

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON "NATURAL HISTORY OF INDIAN BIODIVERSITY"

4-5 OCTOBER 2012



XI Conference of Parties
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
HYDERABAD INDIA 2012



अहो है हरियाली ।
वहो है खुशहाली ॥

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

(Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests)

Tansen Marg, New Delhi-110001. INDIA

www.nmnh.nic.in

In collaboration with

National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai

Andhra Pradesh State Biodiversity Board, Hyderabad and

Salarjung Museum, Hyderabad

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON **"NATURAL HISTORY OF** **INDIAN BIODIVERSITY"**

It is proposed to have an International Conference on "Natural History of Indian Biodiversity" to be organised by the National Museum of Natural History (NMNH) in Hyderabad (India) during 4-5 October 2012 as a side event of CoP 11. The funding collaborators are National Biodiversity Authority (Chennai) and Andhra Pradesh State Biodiversity Board (Hyderabad), and the venue collaborator is Salarjung Museum (Hyderabad).

What is COP 11?

The eleventh Conference of Parties (CoP 11) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the sixth Meeting of the Parties serving as CoP (CoP–MoP 6) to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety will be held in Hyderabad International Convention Centre, Hyderabad in the State of Andhra Pradesh in India from 1-19 October 2012. These meetings are being held in accordance with decision X/46 of CoP 10 to the CBD. The Government of India will also host the High Level Segment to CoP-11 at the same venue from 17-19 October 2012.

Among the plethora of a few hundreds of international treaties, the CBD stands apart as the one Convention which is at the heart of human well-being. India, despite the tremendous demographic pressure and developmental imperatives, is undertaking all possible measures to meet the three objectives of CBD. The slogan of CoP 11 coined by India: "Nature protects if She is protected", should encourage each one of us to do our bit in protecting the biodiversity on which we so completely depend for our survival.

Details of CoP 11 may be available in the website: <http://www.cbdcop11india.in/home.html>

Themes

The International Conference on "Natural History of Indian Biodiversity" will address the following themes relevant to Indian Biodiversity:

1. History of Indian Botany & Zoology
2. Natural History Art
3. Colonial Natural History: In search of Spices
4. Cultural aspects of Nature
5. Traditional Knowledge
6. IPR aspects of Biodiversity

There will be sessions on the following themes as well:

7. Natural History of Andhra Pradesh
8. 'National Biodiversity Museum' in Hyderabad

Background

Biodiversity is essentially represented by the diversity of plants and animals (**Botany** and **Zoology** respectively). Biodiversity is extensively depicted in Indian art. Even though there are a large number of publications with art/ illustrations of plants/ animals, the contribution of Indian artists is seldom recognised. A systematic study of the contribution of Indian **Natural History Art** needs to be undertaken.

It is generally considered that the scientific study of Indian Biodiversity/ Natural History started with Europeans who came to India primarily **in search of Spices**. In order to get economic benefit, the Europeans (Portuguese, Dutch, French, British etc) started to explore and study the biodiversity especially plants of economic and medicinal values. Europeans such as Garcia de Orta and Van Rhee de documented extensively the plant heritage of India. The NMNH has chronicled this in its Museum in Mysore.

During the past decade or so there has been an increasing interest in the **intangible aspects** of biodiversity / natural heritage especially with reference to the **cultural aspects** of nature and **traditional knowledge** about biodiversity. The NMNH has been working on this INH (Intangible Natural Heritage) through many workshops (Calicut, Kochi, Kalady and Jodhpur) and exhibitions (Mysore and New Delhi).

IPR aspects is important in the preservation of Indian Biodiversity. Examples such as the TKDL (Traditional Knowledge Digital Library) and the Kani model of ABS (Access and Benefit Sharing) from India are useful in this direction.

The contribution of **Andhra Pradesh**, which is the local host of CoP 11, towards Indian **Natural History** is tremendous. An example in this regard includes Dr Salim Ali's "The Hyderabad State Ornithological Survey" during 1933-34.

There is a proposal to establish an international level '**National Biodiversity Museum**' along with **Aquarium** in commemoration of CoP 11 at Hyderabad. The proposed International Conference will be an appropriate forum for discussion in this regard.

Dates and Venue

4-5 October 2012. Salarjung Museum, Hyderabad, India.

Separate registrations are required for the CoP11 and International Conference on "NH of Indian Biodiversity". The following websites may be referred to for updates:

1. www.nmnh.nic.in
2. <http://www.cbdcop11india.in/home.html>

Programme (Tentative)

A tentative programme is given below:

	Time (Hr)	Day 1	Themes
	0900-1000	Registration	
	1000-1100	Inauguration	
	1100-1400	Session 1: History of Indian Biodiversity	
			History of Botany & Zoology
			Natural History Art
			In search of Spices: Colonial Natural History
	1400-1500	Lunch	
	1500-1800	Session 2: Intangible Natural Heritage	
			Cultural aspects of Nature
			Traditional Knowledge about Biodiversity
			IPR aspects of Biodiversity
	1715-1800		
	1800-2000	Cultural programme	
		Day 2	
	1000-1100	Session 3	Natural History of Andhra Pradesh
	1100-1200	Session 4	‘National Biodiversity Museum’
	1200-1400	(TBC)	
	1400-1500	Lunch	
	1500-1600	Valediction	
	1600-2000	Local visit	

Participation

Participation to the International Conference on “Natural History of Indian Biodiversity” is by invitation:

1. Experts: invited to present papers or chair sessions
2. Presenters: interested to present papers on a relevant theme,
3. Agencies: with proven experience in developing Natural History Museums/ Aquariums,
4. Delegates/ Observers: Others who may be interested to participate only.

Those who are interested to participate in the International Conference on “Natural History of Indian Biodiversity” may fill up the Registration form and send it along with short CV/ profile to the Director NMNH by email (dirnmnh@gmail.com) latest by 15th August 2012. Those interested to present paper may enclose an Extended Abstract (about 1000 words) along with the Registration form. Agencies with proven experience in developing Natural History Museums/ Aquariums may enclose a profile along with the Registration form.

The result of the applications for participation will be finalised by the 1st week of September 2012 and may be available in the website of the NMNH: www.nmnh.nic.in

Publication

There is a possibility of publication of the proceedings of the Conference at a later time. Accordingly those applicants whose Abstracts are accepted for presentations are required to submit the full papers latest by 15th September 2012.

Funding

There is limited funding towards reimbursement of expenses on travel and/ or accommodation during 4-5 October 2012. Preference will be given to the invited Experts and to the presenters whose Abstracts are accepted for presentation and who submit the full papers in time. The Agencies interested to participate in Session 4 need to make their own arrangements for travel and accommodation.

Important Dates

1	Registration period	25-07-2012 to 15-08-2012
2	Deadline for submission of Registration form along with CV	15-08-2012
3	Deadline for submission of Abstract/ Profile	15-08-2012
4	Result of applications for Participation (made available in NMNH website)	1 st week of September 2012
5	Deadline for submission of full Paper	15-09-2012

Communication

All communications may be sent to:
Coordinator of the International Conference,

Dr. B. Venugopal,
Director, National Museum of Natural History,
Tansen Marg, New Delhi-110001. INDIA.

Email: dirnmnh@gmail.com

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
"NATURAL HISTORY OF INDIAN BIODIVERSITY"

4-5 October 2012. Hyderabad, India
Organiser: NMNH, New Delhi, India

REGISTRATION FORM

1	Name (in capital letters)	
2	Designation	
3	Office/ Institution/ Agency	
4	Address for communication	
5	Contact numbers	Tel. (O) Tel. (R) Fax Mobile Email
6	CV (short)	(Attached separately)
7	Profile of Agency (Applicable to those interested to participate in Session 4)	
8	Do you wish to submit a paper relevant to the themes of the Conference?	Yes/ No
	If Yes, title of the Abstract/ Paper	
	(The extended Abstract of 1000 words is enclosed)	Yes/ No
	(The full Paper will be submitted by the last date)	Yes/ No
	The session in which interested to present paper	1/ 2/ 3/ 4
9	Are you able to get funding from your institution or other sources for travel/ accommodation?	Travel: Yes/ No Accommodation: Yes/ No
10	Do you need help for travel and/ or accommodation?	Travel: Yes/ No Accommodation: Yes/ No
	Signature of the Applicant	

The Registration Form may be copied, filled up, signed (digital) and sent along with enclosures (CV, Abstract/ Profile etc) to Dr. B. Venugopal, Director, National Museum of Natural History, Tansen Marg, New Delhi-110001. INDIA, by Email (dirnmnh@gmail.com) latest by 15t August 2012.