



KERALA STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD

# EKAA

Environment. Kerala. Awareness. Action  
E -Newsletter of the Kerala State Biodiversity Board

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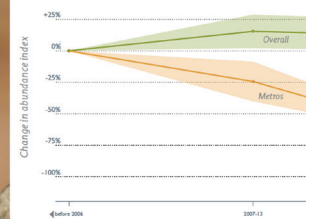
KSBB News

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## World Wildlife Day of 2021 celebrated 'Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet'

The World Wildlife Day 2021 was celebrated under the theme "Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet," by highlighting the critical role of forests, forest species, and ecosystem services in sustaining the livelihoods of millions of people around the world. The broad theme of this year is in line with the four different UN Sustainable development goals, namely, SDG 1, 12, 13 and 15. Around 200 million people live within the forested landscapes around the world and they are partially or fully dependent on forests for their livelihoods. At the same time, they are at the forefront of conserving forests and the wild species as well. The aim of this year's Wildlife Day is to encourage forest and wildlife management models and practices that incorporate human well-being with the protection of trees, forest-dwelling species of wild fauna and flora, and the habitats they sustain.

## World Sparrow day – March 20<sup>th</sup>



World Sparrow day is being celebrated on 20<sup>th</sup> March every year across the globe to raise awareness and convey a message to conserve the House Sparrow and other common bird species and appreciate the beauty of biodiversity. Despite popular opinion that the House Sparrow is declining in India, the recently released State of India Bird Report indicates that the species has remained relatively stable over the last 25 years. The data from six large metro cities (Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, and Mumbai) show that their abundance in urban areas is gradually declining while the overall population is stable.



## Species Discoveries

A new species of *Elaeocarpus* from Kerala

A new species of *Elaeocarpus* was discovered from Nelliampathi Hills which is named as *Elaeocarpus gadgiliai* in honour of the well-known ecologist and the chairman of Western Ghats Ecological Expert Panel, Prof. MadhavGadgil. It was discovered from Mambara in Nelliampathi hills by a PhD scholar and a group of scientists from National Botanical Research Institute, Botanical Survey of India and Botany department of Chittoor Government College. The fragrant hanging flowers are the



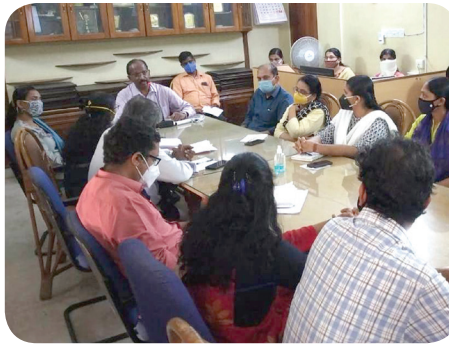
notable features of this newly discovered species. The flowers are with red coloured sepals, white coloured petals and numerous stamens. The species belongs to the tropical plant family Elaeocarpaceae which has more than 480 members of flowering plants. This is the 13<sup>th</sup> species in Elaeocarpaceae discovered from Western Ghats.

Reference: Manoharan, M.A., Prabhukumar, K.M., Arjunan, S.K., Jose, S. and Veerankutty, S., 2021. *Elaeocarpus gadgiliai* (Elaeocarpaceae), a new species from Western Ghats (India). *Phytotaxa*, 489(1); 87-93.

## News on KSBB Activities



“Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world” International Women’s Day Celebration organized on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at KSBB museum hall



Invited talk on “Forest and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet”, by Sri.Pramod G Krishnan IFS, Additional Chief Forest Conservator (Eco Development & Tribal Welfare), held on the Wildlife day, 2021, 03.03.2021



Round table discussion with public sector undertakings as part of the RKI Project “Database of Tradable /Commercial Potential Bio-resources and their Economic Valuation in Kerala”, held at Oushadhi, Thrissur on 26.03.2021



Agro biodiversity training & custodian farmer field visit, Kollam as a part of RKI-Agrobiodiversity project



Agrobiodiversity training at Kottarakkara, Kollam on 29.03.2021 as a part of RKI-Agrobiodiversity project



BMC meeting at Thrissur Cooperation



BMC meeting at Thekkumbhagam Grama Panchayat, Kollam



BMC meeting at Kattakkada Grama Panchayat, Thiruvananthapuram

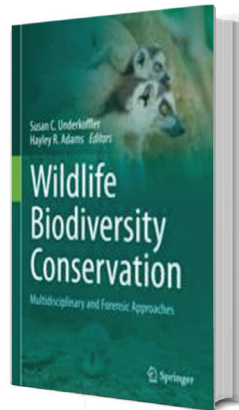


Inaguration of model BMC project at Kattakada, Thiruvananthapuram

## Green Reads

### Wildlife Biodiversity Conservation- Multidisciplinary and Forensic Approaches

This book addresses the multidisciplinary challenges in biodiversity conservation with a focus on wildlife crime and how forensic tools can be applied to protect species and preserve ecosystems. Illustrated by numerous case studies covering different geographical regions and species, the book introduces to the fundamentals of biodiversity conflicts, outlines the unique challenges of wildlife crime scenes and reviews latest techniques in environmental forensics, such as DNA metagenomics. In addition,

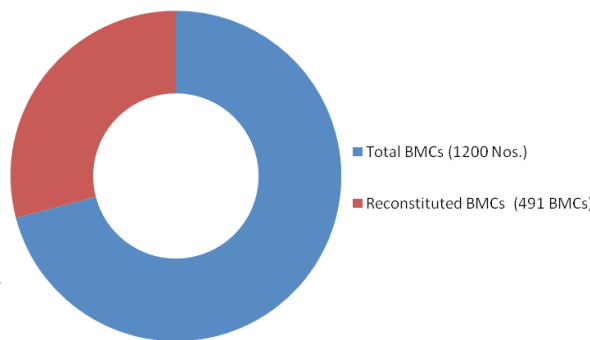


the volume explores the socio-economic perspective of biodiversity protection and provides an overview of national and international conservation laws. The field

of conservation medicine stresses the importance of recognizing that human health, animal health, and ecosystem health are inextricably interdependent and the book serves as important contribution towards achieving the UN Sustainable Developmental Goals, in particular SDG 15, Life on Land. The book addresses graduate students, scientists and veterinary professionals working in wildlife research and conservation biology. **Editors: Underkoffler, Susan C, Adams, Hayley R. (Eds.), Publishers, Springer**

### BMC reconstitution in Kerala

After the localbody elections 2020, KSBB had directed local bodies to arrange to reconstitute the BMCs as per the Biodiversity Act. Till date 41% of the total BMCs in Kerala had been successfully reconstituted. The remaining BMCs will be reconstituted soon after the termination of model code of conduct as part of Kerala Legislative Assembly 2021 elections.



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Chairperson

#### Smt. Reney.R.Pillai

Member Secretary

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2. Principal Secretary , Fisheries Department
3. Principal Secretary, Forest & Wildlife Department
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5. Adl.chief Secretary, Environment Department

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10. Sri. A.K Dharni, IFS (Retd)