food chain, food web and their connectivity in nature. If any connectivity get detached problems starts. Threat to the pollinators and food safety aspects were also discussed. He explained the law of nature by giving four examples, restoration of forest and grasslands on mountains, bringing greenery to cities, importance of pollination and food safety.

Dr Kannan CS Warriar, Scientist F and ENVIS Coordinator presented on “**Sacred Groves and their Incomparable Values**”. He highlighted that ancient sacred groves should be treated as possessing incomparable values and should be protected like how we protect monuments like Taj Mahal and charismatic species like tiger. Many valuable medicinal plants and wild relative of cultivated species are present in sacred groves that have immense value in species improvement programmes. They are the abode of many endemic species including critically endangered tree species. He urged that we all should understand the importance of the sacred groves and join hands to avoid further deterioration to these invaluable resource pockets of biodiversity.

Dr S Vigneswaran, Programme Officer, ENVIS moderated the digital interaction meet. E-Certificate was awarded to all the registered participants. Digital copy of the awareness poster was disseminated to the stakeholders electronically.









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Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education)  
 P.B.No. 1061, Forest Campus, R.S.Puram PO, Coimbatore - 641 002

**INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY - 2020**  
**“OUR SOLUTIONS ARE IN NATURE”**

Biological diversity refers to the variety and variability among living organisms and the ecological complexes in which they occur. It is the most complex and important feature and is very important to the well-being of our planet. Without biodiversity, life would not sustain. Beyond the direct benefits including consumptive and productive use values, biological diversity provides ecological services that are more difficult to calculate with precision.

**Indian Biodiversity**

India is a mega diverse country, that harbours 7-8% of all recorded species, including over 48,000 species of plants and 96,373 species of animals. Out of the 35 global biodiversity hotspots, 04 are present in India. They are the Himalayas, the Western Ghats, the North-east and the Nicobar Islands.

**Major Threats**

- The Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020 has reported that around 178 million hectares of forests was lost in the last 30 years.
- Anthropogenic activities such as illegal wildlife trade, poaching, industrialization, urbanisation, desertification, soil erosion, fragmentation, excessive use of fertilizers, man animal conflict and climate change are also challenging biodiversity.
- Loss and degradation of grassland across the country.
- Increase in fuel wood consumption.
- Death of seedlings and reduced porosity of soil due to uncontrolled grazing.
- Unexpected and uncontrolled forest fire.
- Invasive Alien Species.

**Support Mechanisms**

**Role of Individuals & the Community in Conserving Biodiversity**

A few things which individuals and the community may contemplate are:



Supporting public through awareness and education campaigns



Stabilizing world population



Increasing bio-capacity by protecting, conserving and restoring ecosystems



Implementing comprehensive waste reduction plans



Adopting and promoting cleaner and greener technologies



Reducing per capita consumption of goods and services