

Govt. of Karnataka
Karnataka Biodiversity Board, Bengaluru



22 MAY 2020
INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
Our solutions are in nature



International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB):2020

"Our solutions are in nature"

International Day for Biological Diversity

(22 May 2020)

Biodiversity Conservation Awareness Campaign

(22 May to 5 June 2020)

Background:

International Day for Biological Diversity is being celebrated from last twenty years by United Nations. It basically intends to increase awareness in all sections of the society, on the huge significance of diversity of plants, animals and microbes in the environment and their role in ensuring the life and livelihoods. National Biodiversity Authority has been actively celebrating this day in several dimensions ever since its inception with the support of Ministry of Forest, Environment & Climate Change (MFECC) of GOI and the state biodiversity boards. The enormous importance of conserving biodiversity is further emphasized now, as the "Biodiversity Mission" is launched at national level in 2018, under the guidance of Principal Scientific Advisor to Hon. Prime Minister of India. Hence, biodiversity conservation is gaining momentum consistently.

Karnataka Biodiversity Board has also been actively celebrating this international day with all enthusiasm through multiple activities all through these years. Several key programs are planned this year too, with the active support of Dept. of Forest, Ecology & Environment and Dept of Rural Development & Panchayata Raj of Govt. of Karnataka. Owing to the restrictions necessitated by Covid-19 situation and lockdown, simple and grass-root level activities are planned, which do not require gathering of many people or travelling. A brief outlook of the modes of this celebration is given here.

- **Celebration of "International Day for Biological Diversity (IBD-2020)":**

The state level main function would be held in Bengaluru on 22 May 2020 in the presence of Hon. Chief Minister of Karnataka. It would mark the celebration of the day as well as launch of two weeks long Biodiversity Conservation Awareness Campaign-Karnataka (BCAC-K) from 22 May to 5 June 2020. The program includes the activities like felicitating well-known persons working for the cause of biodiversity conservation with "KBB Biodiversity Awards", distributing prizes for the winners of competitions organized on account of IBD, and release of newsletter of KBB. Hon. Minister for Forest and Environment and Hon. Minister for Rural Development & Panchayata Raj would participate in similar events in their respective district headquarters.

All *Grama Panchayats* in the state are advised to celebrate this day with simple programs, by duly following the conditions laid down by their respective district administrations due to Covid-19 lockdown. They are sensitized on the need of sharing and discussing the content of their People's Biodiversity Registrar (PBR) among Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) as well as *Panchayat* members. The educational institutions and universities are requested to celebrate this day within their limits. Public awareness works would be taken up through mass media and social media.

- **Biodiversity Conservation Awareness Campaign-Karnataka (BCAC-K):**

This two weeks long awareness building program would be organized between 22 May to 5 June 2020. Government departments and civil society organizations would be encouraged to join hands with this sensitization effort. This campaign would involve simple and local activities, keeping the restrictions of covid-19 situations. The major activities planned are:

- **Panchayata level functions:** Nearly 6000 *Grama Panchayats* would be encouraged to organize the events on their own during this campaign period. The occasion would be used for empowering Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC).
- **Field level activities:** Different activities symbolizing conservation ethos would be conducted locally wherever possible. They may include planting, seed ball preparation, identify potential spots for heritage sites, survey on local watershed, ponds, river valley etc. Visits would be organized to local natural resource rich locations like Sacred Grove, school forest, riparian zones, hillocks, medicinal plant groves, so on.
- **Visit to Biodiversity Heritage Sites:** As part of campaign, field visits would be made by team of local *Grama Panchayat* representatives and officials of dept of Forest. It may include declared and potential Biodiversity Heritage sites. Some of them are: Nallur (Bengaluru rural dist), Hogrekaanu Giri (Chikmagalur dist), Ambaragudda, Halesoraba, Hosagunda (Shivmogga district), Sonda Mundigekere bird sanctuary, Kattale Kanu swamp, (Uttara Kannada dist), Amruta Mahal Kavala (Tumakur dist), Jari Betta (Koppal dist) etc.
- **Study visit to landslide prone area in Western Ghats:** Study visits to landslide prone zones identified in Western Ghats districts like Kodagau, Chikkamagaluru and Uttara Kannada.
- **Sharing information on medicinal plant resources:** An extensive survey has been conducted by KBB on medicinal plant resources in the state with the support of Karnataka State Medicinal Plant Authority (KaMPA). Its reports are published now for every forest division in the state. This useful data and its significance would be shared with officers, *Grama Panchayats*, and people's representatives in respective forest divisions.
- **Felicitations to Grassroot workers:** Various concerned and committed individuals and organizations are seen throughout the states, who are working for the cause of conservation of biodiversity. As part of this campaign, efforts would be made to identify at least some of them in each district and felicitate locally, so that their morale is boosted.
- **Release of People Biodiversity Register (PBR) documents:** Many *Grama Panchayats* in Karnataka have already completed their People Biodiversity Register (PBR). During this

campaign, efforts would be made to release the recently done reports and content would be shared with local people in villages.

- **Sensitization on Biodiversity Mission:** Brain-storming consultation meetings would be organized on the objectives of National Biodiversity Mission objectives and future road-map for 2030 and 2050.
- **Specific constructive programs:** Some specific constructive programs are planned in different locations. They are:
 - ✓ Launch of framework of Green-Belt scheme in SMART City program in Shimoga town.
 - ✓ Field study visit to “Chandana-Vana”, a biodiversity lung space in Shimoga town.
 - ✓ Visit to Gudibande hill in Chikkaballapura district.
 - ✓ Launch of Sacred Herb Garden in historic Chandragutti temple hill area in Soraba taluk, Shimoga district.
 - ✓ Visit to riparian diversity rich zone of at Urumbi in Kumaradhara river in Dakshina Kannada district.
 - ✓ Launch of conservation action program for Hogarekanugiri Biodiversity Heritage Site in Chikamagalur dist.
 - ✓ Release of study report on *Western Ghats* plant diversity at Pilikula Nisargadhama, Mangalore in Dakshina Kannada dist.
 - ✓ Consultation meeting on common land forest in foot hills of Western Ghats in Kundapura taluk of Udupi dist.
 - ✓ Release of report on success stories in the efforts of conserving “Kaanu Forest” in Shimoga dist.
 - ✓ Field study visit to villages on the banks of Sharavatai river in coastal zone of Uttara Kannada dist.
 - ✓ Saraswati River rejuvenation awareness campaign in Bhatkala Taluk of Uttara Kannada dist.

Thus, this campaign would be organized from 22 May to 5 June 2020 through out Karnataka state. Different government departments, Panchayat Raj Institutions, people’s representatives, educational institutions, and students would take part in it. Based on the experience and feedback emerged in this campaign would be used for synthesizing further course of actions and recommendations.

All are requested to take part in this **IBD-2020** and **BCAC-K**.

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