

## **World Wetland Day Celebrations 2020**

Sindhudurg District, Maharashtra

2nd to 5th Feb 2020

The Mangrove and Marine Biodiversity Conservation Foundation of Maharashtra (Mangrove Foundation) under the Mangrove Cell, Forest department Maharashtra, with an intention to spread awareness among the local community members, students and tourists on the occasion of World Wetland Day 2020 is celebrating this day in the following ways across the Sindhudurg district,

### **Mangrove and creek clean up**

To start with, this activity was conducted in three villages namely Mithumbri, Taramumbri and Nivati. These villages are among the 35 Mangrove Co-Management Committees (MCMC) spread over the district. The members of these committees are involved in various Mangrove conservation and livelihood development projects through the Mangrove Foundation.

Joining hands with the local community members, Mangrove and creek clean up activities were conducted in these villages where a unique concept of sustainable Mangrove Ecotourism is picking up. The enthusiasm of the women Self-help groups and their involvement in such conservation activities is commendable.

### **Two days workshop on Ecotourism for Sustainable development**

A total of 40 students from The New College of Architecture, Kolhapur is visiting Vengurla City which has been recently awarded the Swaccha Bharat award to learn about Waste Management and to understand Wetland Biodiversity in addition to the Mangrove Ecosystem. These students from Kolhapur will be spending two days in the district during an interactive workshop with the students of Br. Balasaheb Khardekar College who have in-turn played an instrumental role in documenting the Wetlands of Vengurla Tehsil. The Vengurla Chief officer and representatives from the mangrove foundation will be presenting lectures on their works done so far. Ecotourism for Sustainable Development is possible through such interactive workshops. A group of fisherwomen who have started mangrove ecotourism in Mandavi creek of Vengurla with funding support from a UNDP-GEF project who are now a part of MCMC of Vengurla are actively involved in making the workshop more interesting by offering mangrove safari and local cuisines to the visitors. This workshop also involves bird trails at two wetland areas, Dhamapur lake heritage walk and lectures on various topics by guest speakers.

### **Mangrove trail and Drawing Competition**

A drawing competition for school students from Achara village which is another ecotourism site has been organised by the Mangrove foundation team. The theme of wetland and mangrove

associated Biodiversity will be assigned to the participating students. The MCMC members from Achara will be offering these students and locals Free mangrove and bird trails. Yummy fish cutlets, fish fingers will be on the snack menu which will be freshly made by the women Shg members. These group of women have benefited from Fish value addition training workshop imparted through the Mangrove Foundation. The kids are certain to have a gala time sketching this beautiful world of Wetland and Mangrove ecosystem.

The Mangrove Foundation aims to capitalise on such important days focusing on Biodiversity Conservation by ensuring active community involvement across the coastal stretch of Maharashtra.