



### Panel Discussion on “Climate Change and Human – Wildlife Interaction”

October 09, 2014 (Thursday) | 03:00 pm – 05:00 pm | Earth Science Auditorium, Pondicherry University

On October 9, 2014, CMS VATAVARAN organised a 2-hour panel discussion on the topic “**Climate Change and Human – Wildlife Interaction**” with the support of Department of Ecology & Environmental Sciences, Pondicherry University.



[Dr N Bhaskara Rao](#), Chariman CMS, welcomed the speakers and participants present during the programme. The programme was moderated by [Dr K V Devi Prasad](#), HOD & Prof - Ecology & Environmental Science, Pondicherry University. The panellists were: [Ms. Lata Iyer](#), Regional Planner,



Auroville; [Dr Ms Nanditha Krishna](#), Hony Director, CPREEC, Chennai; [Mr Tim Wrey](#), Naturalist & Author, Auroville; and [Ms. Sunaina Mandeem](#), PondyCAN!

Ms. Lata Iyer emphasized on mapping of existing and restored green areas, sacred groves, plantation forests etc. to identify nodes and design connectivity for wildlife. Dr Nanditha Krishna spoke about the plight of captive domesticated elephants used in circuses, temples, tourism or timber logging in India and how they are cruelly treated in the name of religion, etc. Mr. Tim Wrey spoke about how wildlife depends on healthy habitats. He also spoke about climate change and some of the threats posed by it like sea level rising, loss of wetlands, change in weather timings, etc. Ms. Sunaina mentioned that the increasing population poses a grave problem for everyone in this planet and how man-made interventions have led to coastal destruction. She said "We cannot support infinite growth on a finite planet". The panel discussion was followed by an open forum interaction which reflected ideas and understanding of the participants.

The participants included college and university students; faculty; representatives from civil society, etc.