



INTERNATIONAL YOUTH FORUM Go4BioDiv 2012

Conserving coastal and marine biodiversity
for sustaining life and livelihoods



This process documentation booklet on the International Youth Forum Go4BioDiv 2012 is published by the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit* (GIZ) on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), in cooperation with the Wildlife Institute India (WII) on behalf of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India.

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FOREWORD

The International Youth Forum Go4BioDiv was organized during the Eleventh Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP-11) in Sundarbans and Hyderabad in October, 2012 with the aim of providing a platform to the youth to voice their concerns on the issues related to biodiversity. The Go4BioDiv event was coordinated by Wildlife Institute of India on behalf of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) with active support from a number of organizations such as GIZ, GMU, BFN, UNESCO, IUCN, ACB, UNDP, World Bank and DFRA. The theme of Go4BioDiv 2012 was 'Conserving Coastal and Marine Biodiversity for Sustaining Life and Livelihoods'. Organization of Go4BioDiv was an important task for the Government and entailed planning with experts of GIZ and other organizations for nearly one year.

This document embodies a brief account of how the event was planned and conducted. It contains all relevant information put together at one place. The document is a pictorial presentation meant to serve as a useful record of the event. It brings to you the success stories and the learnings of Go4BioDiv International Youth Forum 2012 Messengers.

India boasts a large youth population generally well versed with the use of new forms of media and other information and communication channels. India believes that youth holds tremendous potential for stewardship of conservation and management of biodiversity.

Thirty-five 'Messengers' were selected to represent different communities, environmental groups and research institutes from the Americas, Europe, Africa, Asia and the Pacific region including Australia. The messengers included youths of 18-29 age group from over 20 different Marine World Heritage Sites around the world including nine coastal States of India.

The participants, resource persons and the organizing team first met in a Nature Camp at the Sundarbans Marine World Heritage Site, West Bengal where a 'Youth Declaration' was jointly prepared. The Messengers then proceeded to Hyderabad for the High-level Segment of COP-11 from 16 to 19 October, 2012 to present their messages to decision-makers and the wider public through the 'Youth Declaration'. This was done by participating in several side-events and sessions, organizing creative performances like street theatre and conducting a colorful exhibition.

I am happy to present this booklet during the UN Decade on Biodiversity 2011-2020 and India's Presidency following the hosting of CBD COP-11 in October, 2012 in Hyderabad. I am also pleased to release this publication



ASHOK LAVASA

Secretary
Government of India
Ministry of Environment,
Forests and Climate Change
New Delhi

on the occasion of the Twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP-12) at Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea.

I congratulate all those who were involved in this assignment. I wish to put on record the overall guidance and support provided by Shri Hem Pande, Additional Secretary and the efforts put in by Dr. J.R. Bhatt, Scientist-G in this endeavour.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lavasa', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ashok Lavasa

PREFACE

Go4BioDiv is an International Youth Forum, aimed at providing a platform for the youth, to voice their opinion on the issues related to biodiversity, during the global event of decision-making on biodiversity – the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP). Go4BioDiv was organized for the first time during CBD-COP 9 in Bonn, Germany in 2008, the second time during COP 10 in Nagoya-Japan, in 2010, and third in the year 2012, during the CBD COP 11 in Hyderabad, India.

Go4BioDiv is conceptualized and implemented to make impact at three levels. First, on the lives of the participants (called ‘Messengers’) by providing them exposure to issues and opportunities in biodiversity conservation and making them a part of the bigger conservation and youth network. The second impact is the outreach and awareness generated by the Go4BioDiv Messengers both to the wider public at COP and in their respective home countries. The third impact is realized during the COP by providing a fresh youth perspective on the issues, particularly in cross-cutting CBD programmes of work.

In order to be able to make these impacts, the programme enables the Messengers to develop a group affiliation and have a first-hand experience of the issues by living at an actual site relevant to the theme of the Go4BioDiv. This on-site learning experience fosters them to prepare for their roles towards public outreach and awareness generation in their respective countries and also for the interventions during the COP.

India, where Go4BioDiv 2012 took place, has an extensive coastline, rich in coastal and marine biodiversity supporting livelihoods, directly as well as indirectly. The country also has a significant youth population, particularly strong in information technologies and new media, which led to special focus of Go4BioDiv 2012, on public outreach and communication.

Go4BioDiv 2012 had three phases- A Virtual Phase, starting April 2012 where the issues critical to coastal and marine conservation and for livelihoods were discussed among the concerned stakeholders, especially the youth on social media platforms. The phase was open for the Thirty-five Go4BioDiv participants as well as the wider community. The discussions that took place in the virtual platform shaped further activities and the Go4BioDiv Declaration during CBD COP-11. The Live Phase of Go4BioDiv took place in India during the CBD-COP 11 (October 6-19, 2012). In the first 10 days of this phase, the participants were stationed in the Marine World Heritage site of India- Sundarbans, and prepared for their interventions in the CBD COP for which they moved to the COP venue in Hyderabad in the last 4 days of this phase. At the 11th CBD-COP, the participants used innovative ways and means, for spreading their messages on coastal and marine conservation, including a Go4BioDiv declaration. At the CBD-COP, held in Hyderabad the messengers joined the High-Level Segment to present their messages to decision-makers

and the wider public via a powerful youth declaration on October 17th in the Novotel Gardens. They organized and participated in side-events, sessions and creative performances involving street theatre and a colourful exhibition. The whole event was accompanied by a virtual exchange via an online platform, which was updated every hour to share the news of Go4BioDiv and CBD COP with the outer world. Go4BioDiv also received significant media coverage, both nationally and globally.

The Go4BioDiv was a huge success with its high-impact events as well as a significant presence at the High Level Segment of COP 11. The exhibitions and events by the Go4BioDiv Messengers and resource persons were highly appreciated by different stakeholder groups. The

third phase is the post-COP follow-up with the participants, where they go back to their respective countries and act as messengers for spreading the message of biodiversity conservation, while remaining connected with the virtual platform.

We would like to thank all the organizations and individuals who have contributed in developing and taking forward the agenda of Go4BioDiv. We wish the International Youth Forum Go4BioDiv great success in presenting the views and concerns of the youth on issues relevant to the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity.

We wish the Go4BioDiv Messengers a great future and hope that they continue to make significant contributions towards addressing the challenges faced by the world in biodiversity conservation.



SHRI. HEM PANDE

Additional Secretary
Ministry of Environment, Forests
and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)
Government of India



MR EDGAR ENDRUKAITIS

Director, Indo-German
Biodiversity Programme,
GIZ India



DR. J.R. BHATT

Scientist-G
Ministry of Environment, Forests
and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)
Government of India



DR. V. B. MATHUR

Director
Wildlife Institute of India,
Dehradun



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 What is Go4BioDiv?

Youth will have to bear the consequences of today's policy actions and decisions – therefore their points of view should play an important role in political discussions and decision-making.

Go4BioDiv is an international forum for young dedicated people between the age of 18 and 29. It gives the youth from all over the world a unique opportunity to share their on-the-ground conservation experience with their peers and the wider public. It enables them to participate in political discussions by engaging

with international leaders during the Conferences of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD-COP).

Go4BioDiv Japan took place from October 16 to 30, 2010 at a nature-based camp at Mt. Fuji and at the COP 10 venue in Nagoya. It united 34 young messengers from 23 countries around the globe under the theme 'Our Treasures at Risk – World Heritage in Times of Climate Change'.

Go4BioDiv is a call to all of us to take responsibility of conservation of biological diversity.

“Go4BioDiv” stands for: Motivation, ideas, enthusiasm, willingness to act and the personal decision to commit oneself to the conservation of biodiversity. “Go4BioDiv” is the main message and also the title of the Youth Forum. “Go4BioDiv” is a call to you, the delegates, the public, other youth groups and the media to become involved in the conservation of biodiversity and associated goals such as sustainable use of biodiversity and benefit-sharing.



1.2 Background

Germany hosted the 9th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD-COP 9) from May 19 to 30, 2008 in Bonn, where around 5,000 delegates from all over the world met to discuss steps to conserve biodiversity.

The International Youth Summit Go4BioDiv was held from 16 to 30 May in parallel to 9th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD-COP 9) in Bonn, Germany in the year 2008.

The first stage began in the 10-day Wilderness Camp in the Bavarian Forest National Park, where the young participants worked on formulating their points of view on preserving biological and cultural diversity; they made pieces of glass art based on the ecological footprint model, produced a photo exhibition and dance theatre.

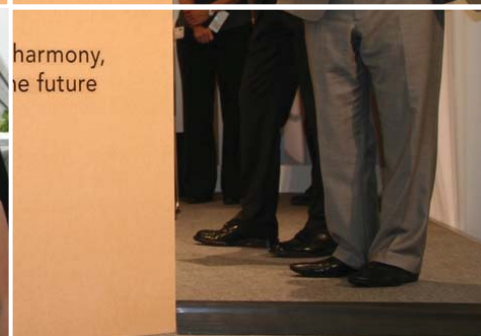
The Youth Forum gave the young adults a unique opportunity to engage in debate and exchange views and experiences. In addition, forums provided the “preservers” of diversity from developing and industrialised countries with the opportunity to share their perspectives and outline proposed solutions in discussion with delegates and the public.

The dance theatre titled Go4BioDiv which was made with the support of a team of choreographers, was presented on the main stage at the Expo of Diversity.

The official opening of the International Youth Summit 2008, “Go4BioDiv” took place on 27 May 2008. Guest speakers included Bärbel Dieckmann, Mayor of Bonn; Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); Dr. Manfred Konukiewicz, Commissioner for Climate Policy and Head of the Global and Sectoral Policies Directorate at the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ); and Gérald Tremblay, Mayor of Montreal.

The Go4BioDiv 2008 was made possible by the support of the following cooperation partners: German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ); the Bavarian State Ministry of the Environment; Public Health and Consumer Protection, the City of Bonn; the Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt (DBU - German Federal Environment Foundation); the GIZ (then, *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit* (GTZ) GmbH; and the Bavarian Forest National Park.

At the end, the Go4BioDiv messengers from 18 countries presented their declaration on saving biodiversity to the German Federal Development Minister, Heidemarie Wiecek-Zeul.



“ युवा स्यात्साधुयुवावध्यायकः।
आशिष्ठो द्रढिष्ठो बलिष्ठः।
तस्येयं पृथ्वी सर्वा वित्तस्य पूर्णा स्यात्। ”

तैत्तिरीय उपनिषद्, वल्ली २, अनुवाक ८

Let it be supposed that there is a youth, a noble youth, in the prime of his age, most swift and alert, perfectly whole and resolute, most vigorous and of good learning, and that to him belongs the entire earth laden with all riches.

Taittiriya Upanishad 2:8

Importance of Coastal and Marine Biodiversity

The sea around India is part of the great Indian Ocean. The Indian sub-continent forms a major physical division between the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal of the Indian Ocean. India represents 2.5 percent of the world's landmass and supports a population of over one billion people. India is also one of 17 mega bio-diverse countries in the world, with 7.8% of the species of the world including 45,500 species of plants and 91,000 species of animals. India has a vast coastline of 7,517 km, of which 5,423 km belong to Peninsular India and 2,094 km to the Andaman, Nicobar, and Lakshadweep Islands, and with an EEZ of 2.02 million sq. km. There are about 13,000 recorded species belonging to the marine environment in India. It is likely that a greater number of species might be living in coastal and marine environment of India that needs to be explored. Indian coastal zones have a variety of habitats like mangrove, estuarine, coral reefs, sea grass beds, lagoons, sand dunes, rocky shore, cliffs, intertidal mud flats. The coastline of India also supports nearly 250 million people within a swath of 50 km from the coastline, therefore, the ecological services of marine and coastal ecosystems of India play a vital role in the growth of its economy.

Commercial and subsistence fisheries are important in India. Hilsa is the main species that has been exploited in the Bay of Bengal. The Bay of Ben-

gal is particularly rich because of the nutrient input from large rivers and extensive information is available through the Bay of Bengal Programme on marine fishery resources. Five of the seven species of sea turtles found worldwide are reported to occur in Indian coastal waters. These are the olive ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), green (*Chelonia mydas*), hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) and loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*). Except for the Loggerhead, all the species nest along the Indian coastline.

Important Birds Areas (IBA) along the coast includes the Gulf of Kutch, Gulf of Mannar, Coringa, Pulicat, Chilka Lake, etc. The seabirds of the region are poorly known and do not appear to be abundant off-shore. Due to poor land-use patterns, the intertidal zones of India are highly disturbed or degraded, therefore, several migratory waders are on the verge of extinction.

About 30 species of marine mammals are known to occur in Indian waters. Apart from larger cetaceans such as baleen, sperm whales, a large number of small cetaceans occur in the Indian Ocean, some of which are not well known, and many are harvested either intentionally or incidentally.


1.3 Impacts, Concepts and Levels

Go4BioDiv: An agent of positive change

1. Go4BioDiv exposes the Youth Messengers to the issues related to conservation and sustainable use of natural resources and provides an excellent opportunity to interact with eminent experts in the field of biodiversity conservation, making them a part of the bigger conservation and youth networks.
2. The Forum also highlights relevant issues facing the home countries of the Youth Messengers, their national protected area systems, individual sites, cooperating institutions and local communities, through public outreach and awareness generated by the Go4BioDiv Messengers, before, during and after COP.
3. Go4BioDiv has a positive impact on political decision-makers as well as on the discussion process in the context of COP and beyond, by providing a fresh, youthful perspective on relevant conservation and development issues, especially in context of the cross-cutting and intergenerational relevance of the CBD Programme of Work.



On June 27, 2012, the International Youth Forum Go4BioDiv was officially recognized as a “UN Decade Project on Biological Diversity”. This prestigious award distinguishes initiatives which contribute to biodiversity conservation in an innovative and exemplary way. With this award, the outstanding commitment of Go4BioDiv in involving young adults in biodiversity conservation is acknowledged.



Committed organizers and partners, motivated youth, a thorough selection and preparation process, integration of multi-faceted, holistic approaches that include theatre, dance, art as well as analytical and organizational aspects, transfer of powers of decision to a great extent to youth coordinators, great ownership of the preparation and implementation process, as well as follow-up and networking.

As a consequence of the active youth interventions during CBD-COP 9 and 10, the Secretariat for the Convention on Biological Diversity in Montreal decided to establish a permanent focal point for youth.

The Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN) and Go4BioDiv, together, were given the floor during COP 11 in Hyderabad to address the Plenary on behalf of the youth. Go4BioDiv messengers are part of GYBN.

For the first time ever in the World Parks Congress for protected areas (celebrated every 10 years), a whole stream will be included on youth (inspiring a new generation), in collaboration with the IUCN Commission on Education and Communication (CEC). Among the three co-organizers is a Go4BioDiv messenger from Nepal.



1.4 Main Messages of Go4BioDiv

Inspire and motivate

involve young people
into the political
decision making
process

All forms of engagement are important

political statements, arts,
dance, concrete actions on
the ground

Unity in diversity

reach out,
be different,
respect and learn
from each other



समुद्रवसने देवि पर्वतस्तनमण्डले ।
विष्णुपत्नि नमस्तुभ्यं पादस्पर्श क्षमस्वमे ॥

*Samudra-vasane devi parvata-stana-mannddale |
Vissnu-patni namastubhyam paada-sparsham kssama-svame ||*

O ocean-draped, o adorned with mountain breasts |
O consort of Vishnu, forgive me for stepping on you ||





1.5 Explanation of the Go4BioDiv Logo

A Footprint

The Footprint is the logo of Go4BioDiv which was adapted from the first Go4BioDiv Youth Forum in Bonn, Germany (2008) where the messengers used the concept of Ecological Footprint to spread their message. The Footprint illustrates the need for individuals to work collectively towards sustainability. This is a unified way of conserving our natural treasures. With the Youth Fora in Japan and India, the Go4BioDiv story goes on – we keep taking steps forward in the spirit of biodiversity conservation and youth involvement.

In order to reach out to a large audience, the Go4BioDiv facilitated Mr. Silas Birtwistle in constructing a giant fish made up of plastic debris the 'Fish from the Sea's Edge'.



2 GO4BIODIV IN INDIA

Components of Go4BioDiv

2.1 Theme

The Third Go4BioDiv took place in October 2012 – in parallel to COP 11 in Hyderabad, India.

The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India, supported the Go4BioDiv initiative by hosting the International Youth Forum in parallel with CBD-COP 11 in India.

The five key issues for discussion at the high-level segment of CBD-COP 11 were Biodiversity and Livelihoods; Integration of Value of Biodiversity in National Planning and Accounting Process; Strategy for Resource Mobilization, Coastal and Marine Biodiversity and Operationalization of the Nagoya Protocol. In accordance with these, Go4BioDiv adopted 'Conserving coastal and marine biodiversity for sustaining life and livelihoods' as the theme.





2.2 Partners

Go4BioDiv 2012 was hosted by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India.

The Wildlife Institute of India (WII) acted as the coordinating agency and jointly organized the event with the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit* (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The main partners for Go4BioDiv India were the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB).



The Indian Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) is the nodal agency in the administrative structure of the Central Indian Government for planning, promotion, co-ordination and overseeing the implementation of India's environmental and forestry policies and programmes. It organized the CBD-COP 11 conference.



The Wildlife Institute of India (WII) is an Autonomous Institution of the Indian Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change. Established in 1982, it is an internationally acclaimed institution, which offers training programmes, academic courses and advisories in wildlife research and management.



The services delivered by the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)*

GmbH draw on a wealth of regional and technical expertise and tried and tested management know-how. As a federal enterprise, GIZ supports the German government in achieving its objectives in the field of international cooperation for sustainable development. GIZ operates in more than 130 countries worldwide.



The ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) is an intergovernmental regional centre of excellence established by the ten Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). ACB facilitates cooperation and coordination among the ASEAN

member states and with relevant national governments, regional and international organizations on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of such natural treasures.



The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) formulates the development policy of the Federal Republic of Germany, which is carried out by implementing organizations.



The International Union for Conservation of Nature is the world's oldest and largest global environmental network consisting of governments and NGO member organizations. Among its many tasks, IUCN is the official technical advisory

body to the World Heritage Committee on natural heritage. Through its worldwide network of specialists, it reports on the state of conservation in the World Heritage sites and evaluates nominations from state parties.

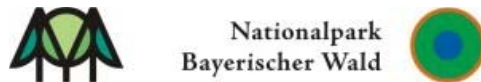
Further support was provided by the Secretariat of the CBD (SCBD), the Marine World Heritage Programme of UNESCO World Heritage Centre, WWF, DFID, the World Bank, UNDP and the German National Park of the Bavarian Forest, where the very first Go4BioDiv took place.



The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD), based in Montreal, Canada, was established to support the goals of the Convention: the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources. www.cbd.int/



Established in 1992, the World Heritage Centre is the focal point and coordinator within UNESCO for all matters related to World Heritage. Ensuring the day-to-day management of the Convention, the Centre organizes the annual sessions of the World Heritage Committee and its Bureau, provides advice to States Parties in the preparation of site nominations and organizes international assistance from the World Heritage Fund upon request. www.whc.unesco.org/



The Bavarian Forest National Park was opened in 1970 as Germany's first national park. Bavaria has thus placed an unrivalled woodland and central upland landscape under state protection. The National Park is an official authority of the Bavarian State Ministry for Environment, Health and Consumer Protection. www.nationalpark-bayerischer-wald.de/



WWF is one of the world's largest conservation organizations. The organization has offices in more than 80 countries around the world. WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature. In carrying out its work, WWF cooperates with many partners, including UN organizations, IUCN, and development agencies such as USAID and the World Bank. WWF also works with business and industry partners. www.wwf.org/

2.3 Organizational Task Force

Go4BioDiv 2012 was planned and implemented by an Organizational Task Force, which consisted of the members of the collaborating institutions:



Vinod B. Mathur (WII), a trained forester, is Dean of the Wildlife Institute of India (WII). He has been designated as the nodal person for Go4BioDiv India 2012, by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC). He was responsible for overall planning and execution of Go4BioDiv 2012 in India.



Shazia Quasin (WII) was the liaison between Go4BioDiv messengers and WII as the agency, and was responsible for logistics and preparation of the youth forum.



Nina Treu (for GIZ) was working as the liaison person within UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Paris. She was the second contact person for the Go4BioDiv Messengers along with Shazia, coordinating the creative contributions, and the website.



Neeraj Khera (GIZ) was responsible for development and overall coordination of communication and learning strategy, newsletters, social media platforms and all the work related to communications. She was also responsible for content development and E-coaching of the Go4BioDiv 2012 participants.



Thora Amend (GIZ) coordinated the contributions of GIZ to Go4BioDiv. She supported Go4BioDiv with conceptual inputs and her international contacts in the field of biodiversity conservation.



Verena Treber (IUCN) was a part of the IUCN World Heritage team, taking care of adequate inputs on World Heritage and marine conservation topics at the Forum and at the CEPA-fair, supporting the coordination of virtual platforms and the organizing process.

2.4 Key Resource Persons of Go4BioDiv Live Phase

Go4BioDiv India received support from the following experts, who were the important resource persons for the entire Live phase of Go4BioDiv:

K. Sivakumar (WII) is a marine scientist, and he was the key resource person for e-coaching and Go4BioDiv workshops in the Sundarbans and Hyderabad, and also supported the overall organization of Go4BioDiv in India from the Wildlife Institute of India.

Farhana Aktar studied Zoology and currently works with the Wildlife Conservation Society's Bangladesh Cetacean Diversity Project. Her work focuses on conserving the astounding diversity and abundance of dolphins, whales and porpoises in Bangladesh with local communities and institutions.

Leonel Bernabe Requen studied Natural Resource Management and Protected Areas Management, and works as local coordinator of Community Management of Protected Areas Conservation Programme (COMPACT) in Belize.

Anneli Ehlers is a marine ecologist from Germany and works with GIZ in a regional project on biodiversity conservation with the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity in Los Banos, Philippines. She has been working with environmental NGOs for more than 15 years focusing on environmental education and the communication of coastal and marine biodiversity challenges to different target groups. At the Go4BioDiv, she took part as a technical resource person and workshop co-moderator on "Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Science".

Cécile Fouquet Baeza studied political and administrative affairs and works as a Fisheries Policy Officer at the European Bureau for the Conservation of Nature (EBCD). She is also co-founder of the European Young Innovators Forum.

Ron Vave has a masters in Marine Science from the University of the South Pacific (USP), and currently works as a Senior Scientific Officer at the Institute of Applied Science based at USP. He was engaged with the Go4BioDiv as a resource person for the livelihoods workshops in Sunderabans as well as at the COP in Hyderabad.



2.5 Special Thanks

The Go4BioDiv Organizational Task Force would like to thank everyone involved in the successful preparation and implementation of Go4BioDiv, especially:

Stefan Helming | Country Director, GIZ-India

B.M.S. Rathore | Jt. Secretary, Ministry of the Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India

Sujata Arora | Director, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India

Joydeep Gupta | Director, Third Pole Project & Media Advisor for Go4BioDiv 2012

Hanjoerg Neun, Helga Fink, Farhad Vania and Ravindra Singh | GIZ India

Berthold Seibert, Dicky Simorangkir, Ricarda Stuewe and Victoria Agsunod | ACB / GIZ BCCP

Claudia Mayer, Kirsten Probst and Gunnar Finke | GIZ Germany

Star Alliance, Frankfurt Zoological Society, MarViva, GBRMPA, the local GIZ projects and all individuals / projects which supported the Go4BioDiv Messengers on a local level.

Fanny Douvere | Marine Programme, UNESCO's World Heritage Centre

Guy Debonnet | Chief of the Special Projects Unit, World Heritage Center, Paris

Lukas Laux | German National Park, the Bavarian Forest

Tim Badman | Director, World Heritage Programme, IUCN



3 GO4BIODIV MESSENGERS

Thirty-five dedicated young people were selected to represent their communities, environmental groups and research institutes from the Americas, Europe, Africa, Asia and the Pacific region, including Australia. The messengers selected were aged between 18 and 29 and live or work in over 20 different marine World Heritage Sites around the world as well as one of the nine coastal states and UTs of India.





ARGENTINA | Maria Soledad Lindner

Maria Soledad Lindner represents Peninsula Valdés. She is a Marine Biologist and co-coordinator of the Photo-identification project of Southern Right Whales from whale-watching boats, in Puerto Pirámides, Península Valdés. She also coordinates the educational sector Fundación Ecocentro, Puerto Madryn, which is a cultural space to encourage the conservation of Península Valdés and Patagonian marine ecosystems. She feels that the conservation needs of an emblematic species of our marine ecosystem forces to worry us about the whole environment with an integral point of view and attitude. She says that only if we work together, and with synergistic efforts of all the actors, we can achieve the preservation of a unique place all over the world.



AUSTRALIA | Gavin Jacob Singleton

Gavin Jacob Singleton is studying at the Curtin University in Perth, WA, and he is an Indigenous Australian from Cairns, Queensland, Australia. He grew up in and alongside two world heritage areas: the Wet Tropics Rainforest and Great Barrier Reef. As he is a descendant of the Yirrganydji Aboriginal People, traditional owners from Cairns to Port Douglas along the coast, he has inherited the responsibility from his ancestors to be involved in the management of his traditional country that includes a small section of the Great Barrier Reef. He feels that it is important for them to work together alongside other coastal traditional owners, researchers, tourism operators and natural resource managers to protect and preserve the qualities and maintain the significance of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area (GBRWHA) for all people across the globe.

"It is home and a healing place! The ocean is home to my community. We feel an unexplainable spiritual connection to the sea.

Elders believe we not only belong to the sea but we also descend from it as well. We are told to live in harmony with all living things in the ocean, as it is the main provider of food and medicine for my community."

[Gavin Singleton, Great Barrier Reef, Australia]

"I see the need and the opportunity for my family and my community to have a sustainable way of living. Many people still believe that fish stocks will never be depleted, but it is the mindset that needs to be changed. I don't expect every fisher in my community or in Belize to convert but to understand the very basics that using a resource without allowing it to recover will surely bring adverse effects."

[Marlon Williams, Belize Barrier Reef, Belize]



AUSTRALIA | Amelia Fowles | Macquarie Island

Amelia Fowles represents the Macquarie Island and the Tasmanian Wilderness, South-West National Park which encompasses marine protected areas. The Tasmanian World Heritage Area supports incredible temperate rainforest and alpine vegetation and its landforms are of immense beauty. Macquarie Island is a site of outstanding geological and natural significance. Each year 3.5 million seabirds and 80,000 elephant seals arrive to breed and moult. The rocky intertidal and subtidal areas support many endemic species of seaweeds and benthic fauna. She is currently pursuing her PhD on Tasmanian estuaries, assessing anthropogenic impacts on reef communities: patterns indicators and processes.



BANGLADESH | Rezvin Akter | The Sundarbans

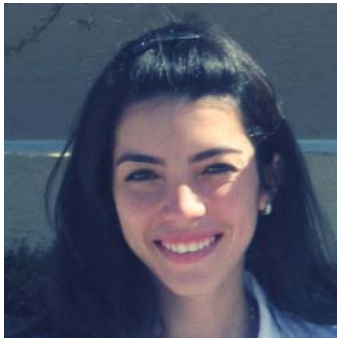
Rezvin Akter represents the Sundarbans and has a Master's in Zoology. She is currently implementing awareness campaign amongst communities adjacent to the Sundarbans as an Assistant Programme Coordinator with Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh. She has been working in the Sundarbans since 2009, and she enjoys their beauty as well as talking to the local people. Rezvin feels that the experience of working in the Sundarbans has helped her realize that without the mangrove ecosystem, the community can't survive. It gives them food as well as protection and there is no other livelihood alternative. She says, "I see Sundarbans as our 'Mother' because it serves exactly like mothers. This feeling creates my personal relation to the Sundarbans."



BELIZE | Marlon Williams | Belize Barrier Reef

Marlon Williams represents the Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System. He is working as a Junior Marine Biologist at the Toledo Institute for Development and Environment (TIDE). He manages fieldwork operations for all of TIDE's marine research programs and oversees TIDE's team of Community Researchers in carrying out fieldwork.

"In any country, having coral reefs and associated marine resources, these form essential lifeline for millions of people around."



BRAZIL | Luísa Sette Camara | Albrookhos

Luísa Sette Camara studies environmental law. She founded the Study Group on Brazilian Environmental Law at Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (UFMG). Luísa did several internships related to marine issues, working on the importance of environmental law for biodiversity conservation and mining regulations. In 2012, she was part of the International Youth Council delegation to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). As part of her studies in law in university, she conducted research on marine underwater noise pollution and its impacts on marine mammals in Abrolhos Marine National Park. This way, she became aware of the threats Abrolhos is facing and since then, she has been advocating for a better protection of the site.

Marlon Williams, Belize

"As a member of Kluane First Nation(KFN), I have subsistence harvesting rights within Kluane National Park and Reserve (KNPR) – a World Heritage Site, boundaries – but with those rights comes great responsibility. Learning more about sustainable development and responsible utilization of the landscape and all it offers is something I strive for."

[Jenessa Tlen, Canada]



CANADA | Jenessa Tlen | Canada Kluane

Jenessa is a member of Kluane First Nation. The Kluane National Park and Reserve (KNPR) is part of her heritage and culture. It means a great deal to those who live near the park. Kluane First Nation (KFN) is one of two First Nations cooperative management partners of KNPR, which is part of the larger area encompassed by the World Heritage designation. Jenessa grew up living next door to its boundary, and has observed changes in relation to the climate, forest, landscape and animals that live here. But further to that, her First Nations ancestors have occupied this landscape from time immemorial, and much of their knowledge of the land, animals and weather has been passed onto her through the tradition of oral history.



COLOMBIA | Diego Cardeñosa | Malpelo

Diego studied biology and for the past few years, he has been working along with the Malpelo Foundation in shark conservation projects in the area. Malpelo Sanctuary is worldwide known for protecting large aggregations of sharks that patrol around Malpelo Island. The first project he worked on was about the identification, presence and first diving behavior insights of the small tooth sand tiger shark (*Odontaspis ferox*) in Malpelo. Since then he has participated in the data collection and analysis of the acoustic receptors around the island.

Due to the increasing demand for shark fins and their high value in Asian markets, many populations of sharks have been depleted due to overfishing during the last decade. Diego feels that the biggest threat today are the illegal fishing boats using the area for shark finning and other fishing activities.



COSTA RICA | Josue Morales | Cocos Island

Josue Morales represents Cocos Island, where he has been working for almost four years. Cocos Island possesses outstanding natural and scenic features in which many marine and terrestrial species have found a unique place to live. As a park ranger, Josue steers tourist vessels and has knowledge of sharks. He feels that working in the Cocos Island National Park is a great opportunity for him, and as he has this privilege, he is committed to doing it the best way. He has always felt a great affinity for nature conservation, and he wants to pass on a healthy environment to future generation.



ECUADOR | Johanna Carrion | Ecuador Galapagos Islands

Johanna Carrion represents the Galapagos Islands, where she lives and works. Since her childhood she has learnt about the uniqueness of living in such a fragile ecosystem with so many special characteristics. Johanna believes that an adequate management of the Galapagos Marine Reserve and National Park will determine the quality of life of this and the future generations. She is confident that ecotourism based on the concept of sustainable development is needed for Galapagos and its ecosystems in order to conserve the precious marine habitats. She aims to contribute to improving the Visitor Management System of the Islands, which if it works as a "system" it will help to reduce some of the pressure on ecosystems.

"High yielding fishing equipment does not distinguish between commercial fish species and turtles, dolphins, sharks and stingrays; so all of these get trapped on their fishing hooks. I think that coordination among marine protected areas worldwide, and with the international and national fishery sectors would help solve the problem."

[Josue Morales, Costa Rica]

"It is my belief that in particular a better understanding of ecological cycles can help to conserve coastal ecosystems."

[Jannes Landschoff]



GERMANY | Jannes Landschoff | The Wadden Sea

Jannes Landschoff represents The Wadden Sea and is currently pursuing Master of Environmental Management. The Wadden Sea is characterized by its unique expansion of sedimentary tidal flats. It is an outstanding ecosystem with a remarkable role: on the one hand as a home for resident organisms, on the other as one of the world's most important wetlands for migratory birds. Its pure and wild nature with its natural dynamics offers unequalled opportunities. Every year up to 12 billion migratory birds visit the Wadden Sea twice: once in early summer on their way to the breeding grounds in the north, and again on their way back during winter. He also works as a Tourist Guide with WWF leading longer tours up to a week through the Wadden Sea.



HONDURAS | Samantha Cruz | Rio Platano

Samantha Cruz represents the indigenous communities of Rio Platano. Engaged in the school club Amigos de la Biosfera (Friends of the Biosphere), the youngest representative is active in biodiversity conservation at home. She believes that her site is special and of global importance due to its largely intact forests and other habitats, as well as the variety of indigenous and local cultures. The site has more than 2000 people and belong to four very different and unique cultural groups- Miskito, Pech, Garifunas, and the Ladino. The reserve is also home to a number of endangered species, like the jaguar, ant-eater, manatee, and is part of the largest section of undisturbed forests in Central America. People need awareness of people to preserve animal species in danger of extinction. It is important to ensure the life of indigenous peoples, as well as the need to prepare for climate change.



INDIA | Pavan Sabbithi | Kakinada Bay / Coringa,
Andhra Pradesh

Pavan Sabbithi from Andhra Pradesh represents Kakinada Bay, Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary, East coast of Bay of Bengal. Coringa is the second largest mangrove formation in India next to Sundarbans, it houses salt water crocodiles which were at the verge of extinction. This is also important place for breeding and nesting for about 120 species of resident and migratory birds, and also it is a place of some endangered mangrove species. He holds a Master's degree in Entomology. He enjoys to live with the beautiful creatures and mangroves, and he feels that their existence and progress is linked with his own life.



INDIA | Sagar Suri | Coastline of Gujarat

Sagar Suri represents the coastline of Gujarat. The mere vastness and great variety of species found in the marine ecosystems of Gujarat allow for the provision of various services. From mangroves to corals, and browsers to predators, all are being found here. One of the unique species found here is the Dugong, recently declared vulnerable to extinction by the IUCN. He has a Mass Communication background and is currently working with Centre for Environment Education as Programme Officer-Youth. He educates youth about the environment.

"From mangroves to corals, and browsers to predators: all being found here makes the Gujarat Coastline a wholesome and balanced system. While corals facilitate security and breeding of various species of fish, mangroves provide safety from high tides and the wrath of water. One of the unique species found here is the Dugong, recently declared vulnerable to extinction by the IUCN."

[Sagar Suri, Gujarat Coastline, India]

"The existence and progress of beautiful creatures and mangroves are linked to his own life."

[Pavan Sabbithi, Andhra Pradesh, India]



INDIA | Siva Sharma | Karnataka Coastline

Shiva Sharma represents the coastline of Karnataka. She was deeply affected when she learnt about the experiences that fishermen shared of returning homes with empty nets day after day, making their struggle of survival all the more tough. She believes there is a requirement of enforcing strict regulatory laws to take care of over fishing that may disturb the balance of the marine ecosystem and affect the livelihoods of traditional fishermen.



INDIA | Nibedita Mukherjee | Kannur and Kasargod

Nibedita Mukherjee represents Kerala and has worked in the area of coastal conservation with local NGOs and Forest Departments. The mangroves in Kannur play a big role in the lives of the people dependent on them for traditional fishing. Mangrove areas in northern Kerala are known to provide valuable fishery resources. Artisanal fishing is practiced in the backwaters and lagoons where mangroves grow. Over the years, however, commercial fishing has replaced traditional fishing in several areas. She believes that the oceans are vast and so should be our vision to protect and restore their bio-diversity.



INDIA | Vardhan Patankar | Konkan and Andaman and
Nicobar Islands

Vardhan Patankar from Maharashtra represents the Konkan Coast and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. He has recently completed his PhD on the post-tsunami changes in coral reef communities and the pattern of marine resource use in the Nicobar archipelago. He has always been fascinated by the role of disturbances and changes in shaping marine ecosystems. He likes underwater life for aesthetic reasons. He is keenly interested in understanding the role that local communities and institutions play, and if these institutions can be co-opted in cooperative conservation efforts.

"To me the sea is a
profusion of colour:
canary yellow, vermillion
red, citron orange,
royal purple, pristine
white dappled sunlight
and an electric blue
sea. I realised this nine
years back, when I was
introduced to diving. In
the last few years the
process of learning from
nature, both above and
in the water, has become
a passion."

[Vardhan Patankar, Andaman
and Nicobar Islands, India]



INDIA | Hirak Das | Odisha Coast

Hirak studies marine microbiology at the National Institute of Technology, Rourkela in India. He was born and brought up in a coastal town, a fishing hub, a major port, and a defence establishment, provided him with insights into the conservation-development issues. He regularly visits the coastal areas of his state like Chilika, Gopalpur, Paradip, Bhitarkanika and Rushikulya to collect samples for his research. In the last few years of his direct association with the coastal areas for study, he has learned that the lack of public awareness to discharge domestic wastes, the lack of proper implementation of laws for discharging wastes by private sector industries and the deforestation of mangrove forests are the main causes of rising pollution levels in the coastal areas of Odisha.

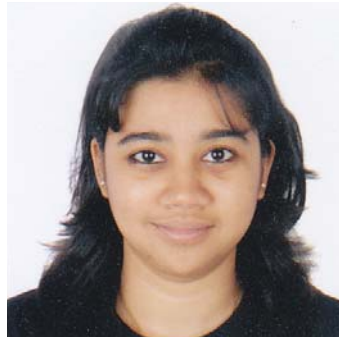
"There are about 18 marine fishing villages and 10,370 fishermen families in Pondicherry. The ocean is like a mother to these communities as she provides them with all the required resources. Fish is their staple diet and only source of protein. 80% of the population thrives directly or indirectly on fishing activities."

[Apoorva Usha Kulkarni, Puducherry, India]



INDIA | Ananya Ashok | Pallikarani Marsh – an Estuarine Wetland

Ananya Ashok hails from Tamil Nadu and has grown up seeing the Pallikaranai marsh shrink and succumb under pressures of urbanization and garbage dumping. Taking up conservation of Pallikaranai marsh as her project, she organised awareness programs bringing in eminent environmentalists and social leaders to express their views and has also created an online information portal on the marsh seeking to further expand the knowledge among people. She strongly believes that conserving the Pallikaranai marsh is very important to the ecological and hydro-biological health of Chennai city, and that eco-tourism through development of a wildlife sanctuary would bring more earnings rather than using the place as a dumping and burning ground.



INDIA | Apoorva Usha Kulkarni | Puducherry

Apoorva represents the Puducherry coastline. Endangered marine reptiles like olive ridley turtles and green turtles have been breeding along the shores of Puducherry. There is a large presence of marine mammals that have not been documented and monitored. She believes that practices such as sustainable fishing, early prediction of catastrophic events, collection of satisfactory scientific data, community awareness and knowledge can lead to a holistic conservation of this coast.



INDIA | Manjari Roy | Sundarbans Harbours

Manjari Roy comes from West Bengal and represents the Sundarbans Tiger Reserve. She is currently pursuing her PhD from the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun where, she aspires to work on diverse ecological and behavioral aspects of various carnivores especially canids. She believes that the biggest threat to the continued persistence of the Sundarbans is climate change. Sea levels are predicted to rise and reduce the tiger habitat by 96% over the next 50-90 years, with increased incidence of damaging cyclones. Additionally, increased salinity due to the eastward tilt of the Bengal Basin is a major threat to the mangrove species. She strongly believes that in lieu of its unique biodiversity and cultural values, Sundarbans is a World Heritage Site, and is extremely important to be safeguarded.



INDONESIA | Hermansyah Hermann | Komodo National Park

Hermansyah works and lives in Komodo National Park. His parents originated from Komodo Village, and therefore he fully understands the importance of having a home in a World Heritage Site, which has lots of uniqueness and importance in terms of biological diversity. According to him, blast fishing, cyanide fishing, and rock mining are the main problems in the park. The area is also a favorite destination for cruise-ships, and Hermansyah fears that mass tourism will harm this area if not managed properly.

"Sundarbans form an integral part of the folklore and tradition of the local communities, also providing alternate sources of livelihood such as fishing, honey collection and eco-development. In lieu of its unique biodiversity and cultural values, Sundarbans is a World Heritage Site, and is extremely important to be safeguarded."

[Manjari Roy, Sundarbans, India]

"The whole event I think is a perfect platform to bring the young conservationists close to each other, to know each other. This is important because most of the times young people are neglected and this is a platform where they can share and strongly express their opinion."

[Participant]



INDONESIA | Maruti Giri Mahesthi | Ujung Kulon National Park

Maruti is an employee at Ujung Kulon National Park, and her job includes planning activities to be undertaken by Ujung Kulon National Park and also controlling the budget. She is engaged in activities such as transplantation of coral reefs, marine operation with community groups around the area, evaluation of marine protection zones, and coral reef monitoring. She is also part of conducting joint operations with local communities for marine territorial protection and also coral transplantation.



MAURITANIA | Moctar Ba | Banc D'Arguin

Moctar Ba represents the Banc d'Arguin National Park and has a degree in Forest Engineering. He is currently working as Project Manager providing technical assistance in marine and coastal biodiversity, protection and conservation. Moctar strongly believes that all the ecosystems have to be safeguarded because they are related to each other; when one of them is destroyed it affects the other negatively as well; if we do not safeguard our ecosystems, we will lose out a lot on the services they provide.



MEXICO | Maya Moure | Mexico Sian Ka'an

Maya Moure has been living in Felipe Carrillo Puerto for 15 years, which is one of the municipalities of Sian Ka'an, Mexico. She believes that knowing nature allows us to give every being or element its value. By valuating them in their context, it becomes a complement of a bigger picture. Living in a place with protected areas lets one understand the importance of using nature in a sustainable way, with respect and love, in contrast to the mainstream way of life. She collaborates closely with the indigenous Mayan communities of her site for sustainable management of its marine resources.

"Mangroves, wetlands, coral reefs and forests all provide us with vital ecosystem services. As a society, we are overvaluing money over nature.

The economic forces of industry, mainly tourism industry in our region (Cancun, Riviera Maya, Tulum) are putting a huge pressure on the reserve itself and its wildlife.

Seeing the impact on the resources, I am afraid that we are destroying the 'chicken of golden eggs'."

[Maya Moure, Mexico]



THE NETHERLANDS | Erik Versluijs | The Wadden Sea

Erik Versluijs represents The Wadden Sea is currently pursuing Eco and Wildlife studies. He strives to work towards the protection and sustainable preservation of nature in his country. He is active in protecting the Dutch nature areas, in his study and in his free time, and the Wadden sea is a part of it. According to him, "Wadden Sea is an important area for me and for The Netherlands". He feels it is time to come together, all the organisations that are in some way connected to the Wadden Sea must talk to each other to come to an universal plan to save and use the Wadden Sea in a sustainable way; to get the right balance and preserve the Wadden Sea's unique biodiversity.

"Strengthen the inter-agency coordination efforts within authorities with jurisdiction on marine and coastal resources, along with communities involved in coastal development with local authorities."

[Nikolas Sanchez, Panama]



PALAU | Heather Ketebebang | Rock Islands and its Southern Lagoon

Heather Ketebebang comes from the Rock Islands in Palau. She studied Environmental Studies in Honolulu (University of Hawaii) and has been working at the Palau Conservation Society for the past five years. Heather feels that this area is an essential component of Palau's cultural heritage, a host to much of Palau's rich biological diversity, and is a critical habitat for the country's threatened and endangered species. Her work focuses on protecting Palau's natural heritage from ridge to reef. For her, the island is not only a place of outstanding natural beauty, but also history and home.



PANAMA | Nikolas Sanchez | Coiba

Nikolas Sanchez works as a public advocacy lawyer for MarViva Panamá. He has done research and work related to Coiba National Park. Nikolas has worked on marine spatial planning promotion along with users, communities and governmental institutions. He is also a member of the Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide (ELAW). According to Nikolas, the greatest problem to the coastal and marine sites such as Coiba are enforcement of legislation related to WHS and Marine protected area, such as the delay on developing a management plan for the Special Marine Protection Zone, cattle within the national park property, coastal and marine development within the buffer zone of the WHS, lack of park rangers and governmental interest in conservation of natural sites. To him, the solution lies in strengthening of interagency efforts within authorities with jurisdiction on marine and coastal resources, along with communities involve in coastal development with local authorities.



PERU | Lorena Amend | Paracas National Reserve

Lorena Amend lives in Peru and represents Paracas National Park. She has recently graduated from high school in Peru, is interested in creative things and cultures, Lorena thinks that conserving the coastal ecosystem of Paracas is important because hundreds of lives depend on the area: animals and humans. She recommends that the coast has to be protected so it can also be an attractive place for tourists, since the local people depend on the tourism; local fishermen also depend on the marine life; therefore overfishing has to be prevented, which already has left a deep mark on the coastal life in Peru.

"Being an island province,
we are surrounded by
sea, hence our livelihood,
heritage and culture is
deeply rooted with the
sea"



PHILIPPINES | Agnes Bianca Mendoza | Puerto-Princesa Subterranean River

Agnes Bianca Mendoza represents the Puerto-Princesa Subterranean River National Park and is currently studying Law. She plans to join an organisation that works in the field of environmental law. Agnes thinks that a new system needs to be developed to increase awareness, protection and stabilization of the environment; an equilibrium wherein the demands of tourists, but more importantly the needs of the environment, could be accommodated.

[Agnes Bianca Mendoza,
Philippines]

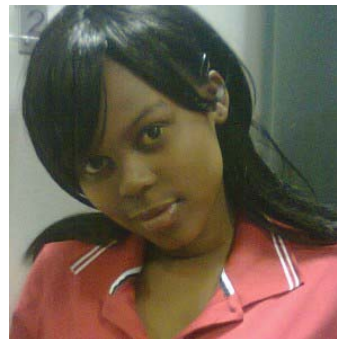
"People only think that plants are the only organisms responsible for trapping carbon dioxide, but the marine ecosystem also traps the carbon dioxide from the atmosphere."

[Simangele Sithole, South Africa]



PHILIPPINES | Glenda Simon | Tubbataha Reefs

Glenda Simon represents the Tubbataha Reefs. A Business Administration graduate, she is currently working for Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park, one of the two natural UNESCO World Heritage Sites in the Philippines. She is involved in management of the TRNP in the implementation of 3-year Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) Plan. The goal of this program is to foster a holistic view of the Park ecosystem as an interrelated and interdependent system, and thus engender a sense of stewardship towards the marine environment. She also oversees the conduct of pre-departure briefings to the Park's visitors, facilitates training for park staff and develops information materials for the public. As Glenda believes that the reefs have been in protection for more than 20 years, its protection has to continue so that the present and future generation will equally benefit from it.



SOUTH AFRICA | Simangele Sithole | iSimangaliso Wetland Park

Simangele Sithole representing iSimangaliso Wetland Park and is a Bachelor's in Biological Sciences. She lives in the rural area which is near iSimangaliso Wetland Park and another marine reserve, St. Lucia. A lot of people in her neighbourhood earn their living from the World Heritage site these comprise. Elders use it for fishing and selling art work to tourists who come to enjoy the wonders of nature. iSimangaliso also promotes cultural activities and sports, like traditional dances and soccer tournaments. The World Heritage site also faces a problem of marine organisms becoming endangered and extinct. Rising sea levels, pollution and increased human activities also have a huge effect on growth and survival of marine organisms. Simangele feels that it is nice to see beauty of nature and to safeguard it to allow future generations to have pleasure of enjoying presence of those creatures.



USA | Breanna Chandler | Papahānaumokuākea

Breanna Chandler represents Papahānaumokuākea and has done tropical ecology research and extensive studying on the Hawaiian Islands. She is currently working with the Ameri Corps Watershed Stewards Project to enhance and adromous fish passage in California Watersheds. Breanna says, “Papahaumokuakea represents more than just one marine preserve; it represents all of the Hawaiian Islands, it is a shining example of hope. As the locals say “it is where life originated from”, and once you see the vast array of life it is easy to understand that idea. This health and productivity of this site not only gives me hope that the next generations will be able to experience the rich diversity of our oceans. My time spent on these islands has only enhanced my connection and understanding of this precious ecosystem.

“I believe that the youth in her generation have to join hands not only to prevent further ecological degradation of the oceans but also to correct the glaring mistakes of our past generations.”



VIETNAM | Nguyen Bich Hanh | Ha Long Bay

Nguyen Bich Hanh holds a Master degree in Ecology and works for the environmental division of Ha Long Bay management. Her work includes public education and awareness raising, involvement of different stakeholders in environmental activities as well as the cleaning of the Ha Long Bay environment. According to her, the main threats to the site she represents are coal mining, shipping, land reclamation, unregulated development activities, solid and bio-waste from tourism activities, increase in marine transportation, fishing and aquaculture. She strongly believes that with increased awareness and sense of responsibility of the community, the values of Ha Long Bay – World Natural Heritage Site will be preserved and promoted.

[Nibedita Mukherjee, India]



Go4BioDiv Messengers reflect

MESSAGE TO THE WORLD CONCERNING WORLD HERITAGE SITES AND BIODIVERSITY

The International Youth Forum is such a wonderful opportunity for us to work together for the conservation of biological diversity, and motivate others to make a difference.

Anna Lyons / Australia

I practically fell in love with nature and am personally persuaded that its conservation has no price. The Youth Forum is a great opportunity for me to meet my fellows and to shout to the whole world that our biodiversity is our treasure.

*Josiane Virginie Gakou / Cameroon
Dja Faunal Reserve*





We are the next generation of leaders and demand change in the way the world's resources are managed for our grandchildren and our grandchildren's grandchildren. We only get one earth. It is time to act responsibly, listen to the youth, and demand change.

*Jenn Redvers / Canada
Nahanni National Park Reserve*

Before and during this forum I think I could learn a lot about conservation of WHS and its sustainable development as well as biodiversity. I could improve my ideas, my thoughts and my work by exchanging experiences and views with other participants with different cultural, religious backgrounds. I also hope to provide a new perspective to other participants by this chance.

*Peng Na / China
Wulingyuan Scenic and Historic Interest Area*

Participating in the International Youth Forum 2010 is a precious chance for me to broaden my horizons. I can get involved in the knowledge of biodiversity and exchange information about protecting WHS. More people can be encouraged to participate in environmental protection through the knowledge presented in the forum.

*Fu Li / China
Wulingyuan Scenic and Historic Interest Area*

We are ready to work and exchange ideas, to become the spokespersons of all the young people of the world, and help to be part of a positive change. Being part of this forum will allow us to learn a lot, and to spread our knowledge about biodiversity and the different Natural World Heritage Sites.

*Andrea Estefanía Andrade Ñacato / Ecuador
The Archipelago of Galápagos*

Go4BioDiv Messengers reflect

SHOW THE WORLD THAT YOUNG PEOPLE ARE AWARE OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITY!

You don't need to understand the whole complexity of nature but you should recognize its beauty.

Sven Oltrop / Germany / Wadden Sea

By participating in the Go4BioDiv we have the chance to change the way of thinking by showing which beautiful places exist on earth and explaining that they can only exist in the future with our understanding and support. We are a kind of speaking-tube for our WHS. I hope that we will be able to make clear the importance of our WHS to us humans.

Marina Schweikert / Germany / The Wadden Sea

The Youth Forum is meant to expose the participants from different parts of the world to concepts, debates and emerging issues in the area of climate change and its effect on natural world heritage site. It also helps in networking of ideas from different youth activists around the world.

Dhritiman Das / India / Manas National Park

This is a great platform for me to share my knowledge with like-minded people.

Shazia Quasin / India / Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers World Heritage Site, Uttarakhand

By sharing experiences and learning from youth ways we can preserve and conserve our world heritage sites, bring the voice of minority fisherfolk on preservation and conservation of Lake Turkana.

Mikelita Lenapir / Kenya / Lake Turkana

The last Youth Summit changed my life, my point of view, and more than ever, I think that the energy and knowledge that flows in these spaces are capable of changing the future.

Alan Monroy Ojeda / Mexico / Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve



An important aspect is to offer some kind of multiplying effect inside our families, groups or friends, because if we do so, more people that worry about these subjects and understand their importance will be able to access this knowledge, making it possible to strengthen our identity and feel part of our culture. It will be an honor for me to be the bearer of the feelings and ideas that the diverse soul of my country cherishes.

Rosa Miranda Almarás / Peru / Machu Picchu

It is a rare opportunity to give our biodiversity a voice and face in an international arena. This is a wonderful networking opportunity, an opportunity to not only to share our learning but to be exposed to other insights that have been developed in diverse areas of the world and bring these back to South Africa.

Candice Mostert / South Africa / Cape Floral Region (2004)

I believe the International Youth Forum is the perfect place to discuss and find solutions to the problems and threats of our WHS.

Saningo Saruni Ngoidima / Tanzania / Mt. Kilimanjaro

The Youth Forum is a great possibility to get people talking about the importance of biodiversity. They need information about their environment to understand its value. We have to come up with convincing reasons why we have to be careful with ecological systems.

Fabian Nellen / Switzerland / Jungfrau-Aletsch

The International Youth Forum 2010 is one of the ways for me to access to international experience on biodiversity conservation.

Pham Thi Hai Yen / Vietnam / Phong Nha - Ke Bang national park





4 THE EVENT AND ITS THREE PHASES

Phases Go4BioDiv

THE PRE-COP VIRTUAL PHASE

The Virtual Phase started in April 2012 with intense discussions on critical issues concerning coastal and marine conservation and providing sustainable options for alternative livelihoods. These discussions on the virtual platform shaped further activities and the Go4BioDiv Declaration during CBD-COP 11.

DURING COP

The Live Phase of Go4BioDiv took place in India during the CBD-COP (October 6-19, 2012). During the first ten days of this phase, the participants were stationed in the Marine World Heritage site of India, the Sundarbans, where they prepared for their interventions in the CBD Conference. In the last four days of this phase, the participants moved to Hyderabad, where they participated in the High Level Segment of the COP, sharing their messages on coastal and marine conservation through innovative and creative means such as colourful exhibitions, inspiring street theatre interventions, a boat rally, panel discussions and a Go4BioDiv Declaration.

THE POST-COP PHASE

The post-COP Phase involves a follow-up process with the participants and networking with specialists, once they go back to their respective countries, organizations and communities. In their respective domain, each youth acts as a messenger for marine biodiversity conservation, while at the same time remains connected to the virtual platform with the Go4BioDiv community.

A detailed publication to bring out the success stories, follow-up actions and learnings of the Go4BioDiv International Youth Forum 2012 messengers had been planned, which will also bring forward the common voice of the youth on coastal and marine biodiversity issues and provide a platform for sharing their experiences and concerns.



4.1 The Pre-COP Virtual Phase

The virtual platform was launched on Biodiversity Day, May 22, 2012, to bring together the participants by initiating the dialogue on key issues on coastal and marine biodiversity conservation, even before they could meet in CBD COP.

The Go4BioDiv website received immediate attention from the conservation community especially youth. It provides detailed information on the programme, partners, messengers, e-coaching and all updates, as well as details of the previous events of Go4BioDiv.

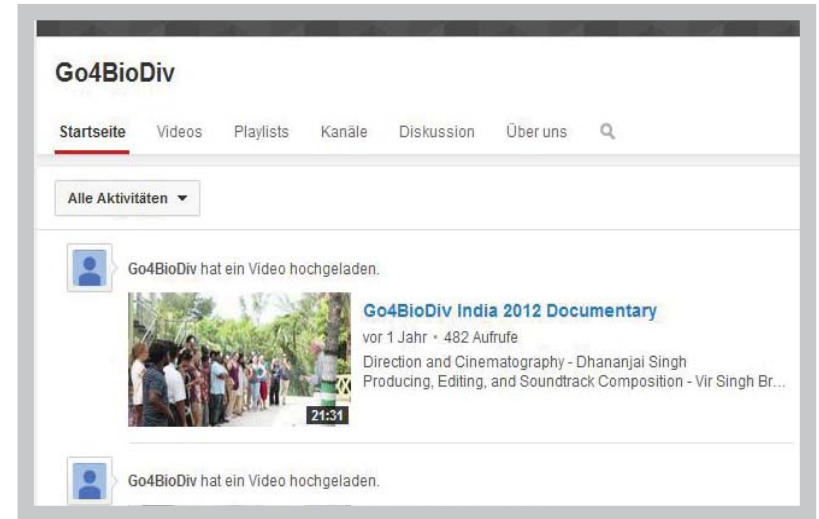


4.1.1 The Virtual Phase | New Media Platforms

A major innovative point of Go4BioDiv India was the strategic involvement of new media, aiming at outreach on a much larger scale by permitting virtual participation and making use of the latest Information, Communication Technology (ICT)/ Information and Knowledge Management (IKM) tools. The new media platforms included a Facebook page, Facebook discussion group, a LinkedIn Group, Twitter, YouTube and Go4BioDiv Blog.

The discussions on the virtual platform were fed into the 'live' discussion during Go4BioDiv India which shaped further activities including the Go4BioDiv Declaration during CBD-COP 11. Almost all of the media platforms were extremely successful with vibrant and interesting discussions among youth as well as with senior experts.





4.1.2 The Virtual Phase | Newsletter

A monthly newsletter consisting of contributions from the Messengers as well as other experts was the biggest attraction of the Virtual Phase. The newsletter was disseminated via emails to about 2000 recipients, and individual articles were shared on the Facebook page, YouTube and Discussion Forum.

The newsletter received a huge positive response, participation and brought together a wider audience from different sectors and different walks of life.



Go 4 BioDiv
International Youth Forum

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Programme Partners Messengers Outcomes News and Press Pictures E-Coaching

April 2012 Newsletter

 [PDF version of the Newsletter](#)

From the Editor's Desk

Dear All,

Welcome to the fourth edition of the Go4BioDiv newsletter, dedicated to the youth and their positive energies and fresh perspectives for bringing about change in the human society.

The release of this newsletter coincides with the final preparations towards the International Youth Forum Go4BioDiv 2012, which will take place in India. This year, India is hosting the 11th Conference of Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Hyderabad in October 2012. The Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF), Government of India, has decided to continue the Go4BioDiv initiative and to run Go4BioDiv in parallel to CBD-COP 11 from October 6 to 19. In accordance with the COP-10 decisions (Nagoya mandate/Aichi targets), the theme of Go4BioDiv International Youth Forum 2012 will be 'Conserving coastal and marine biodiversity for sustaining life and livelihoods'.

WHAT'S INSIDE

News from the International Youth Forum Go4BioDiv 2012:

'Conserving coastal and marine biodiversity for sustaining life and livelihoods'
6 - 19 October 2012 in the Sundarbans/ Hyderabad, India in parallel with the 11th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD-COP 11), October 2012 in Hyderabad, India. [more](#)

The Organizational Task Force for the Go4BioDiv 2012
Dr. Vinod B. Mathur (VIII), a trained Forester, is Dean of the Wildlife Institute of India (WII). He has been designated as the nodal person for Go4BioDiv India 2012, by the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF). [more](#)

Hot news from Go4BioDiv 2012
Preparations for the upcoming Go4BioDiv are advancing with a preparatory mission to the Sundarbans, Hyderabad and Delhi. [more](#)

News from OUR World Heritage Sites:

Conserving coastal ecosystem in Santa Monica Mountains
I participated in the International Youth Forum Go4BioDiv in 2010 in Japan, as representative of the Cape Floral Region (CFR) Protected Areas World Heritage site (South Africa). [more](#)

Building Partnerships to Support UNESCO's World Heritage Programme in India
The need to strengthen the effective management, protection & conservation of the Outstanding Universal Values of existing Natural World Heritage Sites (IWHs) in India through sustainable

Join us!
Join the community on Facebook Page & Discussion Forum, Twitter and LinkedIn!
   

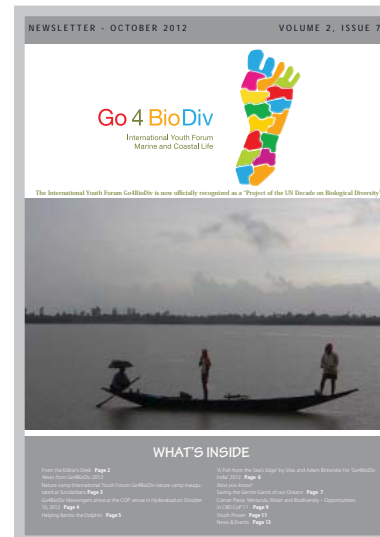
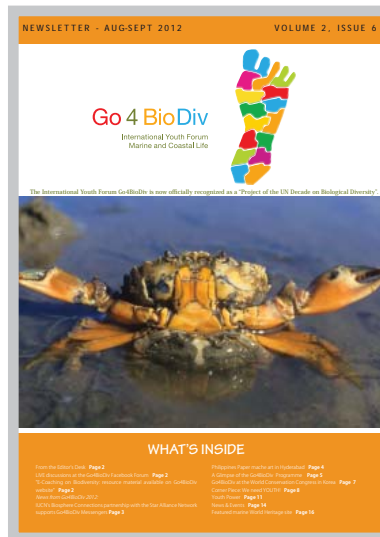
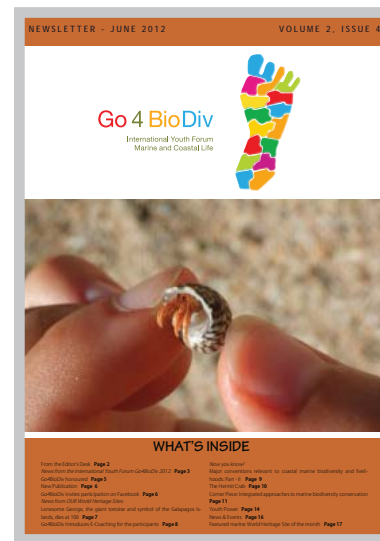
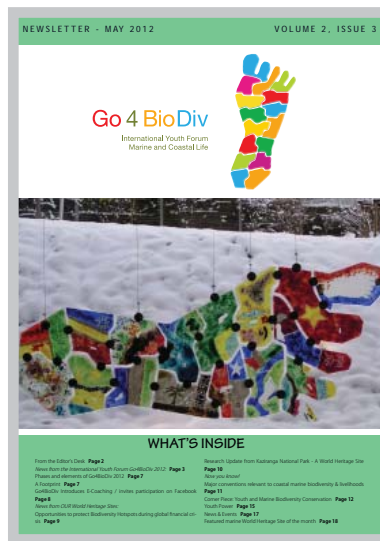
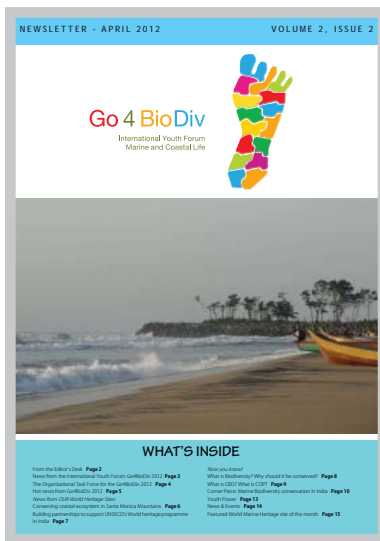
News

 [Watch the Go4BioDiv Promo Video!](#)
March 7th, 2012
Have a look at the Go4BioDiv Promo Video 2012 and share it with others! If five minutes, you can let [...](#)

 [Go4BioDiv Documentary ready!](#)
March 7th, 2012
The Go4BioDiv 2012 Documentary is ready! Learn more about Go4BioDiv and its activities in India [...](#)

 [Pictures are online!](#)
November 29th, 2012
The pictures from Go4BioDiv 2012 are finally online! Have a look at our activities at both the live [...](#)

 [Speech during High-Level Segment](#)
November 2nd, 2012
Listen to the joint youth intervention of Go4BioDiv and GYBN (Global Youth Biodiversity Network) [...](#)

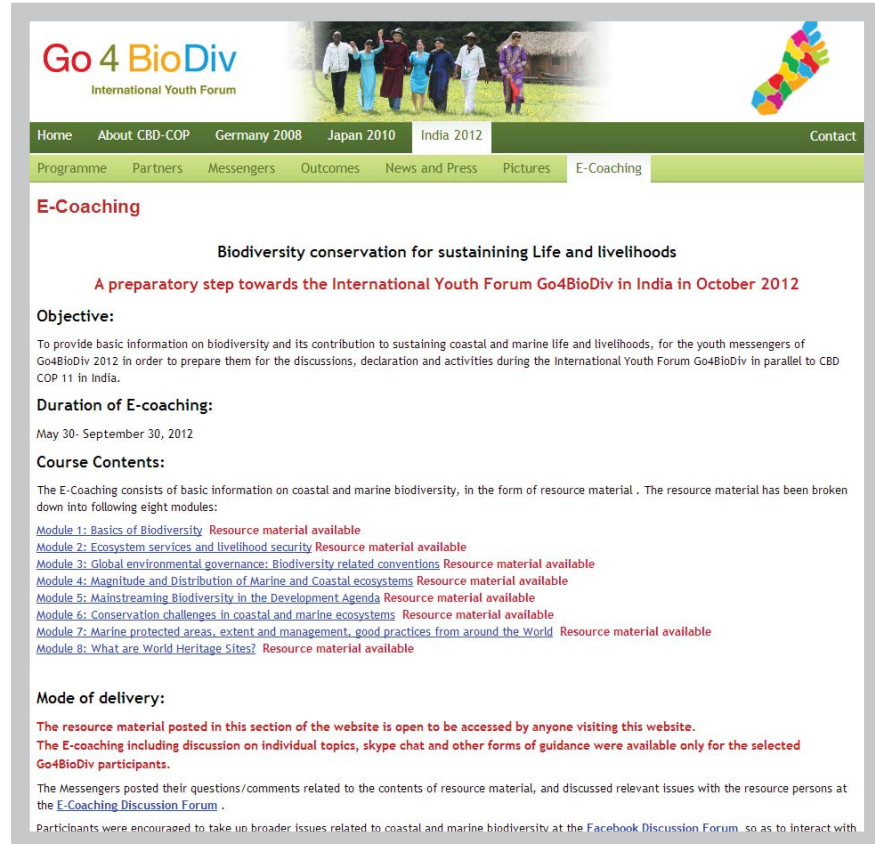


4.1.3 The Virtual Phase | E-coaching

To provide basic information on biodiversity and its contribution to sustaining coastal and marine life and livelihoods, for the youth messengers of Go4BioDiv 2012, an e-coaching initiative was launched as an integrated component of the virtual platform.

The e-coaching was primarily designed and implemented for Go4BioDiv messengers, but the resource material on the website was open to anyone visiting the website. Direct coaching in the form of discussions on individual topics via skype chat and e-coaching discussion forum, however, were available only for the selected Go4BioDiv participants.

The e-coaching initiative, led by Dr. Neeraj Khara, was extremely successful in preparing the Go4BioDiv messengers for the discussions, declaration and activities during the International Youth Forum Go4BioDiv in parallel to CBD-COP 11 in India.



The screenshot displays the Go4BioDiv International Youth Forum website. The header features the logo, a group photo of participants, and a colorful footprint graphic. The navigation menu includes Home, About CBD-COP, Germany 2008, Japan 2010, India 2012, and Contact. A secondary menu lists Programme, Partners, Messengers, Outcomes, News and Press, Pictures, and E-Coaching. The E-Coaching section is titled "Biodiversity conservation for sustaining Life and livelihoods" and includes a preparatory step for the 2012 forum in India. It details the objective, duration (May 30-September 30, 2012), and course contents, which consist of eight modules on topics like biodiversity basics, ecosystem services, environmental governance, coastal ecosystems, mainstreaming biodiversity, conservation challenges, marine protected areas, and world heritage sites. The delivery mode is described as open resource material with optional discussion forums for selected participants.

Go 4 BioDiv
International Youth Forum

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E-Coaching

Biodiversity conservation for sustaining Life and livelihoods

A preparatory step towards the International Youth Forum Go4BioDiv in India in October 2012

Objective:

To provide basic information on biodiversity and its contribution to sustaining coastal and marine life and livelihoods, for the youth messengers of Go4BioDiv 2012 in order to prepare them for the discussions, declaration and activities during the International Youth Forum Go4BioDiv in parallel to CBD COP 11 in India.

Duration of E-coaching:

May 30- September 30, 2012

Course Contents:

The E-Coaching consists of basic information on coastal and marine biodiversity, in the form of resource material . The resource material has been broken down into following eight modules:

[Module 1: Basics of Biodiversity](#) [Resource material available](#)

[Module 2: Ecosystem services and livelihood security](#) [Resource material available](#)

[Module 3: Global environmental governance: Biodiversity related conventions](#) [Resource material available](#)

[Module 4: Magnitude and Distribution of Marine and Coastal ecosystems](#) [Resource material available](#)

[Module 5: Mainstreaming Biodiversity in the Development Agenda](#) [Resource material available](#)

[Module 6: Conservation challenges in coastal and marine ecosystems](#) [Resource material available](#)

[Module 7: Marine protected areas, extent and management, good practices from around the World](#) [Resource material available](#)

[Module 8: What are World Heritage Sites?](#) [Resource material available](#)

Mode of delivery:

The resource material posted in this section of the website is open to be accessed by anyone visiting this website.

The E-coaching including discussion on individual topics, skype chat and other forms of guidance were available only for the selected Go4BioDiv participants.

The Messengers posted their questions/comments related to the contents of resource material, and discussed relevant issues with the resource persons at the [E-Coaching Discussion Forum](#) .

Participants were encouraged to take up broader issues related to coastal and marine biodiversity at the Facebook [Discussion Forum](#) so as to interact with

E-Coaching – Biodiversity conservation for sustaining life and livelihoods

A preparatory step towards the International Youth Forum Go4BioDiv in India in October 2012.

OBJECTIVE

To provide basic information on biodiversity and its contribution to sustaining coastal and marine life and livelihoods, for the youth messengers of Go4BioDiv 2012 in order to prepare them for the discussions, declaration and activities during the International Youth Forum Go4BioDiv in parallel to CBD-COP 11 in India.

Duration of e-coaching: May 30- September 30, 2012

COURSE CONTENTS

The e-coaching curriculum consists of basic information on coastal and marine biodiversity in the form of resource material . The resource material was broken down into the following eight modules:

Module 1: Basics of Biodiversity

Module 2: Ecosystem services and livelihood security

Module 3: Global environmental governance: Biodiversity related conventions

Module 4: Magnitude and Distribution of Marine and Coastal ecosystems

Module 5: Mainstreaming Biodiversity in the Development Agenda

Module 6: Conservation challenges in coastal and marine ecosystems

Module 7: Marine protected areas, extent and management, good practices from around the World

Module 8: What are World Heritage Sites?

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Participants were encouraged to take up broader issues related to coastal and marine biodiversity on the Facebook Discussion Forum so as to interact with a wider group, including coastal marine experts, media professionals and representatives of youth initiatives.

4.1.4 The Virtual Phase | Media Champions

A very innovative element of the communication strategy was identification of six Go4BioDiv Messengers as Media Champions. The Media Champions were the focal points for the Communications Task Force, Newsletter Editorial team as well as the moderators of the media platforms. The Go4BioDiv messengers with a media background and some experience in managing virtual platforms and social media volunteered to become media champions.

The Media Champions were continuously guided by Dr. Neeraj Khara in their tasks via email during the virtual phase. Special workshops were then organized at the Sundarbans during the Live Phase, with the presence of media experts such as Mr. Joydeep Gupta, Director, Third Pole Project.





4.2 The Live Phase 2012 | Sundarbans

Developing a common understanding

To build a common conceptual understanding was the goal of both the virtual e-coaching and discussion phase before October and the first working sessions in the Sundarbans.

The initial working sessions in the Sundarbans covered themes such as marine biodiversity and challenges to the ecosystems, environmental governance and livelihoods in coastal areas.

The discussions which started during the virtual phase were concluded during those working sessions and built a good base for the workshops and the development of the declaration.

The conceptual understanding sessions and workshops were facilitated by Dr. K. Sivakumar (WII), Dr. Neeraj Khara (GIZ India), Dr. Thora Amend (GIZ), Mr. Anurag Danda (WWF West Bengal) and other resource persons.



4.2.1 The Live Phase 2012 | Sundarbans | Workshops

Four parallel workshops were organized, with 7-10 Messengers participating in each workshop, relevant content-based aspects of 'Conserving marine and coastal biodiversity for sustaining life and livelihoods', and preparing towards the interventions to be made at the CBD COP in Hyderabad.

The workshops were facilitated by two resource persons. They assured both the quality of the contents and the youth element and authenticity of the workshop outcomes.

The workshop topics were:

- a. Marine and coastal biodiversity
- b. Livelihoods and management
- c. Fisheries and Governance
- d. Outreach and biodiversity communication



4.2.2 The Live Phase 2012 | Sundarbans | Development of the Declaration

The Declaration is a powerful message by all Go4BioDiv Messengers, incorporating hot issues from the earlier virtual discussions and results from the workshops. It was developed jointly and presented at COP 11 in different possible ways.

All the messengers were involved to the same degree in developing of the declaration and the contents of the workshop were incorporated into the Declaration.

Since participatory democracy aims at involving as many persons as possible in the negotiating and decision-making process, participatory method was used to develop the declaration, which imparted effectiveness of the message as well as collective thinking. Basically, it was a system of rotating representatives. Selected, non-permanent delegates of the workshops met in the declaration group to bring the position of their group forward. After discussing these with other delegates, they provided feedback to their workshop groups. The delegates rotated, so that everyone could participate in the negotiations.

A total of 16 sessions, over four days were devoted to develop the declaration.





Go4BioDiv International Youth Forum D E C L A R A T I O N

CONSERVING COASTAL AND MARINE BIODIVERSITY for SUSTAINING LIFE AND LIVELIHOODS

We, as international Go4BioDiv youth Messengers from around the globe, represent local and indigenous communities, students, scientists, educators, communicators, lawyers and economists from outstanding marine sites. We want to raise our voice for conserving coastal and marine biodiversity for sustaining life and livelihoods. Today, young people under 30 represent more than half of the world population. It is us who will live with the consequences of today's actions and inactions, and we are here to create our future.

• Marine and coastal biodiversity loss has profound implications on humanity

We, as the youth of today, are concerned that coastal and marine ecosystems are under threat from anthropogenic impacts including mismanagement and overuse of marine resources, habitat loss, pollution, invasive species, massive tourism and unsustainable development, which will further be exacerbated by climate change.

We see conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal resources as crucial towards livelihoods. Marine ecosystems cannot exist in isolation. Thus, the approach towards conservation must be in the context of wider land- and seascapes, fostering connectivity and the resilience of ecosystems. We therefore call for biodiversity conservation measures including sustainable and socially inclusive resource use practices to be a priority at all levels.



• We want policy driven by scientific and traditional knowledge

We, as young researchers, demand that scientists are made part of decision-making processes, to guide policies on a more ecologically sound path. It must be ensured that research findings are implemented in immediate and effective action. Science findings must not be compromised due to conflicting interests of media, lobby groups and industries.

• Wide participation in decision-making processes requires transparent information

We, as young leaders, call for cooperation and unity among stakeholders on all levels, going beyond the border of age, gender and cultural background. We demand for coordination of and compliance with all environment-related treaties.

A bottom-up governance approach is needed to empower local communities, encouraging them to maintain their traditions and values of sustainable resource use practices. This can be achieved with an effective participation process based on transparent information, accessible and understandable by all. Capacity building and training of facilitators is essential to encourage communication and to share knowledge between science, media, general public and authorities.

• We urge to fairly and equitably share the costs and benefits of biodiversity use.

We, as young ecologists and economists, know that biodiversity has an intrinsic value. However, we believe that the economic valuation of ecological goods and services can promote biodiversity conservation and the sustainable use of its components.

Moreover, the benefits arising from the use of marine and coastal genetic resources and their related traditional knowledge must be fairly and equitably shared. To foster sustainable use of biodiversity and its resources, more technical and financial support is essential.

• Strong legal regulations and their enforcement are necessary to protect our marine and coastal realms worldwide

We, as young environmental stewards, emphasize that the precautionary principle should be applied at regional, national and international levels. We urge for strong legal mechanisms, clear rules and regulations as well as their effective and active enforcement to prevent the misuse of resources, especially concerning illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing. Corruption must be combated at every level. Perverse incentives and subsidies must be converted into ecologically sound ones. If livelihoods are negatively affected, alternative income options must be provided.

• We want a strong emphasis on environmental education and communication

We, as youth educators and communicators strongly believe that it is vital to include environmental education in the curriculum and have nature connection programs. We are convinced that individuals from all sections of society should have the possibility and financial means to experience the natural environment to become aware of the importance of coastal and marine biodiversity and its ecosystem services.

• We call for coordination, cooperation and unity among all stakeholders

We, as the youth are strongly committed to biodiversity conservation and its sustainable and responsible use. By being globally connected and working in unity, we will create a change for our common future. And we invite the international community to join us!



4.2.3 The Live Phase 2012 | Sundarbans | Preparation of Theatre Performances

Street theatre gave the Messengers a creative form of exchanging and presenting their thoughts. The creative element was central to Go4BioDiv and had proved to be a great success during the last Go4BioDiv.

For the Go4BioDiv 2012 Messengers, several sessions of theatre allowed for exchange of ideas, lessons, practice and rehearsals. Performances were to be at different places in COP 11 and before that in the Sundarbans (one event on Oct 13).

Mr. Ritesh Sharma of the Ahwaan Foundation facilitated the theatre performance.



4.2.4 The Live Phase 2012 | Sundarbans | Excursions

The excursions gave the Messengers a lively experience of the unique Sundarbans ecosystem and the opportunity to visit, discuss and compare conservation projects and management approaches.

It triggered discussions and promoted exchanges on different approaches from different regions.

The excursion included tour to the unique Mangrove ecosystem and discussions with HELP Tourism – an NGO on Bali Island about their projects.

The Messengers also visited Rajat Jubilee Island where both, WWF projects and eco-development communities met.



4.2.5 The Live Phase 2012 | Sundarbans | Creative Work

The Messengers rebuilt and decorated an old, boat transforming it into a large and personal symbol which was used at COP 11 as an eye-catching and creative means of communication.



4.3 The Live Phase 2012 | The CBD-COP 11 in Hyderabad

From October 16 to 19 at the CBD-COP in Hyderabad, the Messengers came together during the High-Level Segment to present their messages to decision-makers and the wider public through the powerful youth declaration on 17th October. Side-events and sessions were organized including street theatre and a colourful exhibition. The whole event was prepared and accompanied by a strong virtual exchange via an online platform, which was updated every hour with the news of Go4BioDiv and CBD-COP. Go4BioDiv also received good media attention.



4.3.1 The Live Phase 2012 | The CBD-COP 11 in Hyderabad | Events and Sessions

- Oct 16 'Cities for Life', GYBN, Compact, Future Policy Awards, and Island Innovations;
- Oct 17 NAJU, GIZ-BMU launch of coastal marine biodiversity project, SPREP;
- Oct 18 | 10:00 - 11:15
Marine and Coastal Biodiversity for sustaining livelihoods. Panel discussion of Go4BioDiv Messengers and other experts on livelihoods issues arising in coastal areas at Rio Pavilion
- Oct 19 High Level Segment, German Govt
- Oct 19 | 11:00 - 12:30
Closing the gap between marine biodiversity science and everything else Knowledge Café event in the Networking Lounge of the public exhibition area next to Go4BioDiv's exhibition about marine biodiversity conservation and science. HITEX Hall 2, Networking Lounge
- Oct 19 | 13:00 - 14:30
Marine Biodiversity and Ocean Governance – The Youth Perspective, Side event on the common findings of the Go4BioDiv Messengers with diverse backgrounds in MPA management, policy and law, in artisanal and industrial fisheries and in biodiversity science in Room 1.06



4.3.2 The Live Phase 2012 | The CBD-COP 11 in Hyderabad | High Level Segment

A joint Youth Intervention was organized at the High Level Segment (HLS) of the CBD-COP 11 by Go4BioDiv and GYBN on October 18th.

The joint declaration delivered by Ananya Ashok, India and Melina Sakiyama, Brazil included the following:

"...having spent the last days at the Go4BioDiv Nature Camp at the Sundarbans, we youth messengers representing various marine and coastal heritage sites from across the world have worked on the most immediate issue of "Conserving coastal and marine biodiversity for sustaining lives and livelihoods." Of all biodiversity, we feel the most urgent need to conserve coastal and marine biodiversity, for not only does half of the world's population live in coastal areas but this biodiversity loss has profound impacts on our lives and livelihoods...."





4.3.3 The Live Phase 2012 | The CBD-COP 11 in Hyderabad | Exhibition

'Mother Nature and the Mangrove Garden'

Go4BioDiv placed a beautiful and meaningful papiermâché exhibit in the centre of the exhibition hall in HITEX at the CBD-COP 11 venue in Hyderabad, which was consistent with the theme of the COP 'Conserving coastal and marine biodiversity for sustaining life and livelihoods'.

Recognizing the vital role of youth in the conservation of our marine and coastal resources, the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit* (GIZ) GmbH, on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development (BMZ) and the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) through the Biodiversity and Climate Change Project (BCCP) supported Go4BioDiv 2012 through a papier-mâché and mixed media exhibit.

The art of papiermâché is the result of an unbroken 400-year Paete tradition. Nowadays, the 30,000 inhabitants of Paete base their livelihoods mainly on woodcarvings and papier mâché, tourism, poultry industry, farming and fishing.

The artist Ms. Yvette Beatrice was born in the Philippines to a family that owned a paper factory. In describing her artwork, she states, "the factory being my playground laid the foundation for my passion to mixed media arts. When I paint, my common media are oil, acrylic, wire and paper. For CBD-COP 11, I decided to go back and work with the material of my youth: paper"



"When I paint, my common media are oil, acrylic, wire and paper. For CBD-COP 11, I decided to go back and work with the material of my youth: paper"



4.3.4 The Live Phase 2012 | The CBD-COP 11 in Hyderabad | Launch of Booklet

Highlights of the Go4BioDiv presence at CBD-COP 11

The launch of Go4BioDiv brochure by Mrs Jayanti Natarajan, the honourable Minister of Environment and Forests, during the High Level Segment.

“It gives me great pleasure to inform all concerned that the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India is hosting the globally acclaimed Go4BioDiv International Youth Forum on the margins of the eleventh Conference of Parties (COP 11) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) being held in India from 1-19 October, 2012 at Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh”.



“I wish the Go4BioDiv Messengers a professionally rewarding stay in India and convey my appreciation to the organizers and sponsors of this event, which would contribute to harness the productive energies of the youth in strengthening biodiversity conservation”.





4.3.5 The Live Phase 2012 | The CBD-COP 11 in Hyderabad | Certificate Distribution Ceremony

The CBD-COP phase of Go4BioDiv concluded successfully with a certificate distribution ceremony held at the Dr. Marri Channa Reddy Human Resource Development (MCR HRD) Institute at Hyderabad in the evening of October 19th, where the Messengers received their participation certificates from Dr. J. R. Bhatt, Scientist-G and responsible for Go4BioDiv 2012 in MoEF&CC and Dr. V. B. Mathur, Director, Wildlife Institute of India and nodal person for implementation of Go4BioDiv 2012.



4.3.6 The Live Phase 2012 | The CBD-COP 11 in Hyderabad | Media Coverage

Youth forum in parallel to CBD

P K Surendran | September 24, 2012 | 0 Comments



Go4BioDiv India 2012 & 'A Fish from the Sea's Edge' by Silas Birtwistle



Research, are holding exhibitions on different facets of ecology. Agencies too are coming, with exhibiting in Japan International Co-operation and Go4-Biodiversity Youth International Forum being held here. Post's exhibition uses all the Indian stamps that show flora or fauna. The East River Estuarine Foundation is also participating in the mangrove

Expo to show destruction of mangroves



MARINE LIFE: A participant works at the stall of Go4 Biodiversity Youth International Forum, set up on the exhibition board, which has organized the exhibition. An international platform with the help of the Central and state governments, United Nations Development Programme and Global Environment Facility has now been launched to conserve mangrove forests. 'We want to stop their dependence on the forests, but we cannot create a balance if they depend on it, but at the same time grow every year.' - Dr. ...

News in Images - Wednesday 10th Oct, 2012 Gallery

previous

Go4BioDiv India 2012 & 'A Fish from the Sea's Edge' by Birtwistle



Next >>>



Go4BioDiv India 2012
Fish from the Sea's Edge
Silas Birtwistle

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Youth for Coastal Marine Conservation...

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Xiomy Acevedo

July 31 at 6:43am

Dear All,
2015 two inter-governmental processes (on climate change and the sustainable development agenda) provide a powerful opportunity for collective and decentralised large-scale, public-facing actions aimed at compelling governments at all levels to commit to sustainable development. We visit the campaign website action2015 website and register your participation as a member... See More

