

National Seminar on Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Climate Change: The challenge ahead

NBFR, Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh); 25-27 September 2010

Organised by the
National Institute of Ecology

Background

The United Nations declared 2010 to be the **International Year of Biodiversity**. It is a celebration of **life on earth** and of the **value of biodiversity for our lives**. This year, the theme of the United Nations' observance of the International Day for Biological Diversity is *Biodiversity, Development and Poverty Alleviation* (www.cbd.int/idb/). Among several other activities planned in this International Year of Biodiversity, the National Institute of Ecology is organizing a three-day National Seminar on **Biodiversity, ecosystems and climate change: The challenge ahead in Lucknow between 25-27th September 2010**.

The need to move our economies onto a low-carbon path and the benefits of doing so are now widely acknowledged—yet the need to move towards a truly resource efficient economy, and the role of biodiversity and ecosystems in this transition, are still largely misunderstood. Building momentum for the transition to a resource efficient economy calls for cooperation, partnerships and communication among all stakeholders. Every country or region is different and will need to tailor its responses to their context. However, by sharing ideas, experience and capacity we may contribute to the global benefit. Policy champions can lead this process and use windows of opportunity to forge a new consensus to protect biodiversity and ecosystems and their flows of services.

The Seminar

Natural capital - ecosystems, biodiversity, and natural resources - underpins economies, societies and individual wellbeing. The values of its myriad benefits are, however, often overlooked or poorly understood. They are rarely taken fully into account through economic signals in markets, or in day to day decisions by business and citizens, nor indeed reflected adequately in the accounts of society.

Unlike economic and human capital, natural capital has no dedicated systems of measurement, monitoring and reporting. This is astonishing given its importance for its contribution to future economic development. We are now trying to understand what the natural processes and genetic resources have to offer to the economic stability and wellbeing of the human societies.

The steady loss of forests, soils, wetlands and coral reefs is closely tied to this economic invisibility. So too are the losses of species and of productive assets like fisheries, driven partly by ignoring values beyond the immediate and private. We are running down our natural capital stock without understanding the value of what we are losing. Missed opportunities to invest in this natural capital contribute to the biodiversity crisis that is becoming more evident and more pressing by the day. The degradation of soils, air, water and biological resources can negatively impact on public health, food security, consumer choice and business opportunities. The rural poor, most dependent on the natural resource base, are often hardest hit. These problems are further accentuated with the uncertainties of climate or the climate change regimes that are forecasted for the future.

Access to the right information at the right time is fundamental to coherent policy trade-offs. Better understanding and quantitative measurement of biodiversity and ecosystem values to support integrated policy

assessments are a core part of the long-term solution. Thus we intend to contribute to the knowledge generation, compilation and measurement of biodiversity and ecosystem values through a collective thinking process at a three day national seminar. It will comprise of mainly the contributed presentations. There will be ample opportunity for discussion on the talks. Offered contributions will be accepted for brief 10-minute oral presentations which must highlight salient points only. All contributors including invited speakers are requested to submit an Extended Abstract (maximum 2 pages – single space) which will be suitably circulated and placed on the NIE's website. The accepted presentations will be suitably edited and compiled into proceedings which will be published as part of the NIE bulletin in a pdf format and placed on the website.

The NIE shall strive to keep the carbon footprint of the seminar to the minimum, and hence rely mostly on E-mail communication.

Programme

The Seminar will be held in the conference hall of **National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (ICAR), Lucknow**. The detailed programme is being developed and will be sent to all concerned by email by **20th August 2010**.

Participation

All those interested to participate in the national seminar and/or contribute to it are requested to communicate at the earliest with the Convener (address below). The Extended Abstracts must be submitted **latest by 31 July 2010** by **Email only** to nieindia@gmail.com. These will be considered only if the contributor is able to attend the Seminar. NIE will make efforts to raise funds to support the travel of a limited number of participants, mostly young scientists and few senior invited speakers.

Registration Fee

There shall be token Registration Fee for the participants as noted below:

Invited Speakers and Sponsors	NIL
Participants	Rs 1000
Members of the NIE	Rs 750

(Advance Payment is not required)

Contact Details

All communications regarding the Seminar should be addressed to the Convener:

Dr. Prem S. Pathak, Vice-President, NIE

Email: nieindia@gmail.com, pathak.prem@gmail.com

Mobile: +91-9415112911

Postal communications may be made (only if absolutely necessary) to:

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OR

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Cell: 09313294607

Associated activity

To mark the Birth Centenary of late Professor Ramdeo Misra, (b. 26 August 1908) - fondly known as the 'Father of Indian Ecology', that coincides with the 30th Anniversary of the National Institute of Ecology founded by him, the NIE has instituted an annual Prof. R. Misra Birth Centenary Lecture. This has been possible by a generous donation by his family members and contributions by students, colleagues and friends, to the Professor R. Misra Birth Centenary Fund.

The Lecture is awarded each year to an eminent ecologist who has made significant contributions in any field of ecology and its application to environmental problems. The Award carried a Citation and a token cash amount. The Awardee is required to submit the Lecture for printing and distribution at the time of the Lecture. The first lecture was awarded in year 2008 to Prof. Madhav Gadgil and the second lecture was awarded in year 2009 to Prof. P.S. Ramakrishnan. This year (2010) it is awarded to Prof. Jamuna Sharan Singh, one of the most distinguished ecologists of the country, Fellow of the National Institute of Ecology. He will be delivering the lecture during the inaugural function of the proposed national Seminar.

National Organizing Committee

1. Dr. S. Ayyappan, DG, ICAR - Patron
2. Dr. P.V. Dehad Rai, President of NIE - Chairman
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6. Prof. P.S. Ramakrishnan, Prof. Emeritus - Member
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17. Prof. R.K. Sinha, Councillor of NIE - Member
18. Dr. S.P.S. Kushwaha, Joint Secretary of NIE - Member
19. Dr. P. S. Pathak, Vice-President of NIE - Convener
20. Prof. K.S. Rao - Co-convener / Organizing Secretary

ABOUT THE ORGANISER

The National Institute of Ecology (NIE) is India's premier non-governmental organization (professional association) in the fields of Ecology and Environmental Science. Started in 1978, it is registered under the Societies Registration Act at Jaipur (495/80-81). It is also registered under sections 12A and 80G of the Income Tax Act and hence the donations made to the NIE are eligible for tax deductions. The NIE is also registered under the FCRA and is eligible to receive overseas contributions and grants.

The NIE has its members drawn from all disciplines (including Engineering and Social Sciences) and from every part of India, besides from a few other countries. The NIE organizes national and international workshops, symposia and conferences, conducts training, undertakes research projects, and publishes the *International Journal of Ecology and Environmental Sciences* and the *Bulletin of the NIE*. The NIE works closely with the concerned government departments/Ministries as well as the NGOs. It maintains its main office in Delhi, and has five regional offices. It has recently initiated two Centres: a **Centre for Application & Research in Eco-technology and Ecological Engineering** and a **Centre for Inland Waters in South Asia**.

For details and membership information, visit our website: <http://www.nieindia.org>