

## Partnerships for Conservation

Ms Aban Marker Kabraji, Asia Regional Director of International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the world's largest conservation organisation and her team were at CEE the last few days of November. CEE, IUCN-India members, and the IUCN team met on 29 November to deliberate on areas where international scientific research, technology, and knowledge of best practices are needed. The discussion on critical challenges to biodiversity conservation was continued in to the state level seminar 'Gujarat: Rapid Development and Challenges to Biodiversity Conservation', organized under the joint auspices of Department of Forests and Environment, Government of Gujarat, IUCN and CEE at CEE, Ahmedabad, the next day on 30 November.



Discussing challenges to biodiversity conservation: T.P Rawat, B.N Srivastava, Aban Kabraji and Kartikeya Sarabhai (l to r).

The seminar focused on three different themes: marine and coastal biodiversity, agricultural biodiversity, and biodiversity in forests and protected areas. The key tone of the seminar was struck with the recognition that while Gujarat is unique in terms of the diversity of its eco-systems, it is essential to use such biodiversity sustainably and take

## From Devastation to Recovery

The CEE Himalaya 'Rebuilding Trust' team has completed a long and eventful journey in the earthquake-hit Kashmir Valley, rebuilding lives and infrastructure for its people. The workshop, 'From Devastation to Recovery in Earthquake Hit Kashmir: Linking Relief and Rehabilitation to Development', organised on 16-17 November, 2011 at Srinagar, marked the culmination of the years of efforts, from 2005-2011, to rebuild education, infrastructure and coordinate disaster response with various involved groups.



Addressing the disaster affected people of Kashmir.

The workshop was attended by 176 people - a cross-section of society comprising children, teachers, community members, village pradhans, NGOs, government representatives, civil defense members and several organizations working on disaster management issues.

The workshop took up issues of safe infrastructure; preparedness for disaster risk reduction; awareness and education; the vulnerability of people; sustainable livelihoods, and networking and coordination among members. Emphasis was laid on increasing accountability to the environment, finalising disaster management policies and setting up of a

stock of various conservation challenges and issues. Appreciable efforts may have been made, for instance, in protected area conservation but the need for technology and knowledge for education, sustainable use, and defining regulations for better enforcement, remain. As Aban Kabraji and Kartikeya Sarabhai observed at various points during the seminar, strategic partnerships are key to pooling effective conservation solutions.



An engrossed audience at the seminar.

More than 60 participants including senior policy makers, government officials, planners, academicians, and representatives of civil service organisations participated in the thought provoking seminar. Joint Secretary, Mr. B M S Rathore Ministry of Environment and Forests,; M. Pradeep Khanna Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Forest Department, Government of Gujarat; Dr A.P. Singh, Member Secretary, Gujarat Biodiversity Board; Mr. A. K. Verma, Member Secretary Gujarat Ecology Commission; Mr. Bharat Pathak, Director, Gujarat Ecological Education and Research Foundation; Mr. P. R. Sinha, Director Wildlife Institute of India were some of the panellists at the seminar.

### **Handicraft Designs for the Market**

CEE North, as part of its sustainable livelihood intervention, had organised a three-month handicraft training programme in 2010 for the Tharu tribe women of Dudhwa Tiger Reserve. Since then, the

dedicated department for disaster management. A list of recommendations was subsequently prepared in order to facilitate awareness, preparedness, networking and sustainability to future plans and action.

The workshop ended with a resolve to work together to rebuild trust in their own ability, and capacity, to take charge of their lives.

### **Climate Change Education for Sustainable Schools**

While parties to the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol were thrashing out the possibility of a second commitment period of the Protocol at the Durban COP17, over 30 secondary school teachers from Abu Dhabi were busy developing Climate Action Plans for their schools. These teachers were from Sustainable Schools Initiative of the Environment Agency Abu Dhabi.

This was done as part of the workshop-- Climate Change Education for Sustainable Schools--conducted during November 29-30 in Abu Dhabi by CEE's Rajeswari Gorana and Praveen Prakash. During the two days, the teachers participated with great enthusiasm in a mock COP 17 session; traded carbon credits zealously through 'open market' auctioning; analysed not only the environmental but also the social and economic risks and vulnerabilities of some geo-political regions; brainstormed on sector wise( transportation, water, waste management, energy, etc.) management approaches for mitigation and adaptation that are suitable to their Emirate.

women have been engaged in crafting traditional products such as baskets, wall hangings, file folders and carpets (Dari). There has been considerable demand for their products at various forums, as is evident from the invitation to put up an exhibition at Delhi Haat. The women artisans are now earning an income from their handicraft products and supporting their family. The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED), New Delhi, (Ministry of Tribal Affairs Govt. of India), has been supporting the training programme and handicraft product promotion.

With Tharu handicraft products entering the commercial market, it was felt that the artisan group needed a design up-gradation training to keep up with market requirements. CEE, supported by TRIFED, is organizing a 15 day Design Training Workshop which will be followed by Reinforcement Training over a period of one and a half months. The workshop is also being supported by Dudhwa Park authorities and WWF Terai Arc office.



Tharu tribal women understanding the nuances of consumer response.

The Design workshop began on 26 November, 2011 at Goubraula village where Ms. Sangeeta Mahindra, Regional Manager of TRIFED, addressed artisan groups and briefed them about the consumer response to their products. A handicraft designer, Mr. Anirban Halder of National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) will be with the



Teachers deeply involved in the workshop.

The workshop helped teachers understand various aspects and issues related to Climate Change and the possible ways in which these can be integrated into their teaching and school work.

The Climate Action Plans were developed with the purpose to reduce the school's Footprint and increase its Hand print.

The workshop, incidentally, also coincided with the 40 th National Day celebrations commemorating the Union of UAE.

### **Dolphins Ahoy!**

A two-day Ganges River Dolphin camp for schools from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal was conducted from 15-16 November at Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary, Bhagalpur, Bihar. Around 50 students and 15 teachers along with partner NGOs participated in the camp.



artisan group for the Design Workshop to help the group better orient their products to the market. The programme is being attended by 15 Tharu women and a master trainer. The products developed during the training period will be tested by TRIFED and an order for further supply of the products will be placed later with the Tharu women artisans.



Using observation sheets to learn about the Ganges River Dolphin.

The camp began in one of the cluster schools of Bhagalpur where key officials from the Sanctuary and experts of the area addressed the group on the importance of the Ganges River Dolphin in saving our rivers. The students actively participated in putting up a skit, a puppet show, and an exhibition to spread conservation messages to the wider audience. The school groups presented their work and demonstrated various ways of promoting conservation education. The cultural evening reflected what the students had learnt in the poems and songs that they performed.

On the second day of the camp, the participants went on a boat ride in the sanctuary to sight the dolphin. Prof. Sunil Chowdhary, renowned dolphin expert, explained various methods of scientific data recording and helped them use sample observation sheets. On coming back, the participants presented their experience in terms of their understanding of the species and its habitat. Certificates were distributed to the participants at the conclusion of the camp.