

## **“Climate Change and Mangroves-Gulf of Kachchh Context”**

**Date: 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2015**

**Venue: Theba Forest Rest House, Theba Village, Khambhalia By-Pass Road,  
Jamnagar**

Gulf of Kachchh (GoK), a marine biological paradise, *inter alia* is endowed with two major ecosystems, mangroves and corals. Extending over an area of 960 sq. km in four coastal districts, GoK mangroves are the largest mangrove entity in the west coast of India. The ecological, economic and aesthetic services of this mangrove formation are enormous and often go unnoticed even among coastal communities and industries. Parallel to this, GoK also harbours an assortment of industries like oil refineries, thermal power stations, cement, chemical, fertilizer plants, ports, harbours and jetties, located in close vicinity of mangroves, rendering them an indispensable stakeholder in mangrove conservation. Several coastal industries of GoK also contribute richly to mangrove conservation as massive mangrove plantation is often implemented by them during setting up/expansion process. Mangroves also contribute richly as a carbon store house which is manifold higher than terrestrial forests which has a huge commercial and environmental significance in carbon trading and abatement of global warming and climate change. Hence knowledge on mangroves' role in climate change, carbon trading and carbon sequestration is imperative to coastal industries and other stakeholders. In order to highlight and discuss the role of mangroves in relation to climate change and as a carbon sequestering system, a meeting cum workshop was organised by Gujarat Institute of Desert Ecology (GUIDE), Bhuj under the auspices of ongoing IUCN-MFF project on 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2015 at Theba Forest Rest House, Marine National Park and Sanctuary (MNP & S), Jamnagar. This meeting brought together major coastal industries, forest officials, NGOs and other prominent mangrove stakeholders of GoK and initiated discussion on the following aspects.

1. Climate change related impact on mangroves of GoK.
2. Role of mangrove ecosystem in carbon cycle and its values
3. International Carbon markets and RED<sup>+</sup>