

ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY HOLDS FIFTH REGIONAL CONSULTATION WORKSHOP ON MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY IN HYDERABAD

New Delhi, September 25, 2017

The fifth regional consultation workshop was held in Hyderabad on September 21-22, 2017, as a part of a series of regional Consultation Workshops on Mainstreaming Biodiversity and seeking inputs for India's Sixth National Report to Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Five states and three Union Territories participated in the workshop. Representatives of state government departments including agriculture, animal husbandry, horticulture, rural development, tourism, forest participated in the event. Key organisations working in the area of biodiversity conservation including Zoological Survey of India, Botanical Survey of India, State Biodiversity Boards, State Medicinal Plant Boards also participated in the two-day consultation.

Welcoming the participants to the last regional consultation of a series of workshops, Advisor, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Dr. Sujata Arora highlighted the need for consensus building through strategic thinking and developing biodiversity finance plan to conserve biodiversity. On behalf of UNDP, Ms. Ruchi Pant, Programme Analyst (Biodiversity and Natural Resource Management (UNDP) conveyed the importance of having a series of such elaborate and participative consultations with various States and stakeholders. She added that a web portal has been developed to receive inputs for National Report 6 to CBD.

Director General, Environment Protection and Training Research Institute (EPTRI) Shri B. Kalyan Chakravarthy emphasised the need to undertake climate vulnerability mapping of biodiversity hotspots and the importance of incentivising research for creation of biodiversity gene pool. He also informed the participants about biodiversity conservation through intensive focus on rejuvenation of water bodies in Telangana.

Chairperson, National Biodiversity Authority, Dr. B. Meena Kumari, appreciated the steps taken by the Ministry to engage the States through consultation workshops. She said that the states are being advised to hold similar workshops at the state level, for which National Biodiversity Authority will provide technical and financial support.

Principal Secretary, Department of Environment, Forest, Science and Technology, Government of Telangana, Shri Rajat Kumar, shared fundamental facts that are required to be kept in mind while preparing action plans for biodiversity conservation. He identified poverty as a big challenge and stressed

upon the need to address development in action plans. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden, Government of Telangana, Dr. Manoranjan Bhanja, shed light on the importance of efforts on species recovery and gene pool security for future.

Telugu, Kannada and Malyalam versions of the brochure on “Mainstreaming Biodiversity: National Biodiversity Action Plan, National Biodiversity Targets and India’s Sixth National Report to Convention on Biological Diversity” were released on the occasion.

In the first technical session, Dr. Sujata Arora presented an overview of India’s obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) including the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, National Biodiversity Targets and the periodic national reporting.

The representative of National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, Dr. Rita Pandey, gave a presentation on biodiversity finance initiative. She discussed the scale of funding needed, the mapping of resources and the determination of funding gaps. She shared the need to identify potential finance solutions, to assess efficiency of spending and to scale up funding. She also spoke about the biodiversity classification framework and the meaning of biodiversity mainstreaming through cross-sectoral policies and inter-departmental coordination.

The second technical session comprised a group activity on initiatives, or programmes undertaken at the State level for achieving National Biodiversity Targets and mapping of schemes for assessing their contribution towards biodiversity.

Biodiversity conservation and its sustainable use is the stated policy of the Government to fulfill its obligations under the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD). The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, the nodal ministry has initiated steps to prepare Sixth National Report to CBD due to be submitted in 2018.

The workshop was organized with support of Government of Telangana and Telangana State Biodiversity Board, in association with the National Biodiversity Authority, with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
