

INDUSTRY MEET HELD ON 4TH JULY 2014 AT HOTEL REGENTA, BHUJ

Towards Responsible Mangrove Conservation in the Gulf of Kachchh, Gujarat

A workshop on best practices for corporate-community mangrove restoration

Coastal environment of Gulf of Kachchh (GoK) is home for an assortment of industries like oil refineries, thermal power stations, cement, chemical, fertilizer plants, ports, harbours and jetties. It also harbours the largest mangrove formation (934 Km²) of the west coast of India. Most of the industries in GoK are located in close vicinity of mangroves, rendering them an indispensable stakeholder in mangrove conservation in GoK. Their contribution to the ongoing mangrove conservation initiative is significant as massive mangrove plantation is often implemented by them during setting up/expansion process. However, this industry oriented plantation initiatives are beset with many technical, ecological and social issues. In order to address these issues, a brainstorming workshop was organised by Gujarat Institute of Desert Ecology (GUIDE) at Bhuj under the aegis of ongoing IUCN-MFF project on 4th July, 2014. This workshop mainly focused on aspects such as

1. Issues on involvement of coastal communities in industry mediated plantation.
2. Possibility for creating a consortium for all GoK industries to address the issue of long term mangrove conservation in GoK.
3. Encouraging industries to commit voluntarily for mangrove conservation initiatives in the absence of legal mandate.
4. Conservation efforts other than Plantation.
5. Developing a conservation industry mediated model - a way forward.

Besides 13 major industries' representatives of Gulf of Kachchh, the workshop was participated by eminent personnel such as Shri. P. R. Sinha (IUCN Country Representative), Shri. R.D. Kamboj (Director, MNP & S), Shri. R. V. Asari (Director, GUIDE), Dr. Somnath Basu (Sustainability officer, CGPL), Dr. N. M. Ishwar (MFF coordinator, IUCN) and Ms. Nisha D'Souza (MFF Officer, IUCN).