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# Sustainable solutions sidelined by political class, say scientists

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Moodbidri: Scientists on Wednesday blamed the politician-bureaucrats for not implementing sustainable solutions for and profitability during the 'Lake 2016: International Conference on Conservation and Sustainable Management of Ecologically Sensitive Regions in Western Ghats'.

Dr T V Ramachandra, centre for Ecological Sciences (CES) of Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru and chairman of lake conference, said erroneous judgement by politicians and bureaucrats, ignoring solutions by scientists, is making Cauvery issue stay alive. Yettinahole will fall into the same trap as sustainable solutions are palatable to the political class, he added.

Rejuvenating water bodies, lakes, ponds, and streams can really make difference in preserving water bodies and preventing warming at bay, he said.

He was delivering the keynote address at the conference organized by Energy and Wetlands Research Group, Calicut University and Alva's College and Alva's Institute of Engineering and Technology at Dr V S Acharya Auditorium, Vidyagiri, Moodbidri.

Pointing out that the Western Ghats was spread only in 2.5% of the total geographical area of India, he rued that the nation has failed to protect this small biosphere.

Earlier professor Byrappa, vice-chancellor Mangaluru University, inaugurating the conference said environment, water and energy are three key parameters for sustainable development. "But unfortunately, these three areas are under threat. It is time to create awareness in the minds of public, particularly in children, policy makers and government, in order to achieve sustainable development," he said. He urged the policy makers to find alternative sources of energy.

Sri Gangadharendra Saraswathi, seer from Sonda Swarnaswamiji Mutt, Sirsi, said encroachment of lake beds and towards environment were working against ecology and environment. "A strong law should be enacted towards environment," he added. Kappadagudda and Yettinahole Project should be dropped for the longer benefit of society and environment, he urged.

Later in the session, people who have served in academics, environmental and scientific fields, were felicitated. Bhat, Harish Krishnamoorthy, Vishnu Mukhri, Alli Rani were the honoured achievers.

The conference was attended by Swasthi Sri Bhattaraka Charukeerthi Pandithacharyavarya Seer from Jain Mut environmentalist Suresh Heblkar, MLA K Abhaychandra Jain, former president Western Ghat Task Force Anant Ashisar, Vagdedvi Foundation CEO Harish Krishnamurthy, Alva's Education Foundation trustee Vivek alva, Alva's principal prof Kurian, Vidyanikethan School Bengaluru CEO Vijai Rajagopalan were present among others.