International workshop on forest ecosystems at BITS Pilani

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The forest ecosystems specialist group of the Commission on Ecosystem Management of The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and BITS Pilani, K K Birla Goa Campus will jointly organise an international consultation workshop on 'Role of forest ecosystems in meeting SDGs in South Asia' at BITS Pilani Goa Campus on May 9.

The workshop is being organised with the funding support from the IUCN, Goa regional office of NABARD and State government.

Dr Madhav Karki, Deputy Global Chair of the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management will deliver the inaugural lecture.

The meeting will witness participation from other prominent scientists from south Asia and prominent agencies from Goa, including Kamakshi Pai, General Manager Goa regional office NABARD, Dr Pradip Sarmokadam, member secretary, Goa State Biodiversity Board, and other officials.

The workshop aims to understand the linkages between forest ecosystems and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other environmental goals such as Paris Agreement goals on Climate Change, and Bonn Challenge on recovery of degraded land via afforestation/reforestation in South Asia.

More specifically, the workshop aims to understand as to how forest resources through multiple use forest resource management tools and practices can ensure sustained production and supply of Forest Ecosystem goods and services to generate multiple dividends such as biodiversity conservation, poverty reduction, Ecosystems based adaptation, mitigation, Disaster Risk Reduction and gender inclusive development.

The participants will take this opportunity to discuss strategies for preparation of Goa's State Action Plan on Climate Change. One of the key outputs will be finalisation of a Technical Report on 'Role of forest ecosystems in meeting SDGs and Climate Goals in South Asia'.