

Concept note for the Capacity building workshop for Indian Forest Service Officers on issues relating to 'Biodiversity conservation with special reference to aquatic, marine and coastal biodiversity' at Pondicherry from 15-17 December 2014

Costal zones represent diverse ecosystems and support highly productive habitat such as mangroves, mudflats and other marine species. India has a coastline of 7,500 km which is intersected by rocky outcrops and shores with stretches of sandy beaches. It supports over 25% of countries population within 100 km of the coastline.

As a consequence of anthropogenic and socio-economic factors, the coastal zones of India are subjected to enormous pressures. Besides that, coastal zones being a dynamic zone of interface between the ocean and land, erosion and accretion, inundation due to sea level rise and storm surge, shifting of shoreline caused by natural forces and manmade constructions also affects its function and associated biodiversity. Hence, efficient management of coastal and marine areas is essential to safeguard the wellbeing of people depending on these resources as well as associated biodiversity. Forest department being custodian of wildlife found in coastal and marine areas and implementing agency for CRZ provisions in various States, needs strengthening of its capacity to manage these resources effectively.

In order to achieve this, the IGNFA is executing a UNDP funded project aims at capacity building of IFS officers working in coastal areas / cadres. As part of this project, a capacity building workshop is scheduled in Pondicherry from 15-17 December 2014.

The workshop designed to provide holistic view of management of coastal and marine biodiversity to the participants, through class room discussions, field visit, experience sharing and documentation of good practise followed in various states. Thereby, the participants will gain knowledge and skill to manage the coastal resources efficiently.

In view of this, nomination of officers working in coastal areas is solicited from the coastal states for the workshop. Detailed program schedule is enclosed for information on subjects covered in the workshop.