



WATER FEST'25

STEWARDSHIP FOR WATER AND BIODIVERSITY

CONFERENCE CUM STUDENT SYMPOSIUM

WETLANDS CONSERVATION



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13 TO 15 FEBRUARY, 2025



SHARANAM CONVENTION CENTRE, PUTHURAI

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CENTRAL & STATE GOVT DEPTS

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL

LEAD ORGANISERS OF WATERFEST

LOCAL NGO PARTNERS

RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

CORPORATE





Day 1 (13 Feb) : BIOREGIONALISM

TIME	TYPE	TITLE	SPEAKER	TIME
8:00 AM - 9:15 AM		BREAKFAST & REGISTRATION		8:00 AM - 9:00 AM
9:15 AM - 9:30 AM		INAUGURAL FUNCTION		9:00 AM - 9:30 AM
9:30 AM - 10:00 AM	Vision Session	Bioregionalism & Wetlands - Action on the Ground	Joss Brooks (Pitchandikulam, Auroville)	9:30 AM - 10:00 AM
10:00 AM - 10:45 AM	Focus Talk	Guardians of Heritage - Activist Efforts to Protect the Wetlands of Marakanam	Sarvesh Kumar N (NAMO, Marakanam)	10:00 AM - 10:45 AM
10:45 AM - 11:00 AM		REFRESHMENT BREAK		10:45 AM - 11:00 AM
11:00 AM - 11:45 AM	Focus Talk	Saving Ecosystems from the Onslaught of Industry - Conserving Cuddalore's Wetlands and Mangroves	Arul S (SACEM, Cuddalore)	11:00 AM - 11:45 AM
11:45 AM - 12:45 PM	Featured Presentation	Comparative Assessment of Ramsar Sites in Madhya Pradesh	Satish Awate & Avinash Madhale (CEE, Ahmedabad)	11:45 AM - 12:45 PM
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM		LUNCH		1:00 PM - 2:00 PM
2:00 PM - 4:30 PM	Workshop Options	1.CEPA Framework for Ramsar Sites (communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness) 2. Science Communication for Community	1.Satish Awate & Avinash Madhale (CEE) 2. Dr Pankaj Koparde (MIT-WPU)	2:00 PM - 4:30 PM
4:30 PM - 4:45 PM		REFRESHMENT BREAK		4:30 PM - 4:45 PM
4:45 PM - 5:30 PM	Mainstage Session	Bioregionalism in the Making	Probir Banerjee (PondyCAN, AGG)	4:45 PM - 5:30 PM
5:30 PM		INAUGURATION OF POSTER SESSION		5:30 PM
6:00 PM		DAY 1 CONCLUDES		6:00 PM



FIELD TRIP



PLENARY TALK



WORKSHOP



SESSION



DAY 2 (14 FEB) : FRESHWATER SYSTEMS

TIME	TYPE	TITLE	SPEAKER	TIME
6:00 AM - 8:00 AM	Field Trip	Field Trip Options: 1. Birds & Odonates in Ousteri Wetlands Sanctuary 2. Arovanam Nature Education	1. Dr. Pankaj Koparde (MIT-WPU) 2. Svarnim Team	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM		BREAKFAST		9:00 AM - 9:30 AM
10:00 AM - 10:30 AM	Mainstage Talk	Exploring Freshwater Science in the current Anthropocene	Dr. Vidyadhar Atkore (SACON, Coimbatore)	9:30 AM - 10:00 AM
10:30 AM - 11:00 AM	Featured Presentation	Evaluation of satellite data for wetland monitoring : applications to the Pantanal watershed (Brazil) and the Okavango delta (Botswana)	Dr. Samuel Corgne (University of Rennes/CNRS, IFP)	10:00 AM - 10:45 AM
11:00 AM - 11:30 AM	Focus Talk	Natural Resource Management and Water Centric Livelihood	Waman Kulkarni (BAIF, Pune)	10:45 AM - 11:00 AM
11:30 AM - 11:45 AM		REFRESHMENT BREAK		11:00 AM - 11:45 AM
11:45 AM - 1:00 PM	Student Scholars Session	1. Winter Migratory Birds in the Wetlands of Gangetic Plains: Diversity, Habitat Selection, and Emerging Threats 2. Youth and Water Conservation from Social Work Perspectives 3. Roadmap to Restoration: Understanding the Threats to the Ecology and Ecosystem Services of Myristica Swamps in the Western Ghats and Designing a Plan for Their Restoration	1. Ali Arzan 2. Janarthan N 3. Priya Ranganathan	11:45 AM - 12:45 PM
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM		LUNCH		1:00 PM - 2:00 PM
2:00 PM - 4:30 PM	Workshop	Freshwater Ecology	Dr. Vidyadhar Atkore & Team (SACON, Coimbatore)	2:00 PM - 4:30 PM
4:30 PM - 5:00 PM		REFRESHMENT BREAK		4:30 PM - 5:00 PM
5:00 PM - 5:30 PM	Core Session	Water in the city, Water for the city – the many dimensions of urban freshwaters	Dr. Mihir Kulkarni (IIHS, Bengaluru)	5:00 PM - 5:30 PM
5:30 PM - 6:00 PM	Spotlight Talk	Eco-Bio-Hydrology in the High Mountain Himalayas	Dr. Manish Kumar (C-STEP, New Delhi)	5:30 PM
6:00 PM		DAY 2 CONCLUDES		6:00 PM



FIELD TRIP



PLENARY TALK



WORKSHOP



SESSION



DAY 3 (15 FEB) : MARINE & BRACKISH SYSTEMS

TIME	TYPE	TITLE	SPEAKER	TIME
6:00 AM - 8:00 AM	Field Trip	Field Trip Options: 1.Aurovanam Nature Trail by Svarnim Team 2.Birds & Odonates in Ousteri 3.Urban Mangroves in Thengaithittu	1.Svarnim Team 2.Dr. Pankaj Koparde (MIT-WPU Pune) 3.Pondy Yacht Club	6:00 AM - 8:00 AM
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	BREAKFAST			8:00 AM - 9:00 AM
10:00 AM - 10:30 AM	Mainstage Talk	Marine Megafauna Conservation in India	Dr. Sivakumar Kuppaswamy (Pondicherry University)	10:00 AM - 10:30 AM
10:30 AM - 11:00 AM	Focus Talk	Conservation Status and Recent Advances in Dugong Research in the Gulf of Kutch	Prachi Hatkar (WII, Dehra Dun)	10:30 AM - 11:00 AM
11:00 AM - 11:30 AM	Featured Talk	Re-thinking Marine Biodiversity Protection in a Connected Ocean	Dr Katell Guizien (CNRS)	11:00 AM - 11:30 AM
11:00 AM - 11:30 AM	REFRESHMENT BREAK			11:00 AM - 11:30 AM
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM	Student Scholars Session	1.Breeding and Ecological Aspects of Colonial Nesting Aquatic Birds: Evidences from the Heronries of Bhitarkanika Mangrove Wetland 2.Baseline assessment of microplastics in the mangrove sediments of Puducherry region, India 3.Integrated Wetland and Water Resource Management for a Changing Climate Coastal and Wetland Ecosystems: Guardians of Our Water	1.Poojalaxmi Sahoo 2.SP Akila 3.Pavani Darapureddy 4.Alladi Raja Kumar	11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	LUNCH			1:00 PM - 2:00 PM
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Workshop Options	1.CEPA II - Framework for Ramsar Sites (communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness) 2.Community Engagement in Marine Conservation	1.Dr. Avinash Madhale (CEE) 2.Prachi Hatkar (WII)	2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
4:00 PM - 4:30 PM	All Audience Session	Environmental and Livelihood Impact of Artificial Reefs in the Pondicherry Bioregion	Dr. A. Sakthivel & Dr. Afreen Hussain (Kuddle Life Foundation)	4:00 PM - 4:30 PM
4:30 PM - 5:00 PM	REFRESHMENT BREAK			4:30 PM - 5:00 PM
5:00 PM - 5:30 PM	Vision Session	Exploring the Intertidal: Habitats, Diversity, and Challenges	Pradip Patade (Coastal Conservation Foundation, Mumbai)	5:00 PM - 5:30 PM
5:30 PM - 6:00 PM	Core Session	Mangroves in Peril? Case Study of Mangroves of Raigad District, Maharashtra	Dr. Prasad Kulkarni (MIT-WPU, Pune)	5:30 PM - 6:00 PM
6:00 PM - 6:30 PM	Valedictory Function/ Awards for Presentations, Posters/ Honor & Recognition of Wetlands Champion			6:00 PM - 6:30 PM



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

13/02/2025		14/02/2025		15/02/2025	
BIOREGIONALISM		FRESHWATER SYSTEMS		MARINE & BRACKISH SYSTEMS	
8:00 AM - 9:15 AM	Breakfast Participant Registration	6:00 AM - 8:00 AM	Field Trip Options: • Birds & Odonates in Ousteri Wetlands Sanctuary • Aurovanam Nature Education	6:00 AM - 8:00 AM	• Aurovanam Nature Education • Birds & Odonates in Ousteri Wetlands Sanctuary • Urban Mangroves in Thengaithittu
9:15 AM - 9:30 AM	Inaugural Function	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Breakfast	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Breakfast
9:30 AM - 10:00 AM	Vision of Bioregionalism & Wetlands	10:00 AM - 10:30 AM	Exploring Freshwater Science in the current Anthropocene	10:00 AM - 10:30 AM	Marine Megafauna Conservation in India
10:00 AM - 10:45 AM	Guardians of Heritage: Activist Efforts to Protect the Wetlands	10:30 AM - 11:00 AM	Evaluation of satellite data for wetland monitoring	10:30 AM - 11:00 AM	Conservation Status and Recent Advances in Dugong Research in the Gulf of Kutch
10:45 AM - 11:00 AM	Refreshment Break	11:00 AM - 11:30 AM	Natural Resource Management and Water Centric Livelihood	11:00 AM - 11:30 AM	Re-thinking Marine Biodiversity Protection in a Connected Ocean
11:00 AM - 11:45 AM	Saving Ecosystems from the Onslaught of Industry	11:30 AM - 11:45 AM	Refreshment Break	11:00 AM - 11:30 AM	Refreshment Break
11:45 AM - 12:45 PM	Comparative Assessment of Ramsar Sites in MP	11:45 AM - 1:00 PM	3 Sessions	11:30 AM - 1:00 PM	4 Sessions
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Lunch	1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Lunch	1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Lunch
2:00 PM - 4:30 PM	CEPA-I for Ramsar Sites	2:00 PM - 4:30 PM	Freshwater Ecology	2:00 PM - 4:00 PM	CEPA II for a Ramsar Site Community Engagement in Marine Conservation
4:30 PM - 4:45 PM	Refreshment Break	4:30 PM - 5:00 PM	Refreshment Break	4:00 PM - 4:30 PM	Environmental and Livelihood Impact of Kuddle's Artificial Reefs in the Pondy Bioregion
4:45 PM - 5:30 PM	Bioregionalism in the Making	5:00 PM - 5:30 PM	Water in the city, Water for the city	4:30 PM - 5:00 PM	Refreshment Break
5:30 PM	Inauguration of Poster Session	5:30 PM - 6:00 PM	Freshwater Hydro Ecology	5:00 PM - 5:30 PM	Exploring the Intertidal
6:00 PM	Day 1 Concludes	6:00 PM	Day 2 Concludes	5:30 PM - 6:00 PM	Mangroves in Peril?
				6:00 PM - 6:30 PM	Valedictory Function

FIELD TRIP
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