

Group Discussion
SWGM GOA
17th, 18th November 2012
Panchayats & Western Ghats

The group members representing Gram Panchayat Chairman and Panchayat Development Officers discussed the role of Panchayats in protecting the Western Ghats. The following are the resolutions:

- The GP (Gram Panchayat) should be given freedom to decide on management of Natural Resources.
- Any big/large projects in GP area should seek the permission of GPs.
- They should be given special powers to decide on what kind of industries can be established in GP area.
- The Gram Sabha needs to be given powers to collect revenue

Wildlife Issues

1. Wildlife Protection Act 1972 Ammendments
 - We should strengthen the Act by increasing the penalty and punishments.
 - Remove the proposed Gram Sabha approvals from the Act. It makes virtually impossible to punish anyone from the same Gram Sabha.
2. In Maharashtra over 10000 hectres of forests are vanishing every year because of tree felling for brick kilns in Karnataka. Tree Preservation Act or simmillar acts in other states of Kerala, TN and Karnataka is not there in Maharashtra. We have to insist Maharashtra Government. to introduce a new Act for protecting trees in private forests.
3. Buffer zone notification around PA has to be made in WG
4. ESA notification for all Protected Areas.
5. National Green Tribunal (NGT) is very important for saving WGs and a strong message has to be sent to government.
6. Estate lands has to be brought back to forest dept in Gudalur.
7. No forest land has to be given to Mining, Hydrel, Thermal and other adverse Projects.
8. Wildlife Tourism must not be expanded but this needs to must be regulated
9. Dead trees should not be removed from forests, liachous insects and other life forms is supported by dead trees.
10. Wayanad tribals and settlers inside forest want to relocate willingly. They should be supported.

11. Man Animal conflict in WGs has to be addressed. Along with regulated tourism, mono-culture plantations, forest fire, fragmentation, relocation, habit degradation, needs to be addressed.
12. A joint meeting at regular intervals to discuss and act on wildlife issues in 3 states (Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka) in need of the hour.
13. Exotic plantations across WG has to reduced.
14. No more new tourism destinations need to be permitted in entire WGs.
15. No more new roads, railways, dams, inside forests.
16. Animal crossing points, or corridors to be protected and to be initiated study and mitigation measures
17. Corridors of Wild Animals has to be protected by giving a legal Status. A Protected areas status was favoured by all. Land can be acquired for corridor and make it into forests.
18. Fertilisers and Pesticides are poisoning our forests and wildlife. organic farming has to be encouraged.
19. Poachers, mafias and goondas must be delt more seriously and state govt. and political parties must be insisted to take action.
20. Nellyampathi Estate lands has to be taken over for forests and wildlife. For lands in which please period is over, SWGM should support the issue.
21. Mobile towers inside forests are causing more harm to bees and wildlife. They should not be allowed.

Climate Changes Vijayalaxmi Nirali

At the international level leades are discussing the responsibility of each country to reduce CO₂ emmission and increase the green cover.

For mitigating climate change the following important measures can be undertaken.

- Tree Planting on war footing.
- Emmission of CO₂ should be reduced this is the responsibility of every one
- Life style has to be changed. Simple life style instead of high energy consumptive life which causes more CO₂ emmission needs to be addressed.
- In addition, like financial audit we have to have ecological audit for every event to reduce CO₂ emmission.

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We discussed about climate change with our leader Proff. A.S. Chandrashekar, and friends we talked about the few points i.e

1. What is climate change?
2. Why this climates change?
3. Effects of the climate change?
4. What should be done to prevent climate change?
5. Role of the organisation

Climate changes is warming ocean due to the release of carbon dioxide. It is caused by Industries, Vehicles and increase in population. This will never disappear for 100 years. It remains as a layer in the atmosphere. It tnalor the reflection of sunlight. Recently climate changes are indicated Sandy cyclone in New York and Chennai.

We have 97% of sea water, 2% 1% of turn water when the a Ia melts in the polar region the sea level raises. These the resounding countries will margin.

Now a days carbon footling is more & more due to the wrong of more vehicles, four sector etc. This CO₂ can reduce pant more trees and reduce the of rehilum degrees in population. Not only doing them measure we have to maintain the atmosphere lralancing by carbon credit.

Mini Hydel Projects

Thirty years ago the environmentalists suggested Mini hydel projects instead of Major dams.

But now the same environmentalists are going against these Mini hydel projects Why? This was the topic of discussion we had held yesterday under the leadership of Mr. Pandurang Hegde.

We would like to voice our group's discussion as here and the opinion we arrived.

In Karnataka itself there are roughly 225 Mini hydel projects are planned this has caused huge damage to the Western Ghats.

1. Mini hydel projects are destroying the remaining left out nature forests. According to ecologies there should be 60% of forests, but now we have only 10% left in Western Ghats.

2. Mini hydel projects in also causing threat disappearance and extinction of the species, affecting the eco sensitive areas. Elephant corridor is accursedly affected.
3. Lending to timber lobby and water lobby.
4. Dislocation of the agriculture land and the agriculturist Rehabilitation in not done by the Govt. In turn the farmers are thrown unemployed there by leading to sever food and water problems.
5. Wild life in getting affected as a reset wild animals entering the town.
6. The old traditional local culture in disappearing.
7. The Govt. 90% subsidy to produce Power from Mini hydel projects the agreement says after the production of Power, the Govt. will purchase the Power with higher rates inclusive of maintainance and production. So Mini hydel projects are encouraged, but the construction and tunneling activity has caused extensive damage to forests wild life habitat.

As alternative solutions, the group arrived at following conclusions:

1. No MHP should be allowed in natural forest areas of Western Ghats. Cumulative Impact Assessment should be made mandatory for all the MHP on a single River.
2. Use of solar energy should be promoted. Commercial buildings should compulsorily have solar energy. Solar energy in the best alternate compared to MHP. Another alternate in produce electric ties through Biogas plant
3. Leading a simple life style especially, the urbanites. For exp. Using less power, less water, creating awareness among family neighbors public 2 children and make them understand of we loose the forest what will be our life situation?

A discussion note on a National Workshop

Proposed to be organised as preparatory exercise before the National Conference of All India Peoples Science Net Work to be held in the month of May 2015.

Organised by : All India Peoples Science Net Work and Paschima Ghatta Samrakshana Horata Vedike (PGSHV)

Duration of the workshop : Two days
Place of workshop : Sridevi Institute of Engineering Technology (SIET), Tumkur.
Proposed Date : 11th and 12th of April, 2015
(Saturday and Sunday)

Themes of the workshop

- 1) 11-04-2015 Conservation and Development Challenges of Westren Ghats Region in the Neoliberal development era.
- 2) 12-04-2015 Environmental Governance in the changing developmental paradigm.

No of participants for the workshop : About 100-120
a) 30-40 outside the State of Karnataka
b) 80-90 from 30 odd districts of Karnataka

Proposed schedule of the proceedings on 11-04-2015

Conservation and Developmental challenges of Westren Ghats in the Neoliberal development era.

Tiffin 8.30 to 9.30am
Regn 9.30 to 10 am

Session I : Inaugural session for 2 hours duration from 10 am tp 12 pm
Welcome background of the workshop : 10 minutes
Inauguration : 5 minutes
Inaugural address : 30 minutes
Keynote address : 40 minutes
Chief guests : Local Hosts 1) 10 minutes
2) 10 minutes
Presidential address : 10 minutes
Vote of thanks : 5 minutes
Tea break 12pm - 12.30pm

Session II : 12.30pm to 2pm

Major apprahensions and opposition to WGEEP and HLWG reports as expressed in 6 different states of WG region. The role of Govt. of India and State Governments in addressing them. Interventions by people science groups and other organisations and their impacts. An experience sharing exercise.

State wise presentation : 10-12 minutes each
Summing up by the chair : 15-20 minutes
Lunch break : 2pm to 2.30pm

Session II : 2.30pm to 5.00pm

The way for ward. To evolve a Broad Common peoples agenda for the conservation and developmental aspirations of the people of the region taking into consideration the socio, political, economic and cultural contexts of each state.

Throwing up a few thoughts by 4 seniour people science leaders from major states : $10 \times 4 = 40$ minutes

Responses : 30 minutes

Tea break : 3.45pm to 4.10pm

A road map for peoples campaign in western ghat region in the year 2015

Presentation : 40 minutes

Chiarmans remarks : 20 minutes

Evening cultural programmes and film shows on western ghats

Dinner : 8.00pm to 8.30pm

Environmental Governance in the Changing Developmental Paradigm

12-04-2015 Day 2 Session I Inaugural Session 9am to 2pm

Introduction of the topic and guests : 10 minutes

Inaugural address : 30 minutes

Keynote address : 40 minutes

Presidents remarks : 20 minutes

Tea break : 10.30am to 11.00am

Session II : 11am to 2pm

Desirable changes needed in Forest and Environment related laws and Amendments suggested by the HLC

I a) Indian forest Act 1927 and forest conservation act 1980

Main presentation : 30 minutes

2 Panel lists reponses : 2-20 minutes

Chairmans remarks : 10 minutes

II b) Environment protection act 1986 and wild life protection act 1972

Main presentation : 30 minutes

2 Panel lists reponses : 2-20 minutes

Chairmans remarks : 10 minutes

III c) Air (prevention and control of pollution) act 1981

Water (prevention and control of pollution) act 1974

Main presentation : 30 minutes

2 Panellists reponses : 2-20 minutes

Chairmans remarks : 10 minutes

Lunch break : 2pm to 2.30pm

Session III : 2.30pm to 4pm

Discussion on environmental governance and the proposed environmental laws (management) act 2014.

2 Main presentations : $30 \times 2 = 60$ minutes

Chairmans remarks : 20 minutes

Tea break : 4pm to 4.20pm

Velidictory address : 4.20pm to 5pm

Roles and Responsibilities

AIPSN

1. To identify Non Karnataka participants from 6 states of western ghat regions for the 11-4-2015 workshop. (About 30-40).
2. Identify suitable speakers who will be making presentation for each state.
3. Key note address guest and inauguration guest for western ghat workshop on 11-4-2015. Proposed Names : Prof. Madhav Gadgil, Dr. Vijayan, Prof. M.K.Prasad, Medha Patkar, Sundarlal Bahuguna, A.N.Yellappareddy, Prakash Javadekar, Ramanath Rai, Principal Secys. of MOEF etc.
4. Identify 4 senior peoples science speakers to throw up a few thoughts on Westren Ghats Movement.
5. Speaker for a road map for a peoples compaign on western ghats M.P.Parameshwaran.
6. Films on western ghats.
7. Inauguration guest and key note address guest for 2nd days workshop.

Proposed names Raghunandan, Dinesh Abrol, Thomas Isac, Venkatesh Athreya, Probir purkayastha, Prof. M.K.Remesh from NLSIU Bangalore.

8. Identify main presenters for II(a), II(b) II(c) session on environmental laws. (Leo Saldhana group, Mahesh K.S. PCB)
9. A few can be identified from NLSIU faculty Bangalore or famous environmental lawyers. (Subin, Chirdeep faculty of NLSIU)
10. Resource person to speak on environmental governance and proposed environmental laws management act 2014.

Proposed names : Prof. M.K.Ramesh from NLSIU, Nagamohan Das Rtd. H.C.Judge of Karnataka or any Rtd Judge from supreme court or eminent legal practitioner on environmental laws.

11. To procure written presentations sufficiently well in advance to make copies for distributing it to all delegates.
12. Arranging for the Non Karnataka resource persons and travel expenses.
13. To procure biodata of Non Karnataka guests.

BGVS/KRVP Karnataka :

1. To help in identifying interested delegates from different districts and organisations of Karnataka at the rate of 2-3 per district. No travel expenses will be paid to them. They have to come on their own or the concerned organisations have to meet delegates travel expenses.
2. To suggest suitable names for chairing sessions/sub sessions/prominent and other guests.
3. To Co-ordinate between AIPSN Head Quarters and local committee in Tumkur.
4. To provide secretarial assistance for fixing guests identifying delegates, related correspondnce, obtaining bio data of Karnakata guests.
5. Arrange for travel expenses of Karnataka guests and speakers.
6. Arrange for State level media coverage pressmeet in Bangalore.

P.G.SH.V. and T.S.C.

1. To finalise and equip the venue of the workshop.
2. To arrange for boarding for 2 days of the workshop.

3. To arrange for modest lodging facilities for Karnataka state delegates.
4. To arrange for the comfortable stay of important guests and speakers.
5. To arrange for local publicity and media coverage.
6. To provide files, pads, pens, xerox materials for the delegates.
7. To mobilise funds and other resources for the workshop.
8. To finalise, design and print invitations in consultation with AIPSN/BGYS/KRVP.
9. To arrange for timely distribution of the invitations to all concerned with the help of BGVS/KRVP and other associate organisations.

Wild Life Photo graphic exhibition on western ghat

Local amateur photographers and nature trekking enthusiasts have come forward to have an exhibition of wild life photographs by the side of the workshop. People coming to participate in workshop can bring in their best photographs on western ghats for the exhibition. The exhibition will run parallel to the workshop. Local people are invited for the exhibition. There will be a wild life photography appreciation discussion in a separate hall near by. Subramanya Adiga and his friends have come forward to shoulder this responsibility.