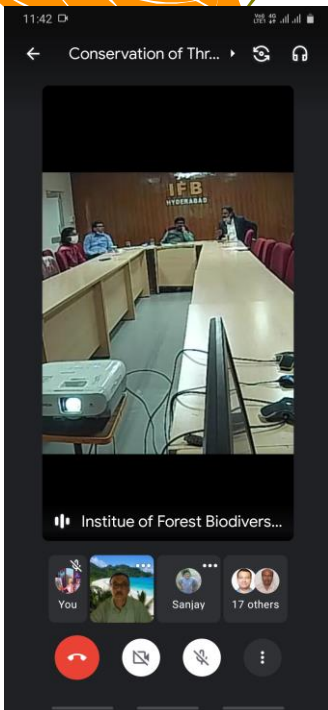


A report on Webinar: “Conservation of Threatened species of Eastern Ghats” – November 10th 2020, initiated at FRCCE, Visakhapatnam, A.P.



The WEBINAR took place under patronage of Shri D. Jayaprasad, IFS, Director of Institute of Forest Biodiversity, Hyderabad and Dr. Ratnaker Jauhari, Head, Extension, IFB, on Tuesday, 10.11.2020 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm and gave the participants an opportunity to familiarize themselves regarding the topic “Conservation of Threatened species of Eastern Ghats”.

The webinar was organized by Dr. S. Chakrabarti, Head, Forest Research Center for Coastal Ecosystem. Dr. N. Rama Rao, Retd. Scientist-G and Domain Expert of ICFRE was the key speaker and Dr. Sanjay Singh, Scientist-D, Botanist in Biodiversity and Climate Change Division of ICFRE joined as subject matter specialist.



Dr. S. Chakrabarti, Head FRCCE welcomed all participants and initiated the process with introductory words. On the occasion Shri D. Jayaprasad, mentioned about the vast species diversity of Eastern Ghats and the importance of their conservation. He said that Eastern Ghats species were less concentrated when compared to Western Ghats and thus more importance should be given to Eastern Ghats diversity. Also, he spoke few lines regarding the need for the assessment of biodiversity in Eastern Ghats.

The inaugural speech was followed by the presentation of Dr. Sanjay Singh, Scientist – D, Botanist. In his presentation he discussed the species concept in taxonomic and evolutionary perspectives. In his deliberations Dr. Singh elaborated different categories of species as per their abundance and population status accredited by IUCN. A clear differentiation of such species categories was viewed in his presentation featuring Extant, Extinct, Rare, Endangered as well as Threatened species.

Last presentation was by second distinguished speaker Dr. N. Rama Rao, who spoke on the theme of the webinar. Dr. Rama Rao was specific with the examples of RET plant species endemic to Andhra Pradesh region of Eastern Ghats and shared his long experience. Aspects like physical features of Eastern Ghats, types of vegetation in the Eastern Ghat, causes for depletion of plant resources, wild genetic resources, need for effective conservation of important plants were described in detail during the presentation. Each rare and endangered species were discussed with profile images, specific locations, occurrence and utilization by villagers.



After both of the talk was over, there were fruitful discussions and both the speakers answered questions raised by participants. The programme ended by the concluding remarks and vote of thanks by Shri D. Jayaprasad, IFS, Director. Also, he appreciated both the speakers who elaborated the importance and need for conservation of species of Eastern Ghats. Dr. N. Rama Rao, was mentioned in the remarks for his hospitality in donating all his research papers, reports and many taxonomy books for both IFB and FRCCE.

Finally, a link regarding the feedback on the webinar was provided by Dr. S. Chakrabarti, Head FRCCE to the participants, filling which the participants were awarded with e-certificates through email. Smt. T. Anusha, Shri M. Ganesh and Shri Srinivas were instrumental throughout the process.

