

# WEST COAST ECOREGIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN



PREPARED UNDER

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN  
INDIA

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# 1. *Introduction*

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## 1.1 **Biological Diversity and Conservation**

Biodiversity encompasses the entire variety of life on earth from the microorganisms to the mammals and includes species, genetic variations within species, ecosystem within which species occur and the whole of the natural world from commonplace to highly endangered species.

Biodiversity conservation is similar to the idea of nature conservation, but it places specific emphasis on threatened habitats and species. It also implies that in addition to ecological social, cultural and economic values are important in conservation planning. The United Nations conference on Environment and development held at Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and known as the Earth Summit, resulted in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Agenda 21, a global action plan for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, was another important result, aim to bring about more sustainable development in the coming years, with the developments respecting environment.

India, with rich biodiversity decided to draw an action plan for the conservation of the biological diversity with the major thrust on the participatory approach. As a part the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, the West Coast was identified as one of the major ecoregions for formulating with its own action plans for the conservation.

The West Coast Eco-region covers the west coast of India, spreading along five states namely, Kerala, Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Lakshadweep Islands, with a total coastal stretch of 3446 km. This coastal stretch is characterized by diversified ecosystems, culture and profession at diversity. The vicinity of the sea has given rise to a few major ports, and many fishing harbors. This area has many small rivers, originating along the Western Ghats eventually joining the sea resulting in many backwaters and estuaries, which harbor rich biota. The life activities of the communities are centered on the coast and these estuaries. The coastal inhabitants are occupied with different activities such as fishing, aquaculture, saltpan works, industries, tourism and agricultural practices.

Biological diversity of regions is the wealth of the nation. The developmental activities along the coast and other regions pose severe threat to the existing living resources. The impacts of

technological advancement and industrialisation, modernisations in culture etc. are reflected in the changes in lifestyles, resource use patterns and results in erosion of cultural and biological diversity. Hence the available national living resources traditional knowledge and the indigenous practices should be documented and conserved before it is too late. Furthermore, the multi scale impacts from industries and changes in policies etc., will sometimes question the ownership of the national natural resources. In this respect there is an outlined necessity of planning to conserve and document all the available resources, the major threats they are facing and an action plan to protect these natural national assets.

The current report gives an overview of the present scenario of the West Coast, with reference to the types of habitats, major groups of biota, major anthropogenic activities and their pressure on natural resources, the change in resource use patterns over the years. Brief presentation of methods adapted and evolved to achieve the required information and to complete above-mentioned objectives to draw the outlines for the Strategy and Action Plan. Further identifying the threats, actions required and the suitable institutions for the implementation of the action plan with required human resource development are also documented.

The West Coast action plan aims and targets to:

- ☞ Identify and develop action plans for most fragile habitats, ecologically sensitive and species currently under threat
- ☞ Improved access and co-ordination of biodiversity database
- ☞ Increase public awareness and action by involving key sectors
- ☞ To promote local biodiversity action plans as to promote local people participation in each action plan

## **1.2. Methodology**

Inputs from public meetings, expert opinions from various documented and personal sources and available published works and literatures were made use to highlight current existing status of the coastal environment. With these existing information and detailed discussion with the working group members, a prioritised strategy and action plan is drawn for the west coast ecoregion.

The first step of approach to a SAP was a meeting with the Working group members. A detailed discussion was carried out to take up the task in a systematic way, which, provided

ways for further actions to achieve the goals. This involved the participation of the local government bodies; institutes; NGOs; individuals; students, researchers, public and different stakeholders along the coast. Direct interviews with the coastal dwellers, experts, through questionnaires, secondary sources of information either by the published research works, the news paper articles, booklets, and primary data collected on some aspects of coastal biological diversity were some of the key methods employed as to gather information for the preparation of this document.

The lists of the meetings, public hearings and other programs have been presented in detail in Appendix-1.

- The first meeting of west coast region working group was held on the 26<sup>th</sup> August 2000 at Mangalore, wherein members were briefed about the salient features and responsibilities of the committee in drawing up Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. This full day meeting gave an opportunity to have overall picture of the current problems of biodiversity conservation (identification, assessment of the problems).
- Coordinator of the project arranged a subsequent meeting in Mumbai inviting various stakeholders, scientists, from in and around Mumbai. The meeting venue was Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Versova, as to gather information on biodiversity of that region and to initiate public participation along this part of the coast. This meeting generated good fruitful discussions and inputs.
- On 29<sup>th</sup> November 2000, during the state level Biodiversity workshop held at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, National Biodiversity aspects of the west coast eco- region was highlighted for the benefit of various participants and sought their information and suggestion for formulating the action plan.
- One-day workshop was held On 16<sup>th</sup> December 2000. On the eve of National Symposium on Problems & Prospects of the Environment in the New Millennium held in Mangalore University. The major focus was on biodiversity with special reference to coast and Western Ghats. About 200 participants were involved with younger generation giving useful inputs during the course of interaction.
- Involvement of the district, local administration and other government officials of coastal district were initiated during the district committee of Science and Technology. Meeting was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2001 at Deputy Commissioner's office of Dakshina Kannada district.

- A brainstorm session at regional level with various fishermen leaders, scientists, administrators and state leaders was held on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2001, wherein the Director of Fisheries, Government of Karnataka himself also participated. This gave an opportunity to interact with cross sections of fishermen community dealing with different types of fish gathering devices. Each of this group highlighted the merits and demerits of various fish gathering devices and its implications on benthic biodiversity.
- Problems of Kerala coast region was taken up in the regional coastal Biodiversity meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2001 at Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi. Coastal stretches of Kerala has its own niche as far as the biodiversity is concerned which was apparent with the diverse habitat mainly, mud bank, Pokkali fields, etc. Very useful information and suggestions emerged out of the discussion with various participants.
- A field visit was organised, to a nearby fishing village of Kochi as to interact with the local communities, which was very useful.
- Meeting at Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), Mumbai was held during 8<sup>th</sup> September 2001, on the status of avian fauna and invasion of alien species into the coastal waters through ballast waters.
- 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> September 2001, a workshop on Environmental Law for Academicians at Sri Dharmasthala Manjunatheswara Law College, Mangalore was attended.
- Two-day National Seminar on Coastal Erosion was held at Karnataka Regional Engineering College, Surathkal on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> September 2001, to discuss and evolve a strategy for preventing coastal erosion along Karnataka and Kerala coastline. It is evident that maximum erosion was found during the Monsoon.
- On 28<sup>th</sup> of July 2001, a participatory meeting with the fisher women and fishing communities of Malpe. (Karnataka) was held, followed by a brief survey on the socio-economic status of these fisher folk families.
- Discussion with the traditional fisher folks of Mattu village near Udipi was held on 28<sup>th</sup> July in the evening hours.
- Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> August .2001 at *Malpe Fisher Women's Co-operative Society Ltd.*, where more than 100 members were present including their president, vice president and secretary. Discussions were aimed at the livelihood dependence on fishing, professional diversity among the fisher women and their traditional ecological knowledge.
- Public hearing at *Sneha Kunja*, (an NGO) Kumta on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2001 was organized in order to discuss the local problems of coastal biodiversity and status of biodiversity in

association with Uttara Kannada BSAP Coordinator and *Sneha Kunj* (an NGO) founded by late Dr. Kusuma Soraba.

- Regional Meeting at Goa was organized in collaboration with the *Goa Foundations* (an NGO) on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2001.
- Subsequent meeting at Central Salt and Marine Algal Research Institute Bhavnagar, Gujarat on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2001 was organised. Many issues related to Gujarat coastal biodiversity and information lacking on the status of the biodiversity were discussed.
- Public hearings at Okha, Poshitra, Bet Dwarka, and Dwarka villages of Gujarat coast were held on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> August 2002.
- Meeting with different stakeholders, government officials and NGOs of Lakshadweep islands was held on 20<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> of October 2002

Many meetings with the working group members were held along Kochi, Goa and Mumbai on different occasions so as to consolidate the information gathered by the public meetings and opinion inputs.



## 2. West Coast - A Profile

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### 2.1. Geographical profile

West coast of India has a coastal length of 3446 km, spread as Northwest and Southwest coast characterized by island, gulfs and lake ecosystems. Within these there are varied types of habitats, including a large number of wetlands, backwaters, estuaries and creeks, mangrove vegetation, sand dunes, mud banks, wedge banks, salt pans, salt marshes, lagoon, sea grass beds, corals, small or inaccessible islands and coastal beaches, which supports a plethora of flora and faunal attributes including turtles and aquatic birds. Rich deltas are found along east coast, since most of the west flowing rivers have a short course and there is little sediment load from them to build significant deltas on their own. Headlands, bays and lagoons modify the somewhat straight coastline along west coast at regular intervals. These are evidence of frequent oscillations in levels due to neotectonics as to changes in sea level (more details - appendix 2)

Table 1. States and the geographical distribution of the coastline

State	Coast line (km)	Longitude and latitude
Gujarat	1600	Long. 68°00' - 73°00' E Lat. 20°10' - 23°10' N
Maharashtra	720	72°10' - 73°10' E 15°52' - 20°10' N
Goa	104	73°38' - 74°44' E 15°00' - 15°52' N
Karnataka	300	74°00' - 75°00' E 12°45' - 15°00' N
Kerala	590	75°00' - 77°00' E 9°00' - 12°45' N
Lakshadweep	132	71°00' - 74°00' E 8°-12° - 13°N

#### 2.1.1. Islands

Along this coast there are many small islands associated with coastal and estuarine areas. The most important are Lakshadweep islands, Islands off Kochi in Kerala, Islands off Karwar in Karnataka, small Islands of Goa, a few along Maharashtra, and Coral islands of Gujarat.

The Lakshadweep Archipelago consists of 36 islands with 32 km<sup>2</sup> total area, of which 10 are inhabited. These Islands are grouped into two, as South Canara Islands and Malabar islands. These Islands support rich coral atolls.

#### **South Canara Islands**

Amindivi islands  
Ameni  
Kalamat  
Chetlet  
Kiltan

#### **Malabar Islands**

Minicoy  
Kavarati  
Kalpeni (NIO research station)  
Androth  
Bangaram islands (occupied by Tourist resort)

### **2.1.2. Other Habitats**

#### **Mud Banks**

Mud banks are special formations of 1-3 m thick patches of high load of suspended sediments and clay bottom extending to several kilometers into the sea along the coast, where minimum wave action is found. These unique formations are found along the Kerala coast especially during monsoon season. This is a unique habitat where a diverse set of organisms shelter during monsoon. They are mainly formed by the process of siltation along with many other factors. Formation of mudbanks is a fascinating phenomenon of the Kerala - Karnataka coast (Murty, 1999). It is locally called as *Chaakara* in Malayalam meaning something that creates calmness. All the mud banks are formed with the coastline as a part of their boundary and invariably soon after summer. Most of the mud banks are short lived for a month or two. Soon rains start, the river flowing through the steep Western Ghats discharge huge volumes of sediment and decaying organic matter together with freshwaters to the near shore waters.

Mudflats are found extensively along Gujarat southern coast and northern Gujarat coast is fringed by tidal flat. The shoreline of Gulf of Kachchh has extensive mud flats and mangroves. Intertidal mudflats of gulf comprise of soft clay mud.

#### **Eddy Currents and Upwelling**

Upwelling is the most important hydrographical phenomenon in the Arabian sea. It starts at the southern tip of the west coast by the end of May or early June and continues northwards with time (Madhupratap, 2001).

## Lake Ecosystems

The lake ecosystem of West coast is very distinct from that of East coast. The Vembanad lake ecosystem of Kerala coast supports rich biota. The *Pokkali* fields are also spread along this stretch.

### **2.2. Socio-economic profile**

The major groups of inhabitants along Kerala, Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra coast includes the fisherfolk community belonging to different religion and castes. The regionalism, culture varies slightly in the state boundaries along the coast restricting particular groups in patches. Most diversified fisherfolk community has been observed along the Uttara Kannada coast. They belong to different religions as well as to different subclasses; they are mostly *Kharvi*, *Ambiga*, etc. The fisherfolk of the Udipi and Mangalore districts mostly fall into the *Mogaveera* caste, however other caste people also belong to fishing profession. The survey conducted at Malpe showed 90% of the community belonged to fisher folk and only a small population was non-fishing community. The interior of the fishing villages along the coast are mostly undisturbed and only the immediate necessities are utilized by the local inhabitants, who are mostly non- fishers. Even though the major conglomerations of the fisherfolk are near the fishing harbours, diffused distribution of them can be observed along the coast carrying out traditional fishing practices

Apart from fisheries, the coastal population has other occupations like agriculture with marginal farmers having paddy and coconut cultivations. There are a few coastal areas under the coastal saline paddy fields (called as *Kbazans* in Goa, *Gajjanis* in Karnataka and *Chemmen* in Kerala), which are now being converted into aquacultural farms.

### **2.3. Ecological profile**

The coastal region includes the intertidal (shore and beach), sub tidal and offshore region. The coastal zone has the highest marine resources, the greatest concentration and diversity of marine life and critical habitats.

The important ecosystems, major components of the ecosystem and habitat types found along this coast are: mangroves, coastal sand dunes, coral reefs, mud banks, rocky shores,

gulfs, lagoons, islands, critical habitats, estuaries, backwaters, and the ecologically sensitive areas declared as Marine National Parks and Marine Protected Areas (MPA). In addition the manmade (altered) ecosystems include saltpans, agricultural lands, fishing harbours and ports.

### 2.3.1. Mangroves

Mangroves are the characteristic littoral plant formations of the tropical and subtropical sheltered coastlines and are at the interface between land and the sea. Importance of mangroves stems from their pivotal role in both terrestrial and aquatic production, and by many amenities provided within and beyond its boundaries. Mangrove ecosystem, with the conglomeration of halophytic plants supports a variety of biota of marine and estuarine regions. While serving the ecosystem functions at different levels, it also contributes to resource supply at different levels to stakeholders significantly. Mangrove forests serve as a biocatalytic link between terrestrial and marine ecosystems. The energy flow through nutrient supply from land to sea, and enrichment due to the detritus formation making these ecosystems rich in relation to primary and secondary production. Worldwide, mangrove forests are coming under increasing pressure as a result of population growth in coastal regions and expanding (non-forest based) economic activities in mangroves such as shrimp farming (FAO, 1994).

The details of areas of mangrove vegetation spread along the 5 states of the west coast are presented in the table 2.

Table 2. Mangrove forest areas of West Coast

		<b>State</b>	<b>Area Sq. km.</b>	
Mangroves of the second according to the data. The	Banerjee and	Gujarat	260	(Source: Gosh, 1998) Gujarat cover largest area remote sensing mangroves of
		Maharashtra	330	
		Goa	38	
		Karnataka	90	
		Kerala	16	
		<b>Total Mangrove Area in India</b>	<b>6740</b>	

Rann of Kachchh, Gujarat are poor along Kori creek. In the Gulf of Kachchh dense mangroves can be observed around the Patre Creek, Dibe Kabet, Valsura, Navlakhi and Kandhla. In the Gulf of Khambat, mangroves are distributed along the coast near Mahi, Dhadhar, Narmada, Kim, and Sone Rivers. Scattered mangroves are also present in other areas (RSAM, 1992)

In Goa and Maharashtra the mangroves exist in large patches along the Mandovi estuary (Goa), Vashista estuary, Kundalika estuary, Dharamtar estuary, Vasai creek, Thane creek and Valitarana creek (Maharashtra).

Mangroves of Karnataka cover an area of about 6,000 ha. of which 1000 ha. is in Uttara Kannada district (Rao, 2001). About 14 species belonging to 9 genera are extensively distributed in the district. In the coast of Karnataka, the mangroves are found along Kalinadi, Gangavalli and Aghanashini estuaries and at the confluence of Chakra Nadi, Kollur and Haladi rivers near Gangolli (Parnetta, 1993).

The mangroves of Kerala once extending for about 100 sq km. a century ago, has now been reduced to only 17 sq. km. in isolated areas at Kumaragom, Dharmadom, Chettuva, Nadakavu, Pappinisseri, Kunjimangalam, Chateri, and Veli.

### **2.3.2. Coral reefs**

Coral is the complex form of association and is a super organism. It develops well in the tropical seas and cannot develop in the waters having temperatures below 10°C. Coral reefs support a highly diverse and interesting fauna and flora; and are the marine equivalent of the great rainforests of the tropics (Talbot, 1995). They have the highest biodiversity per unit area of any marine ecosystem, and may also sustain fish yields of about 15 tonnes/km<sup>2</sup>. Coral reefs also protect shores from violent wave actions. They consist of atolls, fringing reefs, barrier reefs and patch reefs.

Subcontinent of India occupies a large area of tropical Indian Ocean, but it has a scant growth of coral reefs along its coasts. Several factors limit reef development here, chief among them being the turbid waters stirred by monsoonal systems, freshwater runoff from rivers, and a heavy human population and developmental pressure along the entire coastline (Bakus et al., 2000). It is believed that the west coast of India was too turbid for the corals to thrive, but there have been reports on the reef building corals and scattered reefs along the coast. Intense siltation and heavy wave action along this coast presumably makes it difficult for branching corals to survive.

The reef beds are found along west coast are; Gulf of Kachchh (patch reefs), Porbunder, Mumbai, Angria bank off Rathangiri, Malwan, Redi and Gaveshani bank off Malpe harbour. The Lakshadweep Archipelago consists of 12 atolls and 3 reefs, which harbour a rich and varied coral fauna.

### **2.3.3. Coastal sand dunes**

Coastal sand dunes are beautiful land features that are often overlooked by coastal property owners. They are typically formed through the trapping of sand by dune vegetation. The type of vegetation growing on sand dunes has special adaptation characteristics that allow the vegetation to establish, grow and trap sand in the harsh conditions of coastal areas. In the absence of such vegetation, the wind can act on the exposed sand, forming migrating dunes that move back and forth with the wind (Chapman, 1976). Sand dunes support a variety of vegetation and are important in stabilizing the shore environment. With all the required adaptations to inhabit the extreme conditions, fauna are capable of colonizing along the coast. There are reports on undisturbed patches of sand dunes along Karnataka coast (Arun, 2002).

#### **2.3.4. Special Habitats**

##### **Critical habitats**

The DOD/ICMAM project has identified 11 critical habitats along the Indian coastline, of which the following are situated along the west coast.

- i. Gulf of Kachchh
- ii. Gulf of Kambaat
- iii. Gulf of Malwan
- iv. Island off Karwar
- v. Islands off Kochi
- vi. Lakshadweep Islands

### **Marine Protected Area (MPA)**

Along the West coast there are a few protected areas, these include MPA and sanctuaries, and are mainly protected for their characteristic biodiversity and other features of that particular area.

The Govt. of Gujarat declared a specific area in the Gulf of Kachchh from Okha port to Jodiya in Jamnagar district inclusive of all islands with in the Gulf, as a Marine national park and sanctuary, or *Abhayaranya* which was set up in 1989 with 16289 ha. Area.

Along Maharastra coast, Malwan region was proposed as Marine National Park in 1995 with 2912 ha. area. Malwan was considered as one of the priority areas, as it has a naturally protected coast and the Sindhudurg fort. The diversity of flora and fauna is also high. Due to the geomorphology of this area, sub tidal biodiversity is also rich. Endangered species such as corals and gorgonians are found in this area. (Kothari *et al.*, 1989)

Table 3. Protected areas of the Indian mainland with mangrove habitats

<b>State/Union Territory</b>	<b>Status, Name of area and Size (in ha.)</b>
Gujarat	<u>National Park</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gulf of Kachchh: 16289</li></ul>
Maharastra	<u>Sanctuary</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Achra: 100</li><li>• Desgan: 500</li><li>• Malwan: 2912</li></ul>
Goa	<u>Sanctuary</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Charao Island: 100</li></ul>
Karnataka	<u>Sanctuary</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Kundapura: 100</li></ul>
Kerala	<u>Sanctuary</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ezhimala: 500</li></ul>

Source: [www.mangroveindia.org](http://www.mangroveindia.org)



## 3. Current Status of Biodiversity

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### 3.1. State of natural ecosystems

As explained in the previous section the west coast of India harbour a rich and varied type of life forms, either associated with or forming a specialized ecosystem by themselves. The sand dunes, corals, benthos, mangrove and their associated flora and fauna, intertidal biota are some of the important organisms are found in their own specialized ecosystems (e.g. corals). Hence, current status of the important biomes and biota are discussed here.

#### 3.1.1. Mangroves

Of the total area under mangroves in India, the west coast covers only 12% (Krishnamurthy et al., 1987; Kathiresan, 1995) and out of a total 65 species belonging to 59 genera and 31 families, the west coast represents 33 species, 24 genera and 19 families (Banerjee and Ghosh, 1998). Generally the backwater-estuarine type of mangroves are found along the west coast, which is characterized by typical funnel shaped estuaries of major rivers or backwaters, creeks and neritic and inlets (Gopal and Krishnamurthy, 1993). Among the five coast states, Maharastra has the most diversified mangrove flora composed of 19 species, followed by Goa and Karnataka. Despite Gujarat having largest mangrove coverage of 37,000 ha. It displays a poor assemblage with only 9 species.

*Avicennia alba*, *A. marina*, *A. officinalis*, *Rhizophora mucronata*, *R. apiculata*, *Acanthus ilicifolius*, *Sonneretia alba* and *S. apetala* are some of the dominant species found along west coast. Shrubby vegetation including *A. ilicifolius*, *A. marina*, *Salicornia brachiata* and *Sueda* sp. occurs above the high tide mark. Deforestation due to developmental activities such as industrialization, aquacultural expansions and domestic exploitation, species of *Nypa* and *Xylocarpus* have become extinct from the west coast, whereas other species such as *Ceriops tagal*, *Lumnitzera racemosa*, *Sonneratia apetala* are found only in certain areas (Untawale, 1987). A very distinct discontinuous distribution of mangrove plants has been observed along both the coasts of India due to influence of various factors. The associated floras are those species that can sustain various levels of salinity in the elevated regions above the spring tidal mark. About 30 terrestrial species are known to grow associated in these areas. The most common mangrove associates are *Clerodendron inerme*, *Thespesia prulnea*, *Pongamia pinnata*, *Sesuvium*

*portulacastrum*, *Myriostachya nighiana*, *Hibiscus tiliaceus*, *Fimbristylis ferruginea*, *Aeluropus lagopoides*, *Cress cretica* etc

### 3.1.2. Corals

Coral reefs are known to be the most diversified and productive ecosystems among all the marine ecosystems of the tropical zone (Wells, 1998). Coral reefs are often associated with direct economic importance due to the organic and inorganic resources. They also play an important role in protecting the shoreline from harsh currents. The fishery resources of coral reefs are extremely rich and diversified. The associated fauna of the reefs include beautiful molluscs and gastropods. Gujarat has rich heritage of live corals and coral islands in the Gulf of Kachchh. It is these coral islands together with mangrove areas along Gulf of Kachchh coastline and its islands that support unique and rich ecosystems, which nurture a wide range of aquatic flora and fauna. This includes more than 210 varieties of algae, over 40 varieties of corals, large varieties of coelenterates, 70 types of sponges, 150 types of molluscs, 15 types of echinoderms, 3 types of sea snakes, 2-3 species of sea mammals, over 200 varieties of commercial fishes besides coral fish, 2-3 types of sea turtles, about 90 or more species of water birds, 78 species of terrestrial birds, 8-10 types of mangroves and many others (Chhaya, 1997). It is this vast diversity that prompted James Hornel to call this area ***Gods gift from Heaven***. It is clear that corals are not exploitable resources, and hence there is no question of harvesting any corals. Their exploitation cause severe destruction of both reef dwelling and reef building organisms. The coral ecosystems provide a good shelter for marine algal growth and diversified seaweed flora is often observed in coral areas. Some of the algae, though in minor scale, are responsible for reef building. There are certain algae that have calcium carbonate deposition and are known as coralline algae. The role of calcareous algae is however, less significant in the Indian Ocean than in the Pacific Ocean. Jagtap (1987) reported 20 meter wide algal ridge on the seaward side of Kavaratti and Agathi Islands, of Lakshadweep. Altogether 82 marine algal species are recorded from the Lakshadweep lagoons with an estimated annual yield of 3645-7598 million tons of fresh weight per year (Subbaramaiah et al., 1979). *Rhodophyceae* represented by maximum number species i.e. 39, followed by green algae with 33 species and brown algae with 10 species.

The reefs of Gulf of Kachchh face severe anthropogenic pressure including heavy oil tanker traffic (with pipelines running through the reefs), large-scale trawling, mining corals for construction and commercial fishery and industrial waste discharges. Sedimentation levels are high due to coastal development and mangrove degradation with water visibility typically less

than 1m. Satellite images have revealed the existence of live corals in this region. Discovered by the Gujarat Ecological Society (GES), the live corals were found at a depth of 25 m off the northern coast of Gulf of Kachchh. This recently discovered colony of corals has to be preserved by putting a check on industrial activities along the adjacent coast. Port based development would also pose danger to the newly growing corals in the area (Down To Earth, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2000, page 11).

### **3.1.3. Sand dune vegetation**

There are about 148 species representing 115 genera and 49 families, reported from the east and west coast of India (Untawale, 1980). The west coast has been observed to have more diverse species assemblages than the east coast. Along the west coast stretch, a variety of dune vegetation is commonly inhabited. Impacts of tourism extension, sea erosion and other developmental activities result in dwindling of these specialized biomes.

### **3.1.4. Benthic fauna**

Benthic fauna can be divided into two major groups; macrofauna and meiofauna. Dominant macrofaunal species recorded from the Goa mangroves were *Modiolus metcalfei*, *Perna viridis*, *Diopatra neapolitina*, *Meretrix casta*, *Papiamalabaricus*, *Cerithidea fluviatilis*, *Diogene custus* and *Glycera alba*. While *Polychaetes* are dominant macrofauna, meiofaunal species belonging to family *Chromadoidae* and *Desmodoridae*, followed by copepods, which are also quite abundant. The upper 2 cm layer of the mangrove sediment harbours 60% of the total meiofauna.

Marine benthic fauna of the Malwan coast (sandy, rocky and marshy area) comprise of 208 species belonging to 172 genera (Parulekar, 1981). The faunal species displayed diversified composition of several groups including 9 corals, 2 sponges, 2 sea pens, 18 sea anemones, 49 polychaete worms, 5 stomatopods, 5 isopods, 2 crab species, 5 prawns, 5 barnacles, 1 insect, 4 limpets, 10 top shell, 8 whelk, 11 spire shells, 3 sea hare, 3 mussels, 3 edible oyster, 1 pearl oyster, 11 clams, 3 echinoderms and 2 mud skipper species. There is also a chain of rocky islets towards the south extending up to Vengurla Rock Islands, which harbour a very good biota up to 15-20 m depth.

Various studies have clearly established a direct link between benthic biomass and demersal fishery as benthos offer trophic support to all demersal fisheries. Complete knowledge of bottom fauna is very essential for the determination and development of demersal fisheries of any area. Impacts of deep sea fishing result in habitat fragmentation of these organisms.

### 3.1.5. Sea weeds and Algae

There are several commercially important seaweed species such as *Sargassum sp.*, *Gracilaria sp.* etc. reported from the Gujarat and other coastal sites of the west coast. Some rare genera such as *Acetabularia*, *Neomeris*, *Halimeda* have also been reported from Gulf of Kachchh region. A total of 48 species belonging to 30 genera are reported from the central west coast of India. Altogether 73 marine algal species are recorded from Malwan. Among these, 23 were *Chlorophyceae*, 17 *Phaeophyceae* and 33 *Rhodophyceae* members.

Marine algae in the mangrove environment are either floating or attached to the sea floor and mangrove bark or pneumatophores. Little is known about the algae associated with mangrove regions. There are a few reports on the distribution of algae in mangrove (Jagtap, 1986).

### 3.1.6. Reptiles

Marine turtles and sea snakes are the important reptiles. Along the west coast a few studies have been carried out on the status of marine and coastal reptiles. Olive Ridley turtles (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) every year come to nest along 20 km stretch of beach between Pavyoli and Kottopuzha estuary (45 km north of Calicut.)

Along the west coast, the crocodile, *Crocodilus palustris* is found only in mangroves of Goa. Among the reptiles, 21 snakes, 4 lizards, 5 turtles and 1 crocodile species are recorded (Deshmukh, 1994) from the Maharashtra coast. Along Gujarat coast 3 species of turtles, 4 species of snakes have been identified (Inputs from public meeting).

Along the Konkan belt, four species of turtles are known to occur. Of these Olive ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) is more common. However near Malwan, green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) is commonly noticed. The turtle population needs to be thoroughly assessed in area especially like Bagmandala (Raigad), Mithbav and Karh (Sindhudurga). Along Karnataka coast, breeding grounds are encountered along Mangalore, Kundapura, and Karwar region.

### 3.1.7. Birds

Birds use the sea both for feeding and breeding. There are two main groups of birds, seabirds and water birds. Although somewhat arbitrary, in this context seabirds are those that use marine waters as a food source for most of the year, while water birds are those that feed on or over inter-tidal areas, often for only a part of the year, but the sea is important for both of these groups. Birds are associated with the coastal wetlands, estuaries and backwaters, mangroves, corals and other coastal habitats.

West coast has some very important habitats for migratory or resident bird species, pelagic and coastal migrants and wintering species that inhabit or travel by coastal areas. Several sites have been identified as IBAs along the west coast. These include the Marine National Park, Salt pans of Bhavnagar, and Mahi River estuary from Gujarat, Kole wetlands from Kerala and Illhas wetlands from Goa. Prioritised list of IBAs along the west coast are given in table 3.

Nearly 2 million water birds of various species make their home in winter and then back to colder northern climes by April. Requests have been made from NGOs for protecting this site by declaring as Ramsar Site as it is being a host of such large conglomeration of international birds. (Indian Express News, 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2002, *Thane Creek to become official bird sanctuary*)

Table 4. Prioritised list of IBA

Site name	District	Criterion*
Flamingo City	Kachchh, Gujarat	A1, A3
Mahi River Estuary	Kheda, Gujarat	A1, A3
Kole	Malapuram, Kerala	A1, A4 (i), A4 (iii)
Pitti Bird Sanctuary	Pitti, Lakshadweep	A4 (i)

\* Appended (No. 3)

Source: MISTNET, 2001. Vol. 2 No. 1

Mangrove forest provides good shelter, food and breeding ground for the resident and migratory birds. About 177 species of birds are found in the mangrove forests of India (Mukherjee, 1975 and Samant, 1986). Kingfishers, herons, storks, sea eagles, kites, etc. are the dominant and common birds observed. A total of 121 bird species were recorded from mangroves and adjacent areas (Ali and Ripley, 1983a, 1983b and Samant, 1986). Out of these, 66 species are resident and local migrants, 234 true migrants, 28 resident with migratory populations and only 3 are vagrant or occasional strays. Extensive mudflats in Gujarat coasts attract pelicans.

### 3.1.8. Mammals

There is very limited information on the Marine/coastal mammals of the west coast. More details are needed on the mammals such as Otter and fishing cats.

### 3.1.9. Island Biota

Though there are several small - medium sized islands, the current status of biodiversity is still not documented.

## Lakshadweep archipelago

Lakshadweep group of islands is formed of typical coral atolls and harbours a significant number of coral species, associated fauna and ornamental fishes. The rich biodiversity of this region includes 105 coral species, along with 78 seaweed species, 6 sea grasses, 91 sponges and 18 boring sponges (Bakus, 1994).

### **Islands off Gulf of Kachchh**

There are 42 islands with 33 having coral reefs and 20 islands are fringed with mangroves along Gulf of Kachchh coast. Bural - Chank, Kalubhar, Paga, Chandri, Narara, and Pirotan are the largest islands with coral reefs in the Gulf of Kachchh. Biological diversity of the area is attributed to the varied habitats, which support over 103 species algae, 7 species of mangroves, about 301 coastal flora, about 74 species of sponges, 52 species of soft and hard corals, 4 species of sea anemones, 193 species of fishes, 27 species of prawns, 21 species of crabs, 200 species of mollusks, 3 species of turtles, 4 species of snakes and 5 five species of mammals and about 200 species of birds. Colorful sponges and corals, reef fishes, prawns, lobster, pearl oyster, window pane oyster, sea horse, giant sea anemone, sea hare, puffer fish, shark, cat fish, ray fish, star fish, sea urchin, *Sabella*, *Bonelia*, Dugongs, sea turtles and dolphins are important marine life in these area (inputs from Gujarat meeting)

### **Karwar Region**

Sub tidal areas of the island are rich in sea urchin, *Cypraea*. The Amadalli muddy shore is known for the living fossil *Lingula* sp. Because of the lagoons and sheltered bays of Karwar coast, the intertidal and subtidal zones are rich in biodiversity.

## **3.2. State of agricultural ecosystems**

The fishery and other related industries are attracting many of the coastal inhabitants, resulting in the dwindling of agricultural practices to a greater extent. Along some parts of the western coast there are small patches of agricultural practices being carried out. Examples includes growing indigenous salt tolerant varieties of rice are small areas of different parts of Kerala (*Pokkali*), Karnataka (*Khajanis*), Goa (*Gazani*) and Maharastra (Personal communication with the local).

*Pokkali* fields along the Kerala coast are being characteristics of growing indigenous rice varieties and extend throughout the coast in patches. These fields are found along Ernakulam, Trichur, Alleppy and Kottayam. This is a traditional system of alternative cropping of prawns and Pokkali paddy. This practice is dying slowly.

In the coastal regions of Kachchh, agricultural workers consist of 70% of total. The problems of salinity ingress will impacts on agriculture affecting a large section of coastal population; further natural calamities enhance the disaster scenario.

Due to the increasing demands for the coastal areas and the natural amenities/facilities the coasts provide attracts the entrepreneurs to invest on these fragile but rich coastal areas ignoring the social, cultural and indigenous bonding with the ecosystem.



## ***4. Statement of Problems Relating to Biodiversity***

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### **4.1. Causes for loss of biodiversity**

All the ecosystems are exposed to gradual changes in climate, nutrient loading, habitat fragmentation or biotic exploitation. Nature responds to the gradual changes in a smooth way. External conditions such as climate, inputs of nutrient or toxic chemicals, ground water reduction, habitat fragmentation, harvest or loss of species diversity often change ecosystems gradually, even linearly with time.

The major threats to the coastal biota are anthropogenic rather than natural. These activities range from small-scale utilisation for ones livelihood to commercial utilisation for mega industrial purposes. At different levels these activities are magnified stressing the coastal habitats to various degrees. The immediate gains from the coastal and marine resources are exploited through unplanned and unsustainable way of developmental activities. Many of the coastal areas are locations for large scale industrial operations, and major ports and harbours. The anthropogenic activities exert enormous pressure on the coastal system, as the pressure exerted is far beyond the carrying capacity of the area. Consequently, the public amenities are being lost some local fish population are at risk; the biological diversity is threatened or seriously challenged. Other major activity being carried out along west coast include intensive aquaculture, which has been exerting adverse effects since two decades on the mangroves (the pharmaceuticals used in aquaculture also pose serious problems on the natural biota); wetland reclamation due to population expansion; beach tourism activities etc.

Industrial activities and their discharges cause serious problems to biodiversity and the environment. These activities are predominant at certain regions along the coast of Kerala, Karnataka, Goa, Northern Maharastra and Gujarat.

#### **4.1.1. Chemical alterations**

Sewage, Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), heavy metals, radionuclides, petroleum hydrocarbon, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH), synthetic organic compounds, nutrients (eutrophication), contaminant sediments are some of the major pollutants, which

are released by various industries, causing adverse effects on the coastal biota. POPs, which persist in the environment and travel long distance through ocean and wind currents, have long been associated with currents, have long been associated with serious health effects, ranging from growth retardation in children to genetic defects in living organism. POPs include organochlorine pesticides, furans, Dioxins etc. Major sources of heavy metals are mining, smelting, urban settlements and industrial compounds.

Sewage related problems all over the world have a great deal in common. Historically the seas have been considered as the sinks and the notion has not been changed till date.

#### **4.1.2. Physical alterations**

The basic integrity of the whole physical structure of coral reefs, seaweeds, mangroves are very important. Many coastal communities are dependant on these physical habitats. Any alternations in the physical environment inevitably result in loss of biodiversity through species extinction, reduction in genetic diversity within species, due to lower population size and resultant genetic bottleneck effect.

Sea wall construction, shoreline alteration, intertidal and sub tidal alteration, mineral and sediment extraction, sand mining, wetland alteration (agriculture), landscaping are the major physical processes, which add to the habitat destruction problems. Others include nutrient fluxes due to agrochemicals and fertilizers.

#### **4.1.3. Biological Alterations**

Result from accidental or deliberate movement of organisms in land based or near shore aquaculture operations (pathogens from cage reared fish and introduction of exotic species), invasion of alien species etc., results in alterations and shifts in the original biota. Accidental transport of various exotics or non-indigenous species from large tankers and other ships on international routes is one of the major threats of exotics to the coastal waters. The colonization patterns and resultant impact on the existing diversity of organisms is not clearly known.

#### **4.1.4. Important Ecosystems under Stress**

### **Mangroves**

Changes in geomorphology, environmental and hydrological conditions affect the distribution and survival of mangroves. Excessive resource consumption of fuel and fodder by the coastal inhabitants, industrial effluent discharges to the mangrove areas, aquacultural and agricultural encroachments and their discharges have serious effects on mangrove distribution and survival.

### **Coral reefs**

Heavy industrialization, large-scale coastal land developments, dredging activities, release of sewage and pollutants including sewage and oil, impacts of climate change etc., effect coral reefs as well as coastal areas in general. Removal of grazing fishes, by trapping or netting can upset the delicate balance between a healthy reef and one dominated by large macro algae. Siltation can kill corals or reduce their growth rate, whilst the increase in nutrients through land run-off and sewage pollution affects the corals competition balance. Oil spillages shift the benthic fauna from corals to filter feeders, therefore affecting coral breeding. Amazing beauty of corals attracts the tourists and the unregulated extension of tourists exerts pressure on these fragile ecosystems threatening their survival. The loss caused to ecosystem is irreparable or if repairable will take a long time period.

Many coastal families around Gulf of Kachchh are engaged in collection of shell and corals from the reef area for the preparation of ornaments and items of display.

## **4.2. Root causes for the loss of biodiversity**

The root causes of loss of biodiversity are multidimensional. The biodiversity of many of the coastal ecosystems are threatened by many kinds of human activities such as, refuse from the industrial activities, aquaculture wastes, drainage discharges, siltation and pollution.

#### **4.2.1. Anthropogenic alterations**

Excessive exploitation of the intertidal biota for different purposes (e.g. sea weeds for fodder, oysters as food, sand dunes for different purposes etc.); impact of land based activities; habitation; tourism, coastal industrial discharges, sewage disposal; dumping litter/plastic materials and other insensitive human activities add up resulting in degeneration/alterations in the natural living resources.

Unabated industrial expansion along this part has put immense stress on the coastal waters. There are a number of big industries producing cement, marine chemicals, petrochemicals and textiles along the coast and many coral mining activities for their raw material and it is noted that the coral mining has destroyed vast stretches of benthic organisms. South Gujarat coast is one of the most industrialized coastal belts of India.

#### **4.2.2. Over fishing**

Fish has been serving as the critical input in the food basket of developing countries to meet the nutrient requirements. Contributing sustainability to foreign exchange earnings, fisheries and aquaculture are being recognized as important tools for development of small scale farming communities across the world. At the same time, increasing pressure on natural resources is making it necessary to work for alternatives and diversification in different sectors of fisheries. Marine fisheries operation during the pre-independence days used to be carried out at subsistence level, almost exclusively by the traditional fishers. Today the fisheries sector has attained the status of a capital-intensive industry. Attained by more fishing activities with additional people and large fleets. Fisheries offer an important source of protein, employment, and foreign exchange. Technology has had a major impact on pelagic fishing. Pelagic trawls, and purse seines have revolutionized the capture of schooling groups such as Clupeids, Scombrids and Carangids.

Annual average landing of small pelagics along west coast of India increased from 0.20 million tonnes during 1950-54 to 0.76 million tonnes during 1991-95. This remunerable increase was possible due to the mechanization of fishing vessels and introduction of trawlers and synthetic filaments in 1960's, introduction of purse seines in the mid 70's and motorisation of traditional crafts in 1980's. The mechanized, motorized and non - motorised vessel contributed 53%, 27% and 20% of the landings of the small pelagics during 1991 - 95 (Data from CMFRI, Mangalore).

Due to uncontrolled fishing activities, which are mainly caused by increased numbers of fishing trawlers has resulted in many species being fished beyond the sustainable yield. As fishing shifts from subsistence to commercial occupations, mechanisation of the crafts gets prime importance. Various promotional policies of the Centre and State Governments, financial assistance from World Bank and other Financial Institutions on liberal conditions were responsible for rapid increase in numbers of mechanised units. The lucrative returns from fishing at initial stages prompted entrepreneurs to invest in mechanised trawling units. Due to the additional units in inshore waters, heavy competition amongst different types of units has occurred, as they have to share common fishing grounds. The exploitation of high priced resources, such as prawns and cephalopods has been increasing, therefore threatening the extinction of these resources, especially in near shore waters. The increase in numbers of fishing units is going on unchecked and with the profit motive, entrepreneurs will carry on increasing their units. As long as existing units continue to earn sustainable profits more and more units will be drawn to join the fishing activity. Deep sea trawling affects the bottom fauna. Fishers are looking into the demersal fishing, as there is a decline in the pelagic fishery resources.

#### **4.2.3. Aquaculture**

When the Government of India recognized the economic potential of shrimp culture; it prioritised it as 'extreme focus sector', resulting in the huge expansion of fish farming activities. Unregulated construction of farms and construction by conversion of paddy fields caused many problems. Shrimp farming reduced crop farmers of precious rice fields, and the seepage produced effected adjacent agricultural lands, by making them unfit for cultivation. With the policy of liberalisation, farmed shrimp culture has become one of the blooming industries. India has an estimated brackish water area of about 12,00,000 ha. along the coastline. Many potential mangrove areas have been destroyed for the purpose of aquacultural expansion. The aquaculture industry has taken a leap through the induction of new technologies. However, this sudden development lacked environmental management. Expansion of brackish water aquaculture units and their intensive farm practices has put severe stress on the surrounding environment in general. Some of the issues related to brackish water aquaculture industry and its impacts to the coastal environment in general can be enumerated as follows;

- a. Aquaculture involves storage of large amounts of saline water on land. This can cause dispersion of salts in and around the farms, thereby making them saline and unfit for

any other purposes. In some cases large-scale aquaculture units located far beyond the coastal regulation zone (appendix No. 5), which requires seawater to be pumped well inside the hinterland, have the potential for ground water contamination.

- b. Large quantities of freshwater are required for scientific aquaculture farms in order to dilute seawater to acquire brackish water quality. This result in conversion of fresh water into saline, the abstraction of ground water could result in lowering of water table and salinisation of fresh water.
- c. Some aquaculture farming operations involve the use of highly nutritious palletised feed. Shrimps do not consume all feed and therefore it reaches the bottom. Such unconsumed feed chemicals and antibiotics (lead to drug resistant pathogens) as well as excreta cause pollution of water and may also lead to eutrophication in the natural water bodies.
- d. Many aquaculture farms sow the naturally available shrimp/prawn as their seeds. According to reports it estimates for every one kilogram of tiger shrimp larvae collected, about 10 kilograms of other varieties of fish and shrimps are killed. This has severe implications to biodiversity of the area.
- e. There will be an exchange of water with natural habitats and this untreated exchange with the natural water bodies will deteriorate the water quality and deterioration of the natural habitats. Abandoned farms are not suitable for further shrimp farming.

#### **4.2.4. Sand mining**

Large-scale sand mining along the coast is an ongoing event, which disturbs biodiversity and the area become prone to erosion. This is a major threat along many parts of the coast causing severe problems to the intertidal biota. The uncontrolled sand mining activities will lead to severe damages along the coast. Some of the coastal areas along Kerala the Governmental control has successfully practiced against sand mining (Inputs from Prof. R. Damodaran).

**Mineral rich sand mining:** Kerala State Govt. very recently approved a new policy that allows joint venture exploration of the abundant mineral rich sand found along the coast, mainly in Kollam district. Several private companies have been lobbying the govt. to open the 23 km stretch of coastal land from Neendakara in Kollam district and Koyamkulam in Alapuzha district for mineral exploitation. This stretch has high concentration of precious minerals such as limonite, rutile and monazite. Kerala State Industrial Developmental

Corporation would be the nodal agency looking after allotments to joint venture companies (The Times of India, 9<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2002).

#### **4.2.5. Shell mining**

Extensive shell mining (live and dead as well as the geological deposits) practices have been observed from the backwaters from October to June, with many families being solely dependent on this. There is no stock assessment data on the shellfish resources, species available and details of the status of the resource exploitation. These activities are practiced in the river systems, further studies are recommended. Every year, 4-5 lakh tons of shells of *Elorita cyprioides* are being mined for the sustenance of the white cement industry along Kerala coast.

The continuous shell mining may destroy the bottom fauna, and uncontrolled exploitation may affect the breeding, hence a study on breeding season, may help to protect the resources to a certain level.

Shellfisheries in this coast principally consist of wild scallops in offshore areas and wild mussels and cockles from inter tidal zones of coastal areas and estuaries.

Inshore and inter tidal shellfish harvesting - In addition to the impact of scallop dredging, the harvesting of shellfish in intertidal and shallow coastal waters may also result in effects on non-target benthic organisms.

#### **4.2.6. Coastal construction activities**

The construction of barrage to reduce sea erosion will have an impact on the sub tidal area of the seaward barrage, in time there would be a shift in dominance/suppression of deposit feeding communities or a reduction in hard bottom communities. The barrage construction at a coastal area will also result in the loss of inter tidal bird feeding habitats, and loss of breeding and recruitment of intertidal fauna.

#### **4.2.7. Disposal of wastes (Sewage)**

One of the major concerning problems to the coastal habitats is sewage. The sources are being domestic, urban and industrial refuses. There are two kinds of wastes, namely solid waste and wastewater. Major problems arising from these are the introduction of the pollutants from different sources namely non-point and point sources. The heavy metals, pesticides and many other toxic and hazardous wastes are being discharged to the coastal

waters as natural sinks (unregulated). The nature and composition of these wastes vary at different locations depending on the hinterland activities in addition to the coastal.

Evaluation of sewage sludge disposal on spatial and temporal variability of the organisms in the heterogeneous environment of coast is complicated by the influence of natural factors and other anthropogenic activities.

The nature, quantity and frequency of disposal of dredged material, as well as the nature of the receiving environment, will determine the response of benthic communities, and other inhabitants.

Recently the incidence of effluent pipeline burst from Tata chemicals Ltd. damaged more than 7000 mangrove trees and rare marine plants and animals (See Appendix - 6) along Gujarat coast.

#### **4.2.8. Oil Spills and Shipping**

The western part of the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone, i.e., the Arabian Sea adjoining the peninsular India, forms the main international route for oil tankers originating from the Gulf. It has been estimated that some 450 mt. of crude oil is transported annually along this route, involving approximately 2500 laden tankers. Considering the large volume of oil transported and increased ocean traffic, the probability of tanker accidents is high. Oil rig operation and oil pollution. Coastal areas are affected at different levels because of the refineries and oil transfer facilities. There are evidences of reductions in species such as limpets and barnacles and increases in the abundance of algae in the vicinity of refinery outfalls from different parts of the world. Incidences of oil spills have threatened the local fauna and flora. Important examples include oil spill from Bombay High in 1993, affecting more than 5 km stretch near Raigad.

#### **4.2.9. Ship breaking**

Ship breaking is an important activity along west coast especially in Gujarat state. For example, Alang (a small coastal town) in Gujarat houses the world's largest ship breaking yard. 45,000 workers break down about 200 ships in this yard every year. Ship breaking activities, which are prevalent along the coast, cause numerous hazards for the coastal and marine environments. Ship breaking releases a large number of dangerous pollutants including toxic waste, oil, metals etc. into the water and seabed. Although most oil is removed before the ship is scrapped, sand that is used to mop up the remaining oil is discharged into the sea. High concentrations of oil and grease (alters DO levels) found in the

coastal waters and choke the marine life. Adding to the stress of coastal waters is the organic load released into the sea from human habitats that have little or no sanitary facilities, which in turn increases the biological oxygen demand.

#### 4.2.10. Tourism

The impacts associated with the tourism include environmental, social and cultural. These can be listed as in the table 4.

Table 4. Impacts of Tourism

Environmental impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increased waste</li> <li>▪ Excessive use of resources</li> <li>▪ Habitat destruction</li> <li>▪ Construction</li> <li>▪ Landscaping</li> </ul>
Social / cultural impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Loss of traditional values and way of life</li> <li>▪ Artificial culture promoted for tourists</li> <li>▪ Increased antisocial behavior</li> <li>▪ Resource alienation</li> <li>▪ Cultural revival</li> <li>▪ Economic changes</li> </ul>

Though the Ecotourism has been promoted since 1992 Earth Summit focusing on sustainable development, the exact concept of the practice is not understood well by the tourism industry and tour operators.

#### 4.2.11. Port and harbour activities

Though many of the activities including harbours and ports along the coast are very important for the economy and overall development of the nation. The fishing harbours of the west coast are given in figure 2. However at some level care has to be taken for the sustainable use of the natural habitats for the long-term benefits. Lack of awareness and operational problems, accidental spills of industrial raw materials cause serious damage to the ecosystem supporting them.

Table: 6. Details of tanker terminals related to Ports along West coast

<b>Port</b>	<b>Function of Concern</b>
Gulf of Kutch	Ship to ship transfer
Port Kandla	Single point Mooring Buoy
Bombay (Offshore)	Ship to ship transfer
Bombay	Refinery/Depot
Marmagoa	Marine Terminal
Mangalore	Marine Terminal
Cochin	Marine Terminal

### **Marine bio-invasion**

Bio-invasion refers to introduction of an alien organism into an ecosystem. Growing number of invasive species introduced through increased travel and trades poses severe threats to marine biodiversity. Without additional safeguards, it is almost inevitable that increased international trade will also increase the rates at which alien species are introduced into domestic water. Two main pathways of marine bio-invasion are; intentional - for aquacultural gain or unintentional through a ship's ballast water discharge and fouling of ship hulls.

Cargo ships moving worldwide keep ballasting and de-ballasting seawater to and from various ports. In the process live organisms as part of the ballast water are introduced at the new port, causing marine bio-invasion. According to International Maritime Organisation (IMO)-London, shipping transfers more than 10 billion tonnes of ballast water around the globe each year. This itself indicates the scale & pace at which this problem is multiplying all over the world. The invaded species can cause deleterious effects to local flora and fauna through their toxigenic, proliferative and over competitive characteristics.

Though the research in India is still in nascent stage, one species viz. *Mytilopsis sallei* (black striped mussel) has been found to have invaded and established on a large scale at Mumbai and Vishakapatnam ports. This species is a native of tropical and sub tropical Atlantic waters and is believed to have invaded the Indian waters sometime during 1960's. There are over 18 species of animals and plants documented along the Indian coast as those that might have got invaded and established (for more details see; Anil, et al. 2002). In addition to introduction, the threat of its dispersal to neighboring environments, especially the precious coral reefs of Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep islands poses a serious challenge.

Average 5000 ships call in Mumbai port alone and receive approximately 2 million tonnes of ballast water each year. Indian coastlines are falling prey to the harmful marine bio-invasion through ballast water.

#### **4.2.12. Dredging and mineral mining**

These sea-based activities are also responsible for the destruction of the habitats. Many cases the minor disturbances in the food chain cause serious imbalances in the ecosystem function.

#### **4.2.13. Retting zones**

Many locations in the middle and upper stretches of estuaries serve as coconut retting grounds, where extremely poor environmental conditions prevail, resulting in low faunal diversity (severe in Kerala coast). Retting activities discharge nutrients to the coastal waters resulting in eutrophication and reduction in dissolved oxygen and increase in biological oxygen demand and turbidity. This results in a overall disturbance in the natural habitat conditions of the waters.

### **4.3. Natural Causes**

Though natural variations are results of the anthropogenic modifications of the nature over the historical periods, it is opined that climate changes are major disturbance. Especially global warming, the increase in sea temperature result in increased bleaching of corals and may also result in a shift in the natural community structure. Cyclones and hurricanes are rare in the West coast of India compared to the East coast (175 cyclones in the last 100 years along the east coast; only 31 in the west coast during the same period. Data Source - <http://www.nic.in:80/dod/>)

Serious coastal erosion problems are also experienced in the western part of India due to intense monsoonal activity. In the state of Karnataka, nearly 0.2 metric ton of sand material is lost per year due to monsoons and resultant sand drift.



# *5. Major Actors and Their Current Roles Relevant to Biodiversity*

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## **5.1. Governmental**

Many of the government agencies are responsible for conservational works through policies and legal frame works. Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), Ministry of surface transport, Department of Tourism, Ministry of Mining and Geology Department of Ocean Development (DOD) etc., are responsible for the coastal resource management. The Government has formulated several policies and legal frame works for conservation.

### **5.1.1. Variable policies and legal frameworks for fisheries and coastal conservation**

These include measures taken by the Government to deal with a few of the environmental problems of fisheries, with the view for sustaining fisheries development and simultaneously ensuring environmental protection, the approach to coastal fisheries and aquaculture development has been orientated towards mitigating adverse effects on resource availability, environment and those engaged in fishing activities.

#### **Central Government agencies**

The national laws governing coastal zone related issues are as follows:

- a. **Merchant Shipping Act, 1954:** Deals with prevention and control of pollution arising from ships and offshore oil platform
- b. **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972:** Deals with protection and conservation of marine life and establishment of marine parks, sanctuaries etc.
- c. **Water Act, 1974:** Deals with control of marine pollution and land based sources.
- d. **Maritime Zone Act, 1974:** Defines various maritime zones like territorial waters, Exclusive Economic Zone and the continental shelf.
- e. **The Marine Fishing Regulation Act (MFRA), 1978** states that 3-6 nautical miles from the coastline should be reserved for the operation of traditional fishing, and beyond this zone for mechanized fishing. The MFRA prohibits fishing by deep-sea fishing vessels within the terrestrial waters of India and stipulates measures for conservation and sustainable development of marine fisheries within terrestrial

waters by restricting the type of fishing, fishing gear or craft, period of fishing, mesh size etc.

- f. **The Environmental Protection Act, 1986** prohibiting the conversion of reserve forests, mangroves, wetlands, mudflats etc. for coastal aquaculture and beach development
- g. From May 1987, the Indian Government banned bull trawling within the Indian EEZ, and no permits have been issued chartering this type of vessel.
- h. The declaration of coastal stretches as **Coastal Regulation Zone's (CRZ)**. 1991 is the most important decision for the coastal management. For regulating development activities, the coastal stretches within 500m of high tide line on the landward side are classified into 4 categories namely, CRZ1, CRZII, CRZIII and CRZ IV (Details appended; No. 4).
- i. **The Indian Fisheries Act, 1897** regulates the fishing of pearl oysters and collection of certain types of shells in vulnerable areas through licensing. The export of silver pomfret below 300gm size and sea cucumber of less than 9cm are also banned
- j. **Aquaculture Bill 1997**: Banned commercial aquaculture firms (excluding traditional and improved traditional farms) in the coastal areas and ordered the govt. to establish a regulatory authority to monitor the implementation of its order and for further regulation of such firms.
- k. Other important government policies include; Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, Marine Regulation Act, Merchant Shipping Act, MPEDA Act, Coast Guard Acts and Central and State Pollution Control Boards.

#### **State Government agencies (other state acts)**

- a. The Kerala Marine Fisheries Regulation Act, 1980, and subsequent amendments imposes a number of restrictions, including the banning of fishing during June-August, limiting the number of trawlers and boats fishing within the state, regulation of mesh size to about 35mm for cod-end of a trawl net and banning of trawling during the monsoon months. Which is similarly found in other states too.
- b. A closed fishing season is being observed by a number of State Governments during the breeding seasons (monsoon) of certain fish types.

#### **International**

National legislation and frameworks for use of marine diversity need to be in accordance with international law. The international community deals with control over marine biodiversity through;

- a. United Nations Convention on the Law of Sea (UNCLOS)
- b. Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- c. Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual property Rights (TRIPS) and many other agreements.

### **Others**

- a. The Department of Ocean Development (Government of India) has prepared draft notification containing the details of regulatory and preventative measures relevant to the coastal zone, exercising the powers conferred under section 3(1) and 3(2)(v) of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986. This draft notification has been circulated to all the state governments seeking the views of all concerned about the sustained use of the Indian seas. Coastal areas which serve as breeding and nursery grounds of various species of finfish and shellfish, areas of high genetic diversity, mud banks, mussel beds, estuaries and mangroves are likely to fall under the purview of the proposed Ocean Regulation Zone Notification (ORZ I). Opinions are required from various marine sectors including marine biologists and fisheries experts, NGOs, progressive fisherfolk before decision on the draft notification by states is taken.
- b. The FAO has recommended the formulation of a global Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, which was unanimously adopted in October 1995 at the FAO conference. The code provides necessary framework for national and international efforts to ensure sustainable exploitation of aquatic living resources in harmony with the environment. It is currently the most important international instrument devised for wholesale management of living aquatic resources.

## **5.2. Fishing communities**

These include traditional, mechanised, near shore and deep-sea fishing groups, profession based cooperative societies, Boat Owners Associations (including different types) etc. Fish co-operatives. Fishermen organisations throughout the country have undertaken awareness campaigns for educating fisherfolk on resulting damage from uncontrolled and over exploitation of coastal waters. A number of programmes for craft development, provision of

financial incentives in the form of subsidy for motorisation of traditional crafts, introduction of offshore pelagic crafts for exploiting the under-exploited pelagic fishing resources etc have also been taken up.

### **5.3. Local communities**

Fishing communities, marginal farmers, small traders (sand and shell removing communities), agricultural labourers, daily wagers who work in the fishing activities, as well as fish traders are involved in the protection and enhancement of biodiversity. Many groups of local communities in patches have been working for the cause of conservation of mangroves, guarding the turtle nesting grounds against preys (Biju Kumar, 2001).

### **5.4. Industry and corporate sector**

Shore based small scale and heavy industries; harbour and port authorities are also involved in small-scale conservation works. The involvement of corporate sector in the conservational works is very limited in India unlike many other countries.

### **5.5. Research Institutes, NGOs and Individuals**

A lot of research on various aspects of coastal ecosystem status has been researched in research institutes, universities, and colleges. Many NGOs and individuals concerned with coastal ecosystem health and ecological diversity have been working with coastal related research problems making contributions in various aspects including conservations and inventorying of the biological diversity.

### **5.6. Coastguard and Navy**

Peacetime duties of Coastguard and Navy include protection of the sea and the coastal area especially from illegal activities. Coastguard operations are more varied ranging from surveillance through pollution control to prevention of poaching, and are generally carried out closer to the continental shores, where biodiversity and the threats to its sustainability are highest. Besides Coast guard also is concerned with surveillance of critical coastal marine ecosystem and the EEZ. They therefore have a great role to play in monitoring and evaluation of the state of Biodiversity.



# 6. Ongoing Biodiversity Related Initiatives

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## 6.1. Governmental

Introduction of Fishing holiday, mesh size regulation, CRZ notification, ORZ document, Restriction of the Capacity (HP) of the mechanized trawlers etc, are a few of the important decisions that the Government of India has introduced for the sustainable management of coastal resources.

### 6.1.1. Policy and Legal framework

There are many ongoing biodiversity initiatives being carried out, these include:

- Biodiversity bill 2000
- Steps have also been taken to upgrade technology for sustainable development of coastal aquaculture with the support of the Fisheries Research Institutes of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), the FOA/UNDP and the World Bank.
- Current NBSAP process

### 6.1.2. Administrative

Registration and Licensing for the fishing boats, has been introduced to help regulate over fishing of the coastal waters.

### 6.1.3. Programs and Schemes

- a. NIO, NIOT, CMFRI, NEERI (Appendix 7), CIFE, CES, various Universities, CMSRI etc., are having in house, sponsored and centrally funded projects, wherein, biodiversity related components are directly or indirectly involved.

DOD has a major role in the survey and assessment of marine living resources. It is also responsible for protection and conservation of marine environments. **National facility for Integrated Coastal and Marine Area Management (ICMAM).**

Since the ICMAM related activities are long term in nature, DOD is

establishing a National facility on ICMAM in the new National Institute of Ocean Technology campus to undertake the above activities on a long-term basis. Besides regular long-term training programmes on preparation of ICMAM plans and an information system needed for the management of critical habitats, it will also undertake all other ICMAM related activities like determination of use classification of coastal waters and water quality criteria for different uses of sea, determination of no impact zone for developmental activities in critical habitats, etc. DOD also envisions ICMAM to become a regional training centre on for South Asian countries and implement international coastal zone programmes.

- b. Fishery survey of India under the ministry of Agriculture is responsible for survey and assessment of marine fishing resources in the EEZ along the Indian coast. During exploratory survey, one of the objectives was to identify the biodiversity. They are building up species inventory of marine fishery resources under different sponsored programs such as Marine Living Resource Programs (sponsored by Department of Ocean Development). They are also undertaking inventory of deep-sea crustaceans, Molluscs and Finfishes, the biology of perch in Quilon bank and Wedge bank are also being undertaken. Bioresource Inventory Program includes plans for implementation of marine bioresources inventories, which are currently being finalized. The areas include:

Marine botany-Sea weeds and Mangroves,  
Marine Microbiology- Actinomycetes, fungi, protozoa  
Plankton – phyto and zooplankton  
Porifera and coelentrata  
Other marine vertebrates  
Effects of trawling on benthic fauna

- c. The Government of Kerala, Department of Fisheries has an autonomous society, called “Fishing Resource Management Society”, which is undertaking major projects such as:
- Mangrove afforestation programme for the conservation of natural nurseries of prawns and other fishes.
  - Surveys, assessments and the preparations of a bibliography on endangered fishes of Kerala.
  - Impact assessment of the trawling ban imposed during the monsoon season.
  - Preparation of a fisheries master plan for Kerala, by appointing a expert committee
  - Drafting Aquarian reforms with regard access rights, ownership of fishing assets and rights of first scale fish caught by fishermen.
  - A project for the conservation and management of the endangered fish, *Masheer*.

This society plays a significant role in formulating and implementing Biodiversity conservation. The initiations can be strengthened and new interventions could be added, for the implementation of the program. (Sponsored by ICAR).

- d. Department of Ecology, Environment and Forests, has a number of projects being implemented including mangrove afforestation, degraded mangrove regeneration, and Green wall formation etc.
- e. The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute. Is a central agency under ICAR, which has several branches at different regions. Many fisheries oriented in-house, sponsored, and centrally sponsored research projects are being undertaken all along the west coast.

#### **6.1.4. Economic/social sectors**

The government implements various kinds of subsidies for fuels and fishing equipments. Fishery developmental activities: Financial assistance to fisherwomen, traditional fisher folks etc.

## **6.2. NGO**

Some of the NGOs based near the coast are involved in the coastal zone protection against pollution, resource conservation (vigilant against sand and shell removal from the beach) and management through enforcement of discharge limit (both quality and quantity of the industrial effluents). Some of the legal documents regarding CRZ and other coastal acts have been translated into local languages for the benefit of public by different NGO's.

## **6.3. Communities and Peoples' Movements**

Several initiatives have been taken up from the coastal communities, especially the traditional fishermen to prevent habitat loss due to the developmental activities. Further many of the protests and movements have not yielded in the results of protection of the environment, due to several interfering factors (political, conflicts between stakeholders etc.). A few examples, which have taken wide publicity, are appended (No. 8).



# 7. Gap Analyses

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## 7.1. Gaps in information

### 7.1.1. Lack of updated data on many of the coastal biotic resources

The complete information on the intertidal organisms, seaweeds, reptiles, birds (migratory and resident), marine mammals etc. is lacking. Though information on the above is available, many times it is patchy and restricted to certain states or regions. The status of pollution on biota at different levels is not available. For comparison of biodiversity loss or gain, these are insufficient data over different time schedule (e.g. the data on the fishery resources, their exact breeding ground is not available).

Information on the indigenous practices, data on their relevance to the conservation practices is not well documented.

Data on harvested non-target organisms-quantum and quality

Impacts of trawling on bottom fauna

Information on impacts of alien species on the natural biota

### 7.1.2. Insufficient data

Insufficient data on the pollutants especially on the types and quantity of chemicals and oil, Petroleum hydrocarbons, Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH), synthetic organic compounds reaching the coastal waters. Persistent Organic Chemicals (POP), which are currently considered as the most hazardous reaching even up to the Polar Regions and suspected pollutants.

### 7.1.3. Lack of knowledge about the alien species

Introduction and impacts on the natural environment and information on the ballast water and hull. One of the major areas of concerns along the coast is the invasion of exotics through ballast waters. Except for Gujarat coast there is no evidence of deballasting the ships' tank before reaching the port/harbour.

### 7.1.4. Lack of information on the recruitment, spawning and breeding grounds of the commercially important species of fishes and others species

**7.1.5.** Data on conversion of encroached coastal areas for aquaculture, agricultural, marine salt works, and industrial purposes.

**7.1.6.** Lack of information about the coastal policies and acts for coastal inhabitants, b this is due to the lack of understanding, improper approach by the authorities, unavailability of the information in local language and illiteracy among the coastal population.

## **7.2. Gaps in vision**

**7.2.1.** National fishing policy - the national fishing policy raises conflicts between various internal groups of resource users, such as large scale, industrialised, artisanal, traditional fishers etc.

Lack of central ministry is one of the biggest loopholes. Several organisations are involved in the fishing sectors, in additions other ministries are also involved for the management of the coastal resources. Due to a lack in the vision in the government policies and co-ordination and implementation of the agenda there arises several conflicts between the resource uses. The political interferences many a times overrule the national interests neglecting the ecological significance of natural resources.

**7.2.2.** The major constraints on small-scale fisheries sector are the lack of satisfactory information on economic and social aspects on communities who are directly dependent, inadequate markets, high costs of new technologies and social and cultural impediments to the adoption of new technologies.

**7.2.3.** Lack of initiative programs for the development of value added product from low coast raw materials (e.g. by-catch) and lack of governmental initiatives/supports for practicing traditional knowledge base.

**7.2.4.** An integrated approach in biological and sociological research, so as to get a holistic measure of the impacts/benefits/needs and acceptance of new and appropriate technologies by the stakeholders and interest groups is lacking, which is very much required to make sure that the new and appropriate technologies are relevant to stakeholders needs and abilities and to promote their understanding and acceptance of measures.

**7.2.5.** Inclusion of environmental costs in developmental programmes along the coast such as expansion of tourism, aquaculture, industrial developments, expansion of ports and harbours etc., (where long term effects on the ecosystem is generally overlooked) is lacking (e.g. setting up of harbours along the pristine and biodiversity rich areas (e.g. proposed Tadri project) without proper EIA.

**7.2.6.** Lack of developing a vision for the sharing of common properties. Major constraints identified in coastal management are;

- a.* Conflicts among the different users of coastal resources, especially traditional fishing and mechanized trawlers, local fishers and interstate or international fishing vessels. Mechanised trawlers and the indigenous fishing groups; indigenous and traditional fishers; national and international trawlers have different approaches for the coastal resources. Lack of an effective Fishing Regulation Act
- b.* Destruction or modification of coastal areas, such as wetland, mangroves etc., for commercial or residential purposes.
- c.* Uncontrolled discharge of urban sewage, industrial effluents resulting in pollution.
- d.* Lack of co-ordination between different government departments and implementing agencies.
- e.* Dealing with insufficient or lack of data: Many of the difficulties in making any management decision is the usual lack of information on which the decision is being made, (the paucity of accurate information concerning marine resources has caused serious problems in the past). Management can only apply environmental protection measures when there is a complete knowledge of the resources, their relationship between the stress and environmental response and the stakeholders needs.
- f.* Conflicts between different users of the same stock/catchment area within the coastal zone.

**7.2.7.** Anthropology and Indigenous knowledge (IK) – Anthropological methods have been used by the dominant paradigms of western scientific conservation to access IK in a highly extractive manner. Modernist Anthropology views IK (one of the hallmarks of the indigenous ecology) as a nonpolitical and non economic resource, which can be extracted from local communities, translated into western technology, and assessed by scientific criteria. Far from being non-economic and apolitical, IK like biodiversity is a resource, which is

typically extracted and manipulated, with the gains resulting from this manipulation rarely returning to the original source

### **7.3. Gaps in policy and legal structure**

#### **7.3.1. Obscure regulations and Inadequate manpower and logistics**

Though government regulations are adequate to ensure conservation, rational use of resources and conservation but attempts for the strict implementation are inadequate.

Government department's lack of adequate manpower and inadequacy of tools and logistics to implement nature conservation

#### **7.3.2. Lack of coordination of inter-ministerial departments in the legal issues**

MoEF in many cases fail to analyze implications of new projects along the coast and permissions have been granted to many of MNCs inspite of local agitations. Non-transparent, and non-receptive attitude to incorporate ground realities even after receiving healthy comments on EPA and CRZ regulations

#### **7.3.2. Coordination between the inter-ministerial policies and activities of the Central and State Governments**

**7.3.4.** Effective measures have been taken by pollution control board policies for monitoring and implementing safety standards but Pollution Control Board is not very strict in monitoring the effluent discharge and quality due to lack of manpower and training.

#### **7.3.5. Ensure generation of more data to take appropriate decision on trawl ban, all along the western coast**

Currently GOI has introduced uniform monsoon ban along the west coast, but along northern part of the west coast monsoon arrival is delayed by about 10-15 days; needs more scrutiny to arrive at specific recommendations.

### **7.4. Gaps in institutional and human capacity**

**7.4.1.** Lack of coordinated effort in coastal research by maritime universities, research institutes, CSIR, ICAR and other research organizations

**7.4.2.** Many institutes have stopped the recruitment of the new scientists, which leads to lacunae in the transfer of the experiences gained by the senior scientist to the younger generations resulting in gaps in human capacity building.

**7.4.3.** Lack of emphasis on taxonomical research leads to death of expertise in taxonomy. Classical taxonomists, who could do qualitative identification of marine and coastal, are not encouraged because of the applied research works and hence there are very few expert taxonomists for different coastal and marine groups.

**7.4.4.** Lack of central reference point to authenticate the identification of coastal species





**NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN**  
**WEST COAST ECOREGION**

*Section -8*

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**Major Strategies and Action  
Plan**

## 8. *Major Strategies and Action Plan*

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Considering the unique features of the west coast, demographic pressures, and current development, there is a need to create specific legal regimes for the west coast. There is a need to undertake studies to determine the special features prior to further developments.

The strategies have to combine several interlocking initiatives, which may include different social levels and within government sectors.

### **Strategies and the Action Plans**

The action plans are grouped into 7 major categories as opined by the Working Group (WG).

1. **Arresting further loss of habitat and biodiversity**
2. **Biodiversity inventorying – Data Banks on Coastal resources-GIS based**
3. **Awareness, Education and Training**
4. **Alternate Livelihood**
5. **Integration of the activities of line agencies on marine biodiversity**
6. **Equity and empowerment for women to involve in conservation exercises**
7. **Identification of indicators of changes of biological diversity**

The details of each of these are provided in the following sections. In addition to the above, recommendations on defining the coastal zone and setting up of Coastal Zone Authority (CZA) are discussed.

#### **8.1. Redefinition of coastal zone for biodiversity protection**

At present the extent of coastal zone is variously defined. Ecologically it is up to supra littoral zone. Environmentally it is up to the farthest point where the tide reaches. According to LOICZ it is 200 m elevation inland. According to CRZ it is 500 m beyond high tide mark. All these definitions have particular objectives but not necessarily in terms of conservation of biodiversity.

- Within the framework of CRZ, it is proposed that a width beyond high tide line upto landward limit of distribution of organisms of sea origin be declared as biodiversity conservation zone where activities inimical to sustainability of biodiversity would not be permitted. These zones could also be used as biodiversity conservation units at local levels.

## 8.2. Creation of Coastal Biodiversity Authority (CBA)

At present there are agencies to collect information on marine fisheries coastal habitats, tourism developments and a number of other activities that affect coastal zone. The WG members felt that none of these agencies consider biodiversity issues with the credence they deserve. Even the proposed biodiversity bill gives allowance for only one member to represent marine and coastal issues. The WG members, while recognizing competence and the integrity of such agencies still felt that the concerns of biodiversity are diluted because of other over riding concerns. Hence they propose the creation of CBA which will primarily and with a focus, deal with biodiversity related issues in the coastal zone.

The WG agrees that CBA should be composed of members from line agencies, coastal states, academics and public. The WG recommends that nuclear groups be established at village and community levels that would provide relevant inputs to CBA. **The proposed composition of CBA shall be;**

- One member each from MoEF, DOD, and one member each from maritime states, besides a minimum of 7 experts from NGOs and other 5 marine research institutes such as NIO, CMFRI, ZSI, BSI, and FSI. Such an authority should collect information on the biodiversity, maintain database, and identify the sensitive habitats. It should also have powers for clearance of any coastal-based developmental activities. Should able to resolve conflicts between state/regional boundaries.

## 8.3. Arresting further loss of habitat and biodiversity

### 8.3.1. Strategy 1

- a. **Protecting the existing biodiversity rich and ecologically sensitive areas by declaring as protected areas (P.A.)**

Criteria for declaring the sensitive and biodiversity rich areas should be defined and based on the criteria the sites for conservations should be notified as P.A.

### ***Definition of criteria of Protected Areas***

At present the protected areas in India are quite large and include vast geographical areas often with more than one ecosystem. This approach however neglects smaller areas which are much richer in biodiversity and heavily impacted. Some smaller sites could also be the home to endemic species or rare ones. Some sites may also harbor unique species in the region. Such sites are not covered under protected areas network simply because they are smaller in extent.

The WG felt that a reassessment of sensitive and biodiversity rich areas along the coast should be made taking into considerations views expressed above.

- The WG proposes that uniqueness in biodiversity abundance, traditional biodiversity uses and not the geographical extent or isolation should be the primary criterion. The WG also recommends that generation of primary data should be included while evaluating the suitability of any one site for declaration as protected area.

The generation of primary data should satisfy;

- Statistically valid number of surveys
- Comprehensive listing of flora and fauna and their presence and abundance
- Detailed documentation of historical usages
- Assessment of susceptibility to natural and man-made impacts

A few areas to be given high priority are the following;

- ♦ Vizhinjam (15km<sup>2</sup>) along Kerala for coral patches
- ♦ Coondapur (for mangroves)
- ♦ Tadadi and Aghanashini backwaters along Karnataka for the rich biological diversity
- ♦ Vembanad lake of Kerala coast
- ♦ *Ghazanis, Pokkali* fields and other traditional agricultural practices along the coast
- ♦ Ratnagiri, Malwan and Sindhurg, Raigad coastal area along Maharashtra and Gulf of Kachchh along Gujarat.

**Time Duration** – Within 3 years

**Priority** - Very High

### **Buffer zones around protected areas**

The current practice of having protected areas in the marine environment does not provide for any buffer zone. For e.g. the national marine park in the Gulf of Kachchh has all coral reefs as protected but not the waterways between them. Any impact like oil spill that occurs in the waterways will affect the coral reef ecosystem yet the offender would not be legally liable. This becomes more critical in the marine system where the water currents can transport pollutants over vast areas.

- Hence, the WG recommends creation of buffer zones at least of 50% radius of the core zone in all protective areas.

## **b. Mangrove Conservation**

### ***Redefinition of mangrove habitat size under CRZ-1***

The current CRZ-1 includes mangroves in all water bodies subjected to tidal action and does not define the density of mangrove trees in such habitats. While the conservation concern under this classification is welcome, quite often sporadic presence and patchy distribution of mangrove plants at some sites prohibits any activity including sustenance livelihoods.

- The WG therefore recommends that if a mangrove patch is to derive benefit CRZ protection, it should be of a size of at least 1 hectare, with more than 50% canopy cover. The WG also considers that patches below this size, while enjoying CRZ1 protection, may be opened for non-destructive commercial and recreational activities.

### ***Identification of threat and restoration***

- Identification of severity of threats from anthropogenic/industrial activities to prioritise sensitive areas and to prevent effluent discharge along these areas. Regeneration of the degraded mangroves should be initiated immediately in order to increase the mangrove cover. As a part of the conservation programme the socio-economic issues of the locals should be evaluated for assessing the severity of the threat caused by them, and alternate source of fuel for the coastal communities should be initiated preferably with subsidized coasts.

### **Strengthening of Institutional capacity**

- Strengthen and develop existing institutions and information systems and establish standardized regional databases and procedures for collection, collation, retrieval and

dissemination of information related to mangroves, (collaboration with ISRO, and other research institutions such as NIO, Universities and Forest department).

### 8.3.2. Strategy 2

#### **Participatory management of coastal habitats and their biodiversity**

The current practice of biodiversity management resides on policy formulation by MoEF based on data generated by academic institutions and research laboratories. While the quality of this procedure cannot be disputed, there are however three shortcomings to this approach.

1. They are too site specific
2. Monitoring mechanisms are never built-in so that the impacts of policies can never be truly understood or appreciated
3. This delineates local population from decision making or even evaluating their own biodiversity changes.

➤ The WG recommends that the monitoring and management of biodiversity should be done at multiple levels. It recommends creation of nuclear bodies at several locations along the coast and training in methods of biodiversity monitoring. These nuclear groups should also be enabled with necessary physical, infrastructural and intellectual capabilities to record changes in habitat properties and their constituent biodiversity components. The higher level in this hierarchy will then have the responsibility of analysing these data and recommending appropriate management strategies.

The WG agrees that this is somewhat similar to JFM but is a distinct improvement in the following respects

1. Networking of a large number of coastal marine habitat monitoring groups
2. Capacity building at multiple levels
3. Development of databases for various components
4. Decentralization of responsibilities and initiatives to local groups and their empowerment
5. Establishment of a long term monitoring set up for the entire West coast

### 8.3.3. Strategy 3

#### Minimising Over exploitation and wasteful by-catch

##### *Revision of existing fishing regulations and innovative implementation*

At present the fishery sector in India is regulated by outdated rules and regulations both at the central and state levels. Most of these are irrelevant to present situation and issues.

- The WG recommends a revision of all fishery related rules and their integration into a new Fishing Regulation Act and creation of mechanisms for its implementation. This would provide more effectiveness in implementation.
- The WG considers that the gap in understanding of the issues is too vast between policy framers and policy users. It recommends that steps should be taken to translate all these acts and recommend practices into regional languages, supplemented by graphical illustrations. The WG recommends that a large number of innovative measures be employed in the extension services of state fisheries department, so that the rules are understood by most stakeholders and adhered to in letter and spirit.
- The WG recommends that integration and framing of FRA should be done by committee consisting of representatives from Central and State Fisheries Departments and Agencies, and also representatives from user groups so that the gaps in policy framers can be identified and suitably addressed at the initial stage itself.

##### *Regulation of over capitalization*

One of the main causes for loss of marine biodiversity is intensive exploitative practice evidenced by non-adherence to code of responsible fishing that includes measures for conservation, sustainability and equitability. The dwindling yields have also lead to over capitalization in certain sectors in order to increase the economic returns in short time. The follow up of this is a fast depletion of natural stocks, degradation of coastal habitats and the attendant socio economic issues including non-repayment of loans.

- The WG recommends careful studies of the capital investments both in public and private sectors, in marine fisheries sector and regulate this as a function of harvestable marine fish stocks and the socio economic needs of the coastal communities

### ***Uniform ban on monsoon trawling***

Monsoon is the period when most marine fishes reproduce and the juveniles come inshore for feeding. Trawling in inshore waters, often with very fine mesh, destroys breeding stocks and juveniles. Several States have proposed ban on monsoon trawling but the periods of effective ban are not the same between the states. This defeats the very purpose since trawler owners and fishermen migrate to adjacent States and continue fishing legally.

- The WG proposes that the ban on monsoon mechanised and motorised fishing along the west coast be made uniform over the entire monsoon period.

### ***Stock assessment of non-conventional and deep-sea fishery resources***

If one looks at the yield from marine fishery sector, it will become apparent the yields along the west coast are stagnant for last several years and they are close to the optimum yields estimated from several different models. It is expected that irrespective of the developments in coastal Mariculture, demand for captured fishes would increase.

- Fishery has to change from open access mode to regulated with a well-organised monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) system.

### ***Value addition to by-catch***

In the case of high value targeted fisheries, the quantum of by-catch generated is substantial. These are converted into fishmeal, animal feed etc.

#### **8.3.4. Strategy 4**

##### **Biodiversity management and conflict resolution by zoning for activities**

The biodiversity along the coast is threatened to varying degrees by variety of developmental and recreational activities, as this cannot be wished away in the name of conservation, the next best alternative would be adopting a zonal plan (informed partitioning) which would provide for various activities, yet enable an effective monitoring and management. This practice has been in vogue in some countries and has been generally successful. Besides being a tool for conflict resolution, the zoning pattern would also help regulate unplanned excessive developmental activities on the coast (e.g. development of new ports when existing adjacent old ports could be upgraded to serve the purpose)

- Drawing from the concept of CRZ, the WG recommends a zoning plan for various activities should be evolved for the west coast. Such a plan will take into account the current status of biodiversity and their uses, possible impacts of developmental activities, economics of biodiversity losses and environmental audits.

### 8.3.5. Strategy 5

#### **Suitable control measures for coastal constructions and other developmental activities which cause damage to the habitats**

##### ***Developmental activities and EIA procedures***

Most of the developmental activities on the west coast need an EIA study. While a separate commissioned paper examines the ways and means of strengthening the EIA procedures, the WG felt that follow-up of the post-project activities and impacts are quite critical.

- Accordingly, the WG recommends pre and post project environmental audit/status reports of every project should be prepared every 3 years after the project becomes operational. (The term projects here include new industries and ports. Instead of establishing the new ports, expansion of existing ports should be thought of wherever possible. E.g., proposed Tadadi port in Karnataka coast can be stopped by expansion of the nearby Karwar and Mangalore ports)
- Controlling the damage caused to habitats (e.g., destruction of turtle breeding/nesting grounds) by activities such as sea wall erection, sand mining, shell mining, port activities, expansion of the ports and harbours, dredging and ship breaking

##### ***Control of beach erosion***

The current practice of constructing sea walls to contain beach erosion at many places is unacceptable and not a biodiversity friendly action. The disadvantages are many: it is not aesthetic, alters long shore currents and modifies habitat properties, causes habitat loss in many places, fragments some habitats, deprives nesting grounds of future and prevents access to the beach and the estuaries needed by marine organisms for breeding and rearing of their young.

- The WG recommends that present practice of constructing sea walls be stopped forth with or at least modified with suitable expert engineering technology to maximise the

effect of energy dissipation. Where needed, alternative technologies that minimize impacts on habitats should be identified and applied. Ecofriendly method of controlling erosion by replanting sand dune vegetation, beach nourishment, and alternative ecofriendly engineering technologies should be adapted to minimise the severity of the coastal erosion.

### ***Evaluation of impacts of mining activities***

Commercial mining for inorganic resources like shells, corals and sands is being done at many places on the assumption that removal of dead material is not a threat to biodiversity. In some cases it is even argued that shells and corals washed on the beaches, if not recovered would be taken back to the sea, and hence there is no harm in collecting them. While it can be admitted that mining inorganic resources could be permitted, uncontrolled mining practices could harm the habitats and indirectly the biodiversity.

- Recognizing this threat, the WG recommends the commercial mining of shells should be regulated taking into account-
  - a. The rate of replenishment in case of resources like molluscs and
  - b. The impacts on other biota because of removal of some components from the habitat as well mining per se.
- Hence, the WG recommends actions that would evaluate such impacts. WG also recommends mining activities near protected or sensitive habitats should not be permitted.

A threat, the magnitude of which is as yet unperceived is **deep-sea mining for polymetallic nodules**. This would destroy not only benthic habitats but also affect pelagic habitats since the mining rejects would be released on the surface. Environmental impact assessment studies have been conducted recently by simulation experiments. These need to be reinforced with more data from benthic and pelagic habitats.

Another potential raw material for **mining is cold nutrient rich deep waters** for use in OTEC plants. While it has been advocated that the cold water brought up can be used for increasing productivity, impact of release of several thousand tones of cold water on the surface is not known. The WG recommends that impact assessment studies should be conducted before any mining from deep sea is envisaged.

### ***Port activities***

Operations at the Ports should be suitably controlled without harming the coastal resources. Disaster management protocols should be in place at all ports to address eventualities such as accidental spilling of chemicals and other materials while loading and unloading.

Expansion of ports and harbours should satisfy the EIA criteria. Setting up of the new harbours or ports should undergo strict EIA and can be initiated only if it is unavoidable. Other activities such as dredging and ship breaking should be monitored for the environmental damage. Efficient tools for the pollution abatement and recycling of the goods should be adopted.

### ***Aquaculture***

The WG during the first meeting discussed extensively the issues concerned with coastal aquaculture. Some of the members felt that the Aquaculture Bill, in its present form is inadequate to safeguard the interests of coastal biodiversity and the well being of coastal ecosystems.

- The WG recommends that the aquaculture practice along the coast should be regulated on a basis that it does not affect carrying capacity of the system and the waste generated is not adversely affecting the biodiversity at its vicinity. And aquaculture practicing at high biodiversity areas should be carefully avoided.

### ***Effluent management in coastal systems***

The marine waters are recipients of industrial and sewage effluents. Seawaters has a certain amount of assimilative capacity but in the recent years the quantity of effluents released into seawater grossly exceeds this.

- In order to contain the impact of pollution on biodiversity, the WG recommends-
  - a. Compulsory pre-treatment of all effluents
  - b. Development of dispersal models for each pollutant in order to determine upper levels of dispersal
  - c. Site-specific, carrying capacity models for multiple types of effluents

In almost all cases only major inorganic effluents such as metals or organic ones like oil are considered. The effluents may quite often contain persistent organic molecules, which will affect the life history of marine organisms for generations to come.

- The WG recommends setting up of proper effluents treatment plants for all effluents into the sea. Further, it recommends strict vigilance by the state pollution control boards for effluent quality control. In addition, NGOs also should be involved in taking care of the coast against hazardous effluents.

### ***Tourism management***

Tourism, especially its new form of ecotourism is being promoted as ecofriendly and no risk to biodiversity. While most tourism practices are non-invasive, their impacts on biodiversity are mostly indirect, caused by habitat reclamation, pollution excess demand on local resources and over crowding. At present the tourism on the west coast is confined to very small stretches but is being planned to add more sites to tourism. Key concern with regard to safeguarding the coastal biodiversity should be focused on the Special Tourism Area (STA) along the Coast.

- In this context the WG proposes that:
  - a. Tourism should be treated as an industry and proper EIA should be carried out before clearance is given.
  - b. Carrying capacity of each site should be evaluated prior to delineating an area for tourism along the coast
  - c. Provision for rotation of tourist zones should be incorporated in the tourist development plans
  - d. Awareness of the value of habitat and biodiversity conservation should be built into all tourism activities
  - e. Local community participation in the sustainable tourism operation should be made mandatory.

### **8.3.6. Strategy 6**

#### **Invasion of exotic species and GMOs**

Introduction of alien species into natural habitats occurs in two ways, in the first it is accidental, quite often brought in by ballast water or shipment of commercial marine products. In the second instance the introduction is intentional, either as bio-control agents or for their ability to grow and reproduce faster than the native species (aquaculture). Creation and introduction of GMOs also qualify as invasive alien species.

In most of these cases ecological damages are perceived only by hindsight. Considering the gravity of the havoc the exotic species and GMOs can play with the natural ecosystems and recognizing their mode of entry,

- The WG recommends:
  - a. Site-specific monitoring studies should be carried out where exotic species have already invaded to understand their impact on the local biota and ecosystem functions.
  - b. Sites near ports and coastal aquaculture farms should be intensively monitored for alien species and GMOs
  - c. Precautionary approaches (biosafety) in handling, transport and maintenance of GMOs should be strictly enforced.

As the fate or impacts of GMOs in the marine environment are little known and as measures to contain the damages that might be caused by them are particularly unknown in India, WG strongly feels creation of a marine biosafety unit or an institution/ inspectorate is a must.

**Institutes** - Suitable expert agency or scientists in the field of exotic's research should further coordinate this project. E.g. CMFRI, ZSI, BSI

**Priority** - High

**Time Schedule:** Immediate

## **8.4. Biodiversity inventorying - Databanks on Coastal resources - GIS based**

### **8.4.1. Strategy 1**

#### **Authenticated inventory of the coastal biota**

As issue that repeatedly came up in all WG meetings was that our knowledge of the marine biodiversity is quite inadequate. Even the relevant materials prepared by ZSI and BSI do recognize these lacunae. By relative estimates, it is possible to conclude that the current inventory of marine biodiversity would be only ¼ of the actual potential. This situation is a

result of lack of detailed surveys, lack of adequate taxonomies and lack of centralized data banks where such information can be stored.

➤ The WG recommends:

- a. Surveys and inventories of coastal marine biodiversity to be completed at the earliest
- b. Taxonomic expertise for each group be developed along with the mechanisms to retain the trained manpower
- c. Establishment of authentication centers and reference collections in maritime institutions and universities
- d. Provision of incentives for taxonomy as job opportunities, better recognition at national levels to be promoted
- e. Retrieval of taxonomic data bases from assorted sources like reports, thesis and miscellaneous publications and synthesize them into a centralized electronic database.
- f. Electronic documentations of individual groups of organisms and distribution to user agencies
- g. Taxonomical expertise gained by the senior scientists should be utilised for training the younger generation to prevent a gap in the knowledge.

Suitable institute should be recognized with expert scientific staff. E.g., National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), CMFRI, Centre for Marine Living Resource and Ecology (CMLRE), and universities and colleges located near the coast.

The operation will be in the project mode by the above mentioned institutes

**Priority should be to the following groups:**

Corals and coral reef fauna  
Algae and Sea-grasses  
Annelids

Molluscs, Crustaceans, Echinoderms  
Fin-fishes

**Time frame** - Should be taken up immediately and completed in five years.

#### 8.4.2. Strategy 2

##### Community Inventories of Biodiversity

While the measures proposed to strengthen taxonomic expertise would help to complete the inventories at a national level, for a day-to-day management of marine resources at local levels, a

different kind of expertise needs to be developed. This should be in the form of Para taxonomy for individuals and communities.

- WG recommends:
  - a. Taxonomic knowledge at basic levels to community members be imparted so that changes, loss or decline bio-piracy and invasion by exotic species are monitored and appropriate interventions are initiated.
  - b. Community inventories of biodiversity are maintained so that traditional knowledge rights can be protected.
  - c. Biodiversity information centres at village and *taluka* levels be established to create awareness

### 8.4.3. Strategy 3

#### Setting of Biodiversity Museums for coastal resources

##### *Ex situ conservation*

While protected areas offered possibilities of *in situ* conservation, certain endangered species need to be brought under *ex situ* conservation as well because of the continuing loss of their habitats and the longer periods needed to restore these habitats conducive to their survival. Candidates include some mangrove plants, marine mammals like dugong, some *Protochordates* like *Balanoglossus* etc. The WG recommends *ex situ* conservation of such rare and threatened species by establishing large aquaria and /or gene banks

##### **Priority: High**

**Institutes:** CMFRI is already running an in-house project and can be promoted with additional funding.

## 8.5. Awareness, Education and Training

### 8.5.1. Strategy 1

#### Sensitizing stakeholders

Action plans and conservation of biodiversity can be successful only to the extent that concerned stakeholders are sensitized of their roles and responsibilities. This becomes critical not only in the implementation phase but also in the follow up, especially when personnel involved in education and implementation are rotated or transferred.

- Recognizing that creation of awareness is vital, the WG recommends:
  - a. Conducting awareness programmes for coastal communities on the values of biodiversity
  - b. Sensitising policy makers on the intricacies of evaluating the economics of biodiversity and ecosystem conservation
  - c. Awareness and training courses for enforcement agencies (Wild life wardens, Customs, Police, Navy, Coast Guard) in identification of biodiversity components, especially those under schedule I
  - d. Guidelines and training on ecotourism, sustainable tourism and responsible behaviour for tourist operators and tourists
  - e. Special awareness to corporate sector on biodiversity valuation and conservation and their role in it.
  - f. Training programs at school level on biodiversity and conservation
  - g. Periodic check of the issues with all the agencies associated with the above areas

The institutes involved with the environmental educational programs should take initiatives and run these programs with the assistance from related government agencies

## 8.6. Alternate Livelihood

### 8.6.1. Strategy 1

**To minimise the dependency on the limited coastal resources, alternate livelihoods are recommended**

The most important cause of biodiversity loss is over-harvest and/or unsustainable harvest practices and resource utilization practices. Eradication of these causes would be possible only by promoting alternative means of income generation.

- Towards this objective WG recommends:
  - a. Identification of destructive resource harvest practices
  - b. Understanding the underlying socio economic compulsions
  - c. Preparation and promotion of a list of alternate livelihoods which do not rely on local biodiversity
  - d. Training to local population in the practice of choosing alternate livelihood

- e. Formation of local self-help groups for biodiversity and habitat conservation
- f. Employing biodiversity wardens from the local communities for the prevention of;
  - i. Poaching of Mangrove forests
  - ii. Removal of bottom fauna by dredging
  - iii. Destruction of the nesting grounds/nest of turtles
  - iv. Effluent and solid waste discharge in the coastal habitats

**Institutes:** Local NGOs, CMFRI, NIO, CIFE, and other fishery/coastal related institutes may be approached to outline the alternatives for minimization of resource exploitation

### **8.7. Integration of activities of line agencies on marine biodiversity**

Currently MoEF is funding most of the projects on marine biodiversity. However quite often projects that have a direct or indirect bearing on biodiversity are funded by DOD, DST, Dept. of Space, Foreign Donor Agencies and other International Bodies.

- The WG recommends a cross-sectoral mechanism whereby all biodiversity related projects are managed by a co-ordinated way. While discussing this, the WG also noted the need to compile important findings from previous projects and disseminate them as consolidated status reports. The WG also recommends that the abstracts or summaries of all project reports should be posted in appropriate websites.

The findings of these projects may have direct or indirect bearing on the conservation strategy of biodiversity. Hence a cross-sectoral mechanisms to use the outcome of these projects

### **8.8. Equity and empowerment of women to involve in conservation exercises/works**

One of the basic principles of NBSAP is to enable women play a determinant role in biodiversity conservation and management.

- The WG discussed this at length and taking recognition of the current extent of involvement of women and the constraints behind it, a multi-tiered approach is recommends
  - a. Creation of awareness on the issues of biodiversity
  - b. Education in management strategies

- c. Induction of women into decision making forum
- d. Enabling economic independence through constitution of Self Help Groups and Co-operatives

*- This is a process that would take several years to reach its logical end.*

### **8.9. Identification of indicators of changes of biological diversity**

Abundance and distribution of biological components undergo natural variations on time scales ranging from diel through tidal and lunar to annual cycles. Changes in densities of some organisms are much more of ecological value since they indicate that the ecosystem experiences unusual or even non-reversible effects. A case in point is the proliferation of the crown-of-thorns starfish in the coral reefs, which has a drastic impact on the survival of the corals. The proliferation by itself is an effect of factors that altered the densities of its own predator (triton shells). Monitoring such key species would provide early warning signals of the impending changes.

While the case of crown-of-thorns is one such example with coral reefs, such indicators are much less known from other systems. It is essential that a set of indicators be identified for each ecosystem and their changes included as one of the parameters in long term monitoring projects. The indicators would ideally recognize component changes, structural changes and process changes. Besides these scientific/ biological indicators, there is also a need to identify socio-economic indicators that would have a bearing on the intensity and patterns of biodiversity uses.



## APPENDIX - 1

### **Meetings and Public hearings along West coast**

1. Meeting of THE ECOREGION Working Group (West Coast) held at Department of Biosciences, Mangalore University on **26/08/2000**
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## Members Present

1. **Ms. Norma Alvarez**, Goa Foundation, Goa

2. **Mr. Ranjan Rao**, Nagarika Seva Trust, Bangalore
3. **Prof. Mohan Joseph**, College of Fisheries, Mangalore
4. **Mr. Haribabu**, Equations, Bangalore
5. **Mr. V.K. Shetty**, Department of Fisheries, Mangalore
6. **Mr. B. V. Zakaria**, CMFRI Centre, Mangalore
7. **Mr. Thomas Kocherry**, National Fish Worker Forum
8. **Dr. G. N. Kulkarni**, College of Fisheries, Ratnagiri
9. **Prof. Damodaran**, Department of Marine Sciences, Cochin University
10. **Prof. D. J. Bhat**, Department of Botany, Goa University.

The meeting started with a welcome note from the Co-ordinator. The subject was introduced by the Co-ordinator. Dr. Wafar, Member, TPCG explained in details the genesis and objectives and expected functioning of the eco-regional group.

### Agenda

1. Statement of the issues or problems;
2. Identification of ongoing plans, programmes and initiatives regarding these issues;
3. Identification of key actors involved;
4. Identification of major gaps in coverage;
5. Delineation of steps needed to plug gaps and enhance the effectiveness of ongoing plans, programmes and initiatives
6. List of measures and strategies needed to implement these steps in the short, medium and long term;
7. Prioritisation of these measures in terms of their importance and urgency;
8. Identification of key elements needed for implementation: institutional structures, funds expertise/human resources, policy/legal measures, monitoring, and others;
9. Specific proposals (prioritised according to importance and urgency);
10. Time frame for implementation;

Mr. Ranjan Rao and Mr. Thomas K., raised the issue to know the current policy of Biodiversity bill and how the contradictory nature of the bill and WTO, patent acts and CPZ etc. Ms. Norma Alvarez also supported their views.

Many members have not seen the biodiversity bill. If the Government is transparent, place before us the various bills before we suggest action plan, as many of these bills are interactive.

There was a discussion on the area of coastal zone, features of coastal zone, CRZ etc. with reference to different eco-regions of west coast. Protection of mangroves, construction of seawalls, construction free 100metre zone etc. was suggested by different members. Discussions on 'Natural Capital' of (Natural resource) – water, land and forest was taken up and absence of law to protect the communities who are dependent on the common property rights was discussed.

Mr. V.K. Shetty explained regularization of the improved traditional technology aquaculture within CRZ area. Mr. Haribabu suggested improved and strict EIA procedures. It was found that no uniformity in the existing ones at different states so far as CRZ is concerned. The laws are not applied strictly. Prof. D.J. Bhat raised the issues of human pressure on the coast, the important significance of microorganisms, lack of basic civic amenities etc. Ms. Norma mentioned about the high-level ecosensitive zone committee about which she promised to send more details.

Sand dunes, their importance and biodiversity were discussed. Similarly the backwaters, estuarine ecosystems, their role in the coastal biodiversity issues were considered. Mr. V.K. Shetty agreed to provide details of the resources

**2. MINUTES OF THE NBSAP- WEST COAST ECOREGION MEETING HELD  
AT CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF FISHERIES EDUCATION, MUMBAI ON  
30.9.2000**

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## Members Present

**Dr. M. Zingde**, NIO Regional Centre. Mumbai.

**Dr. J. R. Jaiswar - do-**

**Dr. B. F. Chhapgar**, BNHS, Mumbai.

**Dr. A. A. Karande, Naval Research  
Lab., Mumbai**

**Rtd. Dr. V. D. Deshmukh, CMFRI  
Substation, Mumbai**

**Dr. B. G. Kulkarni**, Dept. of Zoology, Institute of Sciences, Mumbai.

**Dr. Rajendra Nayak**, K.J. Somaiya College, Mumbai.

**Prof. H. C. Dube**, Dept. of Life sciences, Bhavnagar.

The Co-ordinator welcomed the members and briefed the outline of the NBSAP programme. The minutes of the first meeting held at Mangalore was circulated so that the discussion could start taking a clue from the earlier discussions. Dr. Zingde appreciated the current effort and suggested that the manpower and expertise that can specifically identify each group has declined and there is an urgent need to bring the available experts to train new generation in the biosystematics. Almost all the members agreed to with his suggestion. The coordinator suggested that this item come in the 8th agenda to be discussed later in our effort.

Status report of the work by different agencies: The regional centre of CMFRI gave information about the ongoing projects. The fish stock assessment from the fishing zones from Ratnagiri on south and Veraval on north, about 25,000 sq. kms. Area being surveyed. The pelagic fish like, Bombay duck, pomfrets and clupids stocks were assessed. And demersal fishes have affected by trawling, total catch remains the same but the species composition varies. The by-catch is mostly non-edible biota such as echinoderms, *sipunculids* etc. There is a distinct community structure shift. Place like Vashist estuary huge catch of puffer fish. The conflict of traditional fishing and trawl fishing was also discussed. CMFRS representative was requested to compile the ongoing work and send it to the co-coordinator. It is decided to consult Dr. Somawanshi FSI for further information.

Dr. Kulkarni, (Institute of Science) has carried out observations along the Mumbai coast especially on molluscan biota. He informed that there is no decline in the species composition

along different area he observed and the species have adapted to the changing environmental conditions.

The ethno zoological aspects, such as use of sea anemone for cure of piles after frying and eating, the ear ossicles of fish, *Polydactylus indicus* for some medicine was mentioned by Dr. Chhapgar. It is worthwhile to explore such ethno biological use of marine organisms. The use of holothurians and nematodes for neurological, anticancerous, antihypertension work by TIFR scientists need to be collected. (Dr. M.M.Jauri to be consulted).

Dr. Karande explained the pollution studies of Bombay harbour by biofoulers and bacteria and other benthic biota studies carried out by Naval Research laboratory. Dr. Pradeep Kumar, Biology Division to be contacted for more details. Dr. Karande is requested to collect the details and put it to the coordinator.

NIO Regional office at Mumbai gave a detailed account of the program they are undertaking. Apart from the DOD project of pollution monitoring from Okha to Ratnagiri, they are carrying consultancy work for various industries such as Reliance, ONGC, RCF, NCL, IPCC etc. According to them more than 10 spots are highly polluted. Details to be provided by Dr. Jaiswar.

Dr. Chhapgar gave a detailed account of the biota of the coastal region as he has a wide experience. He also suggested taking coastal birds and migratory birds into account, which are in plenty during certain seasons. It is decided to contact Ms Supriya Jhunhunwala to get more details, as she is keenly interested to pursue this information. The proposal of Marine Park at Malvan by the state government was also mentioned.

Prof. Dube explained about the ship breaking activities along Alang and its impact on the economic and ecological implications and the impact on the ecosystem studies on the marine microbes, microbial biofouling, Dr. S.K.Patel on crustacean and molluscs of gulf of Kutch (DOD project) Dr. Raghothaman on algal Biodiversity at Surat (S.Gujarat Univ.) Aquatic birds by Dr. Bhatt, Dr. D.C. Bhat on mangroves of Gulf of Kutchh the seaweed and sea- grass fauna by Dr. S.K.Mehta etc. are some of the ongoing studies. Dr. Dube has promised to give the details. The socio-economic aspect of Alang ship-breaking yard is being carried out by an UNESCO project. It is decided to discuss Gujarat ecological society and GE. Commission when the coordinator visits Bhavnagar. It may be beneficial to discuss with the Govt. Fishery centre, Okha; Fisheries collage Veraval for more information and action. The coordinator thanked the members for their valuable inputs and requested for further cooperation and support.

### **3. STATE LEVEL NBSAP WORKSHOP ORGANISED BY GOVT. OF KARNATAKA AT BANGALORE, FROM 28-29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2000**

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A state level workshop was organized by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, GOK, Bangalore at Indian Institute of science campus. It was a gathering of about 200 participants including administrators, policy makers, implementers, scientists and NGO's. While on the first day Biodiversity bill and details are discussed, during the second day Prof. Gadgil explained about the Biodiversity – state level aspects, co-coordinator of west coast eco-region, Prof. Madhyastha, explained details of west coast biodiversity aspects and needed action to be suggested. Some general type of discussion was initiated during this meeting.

#### **4. MEETING HELD AT DEPARTMENT OF BIOSCIENCES, MANGALORE UNIVERSITY MANGALORE DURING 16TH, DECEMBER 2000.**

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One-day workshop on Biodiversity with special reference to Coastal and Western Ghats was held on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2000 at the Department of Biosciences, Mangalore University. Professor T.N. Ananthakrishnan, Former Director, Zoological Survey of India, and Director, Entomological Research Institute, Chennai was kind enough to initiate the discussion with an overview of the current position of the Biodiversity. About 200 participants (Average age group - 35 years) from different parts were present. Prof. Ananthakrishnan in his opening remarks highlighted the wealth of biota along the Western Ghats and called upon the younger scientists and students to give priority in understanding the intricate diversity of life in relation to the environmental situations.

Prof. G. Padmanabhan, Former Director, Institute of Science, Bangalore, Emeritus Scientist, UNESCO Biotechnology Chair, highlighted the intricate relationship between Biodiversity and Biotechnology with an emphasis on utility of gene pool of native species for specific positive activities. Dr. Padmanabhan stressed the need for bioprospecting the species along the west coast and Western Ghats, which has not been taken seriously and implemented properly. Unless the attempts are made to fully record and if necessary patent certain species which have the suitable bioactive components global biodiversity with regional emphasis on the coastal and Western Ghat Biodiversity.

The need to use molecular techniques in identifying the species is emphasized by Prof. Padmanabhan in view of the shortage or lack of expertise in systematic for all the groups. Further, he emphasized the innumerable microbial diversity still to be explored from the coast and Western Ghats. Microbial biodiversity needs to be explored using these recent techniques so as to cover many species from our environment. Like Human Genome Project, Biodiversity project need to be taken with use of latest available molecular techniques to cover more species and from wider area. Then only the serious attention needed to this important project will get.

#### **5. DISTRICT COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DAKSHINA KANNADA (DCST). Meeting held on 2.1.01 at Deputy Commissioner's Chamber.**

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A meeting of the District committee on Science and Technology was held on 2.1.01 at D.C's office at 5.00 to appraise the members about various scientific aspects including pollution and hazardous waste management. There are official representatives from administration, agricultural and forest departments, nominated members and scientists

The coordinator of NBSAP west coast eco-region is also a member and took this opportunity to explain the details of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and the requested all support for the mission of NBSAP. It is proposed to have some people's participation program during May.

#### **6. REGIONAL LEVEL BRAIN STORM SESSION FOR THE KARNATAKA REGION WITH FISHERMEN LEADERS, SCIENTISTS, STAKEHOLDERS AND ADMINISTRATORS. On 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2001 at the CENTRAL MARINE FISHERIES, RESEARCH INSTITUTE (CMFRI) SUB CENTRE, MANGALORE**

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A brainstorm session was held on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2001 at the Central marine Fisheries, Research Institute (CMFRI) Sub Centre, Mangalore. The following members were present.

1. Sri D.M. Abdul Hameed, Director of Fisheries, Govt. of Karnataka, Bangalore.
2. Sri V.K. Shetty, Deputy Director, Dept. of Fisheries, Govt. of Karnataka, Mangalore.
3. Prof. S.L. Shanbhogue, Director of Instructions, College of Fisheries, Mangalore.
4. Prof. P.K. Salian, Director of Instruction, College of Fisheries, Mangalore.
5. Prof. Dr. T.J. Varghese, Former Director, College of Fisheries, Mangalore.
6. Sri R.P. Kotekar, Fisherman, Someshwar, Mangalore.
7. Sri Shivappa Kanchan, President, Malpe Fishermen Association, Malpe, Udupi.
8. Sri Janardhana Kanchan, Secretary, Malpe Fishermen Association, Malpe,
9. Sri M. Seetharama Suvarna, President, Mangalore Trawl Boat Owners Associations and President, Trawl Boat Union, South Warf, Mangalore.
10. Sri H.S. Siddaraju, Hatchery Manager, B.F.D.A., Kumta, Uttara Kannada.
11. Sri B.M. Rajagopal, Asst. Director of Fisheries, Mangalore Fishing Harbour.
12. Sri P. Parshwanath, Assistant Director of Fisheries (II), Mangalore.
13. Sri Madhava Shriyan, President, Karnataka Purse seine Fishermen's Association, South Warf, Bunder, Mangalore.
14. Sri T.V. Kanchan, President, Country Boat Owner's Association, Panambur, Mangalore.
15. Sri Kariappa Kanchan, President, Deep Sea Fishermen's Association, Malpe.
16. Sri K. M. Kotian, President, Malpe Mechanised Boat Owner's Co-Operative Society.
17. Dr. V.S. Kakati, Senior Scientist & Officer In-charge, KRC of CMFRI, Karwar.
18. Dr. C. Muthaiah, Senior Scientist & Officer In-charge, CMFRI, Mangalore.
19. Dr. P.K. Krishnakumar, Scientist (Senior Scale), MRC of CMFRI, Mangalore.
20. Sri P.U. Zacharia, Scientist (Senior Scale), MRC of CMFRI, Mangalore.

Prof. Madhyastha briefed the importance of NBSAP with the fishermen associations. Most of the fishermen leaders gave the following opinion:

1. Overexploitation of fishery resources by the existing multi day crafts in the near shore region and increase in the fishing crafts every year leads to diminishing catch.
2. Deep sea trawlers both of Indian and foreign origin sweep the entire sea bottom by continuous trawling operations resulting in severe damage to the ecosystem and many times this results in non-availability of harvestable fish resources to the local fishermen.
3. During monsoon season large boat seines which sometimes called as '*indigenous gears*' are operated with outboard engine of the capacity of up to 45 HP along the near shore waters within 10-25m. Of depth. They also express the fear that this way results in destruction of brooders, juveniles and young fishes that shelter in the near shore areas during monsoon months.
4. Pollution caused by effluent discharge by the mega industries, the fishermen community are of the opinion that effluents are not properly treated or discharged into the sea resulting in destruction of the ecosystem and the fishery in the vicinity.
5. The suggestions came from the fishermen leaders are:
  - a. Continuous monitoring of coastal waters for preventing pollution.
  - b. Ban of operation of foreign trawlers within EEZ complete ban on fishing by all kinds of mechanized motorised boats during monsoon months (June to August).

- c. However the President of Country Boat Owners' Association objected on total ban claiming that this will prevent the livelihood of more than 2 lakh fishermen from Mangalore region itself who are dependent on this type of fishing during monsoon.
- d. One of the fishermen entrepreneurs, Sri Kotekar expressed that fishing during monsoon should be done only by line fishing and boats without any kind of mechanisation to safeguard the interest of such group of fishermen.
- e. An effective implementation of monsoon ban has found full support during brainstorm.

**7. THE REGIONAL COASTAL BIODIVERSITY MEETING** On 28.04.2001 At  
CENTRAL MARINE FISHERIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE, KOCHI

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**Members Present**

1. Prof. M.N. Madhyastha, Co ordinator, NBSAP
2. Dr. Mohan Joseph Modayil, Director, CMFRI, Kochi
3. Dr. R. Damodaran, Dean, Faculty of Marine Sciences, CUSAT, Kochi.
4. V. Sivaji, Scientist, Fishery Survey of India, Kochangady, Cochin – 5.
5. Dr. K.V. Lalitha, Sr. Scientist, CIFT, Cochin – 29.
6. Dr. K.V. Jayachandran, Associate Professor, College of Fisheries, Kerala Agricultural University, Panangad P.O., Cochin – 682 506.
7. Dr. P.S. Easa, Scientist, Kerala Forest Research Institute, Peechi-680 653.
8. Dr. R. Satyadas, Principal Scientist, SEETED, CMFRI, Cochin – 682 014.
9. Dr. K.K.C. Nair, Scientist In-charge, N.I.O., Kochi – 14.
10. Dr. D.M. Thampy, Dean, College of Fisheries, Panangad, Cochin – 682 506.
11. K. Prasadachandran Pillai, Joint Director, Fisheries (Central Zone), Cochin – 36.
12. K.M. Lethy, Deputy Director, O/O Joint Director of fisheries, FRMS
13. Dr. R. Paul Raj, Head, PNPd, CMFRI, Kochi
14. Dr. V. Kripa, Senior Scientist, MFD, CMFRI, Kochi.

**Agenda**

1. Statement of the issues/problems.
2. Identification of ongoing initiatives/programs.
3. Identification of stakeholders involved.
4. Identification of major gaps involved.
5. Delineation of actions needed to plug the gaps and strengthen the ongoing programmes.
6. Measures and strategies needed to implement these actions.
7. Prioritization of the strategies.

Specific proposal/suggestions that contribute towards conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

**Other topics discussed**

- Code of conduct for responsible fisheries?
- Priority for Kerala State in particular & West coast in general.
- How Kerala State coastal diversity differs from the rest?
- Can we think of any intervention/alteration in the existing practice of coastal use?
- How best we can take to confidence the stakeholders?
- CRZ & Aquaculture – with reference to Kerala.

- Fishermen's strike & demand – Any hint for NBSAP?
- Wetland ecosystem
- Mangrove ecosystem
- Wedge Bank ecosystem
- Mudbank ecosystem
- Secondary influence on bioresources
- Pokali field ecosystem
- Coastal erosion – sea wall – impact on coastal biodiversity.

Prof. Mohan Joseph welcomed the participants. Prof. Madhyastha introduced the subject and Dr. Damodaran who is a member of ecoregional group explained about the earlier discussions we had regarding the subject. Prof. D.M. Thampy, Dean, Kerala Fisheries College, KAU emphasized the importance of coastal wetland ecosystem especially along Kerala State. Areas of Trichur, Alleppy and Cochin region have plenty of these ecosystems harbouring extensive biodiversity. He also emphasised the mangrove ecosystems of Kerala.

An important event to note is the restoration of Mangrove ecosystem by Kerala Panchayth Raj Institutions. People actively involve in restoration of mangroves (This may be extended to other coastal states as well) by persuasion and awareness. An important problem along Kerala Coast is Ranching program of Carp's, which is detrimental to the biodiversity. Indigenous fishes are at threat due to introduced species like *Clarias garipenes* which is a voracious carnivore. Even though this carnivore is barred, plenty of this species is being cultivated.

Another aspect came to light during discussion is aquaculture practice though may call it as traditional aquaculture actually proceed is intensive fish culture. The impact of this aquaculture on the down stream coastal area is evident. Along Quilon district Panchayath level Committee meeting attempt is going on conservation of mangrove biodiversity. But gravid *Macrobrachium*. Shrimps are caught claiming for hatchery, but they are exported without collecting the blood. People need to be educated about the damage they are causing. In the biodiversity conservation action plan, attentions need to be paid towards this.

Dr. P.S. Easa, Scientist, Kerala Forest Research Institution, Peechi suggested for documentation of the coastal knowledge base. KFRI, Director being the State level coordinator, we decided to interact during the meeting they are planning. He also inferred that Kannur district Panchayath is taking interest in protecting and restoration of mangroves about that area.

Demersal Zone Protection was discussed at length. Trawling practiced in demersal area is wiping out the natural habitats of corals, Holothurians, sponges and Gorgonian. Many species are vanishing due to habitat destruction. In the wedge bank area which very sensitive suitable fishing methods need to be encouraged (barring the bottom trawlers) like Line fishing etc.

Dr. K.K.C. Nair, N.I.O., Regional Centre pointed out the information available an ocean resources zone which gives the details of resources in some of the coastal area along Thiruvanthapuram, Kochi and Calicut. This document will be looked into. Also there is another document – Marine Biodiversity prepared by Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai which has been already requested will be taken note off.

The problem of fish catch was discussed. Many trawlers are getting the catch and sometimes 90% are discarded (The range being 20 to 90%). This results in large-scale destruction of benthic area & biota. There is an indication that non-edible part of the biota is increased in the catch. Is it due

to mesh size? Or fishing method? or Increased fishing boat/effort area. Needs attention and intervention at various stages. Dr. K.V. Lalitha, Scientist, CIFIT, Kochi spoke about the pathogenic microbes along the coast. The aquaculture practice and the associated pathogens, which may affect the biodiversity of the coast.

Mr. K.P. Pillai, Jt. Director, Coastal Fisheries, Kerala State discussed about the socio-economic aspects of fishermen and fishermen are always concerned about the fish catch. A lot of juveniles of sardine are caught and suitable interventions are needed.

The report of MS Foundation, Chennai coastal biodiversity will be looked into. DBT has launched a programme on Bioresources of the coastal area, which N.I.O. is currently undertaking? We need to examine – methods of eradication of the unwanted species during aquaculture practice. Which many times affect other biota nearby? Commercial utilization of waste catch which sometimes goes to 90% (20 to 90%), is it a loss of biodiversity? Can we use better methods or use this catch for better use?

Another unique ecosystem in the coastal area is Pokkali – Rice cum Prawn /fish culture. Ernakulam, Kottayam & Trichur districts have this unique practice of growing rice and fish together, which is fast disappearing and replaced by intensive aquaculture. Attention need to be given to conserve this practice and preserve germplasm of the special rice variety and the fish species used. A lot of initiatives have been advocated. Pokkali Development Agency under the Chairmanship of collector of Ernakulam with suitable measures like – organic farming in these Pokkali fields acclaiming as organically grown rice, prawn, subsidies for seeds and such other promotional ideas needed and encouraged. Another important areas to be discussed is River delta and its biodiversity need to be given some thought.

**Mud bank** - Mud bank phenomenon is unique along Kerala coast during monsoon. The biodiversity of this mud bank is such that there is congregation of communities in this calm area. Unfortunately fishing activities are encountered in this area during monsoon. This may affect the biodiversity.

Tourism department and other developmental programmes, aqua cultural authority agricultural departments and such others - lack of co-ordination in policy framing and implanting various programmes. Further central & state government's programme to be implemented with much more co-ordination towards various policies.

Coastal erosion and mitigation along Kerala was discussed. The sea wall erected along the coastal disturbed the sea turtle and also coastal biodiversity is affected. E.g.: Earlier brown mussel was not found near Kochi. But after the erection of sea wall, a lot of them have appeared. Another interesting aspect discussed is about the construction of many bunds and reclaimed. Land on seaward side. There is no record of this. GIS – for information of coastal expansion along west coast can be collected. The meeting concluded with extending work of thanks for the participants.

As the elections are fast approaching the NGO representation was not there. Dr. Thomas Kochery expressed his inability to attend, as he will be at Mumbai. A separate meeting with NGO's may be planned.

At 2.00 pm a **field visit** was arranged to interact with local fishermen communities of Elamkunnappuzha, Vypin. There is a co-operative society where in each member has to buy share of the society. Interactive discussion was held on 28.04.2001 at the SC/ST Co-operative Society,

Elamkunnappuzha, Vypin. The list of farmers who had addressed interactive discussion held on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2001 at the SC/ST co-operative Society, Elamkunnappuzha, Vypin.

- E.K. Raghavan, Ettummel, Prabham, Nikathuthara, Kesavan, Kalathara, P.C. Krishnan, Padathara, Prabhakaran, Kalarikkal, Dinesha, Komoth, Tatabalu, Thaimodothil,
- Thankaraj, Kalathara Narayanan, Pulikkathara Puthuvyppu (P.O.), Vypin, Ernakulam
- Chathan, Karipurathu M.I. Narayanan Ayyappan, Mannuchirayil.

Fish Drying Unit

- Sathi Radhakrishnan, Aghikkal, Belbow Jn.
- Mani Chandrababu, Munayathu, Vypin
- Gracy Sebastin, Kunizhunkal, Vypin
- Saradha, Puthenneetil, Vypin
- Radhagopalakrishnan, Puthenveetil, Vypin

Staff from CMFRI

- Sheela Imanual, Scientist, SEETTD
- K.P. Shalini, (FII-3), SEETTD
- K.N. Pashkaran (TI-3), SEETTD
- N.K. Harshan (T-2), SEETTD

Dr. Jayachandran Nair, Asst. Professor, Panangadu assisted in translating English information to Malayalam language and also interacted with the group.

After briefing them about the bio-diversity we learnt that these communities are well aware of the food and feeding habits, food chain and food web relations and how it can affect the fishes which they want to catch. The water quality and its relation were also known to them. They have alternate profession apart from the fish culture practice, which they are doing in a conventional and traditional way. The problem of some of the developmental activities and silting of the waterways, which bring in natural fish and prawn seeds into their culture fields were narrated by them. This result in poor seed density (accumulation) stocking in their ponds.

During other seasons they grow vegetables along the bank of culture ponds (additional source of income). Women folks collect certain quality of fish. After salting and sundry them which will fetch them comfortable income. There is good market for such type of fish. A video recording of the visit is available.

## **8. DISCUSSION ON THE STATUS OF AVIAN BIODIVERSITY ALONG MAHARASTRA COAST** On 8<sup>th</sup> September 2001 at BNHS, Mumbai.

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### **Members present**

1. Prof. M N Madhyastha, coordinator
2. Prof. Karande A.A. (Rtd Scientist Naval Laboratory, Mumbai)
3. Dr. Chhapgar, BNHS Mumbai
4. Ms. Supriya Junjunwala, BNHS Mumbai
5. Ms. Rekha P.D. Researcher, Mangalore University.

The one day meeting at BNHS was focused mainly on the Coastal birds. Initial discussions were on the necessity of the details as well as about the NBSAP themes. After the initial discussions Dr. Chhapgar directed Ms. Supriya Junjunwala, working for the IBA project for India, to provide the details on the available works on the Coastal birds, both sea birds and water birds. The coastal birds associated with mangroves were to be listed from the available literature.

IBA, is interested in the NBSAP process and is involved itself with the project at different levels, extended the details. The Final write up will be provided soon and Dr. Chhapgar being the member of the working group was very informative regarding the other aspects of the coastal biodiversity.

A part of the discussions were also focused on the ballistic species in the West coast. Dr. Karande the retired scientist from the Naval research laboratory Bombay gave details about the possibility of Polish water species *Limnoria platycauda* from Karvar waters must have invaded by the ballistic waters, as they cannot survive temperatures more than 15°C which is further said to be a worst kind of wood borer, might have come from Australian region. But related species have been reported from Andaman Island.

## 8. PARTICIPATED IN WORKSHOP ON ENVIRONMENTAL LAW FOR ACADEMICIANS AT SDM LAW COLLEGE MANGALORE

On 8 & 9<sup>th</sup> September 2001

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### **The workshop highlights.**

The objective was to generate awareness about the existing the laws and policies on the environment for the academicians. This gave an overview on CRZ regulation act. There was a brainstorming discussion on the agitation regarding the developmental activities (Thannirbavi Barge mounted power plant) along the Thannirbavi area (M'lore) of the west coast.

The project has been started since two years and the project is completed now. The problem for the Local include that the small hamlet of fishermen community is very dependent on this area. The Fishermen have the problem of rehabilitation as their livelihood dependence on their traditional profession. This project has imposed problems on the local area – Tourism at Thannirbavi is hindered (since the project authority have made it private area). The project is directed to use the water from the sea and to release the thermal effluent into the sea. But public complain about the misuse of the adjoining Gurpur river for the above said purposes.

The public have the doubt still how it is not included under Coastal Regulation zone act and on the violation of pollution control board norms for the discharge of the waste. The concerned Government bodies should interfere to clear the doubts of the local as they are very much linked sentimentally to the natural resources and the preserving the pristine environments.

The other topics of concern were on the awareness on CRZ rules and costal ecosystem management.

An interesting case study on the environmental impact analysis of Honnavar coast (River Aghanashini river estuary) for the Proposed Tadadi port was discussed. The impact analysis shows that he richest biodiversity of this area on the west coast will be at danger. The coastal inhabitants are much worried on their direct livelihood dependency.

### **Suggestion emerged were,**

Karvar is very nearby and having the large Sea bird project and a port too. As an alternate to the Tadadi port, the expansion of the Karvar port can be suggested as for the local biodiversity is concerned. The economic and the ecosystem values should be evaluated for the benefit of the biodiversity

### **10. PUBLIC HEARING WITH THE FISHER WOMEN AND FISHING COMMUNITY OF MALPE on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2001**

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A public hearing at Malpe Fisher women's Co-operative Society Ltd. was organised to explore the professional diversity and the resource utilisation pattern among the fisher women and their role in conservation of the natural coastal resources. The society consists of nearly 1000 members, with the objectives being self-help and learning about the modernization of fishing techniques. The members are being benefited by the government loans, through the society.

The women's role in fishery is a secondary one and they are involved in the passive fishing activities (as they deal with the fish after the landing to the shore).

The meeting was followed by a survey of the fisher women's livelihood status was undertaken by interviewing 80 families at Malpe and Mattu. It was revealed that the women are aware of the different professions within the fishing industry, but the majority are engaged in fish drying and selling. A few of the women are also engaged in other aspects of fish trade like auctioning, whilst, others involved with the labour works of the fishery industry. Most of the women interviewed had a single job without an alternative job for off-season. Some of the women have the responsibility of the family's income and are involved in the decision-making. The fisher women have their own culture and beliefs. They believe in the natural fish resources, which is their sole livelihood and they are not willing to take an alternative job. The youth of the Mattu village opined that although they are educated, wanted to continue the fish trade.

The women have strong institution of nature conservation and for some extent believe with the nature's self-purification capacity. Industrialization along the coast makes them feel nostalgic about it. They have traditional knowledge of fishing, like predicting the catch and keeping away from fishing during the breeding season. The commercialization of the industry and the sophisticated trawlers though help them in increasing their income, however they are still not satisfied with the current developments. One of their main concerns is the uncontrolled exploitation of the deep-sea fishes by foreign trawlers, which occurs during the off-season as well as other seasons and threatens their income.

### **9. NATIONAL SEMINAR ON COASTAL EROSION on 7 & 8<sup>th</sup> September 2001**

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Participated in the two-day National seminar on Coastal erosion was held in KREC (present NITK) Surathkal on 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> September 2001, which aimed at discussions to evolve a strategy for preventing the sea erosion along the Indian coast, mainly on the Karnataka and Kerala Coast of India. It is evident that maximum sea erosion was found along these stretches of the Indian coast during the Monsoon. The participants representing different levels - Academicians, Engineers, Civil contractors, NGOs, Local inhabitants (Public) as well as Government bodies.

### **The causes of erosion identified are -**

- a. Early onset of monsoon in west coast
- b. Steep foreshore
- c. Geological factors
- d. Raising sea level
- e. Low backshore level
- f. Mud banks
- g. Lack of littoral supply
- h. Uncontrolled river outlets
- i. Construction of breakwaters
- j. Sediment carried down by the rivers
- k. Laterite cliff erosion
- l. Reaction of beaches to protection works.

### **Identifying the prioritised eroded area for construction of sea walls based on**

- a. Human habitation
- b. Agricultural land
- c. Constructions (Roads and Buildings)
- d. Magnitude of Coastal erosion

#### **Role of rivers and estuaries on coastal erosion problems**

It was discussed that the construction breakwaters for the easy movements of fishing boats into the sea causes the severe erosion in the adjoining coast. Failures of seawall, due to seepage, quick sand movement and poor construction and maintenance/monitoring was highlighted. Strict invigilation of implementation of CRZ rules in the vulnerable regions along the coast. EIA studies were recommended prior to the construction of sea wall.

Noval methods proposed were:

Need for the alternative natural methods were proposed.

The adaptability of successful method implemented in the other countries were discussed in view with Indian coast.

The discussion on engineers' problems posed during the construction of he sea wall.

Insisting the case studies on socio-economic status of the coastal inhabitants due to coastal erosion and seawall construction

The recommendations elucidated from the meeting for the immediate implementation include

- ✓ Creation of R&D infrastructure for studying causes and prevention of coastal erosion.
- ✓ Prioritised area should be pointed to be set up the immediate actions.
- ✓ Suitable design & standardisation of sea wall to fulfill the requirements of the severity of erosion at that location.
- ✓ Incorporation of filters to control sand movement.
- ✓ Field studies need to be undertaken so as to check the performance of the wall.
- ✓ Sea wall monitoring/ supervision by independent authority.
- ✓ Regular trainings on the construction guidelines to the constructors and labours
- ✓ Public awareness for the coastal zone acts and violations.
- ✓ Setting of the information centre for the public.
- ✓ EIA studies were recommended prior to the construction of sea wall
- ✓ Incorporating the vegetation covers, wherever possible.
- ✓ Set up of a work group for emergency. (Sand bags)
- ✓ Allocation of funds for maintenance and reconstruction.
- ✓ Preparation of coastal land use maps
- ✓ Beach nourishment (dumping the right type of dredged sediment from mining industry, with prior EIA studies.
- ✓ Formulation of coast conservation committee - coordination with academic and business commodities and public participation.

## 12. PUBLIC HEARING AT MALPE WOMEN'S CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY

On 18.08.2001 at Malpe Fisher women's Co-operative Society Ltd. Malpe, Udupi

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Meeting was started with the introduction of the members. The women community were enthusiastic and sharing their opinion in a positive attitude. More than 100 members of the society were present.

The formal introduction of the society and the objectives were explained by the president of the Society. The opinion of the members were asked regarding the functioning of the society. Many women opined that the society initiated for them involve independently, in fishing activities, problems and even to their economic status. Interesting discussions on how the basic livelihood dependence on the fishery resources has changed into the profit based interests. A few of the women were having traditional knowledge on the coastal activities.

A few members explained about the use of different types of traditional fishing nets (*Pattebale, Ramponi, Matebale etc.*). They opined that earlier they had a good fish catch even with traditional fishing. But nowadays good catch of mackerel and sardines were more only during September-October and November. The decline in the fish catch is due to many problems like over fishing by the mechanised trawlers, industrial activities along the coast etc., These women stressed their way of fishing is very sustainable one as they are oriented only on the livelihood. The near shore fishery resources are dwindling as because of the modern day trawlers and foreign boats and unlimited numbers of these boats. The women suggested not to give fishing visa for foreign trawlers to fish in the Indian waters. Because of the exploitation of the commercially important fishes by the foreign trawlers (efficient units) their fishermen should return with only the oil sardines and mackerels (the small scale fishermen).

One of the members explained about the professional diversity, the women folk who are involved in including auctioning, sun drying, salt drying, head loading, fish trading, transport from boat to storage house, head loaders, door to door selling (exchange for paddy grains in some remote villages).

The women and men have demarked their working/profession in fishing industry. Men never interfere with the women's works (after fish landing works). The value of fish (depending on kind) has changed mainly due to foreign and the wide market. According to one, prawns were the most expensive variety and the exploitation of the prawns is being carried out extensively at present. Regarding the offshore fishing one said, it sometimes ends up in unwanted/ not economically rich varieties. But the modern nets can be advantageous in selecting specific kinds of fishes.

It was suggested by the coordinator that the unwanted fishes might also be sorted, dried and made compost with the chick or pig waste or any other value added product. Regarding the medicinal values from sea products, many of the women are quite aware of the uses of different resources for the different benefits (nutritional/medicinal). The fisher men and women do perform different types of prayers (once in a year with all community of fisher folk, without any caste limits) for more productivity, wealth and to safe guard them (their ancestors considered sea as the celestial vessel).

The fisher folk community irrespective of the gender strongly believes in hard work. They had no time limits for working for years and since a year the members of the society have resolved the problem of over working by self imposing the work timing from 6 am to 6 pm for women. When asked about the management plans for the coastal resources, they were quite enthusiastic about the idea and wanted to green the shoreline and keeping the coastal area and water clean. This

discussion with the women was quite useful for framing how one can involve these women in the management practices. A little training and awareness will give wonderful returns.

### **13. PUBLIC HEARING AT MATTU VILLAGE (AN ADJOINING VILLAGE OF MALPE) on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2001**

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A public hearing at Mattu village on traditional fishing was conducted on 28<sup>th</sup> July. The participants were the traditional fishermen. The interesting aspect was they were not fishing between June 22<sup>nd</sup> to August 15<sup>th</sup>, which they practiced traditionally since ages.

The fishermen of this area are generally going in small boats for fishing with the use nearly 25 people each forming a group. The head of the troop gives the idea about the identification of specific fishes for catching especially those of prawns and mackerels. The different types of nets they were using includes the *pattebale*, *disco* etc., and they used to go to a depth of maximum 75 ft and collect a varied number of fishes (10,000- 50,000/day). Their livelihood is purely depends upon the fish catch. Their fish catch depends on season and they do get prawns generally in the month of August (for only 15 days). During rainy season they do fish in river for their consumption. Sometimes the fish catch can even very high but were not interested in the large catches beyond their needs.

They strongly objecting the use of large mechanised boats which reduces their fish catch and thereby their economy too.

### **14. PUBLIC HEARING AT SNEHA KUNJA, KUMTA On 19<sup>th</sup> August 2001**

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A meeting at Kumta (Uttar Kannada) was held on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2001 at Sneha Kunja. The meeting was attended by nearly 50 members (representing the government (Director, CMFRS) NGOs, local fishermen (of mechanized and traditional), fisher women and other local coastal inhabitants, members of NGO (Sneha Kunja). The discussions started with a formal introduction by Mr. M.R. Hegde, the local organizer of the meeting. He initiated the discussions giving a geographical account of the area and the importance of coastal zone and the biodiversity followed by a briefing by Mr. Subhash Chandra, Kumta. The surroundings of Kumta have a few small islands, which the residents use as religious centres. Some of the islands found in this area are Basavaraja Durga island (with thick forest), Nethrani island. According to them these islands are rich in fishery resources like ladyfishes (which is one of the important fishes of this area), ribbonfish, etc. The discussions were diverted to the local coastal biodiversity including river Aghanashini, CRZ act, fishermen problems with respect to traditional and intensive fishing (mechanised boats), Traditional knowledge. The fishermen members present explained the available fish catch, the vanishing varieties of fish. The ignorance about the CRZ rule among the fishermen was the main reason for unsatisfactory attitude Government polices. And they think the Govt. is more biased with the industrialists. According to an experienced fisherman, Mr. Subraya Naik, in the traditional fishing practice also they were following the fishing holidays during the breeding season for the better returns. The traditional fishermen are well aware of the limitations of fish catch and the importance of fishing resources. Though they expect to get a catch of Rs.15,000/- they never catch more than Rs.2,000/-. The fishermen explained the change in the composition change of the fish catch. Which according to them are mainly due to the invasion of fishing holidays the boats of neighbouring states, posing a problem for the local fishermen. The coast guard should regulate the

inter-territorial activities and strict enforcement of illegal fishing activities across the borders by concerned authority was suggested by the group. Further the members explained that the geographical location or the geography of coastal Karwar is very good for fishing as it supports a few islands. When asked about the fishing holidays, they explained that 65 days of fishing holidays are practiced by these fishermen.

Near Goa in the Ratnagiri region in a remote island where there is a good fishery resource and the Karnataka fishermen go illegally to catch fish. Similarly the Nethrani Island also show higher fish resources. Which further emphasizes that the island areas support rich biotic resources, including fish. The fishermen relate this to the sheltering of fish in these areas for breeding.

**Mangroves:** Kali, Sharavathi, Aghanashini Rivers supports a good mangrove vegetation. Afforestation works are going in North Canara. The fishermen opine that the mangroves are more beneficial to the fishes of river mouth rather than the offshore fishes.

Kali, Sharavathi and Aghanashini rich fish diversity due to rich mangroves, which, are partially destroyed presently. In this Total area 5,000-10,000 families are solely dependent on shell- fish removal from the Aghanashini estuary. Due to the extensive shell- fish removal, the mangroves are destroyed. (The Government gives license for 20 yrs. In spite of the protest the license has been further 20 years). The proposed Tadri project – International port will include 1,800 acres of area is too vast; according to the fishermen, it will affect the rich biodiversity of this coast. The fishermen caste diversity: Those are different communities involved in fishing along this area.

- Naik, Harijan
- Kharvi, Mogera
- Noikuda, Gabitha, Ambiga, Bovi

Shellfish mining: Mainly by Mogera, Bovi, Naik, Halakki, Bhandary, Harijan, Girijan etc. (Shell fishing has been carried out by almost all coastal communities).

Marginal farmers: 80% non-fishermen are marginal farmers. They do not depend on the sea. They utilize only the coastal areas and are practicing `Gazani` (paddy farm). Now these *Gajanis* have given on lease for aquaculture practices. Both traditional and intensive aquaculture is being practiced. Since 20 years they are practicing aquaculture. *Gazani* forming is being practiced. The landowners have given their fields in lease. In Kumta Tq. 7000-8000 acre land was under farming is under aquaculture. The fishermen are aware of the impact of aquaculture practices on the coastal diversity.

## 15. REGIONAL MEETING AT GOA ON 15TH OCTOBER 2001

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### Members Present

Dr. Mohan R. Girap. SSCST, Saligar, Goa  
Mrs. Brenda Fernanders. Goa State Council for Science and Technology  
Dr. Z. A. Ausari. NIO  
Dr. Y. Modassir. Dhepe College of Arts and Science, Panjim  
Dr. C. T. Achunthanikutty. NIO  
N. V. Verrlekar. Department of Fisheries, Panjim  
Snt. Shamila Monteiro. Supdt of Fisheries (H.Q). Department of Fisheries, Panjim  
Dr. Baban Ingole. NIO

Dr. S. Nazareth. Goa University.  
 Dr. S. Bhole. Goa University  
 Dr. R. Jeyabhaskaram. NIO  
 Nirmal U. Kulkarni. The Green Cross, H.W.W, Bardez  
 Rajendra P. Kerkar. Vivekanand Environment Awareness Brigade, Keri  
 Dr. V. S. Kakati. Principal Scientist, CMFRI, Karwar  
 Dr. A. B. Shanbhag. Department of Zoology, Goa University  
 Ashish Kothari. Kalpavriksh. Technical and Policy Core Group, NBSAP, Pune  
 Dr. Kasturi N. Desai. P.E.S College of Art and Science  
 Dr. Manoj R. Borkar. Biodiversity Research Cell, Carmel College  
 Shri Ramakant Borkar. Dipali 303 H, Chicalim  
 Shri Raju Pachangrai and Smt Manju Pachangrai. Nomadic Fishing Tribals of Mysore  
 Manju S. Raju. TWGC. Livelihoods, Life-styles and Biodiversity. Bangalore  
 Commandant V.S.R Murthy. Coast Guard, Goa  
 M. V. M Wafar. Senior scientist, NIO, Goa.

## Harvey D'Sowra. Southern Birdwing, Goa

Vidyadhar Gadgil. Goa Foundations  
 Claude Alvares. Goa Foundations  
 Suvarna Fonseca-Antao. Kalpavriksh, Carmel H.S.S, Goa  
 Dr. Shyam. Department of Zoology, Goa University.  
 Ms. Rekha P. D. Mangalore University  
 Ms. Laura Morley, Mangalore University

Topics discussed include

- ♦ How Goa state Coastal diversity differs from the rest?
- ♦ Priority for Goa state in particular and West coast in general
- ♦ How best we can take to confidence the stakeholders?
- ♦ CRZ & Beach tourism with reference to Goa
- ♦ Tourism and Biodiversity - The economy vs. Biodiversity conservation.
- ♦ Code of conduct for responsible fisheries?
- ♦ By-catch change in qualitative composition, loss of biodiversity and economic value.
- ♦ Destructive and over fishing gears
- ♦ Coastal erosion - seawall construction and inter tidal biodiversity?
- ♦ Uniform monsoon trawl ban -(interstate fishing boundaries?)
- ♦ Implementation of the improved traditional fish farming
- ♦ Conflicts in ongoing programs.
- ♦ Assessment of impact of trawling on biodiversity
- ♦ Breeding grounds of certain species? (Stock preservation)
- ♦ Endemic species?
- ♦ Estuaries and mangroves?
- ♦ Secondary influences on bioresources?
- ♦ Need for prioritising the areas to declare as Marine/coastal protected areas (sanctuaries) for the conservation
- ♦ Records of alien species from Ballistic water
- ♦ Commercial aquaculture in Goa - issues of biodiversity
- ♦ Sustainability of fishery industry.
- ♦ Issues of Gender/equity.

## General aspects

The EEZ constitutes of 60% of India's land areas. Conservation of the Biodiversity and setting the action plan for the EEZ Continental shelf will be taken care of by the National level thematic groups. Continental shelf act/ rules include protection of Marine resources. The national level thematic group Local level organisations should work for the conserved. Common stand is that Biodiversity should not be purely scientific and ecological issue but should include the interests of the common. Anything that has impact on Biodiversity should be given importance for conservation. Globalisation of the economy has a bad effect on natural resources. What are the implications for Goa? Issues get marginalized. Cannot have an action plan. Law of sea etc/. should be taken into seen strictly.

### Fisheries Resource management

Can we work out system of licensing for controlling the resources? Coastal fishermen should form a union along the west coast, for fighting the common problems. (Entire coastal *okkutas* etc should be formed by the fishermen itself for the sustainable fishery to avoid conflicts).

One should have a management plan, i.e.- Sustainable Fishery management Plan. One should not separate management plan for different States but common issues can be settled with one body.

Common questions for fishing, with conservation and resource management are the following:  
What should be the sustainable Yield? Which can be a sustainable catch? What could be caught?  
Can one predict the resources? Which are the eco friendly methods of catch?  
How can one have a catch limit? What will be the sustainable fisheries?

**Suggestion:** Functioning of the marine food chain should be considered while fishing.

Converting into value added product could solve wasteful by-catch problem of the small fishermen. What should be the policy for the scattered islands of the west coast?

Many Virgin Islands of the west coast have rich Biodiversity and are pristine areas. It is needed to preserve from the impacts of tourism. Biodiversity rich and pristine areas are the heritages, the islands like Malpe, Pigeon Islands and many more of the West coast. What should be the policies for Coral reefs?

Protecting the three islands off Goa was proposed. The recommendations may not be fit, but the recommendations include the SUSTAINABILITY of the developmental projects.

The discussions were followed interestingly with the involvement of all the members.

The beaches of Goa are exploited for the tourist activities. The monetary interest of entrepreneurs cannot be balanced with the resource conservation interest groups. The CRZ rules are being violated for every inch of the shoreline of Goa is the remark of one of the member present

### Sand Dune ecosystem

One of the components of the **Inter tidal belt** is the Sand Dune ecosystem\_(vegetation). The Goa coast has rich Sand dune vegetation, but has been destroyed because of the tourism development. The natural dunes have been disturbed and are not given any importance. The chartered tourism has not taken enough care of the natural habitats of the beaches. The artificial landscaping gives false satellite images and taken wrongly for the coastal vegetation. Virgin vegetation belt is found from the North and South Goa. As high as 56 species of Sand dune

vegetation is represented in some of the beaches of Goa while others have mostly one or two species.

One of the *recommendations* given for the conservation is the setting up of **Nurseries** for the sand dune vegetations by the forest department.

#### Natural cliffs with ancient flora:

Vagha cliff, Miding cliff etc., where wind blown vegetations are present, and caves, which are geologically important. Substantial regulation basis on the beaches is recommended for preserving these interesting areas. Archaeological conservation of the species is recommended. The Radiation levels in the Goa waters should be monitored and check the health of these ecosystems. (can seek help from the BARC ). Biological stabilisation of the beaches is recommended.

#### Notified FISHING villages:

There are 67 notified fishing villages, with 27,000 traditional fishermen and what kind of policies should be extended for the conservation? Does other states of the west coast have similar policies?

Villages of Canakona, Salcet etc, are prioritised based on the Anthropological characteristics.

And they have their own eco-theology, the type of fishing gears etc.,

Their cultural knowledge should be conserve, through proper interventions.

Red marking the coastal constituencies should be done, so that coastal community become interests of minority and the more political support will be gained.

Community property rights, which will have scope for the individual interests.

Privatisation of beaches: The coast land of West Coast should be declared as the commons property but not for the private the people have the traditional approach towards the shoreline, and will face the problem, if they are denied from access. The pressure for the privatisation should not be encouraged along any of the coastal area of India. (for heritage conservation). Sindhurg will be having the immediate problem of privatisation.

The property right issues of the beaches should impose the private hotel industries to extend an area for the public interest. No fencing till 200 m. and at least 3 m of the hotel in the beach has to be kept open to the public. Public access to beach though is a resolved part of Law, there are some violations.

Turtle breeding centres Two stations, Mulchi and Algibad are marked for protection. Policy for the Marine Mammals and amphibians should be set up. Their habitat types should be identified, and then the protection can be suggested to that, areas with priority.

Estuarine mud banks 5-6 lakh metric tones of sediment will be deposited in Mandovi-Zuari estuary. Oil & Grease and petroleum products are the main contaminants.

Untreated sewage disposal has threatened the Impact assessments should be till 300 km upstream should be incorporated. Inland activities should be taken care of. Integrated land use management along with the coastal.

Major concern is solid waste generated by the tourist industry, industries: -DEPA (District Environmental Protection Agency) in Mangalore takes actions for all kinds of waste management. Similar kind organisations are suggested to Goa and other states.

**The global warming will lead to the sea level increase, because of the impact on the land use pattern. Before it becomes catastrophic actions should be taken. Disaster**

management plan for the worst -case scenario is suggested. Increasing the height of the outer bund to higher level and which will take care of the sea level increase. Encroachment of rivers and estuaries - leads to the manmade flood. Estuarine flood plains merge into the coastal belts. Rivers and the estuaries, should be conserved against encroachments, hence manmade floods can be managed. Supreme Court decision, for the wetland conservation, for the economic conservation can be extended.

#### Traditional salt- pan industries

Out of 37 villages of traditional saltpan industry only 6-8 villages, which are close to sea have these practices. These are in the prime lands and reclamations for various activities are going on.

### 16. MEETING AT CENTRAL MARINE SALT INSTITUTE BHAVNAGAR

ON 6<sup>th</sup> November 2001

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#### Members Present

Scientists from the Central Salt Marine Research Institute, Bhavnagar, Gujarat

Dr. P. K. Grosh

Shri. A. Tewari

Dr. H. V. Joshi

Dr. K. H. Mody

Dr. C. R. K. Reddy

Dr. S. H. Zaidi

Dr. Sandhya Mishra

Mr. Vaibhav Mantri

Dr. O. S. Kotiwar

Dr. C. Raghunathan

Dr. M. Palanisamy

Mr. S. K. Mandal

Mr. J. B. Pandya

Mr. J. S. Patolia

Dr. M. P. Reddy

Dr. Aruna Prakash

Mr. Ravi Prakash

Dr. A. K. Siddharta.

V. G. Sravan Kumar.

R. B. Thorat.

M. T. Sheh.

M. R. Rajhaguru

Ravi Prakesh.

Arune R. Prakesh.

Mrs. Roopa Abedi

Dr. V. D. Chauhan. Former CSMCRI scientist

Dr. R. M. Oza. Former CSMCRI scientist

Dr. Jayalalram M. Jaiswar. NIO, Mumbai

Mr. A. V. Mandalia. R.C. NIO, Mumbai

Dr. S. K. Patel. Professor of Zoology. Dept. of Life sciences, Bhavnagar Univ.

Dr. D. C. Bhatt, Marine Sciences. Dept. of Marine Sciences, Bhavnagar University

Rupa Desai ABD. Bhavnagar Univ.

Prof. B. R. Pandrit. Prof. Dept of Life Sciences. Bhavnagar Univ.

Mr. Riten V. Baichayar. Fisheries Officer, BHN

#### *Agenda*

- ☞ How Gujarat's Coastal diversity differs from the rest?
- ☞ Priority problems of biodiversity of the state in particular and West coast in general
- ☞ Different Types of stakeholders along the Gujarat coast?
- ☞ Natural wealth of the Coast.
- ☞ Status of CORALS and coral Islands.
- ☞ Oil rig operations- spills and leakages –effects on ecosystem
- ☞ Marine mammals and birds
- ☞ Coastal erosion and inter tidal biodiversity
- ☞ Marine salt works.
- ☞ Status of Sea weeds

- ☞ Disposal of wastes (toxic, radioactive etc.)
- ☞ Fishery Industry and mode of operations? Problems and Sustainability of the activities?
- ☞ Destructive and over fishing gears
- ☞ By-catch change in qualitative composition, loss of biodiversity and economic value.
- ☞ Uniform monsoon trawl ban
- ☞ Aquaculture and coastal Biodiversity
- ☞ Implementation of the improved traditional fish farming
- ☞ Assessment of impact of trawling on biodiversity
- ☞ Breeding grounds of certain species? (Stock preservation)
- ☞ Endemic species?
- ☞ Estuaries, salt marshes and mangroves?
- ☞ Need for prioritising the areas to declare as Marine/coastal protected areas (sanctuaries) for the conservation
- ☞ Records of alien species from Ballistic water
- ☞ Issues of Gender/equity.
- ☞ The threats of economy on Biodiversity conservation.

**The Director CSMCRI** initiated the discussions on the agenda and he opined that the Lack of Background material, Primary Data etc., would be the constraint for the discussions. He remarked on the following issues for further discussions: -

1. Salt production – and biodiversity erosion
2. Depletion of Mangrove areas, byproduct discharge can be controlled by production of alternatives like manures
3. Seaweeds – large scale cultivation of seaweed can be taken up as to provide employment for the coastal p[population].
4. Issues of Biotechnology and biodiversity. Tools of biodiversity can be made use of for the economic proposition
5. Medicinal values of aquatic plants for the treatment for Filarial and Tuberculosis where the CMSRI is involved.

Dr. Tiwari gave details about the seaweed species richness of the Gujarat coast, which he observed to be increase by 3-4 species. The effect of pollution is expressed on species diversity in a small area (maximum of 1-2 km). Species diversity of benthos from coastal and intertidal belt has been decreased over the years. Dr. Rohit Oja provided information on the available documents on taxonomy of seaweeds.

Over a course of time it was observed that the flora is changing. 1974 the flora was very rich in density and diversity. Okha near Dwarka was the best region in the world for the rich biodiversity but now the number is dwindling. E.g. 1962-1965, brown algae, Tubularia was rare, but which is frequently found now. Certain species due to the release of chemical wastes is eroded.

**Suggestion:** *Taxonomy of the seaweeds should be encouraged.*

Dr. Rupa Desai ABDI, NGO proposed the following suggestions

1. Establishment of *Databank* for indigenous salt tolerant crop and fodder species of the coast and on the coastal practices (traditional and indigenous), information on communities and indigenous low cost methods for preventing salinity ingress.
2. For the Industrial exploitation of the coast, whether the Government policies are adequate in controlling?

Dr. Tiwari remarked that the institutes like NIO and CMSRI have industry-sponsored projects, and the reports are many times biased.

**Suggestion:** - the report should be made through Ministry of Environment and Forests.

Dr. J.B. Pandya opined that the biodiversity that exists is due to the dynamic things along the coast. The rich halophytic species diversity needs a wide attention throughout the coast.

Regarding the diversity of Phytoplankton with the insufficient data it is always doubted that how much / which species? From 1992 onwards, it was observed that Gujarat's phytoplankton levels have increased. These should be documented in the suitable form, which can be made from phytoplankton and write code numbers and any can refer to them.

**Suggestion:** *Systematic for the biota is one of the major suggestions in this regard. And which can be attained by capacity building in this aspect.*

(Ministry of Fisheries has shown an interest into capacity building)

The Kachchh area is packed with industries and new additions will alter the ecosystem balance.

**Suggestion:** As the industries are the major stakeholders of the coast, sufficient amount of regulations should be imposed.

(The term carrying capacity should be made clear for the biodiversity studies. Many a times due to misuse of the term "carrying capacity" many of the discussions are misleading).

In Gujarat the fishing act is not followed strictly. Regulation of mesh size- is not followed. The monsoon-fishing ban cannot be implemented successfully because of local celebrations. Suggestion – Uniform monsoon ban is encouraged throughout the west coast for solving the inter boundary problems and issues. It is suggested to contact Dr. M. I Patel, Dep. Dir. of Fisheries, Gandhinagar for details on corals and coral islands

Historical data on the sediment and water quality should be considered for modeling works. The hot spots like Mahim, Versova, and Thane Creek etc that are highly polluted by toxicants should be identified.

Marine Salt works: Dr. Tiwari – irradiation of the salt beds that violates the CRZ act. The mangrove areas have been destroyed for salt works to some extent. Many times the mangroves of Gujarat area as considered as waste and sometimes as weed.

The mining of coral beds for cement production is observed in some regions, and sometimes pearl oysters and edible oysters are affected. In many areas the sand lifting is very common. The coast guard is inefficient in his duties, like the monitoring of illegal sand lifting, shell mining, coral bed destructions etc. The legal framework is so inefficient in managing the Marine National Park at Gujarat, which was affected by severe oil pollution.

Dr. A. M. Bhatt. Opined that the traditional saltpan works are taken up by a large number of families. 65% of salt produced in India is made in Gujarat, that's the equivalent of 50,000 tones of salt. This requires 250 laborers. There are 4 categories:

1. Below 10 acres - who are responsible for 25% of the salt production?
2. 10-100 acres
3. Above 100 acres
4. Mega salt producers

Effects of salt production on biodiversity are siltation. No biodiversity loss is manipulated from the saltpans, to some extent these saltpans may not allow plants to grow because of the penetration of salt water. A shift in flora and fauna is always observed. *Salvadora* species are growing in the vicinity of saltpans. The outer bund of saltpans should be treated with caution as it can reduce 90% encroachment of salt water.

Regarding aquaculture practices, it is suggested to contact Mr. K.K Joe, CMFRI, Veraval.

Oil pollution is mainly due to oilrig washing. Kandla, Veraval etc. have observed a higher concentration of oil. Marine protected areas and national parks – concerned authorities should vigil the national parks and MPA. No data is available on the status of MPA biodiversities. The microbial diversity also shows fragmented details. Not much details are available on halophilic bacteria, fungi etc.

Sub tidal biodiversity – it was suggested to document the germplasm, at the regional levels. Training the people at various levels for the conservation of germplasm is also recommended. Training on preparation of herbarium, soil analysis. It is suggested that the integrated approach to ecosystems should be taught in schools.

***Suggestions:*** Sand dune vegetation along the west coast should be introduced for shore stabilization. Identification of institutes for expertise works of biodiversity Target orientated training programmes for all the stakeholders. The institutes like CEE, Central Salt Institute, University of Gujarat, Agricultural Institute etc should take initiatives. There should be intra and inter institutional links for promoting conservational works. Remote sensing data should be used for assessing fisheries.

Tourism in Gujarat doesn't have implications on the coastal biodiversity.

## 17. DISCUSSION MEETING ON NBSAP- WEST COAST ECOREGION - FOR FINALISING THE ACTION PLAN On 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> February 2002 at CMFRI, Kochi

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### Members Present

Prof. M. N. Madhyastha,  
Prof. R. Damodaran, Dean, Faculty of Science, Cochin university, Kochi  
Prof. M. Mohan Joseph, Directo, CMFRI, Kochi  
Dr. Rekha P.D. Mangalore University

Main Agenda of the meeting was organized to discuss and finalise the Strategies and Action Plan for the west coast ecoregion. The draft document for west coast was considered for modifications and the suggestions from the working group members were also analysed.

The discussions on the coastal agriculture, mud banks, revealed that, the agricultural practices within the defined coastal area are limited. This extends in small patches in the form of coconut plantations along Kerala, Karnataka, Goa and the traditional Pokali fields along south of Kerala, and patches of the same are represented along North Karnataka coast, called as *Kbaxanas* and in Goa the *Ghaxani* lands. The extent of the rice cultivation utilizes mostly the salt tolerant indigenous varieties. Problems of low yield, low market prices are the major reasons for the dwindling of this practice.

The interesting phenomena of mud banks along the Kerala coast, especially along Quilon coast. They are temporary to semi-permanent formations resulting in the increased productivity of the coast. The major threats for the degradation of the coastal diversity identified to be due to the increased population, increased dependency on the coastal resources, commercialization of fisheries and amenities of the coast for being the suitable flat form for the industrial developments.

The meeting was closed for that day after analyzing the existing state of biodiversity. On 24<sup>th</sup> the discussions were focused on finalizing the actions. Initially the major areas of concern were identified and following to that the actions was developed. The prioritisation of these actions was made only after the opinions from the members.

18. DISCUSSION MEETING ON NBSAP- WEST COAST ECOREGION FOR FINALISING THE ACTION PLAN - On 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> April 2002 at NIO, Goa

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**Members Present**

Prof. M. N. Madhyastha, Co-ordinator, West Coast ecoregion, Mangalore University  
Dr. M. V. M. Wafar, Senior Scientist, NIO, Goa  
Dr. Rekha P.D. Mangalore University

Based on the opinions and suggestions from the concerned people, coastal stakeholders, experts, working group members the committee met at NIO, Goa to finalise the west coast action plan. And the strategies and actions were reviewed.

19. **GUJARAT COAST MEETING** on 9<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> August 2002

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Gujarat coast has its own unique biodiversity characteristics spread along three subdivisions namely,

- Gulf of Kachchh
- Gulf of Kambaat
- Sourashtra coast

And southern to Surat is the Konkan coast.

The coastal communities along Bet Dwarka Okha and Poshitra were met in public hearing organised by the co-ordinator separately along these three coastal villages. About 50-100 coastal inhabitants actively participated sharing their views on biodiversity conservation and problems related to fishery resources. And the information gathered during the meeting is briefly presented here.

- India's largest saltpans are located along the Gujarat coast.
- In addition to salt production the brine is transported to other industries for the selective extraction of Bromine etc. (e.g. Tata Salt, Mithapur)
- Due to the collective efforts, the mangrove cover along the coast has increased. Mostly the species from southern West coast were used for mangrove revegetation (afforestation)
- Each of the oil tanker ship is checked before entering the Reliance Mangrove Park at marine National Park area
- Precaution is taken to avoid ballast species invasion by de-ballasting the tank before entering the Indian territorial waters.
- The coral reefs are illegally extracted for construction materials and the habitat of corals are being destructed severely.

### Status of the Fishing industry along the coast

Since five years there is a drastic decline in the fish catch and many of the fisherfolk are looking towards alternate income. 90% of the boats are purchased through moneylenders. Because of the lack of funds in the existing co-operative societies, they cannot support the fisherfolk. Discussion with one of coastal resident, Shri Hembra Vagher, Ex Sarpanch revealed about the livelihood pattern of the traditional fishermen. According to him the small-scale fishermen are strict in obeying the fishery regulations such as fishing holidays etc., whereas the trawlers follow more destructive fishery. Hence the outlook of the livelihood dependents (small scale fishing) and the profit-oriented trawlers towards natural resources are entirely different. Along the coast earlier he used to observe a zonation in the fish distribution (Sharks, Seer fish) around bet Dwarka, whereas this pattern is disturbed presently.

Awareness camps for the enforcement of rules and regulations for the fishermen communities though organised with concern, the foreign trawlers (outside boats) do not follow these and continue destructive fishing. Among the fishermen only 10% own boats (100 boats - all mechanised) There are a few fisherfolk involved in pearl oyster harvesting. Crabs, conches etc., are professionally harvested for marketing. Fisher women are engaged in selling and house keeping and looking after the family. These women get subsidy during the non-fishing season by the cooperative fisher women society

#### **Following recommendations were suggested in the meeting**

- Awareness program for fishing period
- Mesh size regulation
- Enforcement of fishing holidays
- Intervention of coast guard with traditional fishermen
- Problem solving for use of chemicals
- Constant income of 100-500/day
- Checking the industrial effluent discharges into coast.
- Mangrove afforestation to protect the shoreline.

#### **20. LAKSHADWEEP VISIT on 20<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> October 2002**

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Lakshadweep is a unique group of islands with magnificent coral reefs and ornamental coral fishes. Though information on the status of Lakshadweep islands had been collected from various sources, the co-ordinator arranged a field visit to islands of Lakshadweep on 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of October, at Kavaratti Island with the help of Dr. M. V. M. Wafar (TPCG member) for interaction with the community, government officials and NGOs.

#### Interaction with Government officials:

Discussion with Shri Pukh Raj Bumb, Secretary (Environment and Forests Dept.), Dr. M.S. Sayed Ismail Koya, Dr. Pukoya and Dr. K. Sayed Ali on the biodiversity aspects of Lakshadweep group of Islands. It is revealed during the discussion that though Bitra Island has been declared as bird sanctuary but not treated as protected area in any report.

Asst. Director of Fisheries Dr. C. G. Koya stated that regulation of poaching is difficult due to the lack of infra structure such as Speed boats. Alternate livelihood such as seaweed harvesting is uneconomical. Local communities are highly concerned about the resource conservation.

#### Interaction with fisherfolk:

Two types of fishing are practiced, - Lagoon fishing and open water fishing. In addition ecofriendly traditional practices such as pole and line methods are practiced and are not destructive to the habitat. In general, the traditional fishing operations are not similar to that of the mainland. The catch composition is diverse between each of the islands indicating highly diverse fishery resources. Lack of marketing facilities affects the livelihood of these fisherfolk. 60% of the Island population is occupied with fishing as main profession and the rest depend on agriculture (coconut plantation). Only very limited number of (~125) fishing boats in the lagoon and are mechanised. Poaching by mainlander fishers and Sri Lankan vessels are common. Meeting with traditional fisherfolk, which exposed various aspects of the coastal environment. Mr. Mohammad Hanifa (a traditional fisherman) opined that fish catch composition has changed in the lagoon and the catch also depends on the tidal patterns. Other participants included the president of Fisherfolk welfare association who informed that there is no registration of the fishing boats and felt necessary by them. The fishing holidays are followed from May 15<sup>th</sup> to September 15<sup>th</sup>, in addition every Friday and during Holy Ramzan month also no fishing operations were made.

#### Interaction with NGOs:

Meeting also extended to discuss with members from Ixora and Northern Brothers Club (both NGOs), Members from the Northern brothers club revealed that due to lack of technological introduction the yellow fin tuna could not be successfully utilised. They also opined that traditional activities such as food practices, folklore etc., need to be promoted with due concern for attracting more tourists. Formulation of Tourism perspective plan for 5 years has made without consulting the communities.

## **21. REVIEW MEETING ON THE WEST COAST FINAL REPORT HELD AT N.I.O. GOA on 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> October 2002**

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The working group members reviewed the final report at N.I.O. Goa in a discussion session held for the purpose. Prof. R. Damodaran (Dean of Science Faculty, Cochin University, Kochi), Prof. Mohan Joseph (Director, CMFRI), Dr. H. V. Joshi (CSMCRI, Bhavnagar), Dr. G. N. Kulkarni (College of Fisheries, Ratnagiri, Maharashtra), Dr. Prasanna Yennavar (GEER Foundation Gujarat), Dr. M. V. M. Wafar (N.I.O., Goa), Prof. M. N. Madhyastha and Dr. Rekha P. D. (Dept. Biosciences, Mangalore Univ.) were present. The comments and suggestions on the final draft report have been incorporated in the Final report.

## APPENDIX - II

### Some of the Geologically important sites along West coast

**Malpe Islands-** Are group of Islands lying about 6km off the west coast of Karnataka near Malpe. (13°N lat, 74° 42'E long)

- Coconut Island
- North Island
- Darya Bahadurgah Island
- South Island.

The important occurrence of volcanic rocks in these islands lies in the fact that it occurs nearly 300km south of nearest outcrop of Deccan lavas. The main land close to these islands does not show any exposures of volcanic rocks. Petrographically, the rocks exposed in the islands are not basalt, but are a series of acidic rocks, dacite, rhyolite and granophyres. These columnar jointed areas are particularly well seen in the coconut island. This spot has been declared as a ***NATIONAL GEOLOGICAL MONUMENT***.

The dykes in coastal Karnataka, run parallel with the west coast, they appear to be connected with the rifting event that gave rise to the Arabian Sea. In the tertiary Era, sedimentary formation belonging to the ecocene and upwards occurred. Although covering large parts of the region they are very poorly represented in the peninsular. They are mainly found along the coastal regions of Kuala and Konkan. The Karnataka coast on shore is however devoid of any appear able thickness of tertiary sediment.

### Recent sediment along the west coast

Rich deltas found along the east coast are not developed in the west coast, since most of the west flowing rivers have a short course and there is little sediment load for them to build significant deltas on their own. Headlands, bays and lagoons modify the somewhat straight coastline along the west coast at regular intervals. These are evidence of frequent oscillations in levels due to neotectonics as to changes in sea level. The coastal belt is a plain and marine denudation covered by thick sheets of detrital and residual laterite. The coastline is rocky in parts and often has long structures and bars of sand that line the backwaters and lagoons. The coastal belt is covered by either beach sands close to the coast as by laterite.

The occurrence of unusual coast – parallel bunds in some of the rivers of D K are ascribed to the existence of longitudinal faults. Such areas also appear to be areas of concentrated sea erosion. Drilling carried out at the excavation of the New Mangalore Port revealed layers of black coloured mud overlain by yellowish brown clay. The black clay was saline, with the yellowish brown clay occurring more frequently and is found all along the banks of rivers and backwaters. This clay is extensively used for making tiles, for which Mangalore is famous.

In the intervening depressions sedimentation was initiated with the accumulation of sediment since the Upper Paleocene. The maximum thickness attained was as much as 3500-4000m of tertiary sediment. Kori-Comorin Ridge and Laxmi-Laceadive Ridge.

Further North in Bombay region, the mid-ecocene carbonate sediments have acted as significant reservoirs for hydrocarbons. The geographical features of the western offshore region and west of Karwar and Mangalore is yet to be worked out in detail. Neotectonic changes onshore

A line connecting Mulki on the west coast and Pulicat Lake on the east coast close to 13°N constitutes a major drainage divide. The nearly East-West trending ridge is characterised by high gravity, relatively thinner crust and is subjected to minor earthquake shocks. The coast line particularly on the west coast is highly dissected forming a series of beach ridges indicating recent uplift of land.

## Changes in the sea level

St Mary's Island off Malpe has wave-cut platforms at different elevations, the highest being at 10 m above present day sea level. The other terraces are approximately at 6m, 3m and 1.5m indicating a relative fall in sea level or rise in land.

### **Peat deposition in the inner shelf off Karwar:**

Recently a deposit of peat covering area of more than 139km<sup>2</sup> indicated with sediments has come to light located as the inner shelf off Karwar-Kumta. Peat occurs at a water depth of 24m, these peat layers indicate the presence of abundant plant life, obtained from the mangroves. The present wave dominated high energy environment does not indicate favourable conditions for mangrove development. Future studies are likely to give more light on this interesting occurrence of peat off Karwar.

## Ancient and rare rock formations which need protection include the following

- 1. The Trondhjemeitic Gneiss** belt on Goa-Karnataka border near Anmod village, in the central Western Ghats. A specimen is displayed at geology Museum of Goa University. Rubidium-Strontium isotopic dating method has determined the age of the rock to be 3.6 billion years making this THE OLDEST ROCKS IN THE INDIAN SUB-CONTINENT. Before quarrying destroys this belt it has to be demarcated and preserved because these rocks represent the heart of the Super continent Pangea.
- 2. The Canacona granites** - These are typical 2600 million old rocks found in Canacona and well exposed at Palolem beach.
- 3. The Benaulim feldspathic gneiss** -At Benaulim-Salcete there is a small exposed rocky outcrop, which looks like a rocky island surrounded by paddy fields all around them. Locally these rocks (covering about 5000 sq.mts.) are known as "Pandavanchem Tolop" or the "Rocks of Pandavas".

4. **The massive granite cliffs at Baga-Bardez** -This is a peculiar cliff eroded by wave action below the retreat of Jesuit fathers near the famous Baga Beach. There is a deep canyon formed due to vertical split in the rock-this canyon is locally known as -"**Chora-baim**" (well of the thieves/sea-pirates) because the legend says that the pirates used to hide their booty in this trench.

5. **The windblown cliffs** -These are found at Vagator, Aguada, Cabo-Donapula, Saint Jacinto Island, Betul, Canaguinim, Khola. These have stressed habitats and peculiar wind blown "**bonsai**" vegetation.

6. **Seaside arch and caves** -Notable are-the majestic rock arch near Keribeach-Pernem taluka and the cavern below the arch, the cave near Baga, the cave behind Siridao-Tiswadi's Jesus Nazareth chapel.

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*Compiled by Dr. Rekha P.D.*

# APPENDIX - IV

## Short Note on The Coastal Regulation Zone Notification

The notification came in to force with effect from 19.2.1991

Under Sec. 3(1) and section 3(2)(V) of E(P) Act 1986 and rule 5(3)(d) of E(P) Rules 1986

The notification declares Coastal Stretches as Coastal regulation Zone (CRZ) and regulates activities in CRZ area.

What is CRZ?

It is 1. Coastal stretches of seas, Bays Estuaries, creeks, Rivers and Back waters which are influenced by tidal action (in the landward side) upto 500m from HTL

2. The land between high tide line and low tide line
3. The distance upto which the tidal effect of sea is experienced in rivers, creeks and backwaters

The HTL is the line on the land upto, which the highest water line is reached during spring tides

In case of rivers, creeks and backwaters, the distance from high tide line applies on both sides and shall not be less than 100m in case the width of river, creeks and backwaters is more than 100m. If the width of rivers, creeks and backwaters is less than 100m, then the distance from HTL on either side is limited to the width of the river, creek and backwaters under consideration.

Coastal regulation Zone is classified as CRZ-1, CRZ-II, CRZ -III and CRZ - IV for the purpose of regulation developmental activities.

### CRZ-I

CRZ – I areas are of two types.

- i. Areas are ecologically sensitive and important, such as national parks/marine parks, sanctuaries, reserve forests, wildlife habitats, mangroves, corals/coral reefs, areas close to breeding and spawning grounds of fish and other marine life, areas of outstanding natural beauty/historically/heritage areas, areas rich in genetic diversity, areas likely to be declared by the central government or the concerned authorities at the State/Union Territory level from time to time.
- ii. Areas between Low tide Line and High tide Line  
CRZ - I (i) – No new construction is permitted within 500m of HTL. (ii) – No construction activity except facilities for carrying treated effluents and waste water discharges into the sea and for carrying sea water

CRZ – 1 (i) – No new construction is permitted within 500m HTL. (ii) – No construction activity except facilities for carrying treated effluents and waste water

discharges into the sea and for carrying sea water, for cooling purposes, oil gas and similar pipelines and facilities essential for permitted activities in the area between High Tide line and Low tide Line

### **CRZ - II**

CRZ II areas include those areas that have already been developed up to or close to the shorelines. For this purpose “developed area” is referred to as that area within the municipal limits or on other legally designated urban areas which is already substantially built up and which has been provided with drainage, approach roads, water supply, sewerage mains.

The Substantially built up area means area, which is 50%, built up and has 50% buildable plots.

In the CRZ- II areas buildings are permitted only on the landward side of the existing roads or proposed roads approved in CZMP or on the landward side of the existing authorised structures and subjected to local town and country planning regulations and existing norms of FSI (Floor Sloping Index) and FAR (Floor Area Ratio)

No permission shall be given on the landward side of any new roads, which are constructed on the seaward side of the existing roads unless the road is approved by CZMP

Reconstruction of authorised buildings is permitted subject to existing FSI and FAR and design and construction of building shall be consistent with the surrounding landscape and local architectural style

### **CRZ - III**

CRZ –III areas that are relatively undisturbed and those, which do not belong to either Category - I or II. These will include coastal zone in the rural area (developed and undeveloped) and also areas within Municipal; limits in other legally designated urban area, which are not substantially built up.

In CRZ - III - area upto 200 m from HTL on landward side is earmarked as ‘No development zone’ No construction will be permitted in this zone except repairs of existing authorised structures. Construction of facilities for water supply, drainage and sewerage for requirements of local inhabitants is permitted. Agriculture, horticulture, gardens, pastures, parks, play fields, forestry and salt manufacture from seawater are permitted.

Development of hotels, beach resorts between 200m and 500m of HTL is permitted.

Construction/reconstruction of dwelling units between 200m and 500m of HTL is permitted so long as it is within the ambit of traditional rights and customary uses such as existing fishing villages and gaothans.

Construction/reconstruction not more than twice the number of existing units is permitted.

Total area covered on all the floors shall not exceed 33% of the plot size.

Overall height of the construction shall not exceed 9m and only two floors (Ground and first) are permitted.

#### **CRZ -IV**

This includes coastal stretches of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep and small islands, except those designated as CRZ -I, CRZ - II or CRZ - III.

For permitting construction of buildings, the distance from the High Tide Line shall be decided depending on the size of the islands. This shall be laid down for each island, in consultation with the experts and with approval of the Ministry of Environment and Forests keeping in view the land use requirements for specific purposes vis-à-vis local conditions including hydrological aspects, erosion and ecological sensitivity.

If buildings are permitted within 500m of HTL these shall not have more than 2 floors. The total covered area on all the floors shall not be more than 50% of the plot size. The height of the construction shall not exceed 9m. Designs and construction of the buildings shall be consistent with local style and architecture and surrounding landscape.

Corals and sand from beaches and coastal waters shall not be used for construction and other purposes.

Dredging and under water blasting in and around coral formations shall not be permitted. In some of the islands coastal stretches may be classified into the CRZ - I, II, and III with prior approval of Ministry of Environment and Forests and in such designated stretches the appropriate regulations given for the respective categories shall apply.

#### **CRZ notification prohibits the following activities**

1. Setting up of new industries and expansion of existing industries
2. Manufacture or handling or storage or disposal of hazardous substances
3. Setting up of fish processing units
4. Setting up of effluent treatment plants
5. Discharge of untreated effluents
6. Dumping of city waste
7. Dumping of ash and other wastes from thermal power stations
8. Land reclamation, bunding disturbing the natural course of seawater other than for those activities listed in the notification
9. Mining of minerals other than rare minerals
10. Harvesting of ground water within 200 meters of HTL
11. Construction in CRZ – I (i) area and CRZ – I (ii) other than specified
12. Altering sand dunes

#### **The following are permitted activities**

1. Foreshore requiring essential facilities such as ports, harbours etc.
2. Intake and discharge of seawater and transport mechanism for thermal power stations.

3. The following are the activities, which require no permission but are permitted in CRZ – III areas such as agriculture, horticulture, gardens, pastures, parks, play fields, forestry, salt manufacturing.
4. Hotels and tourism projects can be developed as per the guidelines laid in the notification

## APPENDIX – VII

### Some of the Ongoing Biodiversity related Projects

Research projects, pertaining to west coast of India, conducted by National Environmental Engineering Research Institute since 1987

#### Completed Projects

SN	Title of the Projects	Sponsor
1	Environmental Impact Assessment of Proposed Developments at Gandhar Oil Field, Gandhar, Gujarat	ONGC, MRBC, Mumbai
2	Environmental Impact Assessment of Proposed Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited	MRPL, Mangalore
3	Wastewater Management for Oil and Natural Gas Commission's Balol/Lenwa Oil Fields for Produced Water at Mehsana, Gujarat	ONGC, MRBC, Mumbai
4	Environmental Impact Assessment incorporating quantification of pollution loads due to existing and proposed third gasification unit at GNFC, Gujarat	GNFC, Gujarat
5	Environmental Impact Assessment of Proposed Developments of Bombay High Oil gas Fields of ONGC in Bombay Offshore Basin	ONGC, MRBC, Mumbai
6	Environmental Impact Assessment of Proposed developments of (Phase I & II) at Gandhar Oil Field, Gujarat	ONGC, MRBC, Mumbai
7	Environmental Impact Assessment of proposed developments of Heera-Ratna oil/gas field in West Coast offshore area	ONGC, MRBC, Mumbai
8	Environmental Impact Assessment of proposed developments of Tapti oil/gas field in West Coast offshore area	ONGC, MRBC, Mumbai
9	Environmental Impact Assessment of NGL Fractionation and Dearomatisation Units at Gas Processing Complex, Hazira, Surat, Gujarat	GSPC, Gujarat
10	Wastewater management for produced water from Santhal oil field of ONGC, Mehsana, Gujarat	ONGC, MRBC, Mumbai
11	Wastewater management for produced water from Sobhasan oil field of ONGC, Mehsana, Gujarat	ONGC, MRBC, Mumbai
12	Environmental Impact Assessment of phase III developments at Gas processing complex, Hazira, Surat, Gujarat	GSPC, Gujarat
13	Environmental Impact Assessment of additional facilities of Bombay refinery of BPCL, Bombay	BPCL, Gujarat
14	Environmental Impact Assessment of proposed Desalting plant at Navagam, Gujarat	ONGC, MRBC, Mumbai
15	Preparation of environmental appraisal reports for development of S-1 sand and R-15 fields of ONGC, BRBC, Bombay	ONGC, MRBC, Mumbai
16	Environmental Impact Assessment of proposed grass-root refinery near Bina and Crude oil terminal near Jamnagar	BPCL, Mumbai
17	Environmental Impact Assessment of proposed west coast refinery of HOPCL at Deoghar, Ratnagiri, Maharashtra	HOPCL, Mumbai

18	Rapid and Comprehensive EIA studies for ESSAR refinery at Vadinar, Gujarat	ESSAR, Mumbai
19	Environmental Impact Assessment of lube base stock augmentation facilities at Bombay refinery of HPCL	HPCL, Mumbai
20	Environmental Impact Assessment of <i>in situ</i> combustion plant at Balol and Lenwa fields in Mehsana, Gujarat	ONGC, MRBC, Mumbai
21	Rapid Environmental Impact Assessment for Pipavav Port Terminal, Bhavnagar, Gujarat	Gujarat Pipavav LNG company Ltd.
22	Selection of outfall location in sea for the discharge of wastewater generated, for Ankleshwar, Panoli and Jhagadia Industrial Estate, Gujarat	GIDC, Ankleshwar, Gujarat
23	Rapid and Comprehensive EIA studies for development of Hazira gas field GSPC, Gujarat	GSPC, Gujarat
24	Environmental monitoring around booster stations along cross-country pipeline for transportation of crude oil from Vadinar COT to Bina refinery	BPCL, Mumbai
25	Environmental Impact Assessment for expansion of refinery capacity at Mangalore refinery	Mangalore refinery Ltd., Mangalore
26	Preparation of Environmental Impact Assessment report for Gandhar Petrochemical Complex of IPCL, Dahej	IPCL, Vadodara, Gujarat
27	REIA for crude oil handling facilities on Shiyalbet near Pipavav Port of GPPL, Mumbai	GPPL, Mumbai
28	REIA/CEIRA for the Proposed expansion of Bromine plant at Khavda near Rann of Kachchh, Gujarat	Ballarpur Paper Mill, Mumbai
29	Evaluation of process wastewater treatment plant and floor wash treatment plant of HPCL, Mumbai	HPCL, Mumbai
30	IEE for proposed landfill point, pipeline and processing facilities for Natural gas at Hazira	GSPL, Hazira
31	Development of Assimilative Capacity Based Standards for discharge of Treated wastewaters in Amala Khadi	GPCB, Gujarat
32	EIA for proposed Port and LNG import terminal at Hazira	Shell India Ltd., Mumbai
33	EIA for Pipeline Modification in Bombay High Fields by ONGC, Mumbai	ONGC, MRBC, Mumbai
34	EIA incorporating quantification of pollution levels due to existing and proposed increase in the capacity of paints manufacturing plants at Ankleshwar, Gujarat	Asian Paints, Ankleshwar, Gujarat
35	EIA studies for proposed Transportation Corridor and other related facilities between ESSAR plant site and Hazira Port	ESSAR, Mumbai
36	Oceanographic water quality and modeling studies at west coast of Mumbai	Municipal Corporation of Greater Bombay, Mumbai
37	Environmental Impact Assessment studies for West Coast Refinery	Hindustan Oman Petroleum Co. Ltd., Mumbai
38	Risk assessment studies of proposed West Coast refinery of HPCL at Deoghar	Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd., Mumbai
39	Integrated EIA for development of ONGC's oil/gas fields in west coast offshore area	ONGC, MRBC, Mumbai
40	Impact of aquatic farming and remedial measures in ecologically fragile coast areas in the state of Gujarat	Brackish Water Fish Farmers Development Agency, Valsad (Through Hon'ble Supreme Court)
41	Impact of aquaculture farming and remedial measure in ecologically fragile coastal areas in the State of Kerala	Agency for Development of Aquaculture, Thiruananthapuram (Through Hon'ble Supreme Court)
42	Risk Assessment of MOT Berth, Storage facility and	Mumbai Port Trust, Mumbai

	Submarine pipeline of Mumbai Port Trust, Mumbai	
43	EIA incorporating pollution levels due to existing and proposed increase in the capacity of Acetic acid manufacturing plant at GNFC, Bharuch, Gujarat	GNFC, Bharuch, Gujarat
44	Determination of existing water quality status along west coast, beaches and seafronts of Mumbai	Municipal Corporation of Greater Bombay, Mumbai
45	Inspection of Aquaculture Farming and Remedial Measure in Ecologically Fragile Coastal Areas in the State of Karnataka	Department of Forests Ecology and Environment, Bangalore (Through Hon'ble Supreme Court)
46	Inspection of Aquaculture Farming and Remedial Measure in Ecologically Fragile Coastal Areas in the State of Maharashtra	Department of Fisheries, Government of Maharashtra, Mumbai (Through Hon'ble Supreme Court)
47	Studies on Aquaculture Farms in the Ecologically Fragile Coastal Areas in the State of Goa	Government of Goa, Panaji (Through Hon'ble Supreme Court)
48	Rapid Environmental Impact Assessment of Proposed Exploratory Drilling at Deep Water Locations in Kerala-Konkan Basin of West Coast Offshore Region	ONGC, MRBC, Mumbai
49	Air quality monitoring studies in and around Cochin Port Trust Area	Cochin Port Trust, Cochin
50	Assessment of Spillage and other dust emission from ship unloader Cochin	FACT, Udyogmandal, Kochi
51	EIA due to proposed increase in the capacity of caustic chlorine plant of Search Chem Industries Ltd. at Jhagadia, Gujarat	United Phosphorus Ltd., Ankleshwar
52	EIA incorporating quantification of pollution loads due to existing and proposed manufacture of an alternate product Devrinol in the existing Quinalphos (Technical) plant at Ankleshwar, Gujarat	United Phosphorus Ltd., Ankleshwar
53	Environmental Appraisal regarding Construction of Aerated Lagoons at four sites, viz. Versova, Malad, Bhandup and Ghatkopar in Mumbai	Municipal Corporation of Greater Bombay, Mumbai
54	Comprehensive EIA for Cochin Refineries Ltd., Cochin	Cochin Refineries Ltd., Kochi
55	Aquatic baseline study for thermal power station near Dahanu	Bombay Sub-urban Electricity Supply Ltd., Mumbai
56	Rapid EIRA for the Dyes Complex of M/s BASF India Ltd., Mangalore	BASF India Ltd., Mangalore
57	Integrated rapid EIRA for Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals and LPG import facilities at Mangalore	Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd., Mumbai
58	Carrying Capacity Study of Tapti Estuary	Ministry of Environment & Forests, New Delhi
59	Rapid EIA for Grasim's Petrochemical Plant at Mangalore	Indian Rayon & Industries Ltd., Mumbai
60	Critical Evaluation of Master Plan for Dahanu Area from Environmental Angle in the context of Notifications of GOI dated 19 <sup>th</sup> February and 20 <sup>th</sup> June 1991	Government of Maharashtra, Mumbai (through Hon'ble Supreme Court)
61	Environmental Impact and Risk Assessment for the proposed Expansion of the Dyes Complex of BASF India Limited, Mangalore	BASF India Limited, Mangalore
62	Rapid EIA for Expansion Plans (22 MMTA Refinery) of MRPL at Mangalore	Mangalore Refinery & Petrochemical Ltd., (MRPL), Mangalore
63	Study on water quality problem of Lakshadweep	Ministry of Rural Development,

		New Delhi
64	Preparation of EMP based on REIA for the two islands (Kavaratti & Minicoy) at Lakshadweep	Lakshadweep Harbor Works, Calicut
65	Studies on Air, water and Noise pollution at Agathi island (Lakshadweep)	Union Territory of Lakshadweep, Kavaratti
66	REIA for the Proposed Breakwater Construction on Eastern Side of Kavaratti Island at Lakshadweep	Lakshadweep Harbor Works, Kavaratti
67	REIA of the Proposed Embarkation on Eastern Side of Agathi Island at Lakshadweep	Lakshadweep Harbor Works, Kavaratti
68	Process Package for Treatment & disposal of Hazardous waste Sludge at Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd. (KMML), Kollam, Kerala	Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd. (KMML), Kollam, Kerala
69	Environmental Impact Assessment of Goshree Project, Kerala	Government of Kerala, Thiruananthapuram (Through Hon'ble Supreme Court)
70	Environmental viability of 1000 MW Coal based Thermal Power Plant of Mangalore Power Company (with Cojentrax as lead partner) at Nandikur, Karnataka.	Govt. of Karnataka, Bangalore (Through Hon'ble Supreme Court)
71	Environmental viability of Bandra-Kurla Complex, Maharashtra.	Govt. of Maharashtra (Through Hon'ble Supreme Court)
72	Environmental viability of Sanghi Jetty/Cement Project, Kutch, Gujarat.	Govt. of Gujarat (Through Hon'ble Supreme Court)
73	EIA for redevelopment proposed in Mumbai High North for optimal exploitation of hydrocarbons from L III reserves in West coast offshore region	ONGC, MRBC, Mumbai
74	EIA for pipeline modification proposed by ONGC in west coast offshore region	ONGC, MRBC, Mumbai
75	EIA for proposed ship breaking yard at Pipavav port, Gujarat	Pipavav Ship Dismantling & Engineering Ltd.
76	EIA for proposed pipeline & landfall station for transportation of regassified LNG from Pipavav port terminal to Hazira region	British Gas Holdings Ltd., UK
77	Carrying capacity based developmental planning of Greater Kochi Region	MoEF, New Delhi
78	Rapid EIA for proposed expansion of Methylamine and Dimethyl formamide project of RCF at Thal	RCF Ltd., Mumbai
79	Comprehensive risk assessment of LPG storage facility of RCF Ltd. at Pir Pau, Mumbai	RCF Ltd., Mumbai
80	Comprehensive Risk Assessment of 5000 MT ammonium storage facility at Zuari Industries Ltd., Goa	Zuari Industries Ltd., Goa
81	EIA for proposed expansion plan at Jhanov-Gandhar Gas Power Project, Stage II (650 MW)	NTPC, Jhanov
82	Evaluation of water quality at Bandra influent pumping station	Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai, Mumbai
83	Grit analysis for design of outfall at Worli and Bandra	Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai, Mumbai
84	BSDP Stage II sewage sampling programme for city area	Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai, Mumbai

85	Toxicity testing for EDC-11-95 and drilling mud-Tapi oil well	Enron Oil and Natural Gas Ltd.
86	Determination of post commissioning water quality status of west coast, beaches and seafronts around Worli Outfall	Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai, Mumbai

## I. Ongoing Projects

SN	Title of the Projects	Sponsor
1	State environmental action programme: Coastal and Marine Environmental, Gujarat	Gujarat Ecology Commission, Vadodara
2	Calibration and validation of initial dilution model used for long sea outfalls for sewage disposal using radiotracers and predication of its movement in the coastal region of Mumbai	Department of Atomic Energy, Mumbai
3	Thane creek water quality related study for assimilative capacity in modeling	Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai, Mumbai
4	EIA for Seismic survey and exploratory drilling in transition zone along coastal stretch of CB/OS-2 block in Gulf of Khambhat	Cairn Energy India Pvt. Ltd., Chennai
5	EIA for 5 NELP Blocks in East Coast and 2 NELP Blocks in the West Coast Offshore Areas of India	ONGC, MRBC, Mumbai
6	Environmental impact assessment for Proposed 3D Seismic Survey in Saurashtra Offshore and Cauvery	Oil India Ltd., Rajkot
7	EIA for hydrocarbon exploration in CB/OS-2 block along the coastal stretch in Surat District	Cairn Energy India Pvt. Ltd., Chennai
8	EIA for proposed development in Bombay High and Neelam Oil Fields in Western Offshore region of India	ONGC, MRBC, Mumbai
9	EIA and preparation of Environment Management Plan for 14 NELP Blocks	ONGC, MRBC, Mumbai
10	EIRA for petroleum products pipelines from Jamnagar to Bhopal, and Goa to Hyderabad	Gas Transportation & Infrastructure Ltd., Mumbai
11	EIRA of proposed expansion Paras Thermal Power Station of MSEB	MSEB, Mumbai
12	EIRA of proposed 3D Seismic survey in Saurashtra Offshore and Cauvery Basin	Oil India Ltd., Rajkot
13	EIA and EMP for Seismic programme and drilling operations for exploration of Block no. CB-ONN-2000/2(Surat Block)	NIKO Resources Ltd., Vadodara
14	EIRA for existing and proposed projects in refinery complex at Motikhavdi, near Jamnagar, Gujarat	Reliance Petroleum Ltd., Jamnagar
15	EIRA for proposed Mumbai Refinery Modernization project	HPCL, Mumbai
16	EIRA for proposed transportation corridor & other related facilities between ESSAR plant site & Hazira port	ESSAR Industries Ltd., Mumbai
17	EIRA for proposed gas grid in Gujarat State	Gujarat State Petronet Ltd., Gandhinagar
18	Running of DIVAST Model for marine outfalls-20 runs	Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai, Mumbai

19 & 20	Proposed International Symposium on Fish for Nutritional Security. Proposed Training Programme in Coastal Bioresource Development and Management.	Indian Fisheries Association, CIFE, Mumbai
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