



22 MAY 2016
**INTERNATIONAL DAY
FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**
Mainstreaming Biodiversity;
Sustaining People and their Livelihoods

Report Compiled by
Sikkim Biodiversity Board

For the occasion of
International Biodiversity Day

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1. Introduction....

Sikkim Biodiversity Board (SBB) in collaboration with Green Circle, the Environment - NGO of Sikkim celebrated the International Biodiversity Day on 22nd of May, 2016 at Sidkeong Tulku Conference Hall, Forest Secretariat with the officials from various line departments like: Tourism, Rural Management & Development, Animal Husbandry, Livestock, Fishery and Veterinary Service, Horticultural Cash Crops Development, Science Technology & Climate Change, Sikkim Hotel & Restaurant Association (SHRA), Travel Agents Association of Sikkim (TASS), Sikkim Tourism Development Corporation (STDC), Sikkim Association of Adventure Tour Operators (SATO), Sikkim University and Senior Secondary Schools having Tourism as their syllabus. As the theme of this year's International Biodiversity Day was, "Mainstreaming Biodiversity: Sustaining People and their Livelihoods" the Sikkim Biodiversity Board (SBB) invited all the above to share and recreate the magic of our existing biological diversity.



2. Program in Progress...

The program started with an overview of the program by Mrs. Shewani Pradhan, ACF SBB followed with welcome address by the Additional Director cum State Project Coordinator, Mrs Usha Lachungpa.

- a. Presentation on Mainstreaming Biodiversity: sustaining people and their livelihoods: the Additional director cum Project Coordinator continued the program by giving a presentation and talk on the Theme of this year's IBD, "Mainstreaming Biodiversity: Sustaining people and their Livelihoods." She presented an overview of the four important economic sectors: a) Agriculture, b) Forestry c) Fisheries and d) Tourism, among others, the great need to protect biodiversity and prevent further losses as an essential investment for the benefit of both current and further generations.

By halting biodiversity loss, we are investing in people, their lives and their well being. She presented how Biodiversity is the foundation of sustainable agriculture, and that 2016 was also the International Year of Pulses of which there is great diversity in Sikkim. She Highlighted the dependence of the people on Forest for their very survival: how bio-diverse forest provide food, fodder, fibre, fuel, finance, shelter, jobs and security: that 1.2 Billion people use trees on farms to generate food and cash, and the inseparable link between forest and fresh water.

c. International Biodiversity Day celebration in South Sikkim

The Wildlife South Division celebrated its International Biodiversity Day at Kitam in collaboration with Lakshya Organization and Kitam Biodiversity Management Committee. To mark the occasion the Wildlife Division had engaged the Panchyats, village committee members, school committee members, members of the Self Help Group (SHG) and NGO in many activity which were helpful in educating all participants. Bird watching cum Biodiversity recording at Kitam Bird Sanctuary, sit and draw painting competition, essay writing competition, focussed group discussion were some of the activities organized for school students and members of different committee. Indigenous Seed exhibition cum competition was held among the SHG's which was the main highlight of the program as this was one the most informative section for the students in the area of biodiversity. The program concluded with chief guest addressing the students and participants by giving away some positive ideas on preserving the biodiversity and checking some of the human activity like throwing chewing gums everywhere as it affects even birds negatively.



d. International Biodiversity Day Celebration in West Sikkim:

The Wildlife West Division celebrated and observed International Biodiversity Day at Buriakhop Sr. Secondary School in a benefitting manner. Shri Y. N. Negi, the Chairman for Environment & Soil Conservation Board, Principal of the school, School committee members, Bio diversity Management Committee members, EDC members, Local NGO's, Students and general public attended the program.

The main objective of the program was to educate and bring maximum awareness about sustainable use of biological resources and preservation of traditional knowledge. The gathering was informed about how the bio resources have been exploited and over used in an unplanned manner and this was a good opportunity to inform people about negative acts of human beings. Recent evidence of climate change records much faster and deeper impact than the previously predicted, including the risk of human conflicts caused by competition for biodiversity resources and ecosystem services.

Quiz competition was organized by ACF (T) Soreng, Shri T. Bhutia for the school students based on biodiversity resources.

After vote of thanks proposed by the Range Officer (Wildlife) Soreng a day long program ended with the distribution of certificates, prizes packed lunch to the students and staff and lunch to the guests.



The celebration of International Biodiversity Day was successfully carried out in every district of Sikkim, the stakeholders were enriched with the richness of our biodiversity and showed zeal to protect our resources for generating livelihoods for future generations as well.

She showcased the rich biodiversity of Sikkim, which has been used by the people often without realizing their real value. She also updated the participants about the CBD, National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), SBB, BMCs and PBRs and the Biodiversity Act, also shared valuable information about how researchers from within and outside the state should intimate the SBB about their studies and seek permission of the state Forest Department.



(Presentation by Additional Director cum Project Coordinator, on the theme of IBD)

b. Talk on eco system services: The value of rich biodiversities was further highlighted - when Dr Thomas Chandy, IFS Principal Secretary cum PCCF and Executive Chair SBB Spoke about the essential ecosystem services they provide to human kind and make their life better, citing the example of electricity, how it is derived from the natural resource like – rivers streams. He also mentioned that it is important for each one of us to be a messenger and the protector of biological diversities. Discussing about the future prospects of tourism taking a higher level when Khangchendzonga National Park hopefully is declared soon as World Heritage site would generate more livelihoods for people: and the unseen danger to the biodiversity in the guise of development if not managed well.



(Dr. Thomas Chandy, IFS Principal Secretary cum PCCF addressing the students about biodiversity)

3. Skit Competition

a. This was followed by a Skit Competition by the tourism students of Senior Secondary School, where they focused on the tourism issues in Sikkim. The state is being developed for sustainable tourism by promoting activities which are environmental friendly like bird watching, trekking, farming and home stays. The students from each school had their own innovative style to present and add value to the program by sharing their views in the form of skit.



(Skit presentation by West Point Sr. Secondary School)



(Skit Presentation by Deorali Girls Sr. Secondary School)



(Skit Presentation by Tadong Sr. Secondary School)

b. **Painting Competition** based on the theme of this year's biodiversity day came up with variety of ideas presented on the canvas by the tourism students of five different schools. This was a treat for the eye on the occasion. The students left no stone unturned in bringing out their creativity and showing their understanding about the theme.



(Painting competition: student of Enchey Sr. Sec School interacting with the judges- left, a group photo with all the selected students judges & officials – centre & student from West Point School explaining his concept- right)

4. Presentations

a. “Ecotourism in Sikkim as Sustainable Livelihoods” by Mr N Jaswant, IFS DFO Ecotourism:- His presentation guided the audience about the Sikkim Ecotourism Policy 2012, Macro Micro level work which will help in strengthening the livelihood through Ecotourism. He also mentioned that in order to have Sustainable Eco tourism sustainable forest management is needed which will support conservation of Biodiversity and in return it will benefit the local community.

b. “Livelihoods from Biodiversity” was the next presentation by Ms.Karma Choden Bhutia, ACF North Wildlife Division. “The prosperity of tourism industry depends directly upon healthy eco system services”, this was the message in her opening slide of the presentation which spoke for itself how the protection of eco system is very essentials for delivering services in future. She also shared information about the different eco system services being used in other parts of the country in the most efficient manner like Bird watching activities which have been taken to higher level in states like Arunachal and Nagaland. The presentation highlighted the livelihood option through tourism and also talked about negative and positive effects of tourism. More information about different Country enriching their livelihoods by using their ecosystems in most sustainable and developed methods was very very enriching.

c. “Protected National Parks” Ms. Sonam Norden, ACF KNP (West) presented on protected areas of Sikkim, especially on Khangchendzonga National Park – she spoke about the National Parks unique features, the varied biodiversity and wildlife which has been the most attractive features for the tourist who come from different part of India and the world. She also highlighted the different management issues in the national park among which waste disposal and management had been a big problem to handle until there was a joint intervention by a local NGO, called Khangchendzong Conservation Committee (KCC) which is also documented as the success story in capitalizing the zero waste procedure in waste management.

5. Conclusion of the program

The program aimed to generate awareness among the officials of different departments, students from colleges and schools so that the objective of celebrating the Biodiversity Day was successfully achieve. The program was framed in such a manner that the participants could be educated about biodiversity and importance of protecting it so that long term generation of have livelihood activities for the people could be achieved.

The program concluded with a prize distribution ceremony and a vote of thanks by Dr Bharat Pradhan, Scientific/Technical Associate SBB.

6. A Brief Report on the Program Held in other districts of Sikkim:

a. International Biodiversity Day Celebration at Khangchendzonga National Park (WEST KNP)
The International Day for Biological Diversity (IBD) was observed by the Khangchendzonga National Park, Forests, Environment & Wildlife Management Department at Gerethang, West Sikkim. The International Day for Biological Diversity (or World Bio-diversity Day) a United Nations sanctioned International Day for the promotion of bio-diversity issues. The theme for this year was: “Mainstreaming Bio-diversity, Sustaining People and Livelihood”. All local stakeholders, other line departments, principals, teachers and students of all schools in and around Labing-Gerethang GPU were invited. The programme was also attended by Shri Sanula Bhutia, SFS DFO (KNP /KBR)-cum-Nodal Officer, Ms. Sonam Norden Bhutia, SFS, ACF (KNP/KBR)-cum-Asstt. Nodal Officer, Range Officers and the forest staffs.

The occasion was chaired by Shri C.B. Gurung, Chairman, Social Welfare Department, Govt. of Sikkim. The main highlights of the programme were plantation drive, power point presentations on the theme IBD-2016, theme based skit competition and quiz competition among the various schools.



The programme started with the welcome address by Shri Sanula Bhutia, DFO (KNP/KBR) where he emphasized upon the use of bio-resources judiciously for its sustainability and the role of local stakeholders and people towards it. Thereafter, the power point presentation on the IBD, its definition, its background and the theme for this year “Mainstreaming Bio-diversity, Sustaining People and Livelihood” were explicitly explained to all the students by Dr. Bharat Pradhan, Scientific Technical Associate, Sikkim Bio-diversity Board. An over-view of the bio-diversity existing within the Khangchendzonga National Park and the role of the local stakeholders, people and their co-ordination with the park managers for its sustainability was explained through power point presentation by Ms. Sonam Norden Bhutia, ACF, KNP, West. The main objective of the programme was to increase the understanding and awareness on the bio-diversity issues. The winning schools in skit competition and quiz competition were awarded with certificates and prizes. The programme concluded with the vote of thanks by Mr. Kinzong Bhutia, Khangchendzonga Conservation Committee, NGO, Yuksam and member of yuksam biodiversity Management Committee. There was lunch for all the guests and the participants of the programme.

b. International Biodiversity Day celebration in North Sikkim

On the occasion of International Biodiversity Day, North Wildlife Division organized International Biodiversity Day in Phodong Senior Secondary School, North Sikkim. The event aimed at motivating, educating and raising awareness among the school students. Present participants on the occasion were DFO, Mr. Sunil Kumar, ACF, Ms.Karma Choden Bhutia, Dr. Bharat Pradhan, Scientific Associate, field staffs of wildlife and territorial, school staffs and students. The programme started at 11.30 am with a welcome address by the school in charge followed by DFO’s address. Dr. Bharat Pradhan gave a presentation focusing on the importance of Biodiversity and its importance in the state in order to increase the students understanding on the subject. Quiz competition was conducted by ACF for students of class 9 to 12 on flora, fauna, ecosystem, national and international events on biodiversity. Drawing competition was conducted for class 6 and below with theme on biodiversity. The winners of the drawing and quiz competition were duly awarded with a certificate and a trophy. Rhododendron posters were distributed among all the students. The Division also gifted dustbins to the school so as to help promote clean environment. All the students participated actively in the event.

