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Ref. : To, Dr. N.V. Joshi.

Date :

Dear Sir,

Greetings.

As you are aware of, *Western Ghats* Task Force, has been functioning for one and half years with the mandate of developing strategies of conservation of natural resources and sustainable development. We have tried to build a wide network so far, by involving all those who are committed for this cause.

Currently we are planning to hold a high level scientists' workshop at Bangalore over *Western Ghats* issues. Our idea is to listen to the experts & pioneering scientists in this field to facilitate healthy discussion amongst the scientists, policy makers, top govt. officials, NGOs and all those who are concerned in this two days seminar. We wish to advice the govt. on the basis of the resolutions of this workshop regarding the actions to be taken for protecting *Western Ghats* in Karnataka.

I am writing this letter to invite you to this workshop as one of the delegates. Kindly find a brief note on the theme of the workshop enclosed herewith. I would be glad to request you to contribute to the cause by participating in the discussion during the workshop, since it would immensely enhance the quality of the work we have undertaken. Kindly inform the same to your learned colleagues/ experts too, who are working for this cause.

Modest accommodation and food will be taken care of for all the delegates during the workshop. Kindly confirm your participation along with travel plan before 25th January 2010 to the coordinator of the workshop. Contact: Sri Puneet Patak, IFS, Deputy Conservator Of Forest, (Development), Aranyabhavana, 18th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bangalore, Ph: 080-23342827, 9902362362,
E-mail: puneetpathak@msn.com.

Looking forward for to meet you during the workshop.

Thanking You.

Yours sincerely,

(Anant Hegde Ashisar)

Western Ghats Task Force

Dept .of Forest & Environment, Govt. of Karnataka, Bangalore

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Scientists' Meet cum Consultation Workshop on **"Linking research inputs with the conservation programmes of the govt. in Western Ghats in Karnataka: Challenges & opportunities"**

Workshop date: 28 -29 January 2010

Venue: Aranyabhavana, Bangalore

Karnataka government has provided a special opportunity to think & act afresh on conserving *Western Ghats* region in Karnataka, by forming *Western Ghats* Task Force (WGTF). The mandate of the Task Force is to give concrete guidance to the government on the issues related to the conservation and sustainable development issues of *Western Ghats* region.

WGTF is currently trying to understand the baseline picture of different challenges before initiating further efforts to strengthen conservation. Therefore, Task Force is organizing a scientists' meet cum consultation workshop on 28-29 January 2009 at *Aranyabhavana*, Bangalore to have an active interaction with the all those scientists / experts working for the cause of *Western Ghats*. However, it does not intend to initiate any new study, rather tries to get the guidance / feedback from the experts, who are working in this field for long, so that an action plan can be prepared. Some of the major questions to be addressed are mentioned below.

- ❖ What is the richness of biodiversity & other natural resources as per the present understanding?
- ❖ What is the types & degree of the threats to the W.G.? (damage assessment)
- ❖ What needs to be done for protecting the biodiversity & its enhancement, both *in-situ* & *ex-situ* levels, apart from the existing govt. programmes?
- ❖ How to implement ecosystem/watershed based conservation actions into practices?
- ❖ What could be the sustainable development modes, especially in the fields of energy, agriculture, industry etc.? (or How to facilitate the employment generation without disturbing ecology)
- ❖ What is the current picture of Wildlife health in the region? What needs to be done for their protection?
- ❖ What should be the mode of conservation action in the field? How to involve the people-govt.-civil society organizations in the process?
- ❖ How could we bring more financial as well as moral support for the govt. programmes?
- ❖ What could be the priority for the research wing of the Dept. of Forest?
- ❖ How can we ensure regular inflow of research inputs to the conservation actions by the dept. programmes?

Task Force seeks the help of experts for finding answers for these questions.

We expect the suggestions/ solutions should be precise so that they can be incorporated either in the policy or actions in the field for improving the performance of the regulatory departments & ensuring the participation of people furthermore.