

Sub: - DG, ICFRE chairs the session on Climate Change and Biodiversity – Conservation and Adaptation sponsored by GEF at COP – 11, Hyderabad.

Dr. V. K. Bahuguna, IFS, Director General, ICFRE was invited to chair the session on Climate Change and Biodiversity – Conservation and Adaptation during the COP – 11, Convention on Biological Diversity on 17th October, 2012 at Hyderabad. The side event projected on climate change impacts on forest ecosystems, affecting biodiversity forest regeneration, growth rates and geographic distribution of plant species of forest type. It also stressed on how livelihoods of Forest dependent communities (indigenous as well as agricultural) are likely to be adversely affected. To minimize the adverse Impacts of climate change, particularly of biodiversity and environmental services, there is a need for scientific assessments of the impacts of climate change on biodiversity in different forested ecosystems in order to guide the development and implementation of adaptation strategies. Policy initiatives incorporating climatic concerns into planning and implementation of forest conservation, afforestation and reforestation are needed, particularly in developing countries. This event presented the impact of climate change on biodiversity of forests and other natural ecosystems and opportunities for adaptation; assessment of the implications or climate change Impacts on biodiversity for biodiversity – dependent communities, and identify approaches to reduce vulnerability for Forest ecosystems and forest-dependent communities

During the side event the following presentation were given which are enumerated below:

PROGRAM	ANCHOR
Climate Change and Biodiversity; Current Science and policy	Prof. N. H. Ravindranath, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore
Role of the GEF in Biodiversity Climate Adaptation	Andrew Velthaus – Senior Policy Advisor, GEF Secretariat
Community perspectives on Climate Change impact on Biodiversity	Dr. S. Surya Kumari, Centre for People Forestry, Hyderabad
Presentation on MoEF-GEF-UNDP India Coastal Biodiversity	Dr. Preeti Soni, UNDP-India Biodiversity Conservation Programme



Dr. V. K. Bahuguna, IFS, Director General, ICFRE during the summarization as Chair of the session, stressed the need for food and water security by focusing on management of forest fringe areas. He mentioned that a strategy to have a landscape approach for Biodiversity Conservation needs to be worked out, wherein; focus of conservation should be on both Protected areas as well as areas outside protected areas. He emphasised the need to integrate Biodiversity Conservation with Climate Change and also link biodiversity conservation to communities particularly those living in the forest fringe areas which supports the livelihoods of nearly 300 million people.

DG, ICFRE also mentioned that ICFRE has created a separate division for Biodiversity Conservation and a Coffee table book on "Forest Biodiversity of India" will be released today. ICFRE has also created another division on Panchayat and Human dimension to cater to the livelihood issues including Biodiversity conservation for the rural people. He further mentioned that ICFRE is in the process of assessing the Forest types of India and come out with a change matrix to indicate the vegetational changes that have occurred during the last 90 years in the Forest Types of India as a result of Climate Change. In the end he thanked all the presenters for their presentation.

