

## **Proceedings of the workshop on the conservation of sea turtles and mangroves at Kumta, Karnataka**

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The Canara Green Academy works on the conservation of sea turtles along the coastline of the Arabian Sea in the Uttar Kannada district of Karnataka, India. The Academy conducted a workshop on conservation of sea turtles and mangroves on 25 January, 2008.

The workshop was inaugurated by Sri G. Satish, IFS, Conservator of Forests, Kanara Circle, Sirsi who gave a formal inaugural speech. Three persons from different local communities were honored in recognition of the assistance they have provided to the Academy. The morning session began with a presentation made by N.D. Bhat, President of Canara Green Academy. He described the work that was carried out by the Academy on sea turtle conservation in Uttar Kannada. The presentation also included information about awareness programmes conducted, collection of turtle eggs from poachers and the establishment of turtle breeding centers at different locations.

Dr. V. N. Nayak from Department of Marine Biology at Karwar made a presentation on the distribution of and threats to sea turtles in Uttar Kannada and eco-friendly sea erosion control methods. Dr. Vijayakumaran of CMFRI, Mangalore made a presentation on climate change and sea turtle conservation. Sudarshan Rodriguez from ATREE, Bangalore spoke about the effectiveness of coastal legislation, in particular consequences that the proposed notification on coastal management (Coastal Management Zone Notification) would have on sea turtle conservation. An effort by

Theeram (a non-government organization in Kerala) for the conservation of sea turtles was presented by Abdul Latif from the Institute of Wood Science and Technology, Bangalore. Dr. Gourish Padukone, a veterinary doctor from Bhatkal, Karnataka made a presentation on diseases that afflict marine turtles.

The afternoon session focused on the conservation of mangroves. Dr. Subhash Chandran made a presentation on the distribution of mangroves in Karnataka and the threats they currently face. This was followed by a presentation made by Vijayamohan Raj, IFS, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Sirsi Division, Sirsi on 'Opportunity of Eco-tourism' in mangroves. Mahesh Shiroor, IFS, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Karwar Division spoke about the steps the Karnataka Forest Department has undertaken for the conservation of mangroves. M.R. Hegde, President of Snehakunja, Honavar made a presentation on the role of community in conservation of mangroves.

In addition to these presentations, Dr. Kakti from the Regional Centre, CMFRI at Karwar also elaborated on the necessity for mangrove conservation. Sri Ananth Kumar Hegde, Hon'ble Member of Parliament from Uttar Kannada presented his views on conservation of biodiversity. Manojkumar, IFS, Deputy Conservator of Forests (WL), Dandeli concluded the proceedings of the workshop by briefly summarizing the main points elaborated by the presentations made. The workshop ended with the vote of thanks by R.G. Bhat, ACF, Honavar.