

## Linking fragmented fresh water swamps through restoration of micro-corridors: Workshops, exposure visits and training camps

To create interest and awareness in students about special ecosystem Myristica swamps, Snehakunja and LIFE trust has organised eco development camp to the science graduate students. The students were from the botany and zoology disciplines. By visiting Myristica swamp forests, the students were informed about the importance of this fragile patch of forests and its conservation need. Further the students got information about unique features of some swamp species, the ecological service of these plants, and the special characters that are needed to sustain these ecosystem. Various activities like quiz competitions, drawings sketches on swamp ecosystem, group discussions, about swamp forests and its importance were conducted with the students. Quiz competitions based on swamp forests and its vegetations was held with the students.



Field visits to various swamps and discussions at different levels with Forest Department officials, involving them in organizing the workshops/meetings, visits to nursery area were done to involve the major stakeholders in the project activity. Various stakeholders like Agriculturists, Horticulturists, Marginal farmers, Landless labours, Artisans, NTFP collectors, outside resource users, Traditional Herbal Healers, Myristica swamp Conservation Committee, Youth club, Women groups, Village Forest Committee, State Forest Department, Minor irrigation/Watershed Department and other line departments, Administration units from Village Panchayat to Zilla Panchayat, local watershed management committee are involved at various stages of the project activity. Meeting was held with Chairman Western Ghats Task Force Karnataka State Government, Chief Secretary of Uttara Kannada district, executive officers of Taluk Panchayat and with development officers at Village Panchayat level. Project activities were also briefed to district minister. Project activities and results were presented during seminars in which senior forest officials, forest minister have participated.

People participation and role of community in conservation and management of forest and swamps to ensure biodiversity protection and ecosystem services rendered by the swamp forests was discussed during the workshops.

- Preventing the encroachment that was leading to land use change of the swamp forests
- Preventing illegal felling and sustainable water usage
- Preventing the poaching of wild animals
- Empowering the local people in value addition and marketing of agriculture and Non Timber Forest Products, and in effective management of the swamps and adjacent forests.

Further, during these workshops we elaborated about what is fresh water swamp? What are the methods for ecological restoration? How to make the entire restoration work participatory? Project activities and out comes to date were explained to the participants using visual media. Under changing ecological, socio-cultural aspects, conservation methods should adopt holistic landscape approach instead of individual species based approach. Demonstration was done on grafting techniques, nursery rising, management techniques and other agronomical aspects on priority species of Non Timber Forest Product to the local residents especially women.

Trekking to swamps with media people, senior forest department officials, VFC members and local villagers was held to create awareness on swamps and to disseminate the project results to general public.

Table 1. Workshops/meetings details held under swamp restoration project through CEPF-ATREE Western Ghats project

Sl no	Date	Venue	No of participants
1	23-06-2010	Kudagunda-Torme	31
2	02-08-2010	Torme	20
3	02-10-2010	Torme	21
4	12-10-2010	Kudagunda	25
5	24-12-2010	Kudagunda-Torme	38
6	18-12-2010	Kudgund school	34
7	08-03-2011	Hasavalli	36
8	05-04-2011	Kudagunda	39
9	03-08-2011	Kudagunda	51
10	29-12-2011	Itagi - Siddapur	45
11	30-12-2011	Heggarani	42
12	20-05-2012	Dhulalli	128
13	15-09-2012	Hemgar	77
14	10-09-2012	Sampkhanda	65
15	06-04-2012	Bislakoppa school	45
16	24-01-2012	Mettingadde-Hasuvalli	100
17	25-01-2012	Karikaan-Honnavar	100
18	18-10-2012	Vanalli school	80
19	02-02-2013	Unchalli	66
20	21-05-2013	Bogrimakki	27
21	24-05-2013	Kumta-Honnavar-Gokarna	26
22	04-06-2013	Kodnagadde	33
23	28-01-2013	Mundgetaggu, Hejni, Kanalli	35
24	06-10-2013	Talaguppa-Honnemurudu	30
25	05-06-2013	Vanalli school	75
26	10-07-2014	Mankatte	225
27	14 & 15-01-2014	Katlekan-Kudegodu-Talguppa	15
28	19-01-2014	Katlekan- Sharavati valley	43
29	21-11-2014	Dhulalli-Kodnagadde	64
30	25-11-2014	Hadrimane	46
31	27-11-2014	Thalekeri	25
32	30-10-2014	Voddinkoppa	50
33	30-06-2015	Mensi - Chaprakatte	109
<b>Total</b>			<b>1846</b>

Table 2.Details of workshops/symposiums/trainings organized by different organizations and departments

Sl no.	Venue	Organizer
1	Bangalore	Western Ghats task force, Karnataka Government (WGTF)
2	Bangalore	WGTF-KFD
3	Bangalore	WGTF-KFD
4	Bangalore	WGTF-KFD
5	Bangalore	WGTF-KFD
6	Sirsi	IISc
7	Sonda	IISc
8	Sirsi	CEPF-ATREE
9	Kolhapur	CEPF-ATREE
10	Karikan Parmeshari	KFD
11	Kathlekan	HORA-LIFE
12	Metlakallu-Vaddinagadde	KFD
13	Sagar	WGTF
14	Karanagiri	WGTF-KFD
15	Bhimangudda	WGTF-KFD
16	Dodmane	WGTF-KFD



Workshop at Talakeri



Field visits



NTFP value addition



Presentation at a program where district minister and WG task force chairman have participated



DCF forest department speaking on swamp restoration workshop



Grafting and nursery rising training



Western Ghats Task force Chairman in the swamp restoration workshop