



**Biodiversity Awareness workshop using Open Source Geospatial (FOSS4G) tools - 20 August 2015**

OSGeo-India, Hyderabad & IIIT, Hyderabad <http://lsi.iiit.ac.in/osgeoin/>  
Jointly with

Energy & Wetlands Research Group, CES, Indian Institute of Science,  
<http://ces.iisc.ernet.in/energy>

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<b>Venue:</b>	<b>CCE lecture Hall</b> (Behind IISc Main Library, Next to IISc Students' Hostel, NESARA Restaurant)
<b>Schedule:</b>	<b>20 August 2015, 9 am to 6.00 pm</b>

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 Energy & Wetlands Research Group, CES, Indian institute of Science, Bengaluru would like to begin an initiative to equip stakeholders of Biodiversity of Western Ghats of Karnataka 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.

The one day biodiversity awareness workshop is scheduled on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2015 for a cross section of stakeholders, such as NGOs, students, State Biodiversity board officials, Forest department officials and line agencies impacting on biodiversity.

The topics to be covered during the workshop include the following.

- 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.
- How Spatial data helps provide the larger perspective for systemic understanding
- Demonstration and Case studies of Applications of desktop, web and mobile GIS in management of biodiversity
- Plan for intensive two week TOT workshops, utility of the trainees and mainstreaming capacity building in the respective agencies using FOSS4G tools.
- Open Discussion session to highlight the challenges in the State for adoption and use of Geospatial and related technologies and
- Identifying and nominating a state level nodal agency for follow-up activities in the use of open source GIS for Biodiversity.

## Workshop Schedule

20 August 2015	8 30 am	Registration
	9 -10 30 am	Inauguration,  Programme overview (objectives and background) – S N Prasad  Western Ghats Biodiversity – Rethinking on BMC's – M D. Subash Chandran
	10.30 am	Coffee/Tea
	11- 12 noon	India Biodiversity Portal – R. Prabhakar
	12-12 30	Sacred Groves-spatial study – Rajasri Ray
	12 30-1	Ecologically Sensitive Regions in Uttara Kannada
	1-2 PM	Lunch break
	2-3 30 PM	Scope and potentiality of open source tools and technology in biodiversity conservation – R C Prasad and Gowtham Gollapalli
	3 30 to 4.30 PM	Bhuvan Portal -Theme Case studies – Arul Raj
	4.30 PM	Tea / Coffee
	5 .00 to 6 PM	Interactive sessions - Identifying and nominating a state level nodal agency for follow-up activities in the use of open source GIS for Biodiversity