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[Inception Workshop on Seagrass & Salt Marshes Restoration under ECRICC Project](#)

Bhubaneswar, 4.2.25

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bhubaneswar, in collaboration with the Enhancing Climate Resilience of India's Coastal Communities (ECRICC) Project in Odisha, successfully organized an Inception Workshop on Seagrass and Saltmarshes Protection, Restoration, and Management on February 4, 2025, at Bhubaneswar. The event, conducted in both physical and virtual modes, brought together key stakeholders, experts, and policymakers to deliberate on ecosystem-based solutions for coastal resilience in Odisha.

The ECRICC project, supported by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) and the Government of Odisha, aims to safeguard India's coastal communities and ecosystems against climate change impacts. A significant component of this initiative focuses on scientific restoration and management of seagrass and saltmarsh ecosystems, which are crucial for biodiversity conservation, carbon sequestration, and coastal protection.

The technical consulting assignment for this initiative has been awarded to IIT Bhubaneswar, which will collaborate with James Cook University, Australia, and other institutions to implement scientific and community-based restoration strategies in Odisha's coastal landscapes.

In the inaugural session, Head, Energy, Environment & Resilience, UNDP India, Shri Ashish Chaturvedi provided an overview of UNDP-GCF initiatives and updates on the ECRICC project's progress. Economic Advisor & National Project Director, GCF Coastal Project, MoEF&CC, Smt. Rajashree Ray highlighted the Government of India's commitment to coastal ecosystem restoration. National Project Coordinator, MoEF&CC, GoI, Dr. Sundeep emphasized the significance of ecosystem-based adaptation in mitigating climate risks. Dean, Emeritus professor IIT Bhubaneswar, Prof. T. K. Biswal reiterated IIT's commitment to pioneering research in coastal ecosystem restoration.

In the technical session, insightful presentations from leading researchers and experts were delivered. Associate Professor & Head, School of Earth, Ocean and Climate Sciences, IIT Bhubaneswar, Dr. S.H. Farooq outlined the scope of seagrass and salt marsh interventions, expected outcomes, and deliverables. Dr. Amrit Mishra, James Cook University, Australia, presented a detailed action plan, discussing stakeholder roles, timelines, and capacity-building requirements. State Project Manager, ECRICC Odisha, Dr. Spandita Kar summarized key takeaways, milestones, and action points for long lasting impact of the initiative.

The interactive discussions facilitated knowledge-sharing on global best practices, policy recommendations, and innovative restoration methodologies tailored to Odisha's unique ecological and socio-economic context. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. S.H. Farooq, followed by a networking session for participants to foster collaboration and future partnerships.

The ECRICC project's strategic focus on ecosystem-based adaptation, scientific research, and community engagement reinforces Odisha's leadership in sustainable coastal management. The insights gained from this workshop will guide the next steps in the

restoration and protection of seagrass and saltmarshes, ensuring long-term environmental and socio-economic benefits for local communities.



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