

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY 22nd MAY

Theme for 2016: *“Mainstreaming Biodiversity; Sustaining People and their livelihoods”*

Biological Diversity is defined as the variability among living organisms (plants, animals, micro-organisms, their genetic material and by-products) and includes diversity within species or between species and among ecosystems in which they live in. Ecosystems are dynamic complexes of this living environment interacting constantly and sustainably as functional units with the non-living environment generating multiple services to mankind.

Ecosystem services may come in the form of food, water and other daily needs; cultural services such as spiritual, recreational, and cultural benefits/ regulating services such as flood and disease control/ and supporting services, such as nutrient cycling/ that maintain the conditions for life on Earth.

The Eastern Ghats are home to a number of tribal communities. They includes Bhatudi, Bhotada, Bhumiya, Chenchu, Gond, Juang, Kissan, Kharia, Khonds (Kandho), Kolha, Kondareddy, Mirdhas, Munda, Paroja, Santal, Shabar, Soara etc.

Ethnic tribes in EG

Their daily needs include food, fuel, medicine, fiber, fodder, wood and timber and are met through various minor forest products obtainable from the forests that are of plant and animal origin.

Firewood is a renewable resource but the demand for this fuel can outpace its regeneration leading to deforestation. Good forestry practices and improved *chulas* can reduce local firewood demand.

Different types of leaves are collected for different purposes, the most important being the *Tendu* leaves, used as wrappers for *bidis*. Leaves of *Bauhinia vahlii* are used as wrappers in sweet shops or



Eastern Ghats



Tribal hamlet-Orissa stitched into plates and leaf cups.



Bonda



Chenchu



Illegal trade of 1. Rosewood 2. Red Sanders 3. Teak



Tamarind collection



Kanuga seed collection

Exploitation Issues:

Pterocarpus santalinus, known by red sanders is endemic to the southern Eastern Ghats. It is valued for the rich red color of its wood and also known to be used in traditional herbal medicine. Its illegal felling and trade is a serious issue troubling the Govt. of Andhra Pradesh.

Sustainable Management:

Forests and Natural resources need to be managed sustainably. This can be achieved by rationalizing our needs, making wise decisions on harvesting/exploitation of our renewable resources that will help sustain our environment and resources for generations to come.



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EPTRI/ENVIS/Brochure/No. 01



Triphala (Usiri, Thandra and Karaka)

Source: All the photographs were taken from Google search

