

PRESS NOTE

February 15, 2023

IUCN CEC presents Goa CMS VATAVARAN Festival & Forum on LiFE 2023

Goa will be hosting it's first-ever green film festival and forum on LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment)

Asia's biggest Environmental Film Festival and Forum CMS VATAVARAN in collaboration with International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), its Commission on Education and Communication (CEC), #NatureForAll, Wild Life Trust of India, Video Volunteers India, Vidnyan Bharti Goa and BITS Pilani Goa is first-ever **"Goa-CMS VATAVARAN Film Festival & Forum on LiFe, 2023"** at Entertainment Society Of Goa and BITS Pilani Goa Campus from 5 -7 March 2023.

This unique green festival of 3 days will screen award-winning national and international films on various aspects related to the issue of LiFE. The concept of 'Lifestyle for the Environment (LiFE) was introduced by Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi at COP26 in Glasgow on 1st November 2021, calling upon the global community of individuals and institutions to drive LiFE as an international mass movement towards "mindful and deliberate utilisation, instead of mindless and destructive consumption" to protect and preserve the environment.

Focusing on various issues of LiFE, this festival will also have a range of programs and forums to engage a wide variety of audiences. This festival and forum also complement the ongoing "Bharat ka Amrit Mahotsav" and "India's G20 Presidency" celebrations. All programs and activities are specially curated with themes that celebrate Indian cultural ethos and leadership of conservation and living in harmony with nature. The film festival will also screen a total of 21 international awarded winning films from different parts of the world on various relevant environmental issues like climate change & adaptation and mitigation, wildlife conservation, water conservation, forest conservation and sustainable livelihoods.

This three-day festival may be inaugurated by **Dr Pramod Sawant, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Goa**. The inaugural ceremony will be followed by cultural program and a series of panel discussions, seminars, green filmmaking workshops and on the spot quiz competitions. Several eminent speakers i.e. **Mr Sean Southey** (Chair for IUCN-CEC), **Dr. Erach Bharucha** (Director, Bharati Vidyapeeth Institute of Environment Education and Research, Pune), **Dr. Margaret Otieno** (National Coordinator at Wildlife Clubs of Kenya), **Dr Vasanti Rao** (DG CMS), **Ms Karen Keenleysid** (Co-Chair,IUCN #NatureForAll, Canada), **Dr Aleksey A. Zavarzin** (Russian Federation), **Vatosoa Rakotondrazafy** (Madagascar), **Mr Carlos Estrada - Mesoamerica** (Mexico) and **Ms Diana Garlytska** (Lithuania) will be participating in it.





www.cmsvatavaran.org

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IUCN-CEC, the IUCN Commission on Education and Communication (CEC) uses creative communication and education tools and approaches to raise awareness and inspire action to conserve nature. Its mission is to mobilize people all over the planet for a world committed to protecting nature now and into the future. Website: <u>https://www.iucn.org/our-union/commissions/commission-education-and-communication</u>

#NatureForAll is a global movement to inspire, celebrate and restore love of nature. It is not an entity but rather a community of interested organizations and individuals who are inspired to work together to effect positive change. Website: <u>https://natureforall.global/home/</u>

Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) is a non-profit conservation organization with mission to conserve wildlife and its habitat and to work for the welfare of individual wild animals, in partnership with communities and governments. WTI works through nine conservation strategies that are its Big Ideas deployed across 40 long-term projects covering India's terrestrial and marine environment. Website: https://www.wti.org.in/

Video Volunteers is an international media and human rights NGO founded in 2003 that promotes community media to enable citizen participation in marginalized and poor communities around the world. Website: <u>https://www.videovolunteers.org/</u>

Vidnyan Parishad, Goa is a registered not-for profit voluntary organisation affiliated to the parent national organisation, Vijnana Bharati, the swadeshi science movement. It has been actively associated with propagation of scientific information, scientific temper and scientific attitude in the state of Goa for more than a decade. Science Film Festival, Vidyarthi Vigyan Manthan, Subject-workshops for teachers as well as students, are some of the activities of our organisation every year. Website: <u>https://vijnanabharati.org/goa.html</u>

BITS-Pilani, - Goa Campus is an all-India technical and science institute for higher education located at Zuarinagar, Mormugao Taluka, Goa, India. The institute offers undergraduate courses in engineering and Majors in the sciences with an accompanying humanities department. Website: <u>https://www.bits-pilani.ac.in/Goa/index.aspx</u>

CMS VATAVARAN is India's premier environment and wildlife film festival and forum – it is aimed towards enhancing understanding, appreciation and shift in attitudes towards the natural world and to increasing space for environmental issues in mass media and evolving a nationwide environment outreach framework. Its unique twin-track approach of organizing competitive and travelling film festivals and environment forums has positioned it as one of the most prestigious film festivals across the globe. Since its inception in 2002, ten competitive and 52 travelling festivals in 41 cities of 25 Indian states have been organized. Website: www.cmsvatavaran.org

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