

## World Otters Day in Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary, Andhra Pradesh



**Introduction by Shri. Anant Shankar, IFS, DFO (WL) Rajamahendravaram & Addl. CEO, UNDP-GEF-EGREE Foundation**

The World Otter Day was celebrated on 30th May 2018 to spread awareness on the conservation importance of Indian Smooth-coated Otters in Godavari Mangroves. The event was organized in Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary, Government of India- Government of Andhra Pradesh-UNDP-GEF- EGREE Foundation in collaboration with Andhra Pradesh Forest Department in association with IUCN/SSC Otter Specialist Group. The main objective was to reach out more people.

In Coringa and adjoining mangroves the population of Smooth-coated Otters were threatened before the interventions of the Government of India-UNDP-GEF-GoAP - EGREE Project on Mainstreaming Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Conservation into

Production Sectors in EGREE Region. After the intervention, the population of Otters have gradually increased in the last 5 years.

More than 70 participants including students, researchers, local communities, Eco-development Committee Presidents, NGOs, line departments, corporate people and all the stakeholders in the EGREE Region were participated.

We also promoted no plastic along with eco-friendly approach, distributed awareness materials made of cloth bags, cloth banner etc., Awareness was created on the importance of Wetlands, Indian Smooth-coated Otters, Fishing Cats and their habitats.



**Cloth bags were promoted during the event**

The programme was started with welcoming address and followed by inaugural speech and special talks on introduction about the sanctuary, mangroves as habitat for otters etc. by the forest department officials and project coordinators.

Then the participants were taken to mangrove walk and explained about the flora, fauna, mangrove and

estuarine ecosystem. They were taken for boating in creeks for sighting Smooth-coated otters, their signs and to the camera trap points, which were installed in the field. They were given hands-on training and explained about the use of camera traps in monitoring of Smooth-coated otter. In the afternoon a documentary film on “Wildlife of Coringa

Mangroves” was screened at Coringa Biodiversity Centre, Coringi.

Mr. Eswar Narayana, Member, IUCN/SSC Otter Specialist Group, National United Nations Volunteer, Conservation Biologist, UNDP-GEF-EGREE Foundation, Mr. Manneपुरi Srikanth, Post Graduate student, Consultant Researcher, Mr. Balaji Kumpatla, Project Scientist, Andhra Pradesh Forest Department, Mr. Giridhar Malla and Ms. Paromita Ray Researchers were the resource persons for this event.

*Submitted by J. Eswar Satya Narayana, Andhra Pradesh. Email: [eswar.narayana@undp.org](mailto:eswar.narayana@undp.org)*



**Participants of World Otters Day**