

**Building Resilience for Sustaining Development**

**Workshop on  
Conservation of Coastal and Marine Resources by  
Building Resilient People Institutions**



**Madurai Symposium 2017**

**Thamukkam Ground, Madurai**

**September 21, 2017**

*Organized by*



**Coastal Conservation and Livelihoods Programme  
DHAN Foundation**

## Rationale

India has about 2% of the world area but it contains nearly 18% of the biodiversity of the world. It has an extensive coastline of 7517 km in length, of which 5423 km is in peninsular India and 2094 km is in the Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep islands. The exclusive economic zone has an extent of 2.02 million km. Coastal zones represent the most diverse and fragile ecosystems as they are influenced by both terrestrial and marine processes. Marine ecosystems such as estuaries, coral reefs, marshes, lagoon, sandy and rocky beaches, mangrove forests and sea-grass beds are all known for their high biological productivity, which provide a wide range of habitat for many aquatic flora and fauna. It also provides important food resources and major services to human beings. These areas are of great importance as they support huge populations.

Around 25% of India's population is living within 100 kms of the coastline. India has around 3300 fishing villages and 1 million sea going fishermen. There is a population of 5 million in fishermen households/villages. 5-10 million people are employed in fishing and fish value chain. Development of Industries and ports, increase in recreational activities, discharge of effluents (industrial and domestic) as well as exploitation of natural resources and illegal fishing adversely affect these fragile ecosystems. In addition storms and cyclones as well as erosion add to the degradation of these areas. Poverty eradication, changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production as well as protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are the overarching objectives for sustainable development. This is especially crucial for India also to develop sustainably and remove the disparity and bring about pro poor and inclusive growth. All stakeholders besides the government like the civil society, private sector, and others are also key contributors to the realization of the new agenda.





Tamil Nadu coast has length of 1076 kms, classified in to four regions like, Coromandel Coast 357 kms, Palk Pay 294 Kms, Gulf of Mannar 367 kms and west coast 60 kms. In Tamil Nadu about 46 rivers drain into Bay of Bengal forming several estuaries adjoining coastal lagoons. Fringing and patch reefs are present near Rameswaram and Gulf of Mannar, mangroves at Pichavaram, Vedaranyam and Point Calimere, rich deposits of heavy minerals are available in Muttam-Manavalakuruchi coast and the southern tip is also known for the Teri sands. Gulf of Mannar is a repository of over 3,600 species of plants and animals and the first biosphere reserve in the South-East Asian region. It is one of the most biologically diverse coastal regions in the planet earth. It is also among the largest remaining feeding grounds for the globally endangered species namely dugong etc. Five different species of endangered marine turtles, innumerable fish, mollusks and crustaceans are also found here.

In this context, prime responsibility of all stakeholders is to protect and manage the rich coastal and marine bio diversity of India. Since over the last one decade coastal and marine resources are been significantly deteriorated due to various factors, it is high time to reflect upon present issues and look in to future course of action.

### Objectives

1. To sensitize the importance of conservation of Coastal & Marine Resources and its relevance for People Institutions
2. To understand the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders on conservation of Coastal & Marine resources and co-management.
3. To evolve strategies for building resilient people institutions for effective and sustainable usage of Coastal & Marine resources

## When & Where

21st September 2017

Tamukkam Ground, Madurai, as part of Madurai Symposium

## For Whom

Traditional Fishermen, Representatives from People Intuitions, Research Institutions, Fisheries Department, Forest Department, NGOs and International Development Agencies.

## About Coastal Conservation and Livelihoods Programme

DHAN Foundation responded immediately after the tsunami in 2004 and took up relief works. After the relief phase, DHAN took up the task of enabling the restoration of livelihood activities in the affected regions. It has now evolved into a full-fledged and area-based programme. The programme follows an integrated and holistic approach to address the issues in livelihoods and conservation of coastal ecosystem without upsetting the social fabric and cultural identities of communities. Presently, CALL programme is been working in Palk Pay, Gulf of Mannar and Coromandel Coast of Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha.

This Programme builds sustainable people organizations by organizing the most vulnerable communities, marginalized fishing communities, affected coastal farmers and affected women. The programme promotes savings, credit and insurance services, along with the support of their livelihoods activities. The major focus the programme are, conserving coastal natural resources such as coastal ecosystem, marine bio-system, water bodies and coastal farm system to reduce poverty and vulnerability, and thereby making fisheries and coastal agriculture sustainable.



*For further information, please contact*

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