



Report

on

WILDLIFE WEEK 2023



Organized by

**EIACP Programme Centre Resource Partner on
Forest Genetic Resources and Tree Improvement
ICFRE - Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding
(Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education)
Coimbatore – 641 002**

Wildlife Week 2023 Celebration by ICFRE-IFGTB EIACP PC RP

As part of Mission LiFE and Wildlife Week 2023, EIACP (Environmental Information, Awareness, Capacity Building and Livelihood Programme) Programme Centre (erstwhile IFGTB ENVIS) RP at the ICFRE - Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore organized an awareness campaign. In addition, 02 Life Mission Selfie Points were installed in Gass Forest Museum and ICFRE-IFGTB Office respectively. The primary goal of these LiFE Selfie points is to raise awareness about the LiFE Mission among students and the general public, encouraging them to incorporate LiFE Mission activities into their daily lives by taking the LiFE Pledge.

Dr Kannan CS Warriar, Scientist F and EIACP Coordinator during his introductory remarks explained that Wildlife Week celebration from October 02nd to 08th is planned by the Union Government to arouse the general awakening of the people in the country towards the protection of wildlife. And it is being celebrated since 1952 with a great vision to save Indian wildlife. Though traditionally wildlife refers to undomesticated animal species, it includes all organisms living free in nature without being introduced by humans. And therefore, it consists of both animals and plants. Wildlife conservation which is the conservation of wild animal and plant species aligns with UN Sustainable Development Goals 1, 12, 14 and 15, and their wide-ranging commitments to alleviating poverty, ensuring sustainable use of resources, and conserving life both on land and below water to halt biodiversity loss, Dr Warriar added. He highlighted that India has a network of 903 Protected Areas including 101 National Parks, 553 Wildlife Sanctuaries, 86 Conservation Reserves and 163 Community Reserves covering approximately 5.02% of the total geographic area of the country. During 1970, we had only 5 National Parks. Conservation and protection of wildlife gained momentum after the implementation of the Indian Wildlife Protection Act in 1972. Project Tiger started in 1973, National crocodile breeding project in 1975 and Project elephant in 1992. Dr Warriar emphasised that the importance of wild animals does not depend on how much they can produce for us. Wildlife plays an important role in balancing the environment.

Dr C Kunhikannan, Director ICFRE-IFGTB inaugurated the installation of the Life Mission Selfie Points. During his inaugural address Dr. Kunhikannan highlighted the significance of National Wildlife Week celebrations coinciding with Mahatma Gandhi's birthday, as he stood as a symbol of non-violence. He elaborated on the crucial role that wildlife plays in maintaining environmental equilibrium, emphasizing its essential contribution to various natural processes. These processes, which involve intricate interactions among animals, plants, and microorganisms, are pivotal for the proper functioning of our biosphere, ultimately benefiting human existence. Dr. Kunhikannan

underscored that these ecological processes have far-reaching implications for vital sectors like agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and other endeavors that sustain human life. Furthermore, he pointed out several crucial biological processes in which wildlife plays a central role, including pollination, germination, seed dispersal, soil regeneration, nutrient cycling, predation, habitat maintenance, waste decomposition, and pest control. He passionately called upon each individual to actively participate in wildlife conservation, emphasizing its importance for a brighter and more sustainable future.

As part of this commemoration, an Elocution Competition on the theme “Significance of Wildlife” was conducted in which people from different walks participated. E Certificates were awarded to all the participants. An awareness poster highlighting the importance of wildlife conservation was released during the occasion and its copies were shared with students and all the stakeholders. Various school and college students took selfie in the LiFE Mission selfie points. Dr S. Vigneswaran, Senior Programme Officer proposed the vote of thanks.









  **LIFE**
Lifestyle for Environment

EIACP PC RP on Forest Genetic Resources and Tree Improvement

ICFRE- Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding
(Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education)
P.B. No. 1061, Forest Campus, Coimbatore-641 002



PLEDGE



I pledge to make all possible changes in my daily life to protect the environment. I also commit to continuously motivate my family, friends and others about the importance of environmentally friendly habits.

கற்றுச் சூழலைப் பாதுகாக்க எனது அன்றாட வாழ்க்கையில் சாதாரணமான அனைத்து மாற்றங்களையும் செய்ய நான் உறுதியளிக்கிறேன்.
கற்றுச் சூழலுக்கு உகந்த பழக்கவழக்கங்களின் முக்கியத்துவத்தைப் பற்றி எனது குடும்பத்தினர், நண்பர்கள் மற்றும் பிறரை தொடர்ந்து ஊக்கப்படுத்தவும் நான் உறுதியளிக்கிறேன்.



EIACP Resource Partner on Forest Genetic Resources and Tree Improvement

ICFRE-Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding

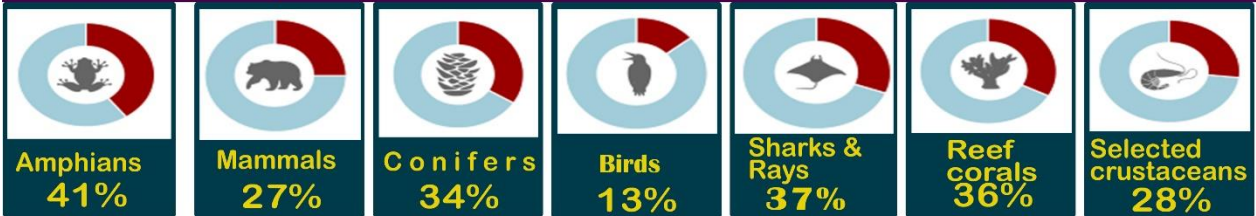
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education)
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WILDLIFE WEEK

OCTOBER 2-8, 2023

Wildlife is of paramount importance for the health of our planet, the sustainability of ecosystems, and the well-being of human societies. Wildlife's contributions to human well-being are multifaceted and include economic, ecological, cultural, and educational aspects. Protecting and conserving wildlife is not only essential for their own survival but also for the overall health and well-being of human societies. Protecting and conserving wildlife is not only an ethical responsibility but also crucial for the long-term survival and prosperity of our planet and future generations.

More than 42,100 species are threatened with extinction. That is still 28% of all assessed species



Source: IUCN 2023

Wildlife's Role

- Protects natural stability
- Promotes pollination
- Improves biodiversity
- Safeguards indigenous communities



- Promotes tourism
- Helps in investigatory research
- Enhances food security
- Preserves cultural heritage

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What can be done to protect wildlife?



Plant native species



Say no to plastic



Protect wildlife corridors



Promote afforestation



Restore habitats



Use bio fertilizers



Practice 3Rs



Use Eco-friendly products



Resort to renewable energy



Stop indiscriminate killing and trade