

Report on Celebration of International Day for Biological Diversity, 2016 at Institute of Wood Science and Technology, Bengaluru.

This institute celebrated International Day for Biological Diversity on 20/05/2016 to enhance understanding and create awareness on Biodiversity issues as intimated by ICFRE. The theme for this year celebration was “**Mainstreaming Biodiversity; Sustaining People and their Livelihood**”. For celebration, **Dr. A.J.T. Johnsingh, Eminent Wildlife Biologist, Western Ghats**, Nature Conservation Foundation, Bengaluru was invited to deliver a talk on current Biodiversity issues. The function was attended by Group Coordinator (Research), all the Officers, Scientists and Research staffs including JRF/SRFs of IWST, Bangalore. Dr. K. Murugesan IFS, Conservator of Forests welcomed all the delegates who attended the programme. In his speech he emphasized need for creating awareness for sustaining the natural resources. In addition he also spoke on the current year theme. While introducing the guest, Dr. K. Murugesan gave a brief account of contributions and achievements made by Dr. A.J.T. Johnsingh, Eminent Wildlife Biologist.

Dr. A.J.T. Johnsingh, Eminent Wildlife Biologist, Western Ghats, Nature Conservation Foundation, Bengaluru made a speech on “**Biodiversity conservation in human dominated landscapes**”. In the beginning, he briefed all about the concepts of biodiversity, hot spots of biodiversity and values of biodiversity. During his speech, he explained about the impact of various human dominated landscapes on Biodiversity with examples from India and abroad and their impact on survival of several species. Dr. A.J.T Johnsingh also spoke about Bio-geographic zones of India which have varying population density, ecosystem variables and biodiversity values. He explained about loss of biodiversity due to change of food habits, lifestyle and economic status of the people. Loss of Javan and Sumatran Rhino, cheetah are few examples due to loss of habitat biotic pressure and poverty in Asia. He warned if precaution is not taken we may lose Great Indian bustard and Polar bear (*Ursusmaritimus*) also. He also narrated about loss of large animals in South Asia including Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Myanmar. He also gave an account of loss of biodiversity due to climate change, over-harvesting, pollution, pesticides, mortality due to accidents on roads and railway tracks and lack of political will and accountability. The impact of invasive species like *Ipomoea cornea*, *Opuntiadillenii* and *Cassia spectabilis* on the natural ecosystem on decline of natural fresh water fishes was informed by him to all. The impact of climate change on survival of certain birds like golden eagle, sea eagle

and house sparrow are noteworthy and he also emphasized that this institute to work on the issue of climate change and create awareness about its effects. The demand for various parts of animals like rhinos, tigers, elephants in international market have made this species dangerous and needs special protection. He also spoke about decline in population of Indo Gangetic gharials, dolphins and golden mahseer (*Tor putitora*) species due to destructive way of collection of fishes and reducing their prey potential in natural water ecosystem. On Concluding, he suggested to take immediate action to connect and preserve crucial corridors and landscapes. Requested for awareness on problems of invasive species, impact of climate change, poaching, pesticides and proper law and accountability for conservation of this natural resources.

Dr. A.J.T. Johnsingh, Eminent Wildlife Biologist also answered queries on Man- Animal conflict, Conservation Vs Development and Tiger Census. Mr. Mohan Karnat IFS, Group Coordinator (Research) of the institute emphasized need for conservation of natural resources for human kind. In view of drastic declining of natural resources, use of scientific technologies for optimal use of resources was also stressed by him. Finally he gave vote of thanks to the Chief Guest, and to all assembled.



(Dr. K. Murugesan, IFS)

Conservator of Forests



