

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SESSION

ON

Theme 4: Forest Biodiversity and Landscape

Day 1: Nov. 22, 2011

The first technical session of IFC -2011 on the theme on “Forest Biodiversity and Landscapes” was chaired by Honble Director General Dr. V.K Bahuguna, DG, ICFRE with Shri V.B. Mathur, the Dean of the Wildlife Institute of India as the Co-Chairman.



After the welcome address of Chairman the session started off with the presentations by the invited speakers Shri P. K. Sen (Padmashree) – a renowned forester and wildlife expert and Shri P. R. Sinha, Director WII, Dehradun on the sub-theme “Forest Ecosystem and Biodiversity Management”.

Shri Sen stressed on the biodiversity of natural forests and its conservation for sustaining the ecosystem services emphasizing on hydrological cycle on which the survival of mankind depends upon.

Shri P. R. Sinha, in his address, pointed out the lack of scientific data and authentic information many life forms which is a serious problem in policy making and conservation planning. He also voiced his concern over alarming decline of global biodiversity in recent past, the threat posed by practice of monoculture and the need for periodic assessment of species diversity.

This was followed by presentations by three lead speakers namely, Sh. V. B. Sawarkar, Ex Director, WII, Dehradun; Sh. A J T Johnsingh, noted naturalist, Nature Conservation Foundation, Mysore; and Dr. V. B. Mathur, Dean, WII.

Sh. Sawarkar spoke on conservation of biological diversity in the wild at multiple scales. Revisiting the National Working Plan Code for the necessary revision/adding a guide as an adjunct to it and coordination among all agencies working at various levels to reorder and synergize their work to accord a common frame of reference that addresses the integrity of natural ecosystems.



Sh. A J T Johnsingh, while stressing the need of conserving tigers and other wildlife suggested developing a knowledge-based participatory land-use policy framework involving all categories of rights holders. He highlighted practice of shifting cultivation, large-scale encroachment, spread of invasive weeds and firewood cutting are the major threats to biological diversity.

Sh. V. B. Mathur delivered on the linkages between comprehensive, re-silent, effectively managed and financially secure protected areas on the one hand and the economic and social well-being of countries, communities and individuals on the other hand though not fully appreciated are a reality. Dr. Mathur called for the management of protected areas not as 'islands of biodiversity' but as the 'building blocks of regional networks' that will sustain ecological processes over time and space.

This was followed by 6 oral presentations on the sub-theme from the scientists all over the country. Finally DG, ICFRE and Chairman summarized the proceeding of the day.

The session ended with vote of thanks by Ms. Imtiena Ao, Director, ARCBR, Aizawl, Mizoram.