

Technical Session

31.07.2017

- 11.15-13.00 **Session I** Invited talk on Ecosystem Services
- 13.45-15.15 **Session II** Presentations by local body representatives
- 15.30-17.00 **Session III** Presentations by local body representatives

01.08.2017

- 10.00-13.00 **Session IV** Invited talk on Ecosystem Services & Presentations by local body representatives
- 14.00-15.15 **Session V** Invited talk on Ecosystem Services & Presentations
- 15.15-16.45 **Session VI** Panel Discussion
- 16.45-17.00 **Concluding Remarks & Valedictory function**



UNIVERSITY OF KERALA
Thiruvananthapuram
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UGC-ISF WORKSHOP

On

ECOSYSTEM SERVICE ASSESSMENT FOR THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF ASHTAMUDI AND SASTHAMKOTTA LAKES, KERALA

31st July & 1st August, 2017

Venue: The Raviz, Kollam

Organized by



Department of Environmental Sciences
University of Kerala, Kariavattom Campus
Thiruvananthapuram

Background:

Wetlands are very complex and dynamic ecosystems valuable for the sustainability of our environment. They are among the world's most productive ecosystems and are the cradles of biological diversity upon which countless species of plants and animals depend for survival, and are the "Biological Supermarket" of the world. Wetlands are indispensable for the countless aids or "ecosystem services (ESs)" which include significant economic, cultural and social welfares that range from freshwater supply, flood control, food, building materials, biodiversity, groundwater recharge, carbon storage, climate change mitigation etc. A few of the services can be economically valued using market prices. However, the overall valuation covering both market and non-market ESs are infrequently accessible, leading to under-investment and degradation of these natural resources.

The State of Kerala in India is having the major proportion of land area under wetlands including ecologically significant Ramsar sites - Vembanad, Ashtamudi and Sasthamkotta lakes. The wetlands of Kerala are under threat of pollution and encroachment due to population pressure, exhaustive urbanization and global climate change. The lack of comprehensive wetland ecosystem service evaluation and environmental quality monitoring weakens the regional environmental policies for managing these natural resources and the sustainable development of the respective regions.

Hence, the Dept. of Environmental Sciences, University of Kerala initiated a study in the form of a joint collaborative project (UGC-ISF) funded by UGC for three years with University of Haifa for the ecosystem service valuation for sustainable management of Ashtamudi and Sasthamkotta lakes. Among the methodology used, participatory workshop for the stakeholders regarding the benefits/services given to the society by these lakes, systems and the current intimidations facing by these lakes, seem to be useful and hence this workshop.

Convenor

Dr. Andrea Ghermandi

Dept. of Natural Resource &
Environmental Management
University of Haifa

Organizing Secretary

Dr. Sabu Joseph

Dept. of Environmental Sciences
University of Kerala
Thiruvananthapuram

Inaugural Programme

31.07.2017

Time: 10.00-11.00 am

- Welcome Speech** : **Dr. Sabu Joseph**
(Organizing Secretary, Dept. of environmental Sciences, University of Kerala)
- Presidential Address** : **Dr. N.Veeramanikandan**
(Pro-Vice Chancellor, University of Kerala)
- Inauguration** : **Smt. J.Mercykutty Amma**
(Hon. Minister for Fisheries, Harbour Engineering and Cashew Industry)
- Keynote Address** : **Smt. K. Jagadamma Teacher**
(District GramaPanchayath president, Kollam)
- Releasing of Methodology Book** : **Adv. V. Rajendra Babu**
(Hon. Mayor, Kollam Corporation, Kollam)
- Program Overview** : **Dr. Andrea Ghermandi**
(Dept. of Natural Resources & Environmental Management, University of Haifa)
- Vote of thanks** : **Dr. Jaya D.S**
(Associate Professor, Dept. Environmental Sciences, University of Kerala)