

suggested some mitigation measures to meet Climate change challenges.

The second day started with the presentation of Dr. Venkataraman Kumar, Reader, VOC College, on Bioprospecting of seaweeds for marine bioresources. Bioprospecting describes the systematic search for and development of new sources of chemical compounds, genes, micro and macro-organisms and other valuable products from nature. He highlighted that seaweeds or benthic macroscopic marine algae are presently used as raw material for the manufacturing of seaweed colloids agar-agar, algin and carragenan; as fertilizer and animal feed and as foods. He pointed out that climate change will result in alteration in natural resources like seaweeds.

Dr. S. Ajmal Khan, Department of Aquaculture CAS in Marine Biology gave detailed presentation on climate change and its impact on various natural resources. He also discussed about the process involved in climate change and the role of IPCC and their reports on climate

change. This was followed by paper presentations by other participants. The forum formed a good platform for the students to understand all about climate change and the various aspects with regard to bioresources not only on coastal ecosystem but on a wider scale. This created interest among the participants that lead to discussions with the experts gathered during the conference.

The valedictory address of the conference was given by Dr. K. Venkataramani, Dean, Fisheries college and Research Institute, Tuticorin. During his talk he said that in India, climate change could represent additional pressure on ecological and socio-economic systems that are already under stress due to rapid urbanization, industrialization, and economic development. With its huge and growing population, a 7500-km long densely-populated and low-lying coastline, and an economy that is closely tied to its natural resource base, India is considerably vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

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## **Learning for Life-Conservation Education in our work and world**

### **R. Marimuthu\***

ATREE, Bangalore organized two days meeting on 18-19 December on skill share workshop for practicing environmental educators, programme coordinators and applied researchers on "Learning for Life-Conservation Education in our work and world". The two days programme was held at Navadarshanam, a 100 acre commune located at 50km south of Bangalore in Krishnagiri district of Tamil Nadu. The meeting was for people who have been involved in conservation education in its diverse forms and share their work with the group, the challenges they have faced, and future directions. They have been working on conservation education as part of the formal or non-formal education system with government and private schools, the administration/government agencies, and with local communities and with other non-governmental organisations. The issues and themes have ranged from biodiversity, forests and agriculture landscapes, environment and wildlife laws, human animal conflicts, livelihood, water and soil conservation, wetlands, coastal, coral reef, High Mountain, and cold desert ecosystems, overall environment, development and urban development and zoos. Many of them have been producing or committed to producing good quality, localized resource materials in local language and English, and are engaging in conservation education activities.

Twenty participants from 10 organisations shared their work with presentations to the group. Dr. Pranav Trivedi of NCF presented his work in Ladakh area, Pramod of SACON presented his Nature Camp workshops and other education activities, Marimuthu of ZOO talked about active learning methods used in ZOO's education programmes, Cyril Rufus of Adayar Poonga presented their work at Adayar Poonga as well as Pitchandikulam Bio-Resources Centre, Nimesh Ved of Samrakshan Trust, Mizoram talked about his conservation education work at Musings, Sujatha Padamanabhan and Sharmila of Kalpavriksh talked about their CE works in Ladakh,

Naveen Namboothri of Dakshin Foundation shared his work at the coastal areas on turtles in Orissa and also other eco-regions, Peeyush Sekhsaria of Handdesign, Bangalore shared his work of developing education materials for the tsunami hit areas in Tamil Nadu. Saneesh from Keystone Foundation talked about their work on RET plant species, education about honey collecting and the bee museum, John Kineman of University of Colorado talked about valuing the nature and ATREE staffs Sunita Rao, Kavitha, Siddappa, Jahnvi, Harisha and Abhishekha shared their CE works at KMTR-Tamil Nadu, Kanakpura, MM Hills, BR Hills, Karnataka, Vembanad, Kerala. After the each presentation, time was given for interaction between the groups. Participants displayed their education materials both printed and electronic for others to see and also they supplied each other free of cost. Zoo Outreach Organisation supplied some of its sample education packets and amphibian calendars to all the participants.

At the end of the meeting, it was decided that forming a network for conservation educators for interacting with each other; group members will identify new members to join in this network. An e-group is envisioned for keeping touch with others.

ATREE has developed a CD with sampler of resources for Conservation Education. The group members were asked to contribute resources whatever they know to add on that such as book names, periodicals, games & activities, posters, maps, music, films, website and web links and other CE related materials. It was also decided that annual meeting should be conducted in different location of the country in the month of November/ December with a theme for at least three days. The meeting was coordinated by Sunita Rao, Adjunct Fellow and Dr. Gladwin Joseph, *Director, ATREE*.

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