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MAY 21, 2022

# RIPARIAN FOREST FOR FISH, RIVERS AND PEOPLE TOWARDS “ECOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT OF RIVERS”

Organised by CEtC  
Hornbill Foundation at  
MES Asmabi College



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# RIPARIAN FOREST FOR FISH, RIVERS AND PEOPLE

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The Centre for Ecology, Taxonomy, Conservation and Climate Change (CEtC) of Western Ghats Hornbill Foundation (WGHF), in partnership with the Department of Aquatic Biology and Fisheries at the University of Kerala, the Research Department of Botany at MES Asmabi College, the Fish Migration Foundation, and the Society for Ecorestoration (SER), effectively organised an online international seminar entitled "The Riparian Forest for Fish, Rivers, and People" on May 21, 2022, in celebration of "The World Fish Migration Day." This event collaborated with other global events associated with 'World Fish Migration Day' on May 21, 2022.



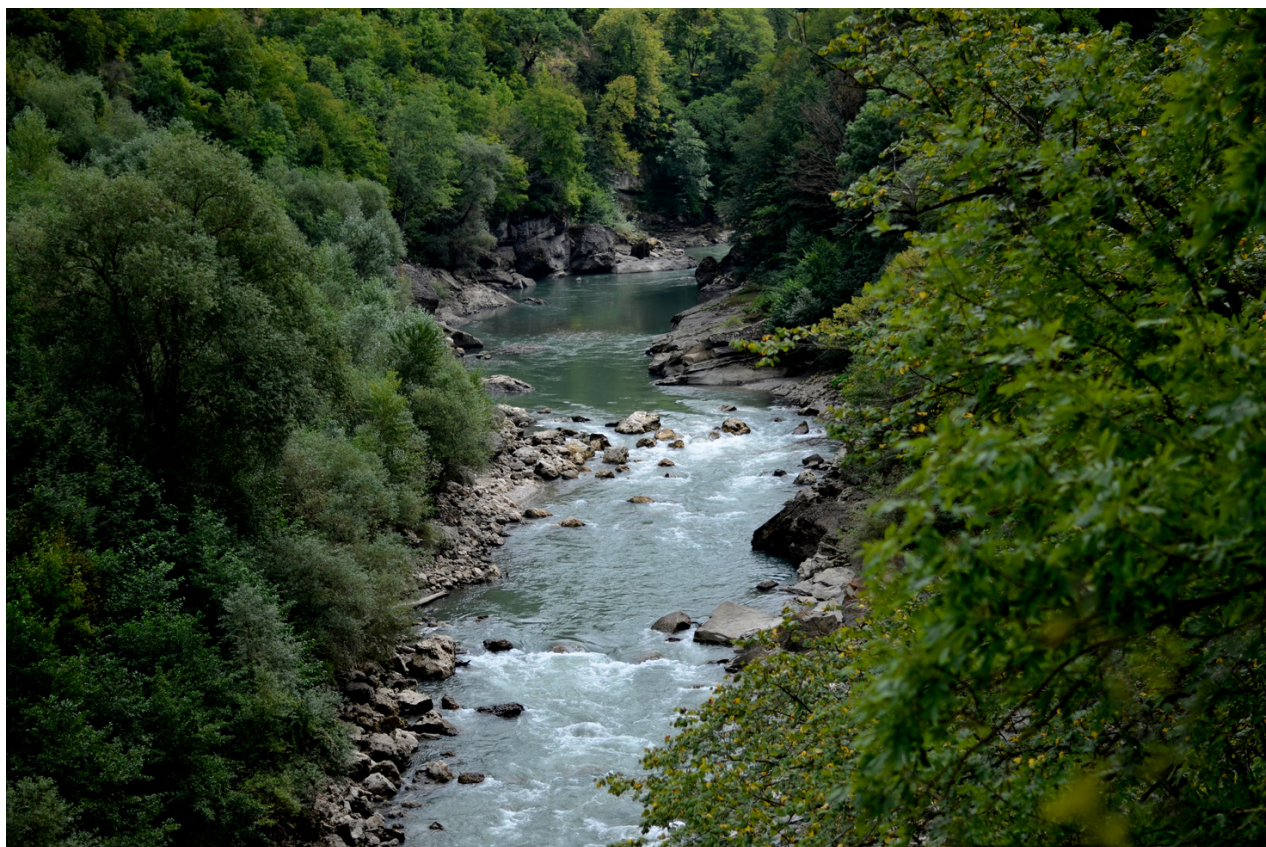
This is to promote the necessity of "Ecological Restoration and management of the Riparian forests throughout the Western Ghats". A diverse group of scientists, researchers, local residents, and community organisations shared their perspectives on different rivers in Kerala, which are located in the Western Ghats region. The plan aims to provide a comprehensive report on riparian zones of different rivers in Kerala by November 2022, as part of the "ecological management of rivers" idea, during an international workshop. The Chalakkudy River's current condition and the procedure for restoring its riparian ecosystem will be utilised as a reference point.

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The presentation commenced at 9.30 a.m. on the Google Meet platform with Ms. Vineetha Venugopal, a board member of the Western Ghats Hornbill Foundation, delivering a concise introduction on the seminar's theme. Subsequently, she extended a warm welcome to all participants. After Vineetha Venugopal's introductory speech, Dr. KH Amitha Bachan, Assistant Professor at MES Asmabi College, invited the Chief Guest of the programme, Dr. TV Sajeev, a distinguished Senior Scientist and Registrar at KFRI, to deliver the opening address at 9:45 a.m. He commenced the seminar by elucidating the migratory fish species found in Kerala and the need of documenting the migration patterns of these fish in order to get further insights into their behaviour in Kerala.

Additionally, he expresses his satisfaction regarding the forthcoming implementation of ecorestoration principles at the Panchayath level. Following this, Mr. Sreehari S. Nair, a Research Scholar at MES Asmabi College, introduced Dr. A. Biju Kumar from the Department of Aquatic Biology & Fisheries at the University of Kerala. Dr. Kumar delivered a Keynote presentation at 10.15 a.m. on the topic "River Restoration and Fish Migration Restoration: A Proposal for Achieving a Mutually Beneficial Outcome in India." He delivered an elaborate exposition of the migratory fish species found in Kerala, the current condition of freshwater fish in Kerala, and the river's role as a fish ecosystem.







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After the keynote lecture, Mr. Sreehari S. Nair, a research scholar from MES Asmabi College, individually greeted each participant in the program's subject talks. The session commenced at 10.40 a.m. with a presentation by Dr. C.P. Shaji on the topic of "Migrating fishes found in the rivers of Kerala." Dr. K.H. Amitha Bachan, a member of the Core Group of the IUCN CEM's CCBPP and a faculty member at MES Asmabi College, started his presentation on the subject of "Restoration Protocol for Riparian Forests in the Western Ghats" around 10:50 a.m. due to technical difficulties. He provided a comprehensive explanation of the specific procedures involved in ecorestoration, key factors to take into account during restoration efforts, and practical instances of restoration work carried out in the coastal region of Sreenarayanapuram Panchayath in Kerala.

Dr. N. Unnikrishnan, Secretary of the Kottayam Nature Society, delivered a captivating and enlightening lecture on the "Riparian Vegetation of the Meenachil River" at 11:20 a.m. He examined the plant life of flowering plants along the Meenachil River, emphasised the significance of protecting the river's few remaining thick vegetation patches along its banks, and provided an update on the present condition of the river. Subsequently, at 11:50 a.m., Mr. Vinod Nambiar, the General Secretary of Friends of Bharathapuzha, delivered a lecture on the "Bharathapuzha River". He detailed the endeavours of their team to safeguard the Barathauzha, which encompassed their continuous initiatives to construct a River Knowledge Centre specifically for the Barathapuzha. Which involve their continuous work towards establishing a River Knowledge Centre specifically for the Barathapuzha.



Ms. Devika M Anilkumar, a member of the SER Asia Core Team, delivered a presentation on the topic "Threatened Status Assessment of Riparian Ecosystem" at 1.00 pm. She explained the need of ecosystem status assessments and provided an update on the current condition of Kerala's riparian ecosystem. Following that, Ms. Pooja Suresh, a Research Scholar from MES Asmabi College, delivered the last presentation of the seminar titled "Mapping the Riparian Vegetation within Anamalais" at 1.15 p.m. She explained the cartography procedure utilising the Google Earth Pro programme and showcased the current condition of riparian vegetation along the Anamalais Rivers.



Subsequently, deliberations were held on several subjects pertaining to rivers and ecological restoration, followed by the experts offering their respective viewpoints on each topic. Lastly, At 1.30 p.m., Mrs. Gouthami V, a Research Scholar at MES Asmabi College, concluded the meeting by delivering a vote of thanks.

