

For immediate release



IRADe releases report on Marine National Park, provides framework for assessing effectiveness of a “Protected Area”

- The research think tank releases report on the status of Marine National Park, Jamnagar at IIM Ahmedabad -

New Delhi, 07th March, 2019: Integrated Research and Action for Development (IRADe), the leading South Asian think tank, recently released a report on Marine National Park ecology at the **Policy Dialogue on Climate Change and Development** organized by the research body on **6th March 2019** at **Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA)** in Gujarat.

The report “**Review of status of Marine National Park, Jamnagar (MNP) & Evolving Vision Statement for Management of MNP**”, assesses the ecological changes in the Jamnagar MNP, and provides a macro-view of its status in the wake of various challenges faced over the years. It also provides a detailed assessment and mapping of various stakeholders and conflicts/relationships among them, alongside a “Common Vision Statement” highlighting their potential roles and responsibilities, which should be adopted for sustainable and holistic management of MNP.

IRADe conducted the policy dialogue in Ahmedabad to raise awareness and policy consensus on action towards the rising magnitude of climate change, environment and resilient urban development. The workshop was a part of IRADe’s 15th anniversary celebrations, as it recently completed its decade-and-a-half journey in 2018.

The report was released by Prof Kirit Parikh, Chairman IRADe; Prof Jyoti K Parikh, Executive Director, IRADe; Dr. C N Pandey, retd PCCF and visiting Professor, IIT- Gandhinagar; Dr. R D Kamboj, Director, GEER Foundation; Dr. S J Halder, Principal Scientist, CSMCSRI, Bhavnagar; Mr Rohit Magotra, Deputy Director, IRADe; and Dr. Mohit Kumar, Research Analyst, IRADe.

Prof Jyoti K. Parikh, while chairing the session on MNP, highlighted the importance of the marine park at Jamnagar, and informed that IRADe has also carried out a project earlier on the MNP. In her concluding remarks, she highlighted the co-existence of economic and ecological hotspots in the region and the detailed analysis provided by the present report on how these two hot-spots have survived with each other over the years.

Mr. Rohit Magotra shared that the IRADe study, supported by GIZ & Ministry of Environment, Forestry & Climate Change, provided a framework for analyzing the effectiveness of declaring an area as “Protected Area” and can be replicated in other marine parks of the India.

Dr Mohit Kumar, while presenting on behalf of IRADe project team, informed that a detailed mapping of various stakeholders associated with MNP, and their relationships has been carried out in this project. The ecological changes in two critical habitats of the MNP, viz., Mangroves and Coral Reefs, have also been analyzed using satellite images and published reports, and various threats and pressures affecting MNP have also been highlighted. Recommendations have been made to improve the efficacy of MNP, alongside proposing a “**Common Vision Statement**”, which identifies the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders with a view to streamline their stakes and minimize conflicts.

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In a special address, Dr C N Pandey, while recognizing the IRADe project team for the substantial and detailed analysis of MNP, stressed on the geographical challenges of the region. He stated that Gulf of Kachchh is one of the three Gulfs in our country and such marine areas are indeed very challenging and difficult environments to study because of tidal variabilities, approachability and the diverse nature of the landscape. He also highlighted the unique case of MNP, Jamnagar as the area's economic value has increased despite the area being declared a Protected Area.

The region is very high in terms of the biodiversity which has thrived in climatically difficult environment, and also has a diversity of coral reefs. There have also been successful attempts of transplantation of corals brought from other parts of the country. Dr Pandey emphasized that other similar regions across the country should also be studied, and efforts should be increased to protect individual threatened species like Dugong, and their habitats, found in this region.

Dr R D Kamboj also welcomed the report and IRADe's contribution, while recalling his experience as CCF, MNP, Jamnagar, and also stressed on increasing conservation efforts of threatened species of this region. While calling out industries growing in the region to contribute to the cause, he also highlighted the need to reduce sedimentation in the area to protect its natural environment, as sediments released in the seawaters due to construction and developmental activities, harm the diverse marine species, especially corals.

About IRADe

IRADe is an independent advanced research institute which aims to conduct research and policy analysis to engage stakeholders such as government, non-governmental organizations, corporations, academic and financial institutions. The organization conducts multi-disciplinary and multi-stakeholder policy and technical research & analysis in the domains of energy, climate change, urban development, poverty, gender equity, agriculture, and food security.

Being Asia Centre for Sustainable Development, it has been carrying out policy research and its implementation for enabling socio-economic growth and charting pathways for sustainable development in South-Asia. IRADe is also certified as a Research and Development Organization by Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST). It has also been selected as a Centre of Excellence by the Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD) for urban development and climate change. In addition, it provides expertise to other ministries, national and international institutions and partners with other reputed organizations.

For more details please visit www.irade.org

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