

Biodiversity Awareness Workshop using Open Source Geospatial Software (FOSS4G) Tools

organised by
OSGeo-India, IIIT - Hyderabad, Care Earth & French Institute of Pondicherry

Venue: French Institute of Pondicherry

Date: 19 August 2015

Western Ghats, a global biodiversity hotspot, is facing huge crisis due to developmental demands. While this poses a biodiversity management challenge, localised studies and disparate datasets limit the ability to upscale studies/results to a level that can provide actionable inputs to decision makers and planners. New and innovative methods using geospatial technology can help bridge this gap if stakeholders have access not only to the data but also to the appropriate tools for informed decision making. This activity will train participants to equip policy makers and other stakeholders converting science-questions to an appropriate geospatial query that can provide the right insights/answers drawing upon the data base. As a part of the proposed activity, OSGeo-India along with the French Institute, Pondicherry would like to begin an initiative to equip stakeholders of Biodiversity of Western Ghats of Tamil Nadu state to harness the state of art open source geospatial technology tools at multiple levels, viz., mobile, desktop and web platforms. Toward this goal, one day stakeholder workshop has been planned for a cross section of stakeholders such as researchers, students, State Biodiversity boards, Forest department officials, line agencies and NGOs impacting on biodiversity. The topics to be covered during the workshop include the following.

1. An overview of Western Ghats biodiversity and the need for Spatial data - Limitations and lacunae in current understanding based on description, monitoring and management of biodiversity.
2. How Spatial data helps provide the larger perspective for systemic understanding
3. Demonstration and Case studies of Applications of desktop, web and mobile GIS in management of biodiversity
4. Plan for intensive two week TOT workshops , utility of the trainees and mainstreaming capacity building in the respective agencies using FOSS4G tools.
5. Open Discussion session to highlight the challenges in the State for adoption and use of Geospatial and related technologies and
6. Identifying and nominating a state level nodal agency for follow-up activities in the use of open source GIS for Biodiversity.

Program:

19 Aug 2015	Registration (09h15 – 09h30)	
09h30 - 09h45	Welcome	Dr. Pierre GRARD, Director, IFP
09h45 - 10h00	Presentation of Workshop objectives	Dr. Narendra Prasad, OSGeo-India
Session 1 Spatial data for biodiversity conservation (10h00 - 12h45)		
10h00 - 10h30	State of Biodiversity in Tamil Nadu	Dr. Ranjit Daniels, Care Earth
10h30 - 11h00	Mapping for Effective Conservation Planning	Dr. B.R. Ramesh, IFP
Tea break (11h00 - 11h15)		
11h15 - 12h00	Introduction to FOSS4G tools in desktop, web and mobile platforms	Gowtham G, IIIT
12h00 - 12h45	FOSS4G tools in mapping for conservation - Case Studies	Dr. R. C. Prasad. IIIT
LUNCH (12h45 – 14h00)		
Session 2 Discussion and Planning for Capacity Building (14h00 - 17h00)		
14h00 - 14h20	Using R as geo-statistical tool: a few examples	Dr. Maxime Réjou-Méchain, IFP
14h20 - 14h40	India Biodiversity Portal - An Overview	Rohit George, IFP
14h40 - 15h30	Discussion on adoption of FOSS4G tools in conservation planning and implementation	Moderator: Dr. Narendra Prasad, OSGeo
Tea break (15h30 – 15h45)		
15h45 - 17h00	Planning for future capacity building activities and Summary of Workshop	Dr. Narendra Prasad, OSGeo-India

