



मैंग्रोव पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र के संरक्षण का अंतर्राष्ट्रीय  
दिवस - 26 जुलाई 2024  
Report on  
International Day for the Conservation of  
the Mangrove Ecosystem - July 26<sup>th</sup> 2024



Organised by  
**ICFRE-COASTAL ECOSYSTEM CENTRE**  
ICFRE-Institute of Forest Biodiversity  
Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India  
Visakhapatnam – 530 003

## **International Mangrove Day 2024 Celebrations by ICFRE-CEC**

International Day for the Conservation of Mangrove Ecosystems is celebrated every year on July 26. Its purpose is to increase global understanding of the significance of mangrove ecosystems as distinct, precious, and delicate environments. The day also seeks to advocate for sustainable practices in managing, safeguarding, and utilizing these ecosystems. This International Day was adopted by the General Conference of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 2015.

Mangrove forests hold significant ecological importance as their intricate root systems serve as protective nurseries for various organisms, shielding them from predators, extreme heat, and powerful tides. Additionally, these coastal forests are highly effective in removing five times more carbon dioxide from the atmosphere compared to terrestrial forests.

Unfortunately, over the past four decades, the extent of mangrove forests has nearly halved due to various threats. The primary risk arises from shrimp farming, where large portions of the forest are cleared to create enclosed ponds for shrimp breeding. This practice involves the excessive use of antibiotics and chemicals to prevent diseases and enhance yield, leading to irreversible damage to the ecological balance of the forests.

Moreover, the valuable wood from these forests is often exploited and sold for substantial profits, and it is also used in charcoal production, leading to severe deforestation. The construction of roads, buildings, and the diversion of rivers for irrigation purposes further disrupt the mangrove habitat, particularly since most mangrove forests are located on estuaries.

To address the issues related to degradation and create awareness among the local public an awareness program on “Mangrove Ecosystem Services: Contribution to the Human Wellbeing” was conducted on the eve of the International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem by ICFRE- Coastal Ecosystem Centre, Visakhapatnam in collaboration with Andhra Pradesh Forest Department (Sullurupeta), and Dr. Reddy's Foundation (DRF) an at Kondurupalem confluence region in Naidupeta.

Then the participants gathered around for the live demonstration which was given by ICFRE- CEC team about mangroves and their habitat. Firstly, Mr. M. Ganesh Technical Assistant of ICFRE-CEC team gave a brief introduction about CEC, its mandate, vision along with its achievements. Then he introduced Mangroves to the participants with their characteristic features, habitat in which they grow, their adaptations, reproduction, and their

importance.

Later the session was continued by shri T. Srinivas, Scientist - C of ICFRE-CEC by explaining the difference between mangrove and terrestrial ecosystems, threats to mangroves, need to conserve the mangrove ecosystems for future generations along with economic benefits of these ecosystems for fishermen community. Different livelihood development techniques like fish farming by cage culture, Mangrove crab culture techniques by box method was explained to the participants. He also discussed about the coastal ecosystem and its importance, different types of organisms present in the mangrove ecosystems and their role in ecological process and economy.

Later Mrs. Satya Aruna from Dr. Reddy's Foundation spoke about the fauna in mangrove ecosystems. She explained about the role of mangroves as nursery grounds for many of avian and aquatic fauna. He also discussed about the issues related to the degradation of mangroves in Andhra Pradesh.

After concluding their initial activities, the participants and the ICFRE-CEC team proceeded towards a marshy area, their destination marked by a sense of purpose and anticipation. This area, known for its unique ecological significance, was home to the remnants of mangrove forests—an important coastal ecosystem known for its role in protecting shorelines and supporting diverse wildlife.

As they arrived, the team carefully surveyed the site, noting the patches of mangroves that still clung to life amidst the marsh. These remnants, though sparse, were vital indicators of the area's ecological past and held promise for future restoration efforts. The mangroves, with their characteristic stilted roots and dense canopies, had once formed a thriving ecosystem, but recent challenges such as coastal development, pollution, and climate change had diminished their extent.

With 1000 mangrove plants in tow, the participants began their task of restoration. Each plant was selected with care, chosen to match the specific conditions of the marshy environment they were being introduced to. The team members worked diligently to prepare the planting sites, ensuring that each young mangrove had the best chance of thriving. They dug planting holes, carefully placed the saplings, and provided the necessary support to ensure their stability.

This planting initiative was not just about reintroducing mangroves; it was a concerted effort to rejuvenate the local ecosystem and enhance its resilience. By restoring the mangrove

population, the team aimed to improve shoreline protection, support local biodiversity, and restore the natural balance of the coastal area.

At approximately 2:00 PM, the team wrapped up their mangrove plantation activities and made their way to Sri VSSC Government Degree College, Sullurepeta. The transition from the hands-on conservation work to an educational engagement marked a shift in focus from fieldwork to spreading awareness and knowledge.

Upon arrival at the college, the group was warmly received by the college staff. Their enthusiastic welcome set a positive tone for the visit and underscored the importance of the collaboration between the educational institution and the Coastal Ecosystem Centre (CEC). The staff had prepared for this event with great care, understanding that this was an opportunity to enrich the students' understanding of vital environmental issues.

The highlight of the visit was the address by Shri T. Srinivas, Sci- C (Head In-charge) of the Coastal Ecosystem Centre (CEC). With a blend of expertise and passion, Shri Srinivas began his presentation by detailing the critical role mangroves play in coastal ecosystems. His talk was not merely a lecture but an engaging exploration of why these unique plants are so crucial.

He started by explaining the ecological significance of mangroves. Mangroves, with their specialized root systems, are key to stabilizing coastlines and reducing erosion. Their roots trap sediments and build up the land, which helps to protect coastal areas from storm surges and sea level rise. This natural defence mechanism is particularly vital in regions prone to extreme weather events.

Shri T. Srinivas Sci- C also highlighted the rich biodiversity supported by mangrove forests. These areas serve as nurseries for a variety of marine species, including fish, crabs, and molluscs. They provide habitat for numerous birds and insects, making them integral to both marine and terrestrial food chains. He illustrated how mangroves support local fisheries and contribute to the livelihoods of communities dependent on these resources.

The presentation went beyond just environmental aspects. Shri Srinivas discussed the challenges facing mangrove ecosystems, including habitat loss due to coastal development, pollution, and climate change. He emphasized the need for concerted conservation efforts to protect and restore these vital areas. His talk included examples of successful restoration projects and strategies for mitigating ongoing threats.

The interaction with the students was dynamic. Shri T. Srinivas encouraged questions and discussions, making the session interactive and thought-provoking. He shared practical advice on how individuals and communities can contribute to mangrove conservation, fostering a sense of responsibility and empowerment among the students.

The visit to Sri VSSC Government Degree College concluded with a renewed sense of purpose among the attendees. The presentation by Shri Srinivas not only educated the students about the importance of mangroves but also inspired them to become active participants in environmental stewardship. The college staff, the students, and the CEC team left the event with a strengthened commitment to protecting and restoring mangrove ecosystems, recognizing the profound impact these efforts can have on both local and global scales. Following Shri T. Srinivas's, Sci- C enlightening presentation on the importance of mangroves, the event transitioned into a more interactive phase. The members of the ICFRE-CEC team, along with the college teachers, organized a debate and quiz session designed to engage students further and deepen their understanding of the topics discussed. Students eagerly participated in the quiz, demonstrating their attentiveness and enthusiasm. The competitive nature of the quiz added an element of excitement as students answered questions in rapid succession, often showing off their newly acquired knowledge from the earlier presentation and debate. The quiz format included a variety of questions.

The interactive activities, including the debate and quiz, fostered a collaborative learning environment, strengthened the students' understanding of mangrove conservation, and reinforced the day's key messages. As the event came to a close, there was a palpable sense of accomplishment and inspiration among both the students and the organizers, reflecting the success of the educational outreach efforts. As the quiz and debate sessions drew to a close, the atmosphere at Sri VSSC Government Degree College buzzed with anticipation for the prize-giving ceremony. Shri T. Srinivas, Sci-C (Head In-charge) of the Coastal Ecosystem Centre (CEC), and the District Forest Officer (DFO) were poised to acknowledge the students' outstanding contributions and engagement throughout the day.

The ceremony began with the announcement of the winners of the quiz and debate competitions. The students who had demonstrated exceptional knowledge and critical thinking were recognized for their achievements. Shri T. Srinivas Sci- C and the DFO presented awards to the top performers. Each prize was accompanied by words of encouragement and praise, celebrating not only the winners' intellectual prowess but also their enthusiasm for environmental conservation.

After the excitement of the prize distribution, the event took a heartfelt turn as Shri T. Srinivas, Sci-C (Head In-charge) of the Coastal Ecosystem Centre (CEC), was honoured with a special felicitation ceremony by the college staff and the Forest Department.

The college auditorium, filled with the energy of the day's activities, quieted down as the focus shifted to this moment of recognition. The college staff, who had played a key role in organizing the event, along with representatives from the Forest Department, gathered to express their gratitude and appreciation for Shri T. Srinivas's Sci-C significant contributions.



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**మద అడవుల సంరక్షణ దినోత్సవం**

నూత్నానుభవం: దీనివనీ ప్రభుత్వ డిప్లీ కళాశాలలో శుభ్రవారం వజ్ర జంట శాస్త్ర శాఖలు, ఏకే కే. డీఎస్. కార్యాలయం, డాక్టర్ రెడ్డిస్ పౌండ్లను, వనీవనీకల సంస్థలు సంయుక్తంగా అంతర్జాతీయ మద అడవుల సంరక్షణ దినోత్సవాన్ని నిర్వహించాయి. ప్రస్తుత పరిశోధన కేంద్ర మాట్లాడుతూ పర్యావరణ పరిరక్షణలో మద అడవుల కీలకపాత్ర పోషిస్తున్నాయి. దీనివనీ శాస్త్రాధ్యయన, రెడ్డిస్ పౌండ్లను కన్సర్వేషన్ అయిన, వనీవనీకల కన్సర్వేషన్ శ్రీనివాస్, అధ్యాపకులు సుబ్రహ్మణ్యం శాస్త్రి, శ్రీనివాస్ పాల్గొన్నారు.



మాట్లాడుతున్న ప్రొఫెసర్ శంకరశర్మ వేదికపై దీనివనీ శాస్త్రాధ్యయన