



Report
on
the Celebration of
International Day for the Conservation
of the Mangrove Ecosystem 2021



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 - 2021

The ENVIS Resource Partner on Forest Genetic Resources and Tree Improvement at the Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore commemorated International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem on 26.07.2021 digitally through Facebook live. The main aim of this event was to raise awareness about the importance of mangrove ecosystems and to promote solutions for their sustainable management and conservation following the mandatory protocols to contain the spread of COVID 19.

Dr Kannan CS Warriar, Scientist F and ENVIS Coordinator during his introductory remarks highlighted that mangrove forests make up one of the most productive and biologically diverse ecosystems on the planet. Estimated global area of mangrove forests is 167,000 km² to 181,000 km². Wide variety of goods and services are being provided by mangroves. These play 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. It is estimated that around 120 million people are living near mangroves. More than 3000 fish species are found in mangrove ecosystems. There are over 2000 mangrove related tourist attractions globally. Carbon storage potential of mangroves is 3 to 5 times higher than tropical upland forests. Carbon dioxide released by global mangrove loss annually could be as high as the annual emissions of Australia! Mangrove ecosystem services are worth up to Rs. 41,98,705 (\$57,000) / ha / year. Rs. 59,150,560,000 (\$800 Billion) / year globally, he added. Mangroves vanish 3 to 5 times faster than global forest declines with major environmental and socio-economic impacts. If current trends continue, the remaining mangroves could be gone within the next 100 years, Dr Warriar pointed out.

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. The structural complexities of mangrove vegetation create unique environments which provide ecological niches for a wide variety of organisms. Most of the fishes and crustaceans on which thousands of people rely for their livelihood use mangroves as breeding, feeding, and rearing grounds. 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. Mangrove forests nurture our estuaries and fuel our nature-based economies. 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.

An awareness quiz was also organized during the occasion and people from different walks of life participated. E certificates were awarded to all of them. Soft copies of the awareness poster released during the occasion signifying the status, contributions and conservation of mangroves were electronically transmitted to students and stakeholders. Dr S Vigneswaran, Senior Programme Officer, ENVIS proposed the vote of thanks. The digital event can be accessed at <https://bit.ly/2TATcyF>.









**ENVIS Resource Partner on Forest Genetic Resources and Tree Improvement
Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding**

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 THE CONSERVATION OF
THE MANGROVE ECOSYSTEM - 2021**

The International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem is celebrated every year on 26 July to raise awareness of the importance of mangroves as a “unique, special and vulnerable ecosystem” and to promote their sustainable management, conservation and use. This day is a reminder of the pivotal role of mangroves in preserving ecosystems. Taking care of the nature that surrounds us has become even more critical as the world grapples with the ongoing COVID- 19 pandemic.

Mangroves in India

- About 40% of world's mangrove cover is found in South East Asia and South Asia. India has about 3% of the total Mangrove cover in South Asia.
- Mangrove cover in the country has increased by 54 sq km (1.10%) as compared to the previous assessment in 2017.
- The current assessment shows that mangrove cover in the country is 4,975 sq km (1.2 million acres), which is 0.15% of the country's total geographical area.
- West Bengal has 42.45% of India's mangrove cover, followed by Gujarat 23.66% and Andaman & Nicobar Islands 12.39%.
- Gujarat shows maximum increase of 37 sq km in mangrove cover over the 2017 assessment.
- Sundarbans is densely populated and is home to the Royal Bengal Tigers. The forest is also home to more than 180 species of trees and plants. Besides, Gangetic dolphins and estuarine crocodiles are also it's popular residents.

Top 10 Mangrove Forest in India

Rank	States/UTs with Highest Mangrove Cover	Total Mangrove Cover in Sq km
1	West Bengal	2,112 .11
2	Gujarat	1,177.27
3	Andaman And Nicobar Islands	616.28
4	Andhra Pradesh	404.14
5	Odisha	250.64
6	Maharashtra	320.27
7	Tamil Nadu	44.83
8	Goa	26.00
9	Karnataka	10.04
10	Kerala	8.90

Indonesia



Indonesia contains the largest area of mangroves in the world

Sundarbans



The Sundarbans mangrove forest, one of the largest such forests in the world inscribed as World Heritage site by UNESCO in 1987

Pichavaram



Pichavaram is the second largest Mangrove Forest in the world