

C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre

A Centre of Excellence in Environmental Education



**Established jointly by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India
and**

The C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation

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C.P.R. ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTRE

Established in 1989

- ❖ **1980** - The C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation starts nature education for teachers and students.
- ❖ **1989** - C.P.R.Environmental Education Centre (CPREEC) established jointly by the Ministry of Environment and Forests and the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation as a Centre of Excellence of the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Government of India.

Our Mission

- ❖ To increase knowledge, awareness and interest among the public about the environment in all its aspects
- ❖ To develop resource materials for environmental education and awareness raising
- ❖ To conduct training programmes for a wide cross-section of people
- ❖ To take up environmental projects for demonstration and research

Our Activities

- ❖ Training of teachers in Education for Sustainable Development
- ❖ Awareness through action
- ❖ Awareness programmes in ecologically fragile areas including Nilgri Biosphere Reserve & Andaman & Nicobar Islands
- ❖ Restoration of Sacred Groves
- ❖ Research and surveys
- ❖ Generation of resource materials
- ❖ Exhibitions
- ❖ Courses, seminars and symposia

AWARDS RECEIVED

- ❖ CPREEC was awarded the Indira Gandhi Paryavaran Puraskar for the year 1996. The award was presented by the Minister for Environment and Forests, Government of India, at a function at New Delhi on September 19, 2000.
- ❖ CPREEC was awarded the Dr. M. S. Swaminathan Award for Environment Protection - 2004 instituted by the Rotary Club of Madras East. Dr. M.S. Swaminathan presented the award at a function at Chennai on August 4, 2004.
- ❖ CPREEC received the Best ENVIS Centre Award on Conservation of Ecological Heritage and Sacred Sites of India for 2006 from the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India, at the National Workshop of Envis Centres, at Shimla on October 14, 2006.
- ❖ CPREEC received the 13th Annual Sir J.C. Bose Memorial Award - 2015 for its contribution in the field of promoting Environmental Awareness & Education to the Students and the Rural Population, instituted by the Indian Science Monitor in 2016 at Kolkata.

FACILITIES

Library has over 6,825 books on environment, ecology and related subjects, including several environmental magazines and journals and large collection of environmental videos, CDs and films are available for the general public.

Computer Division with 26 networked terminals has been set up to compile various data pertaining to environmental education, ecological heritage, biodiversity and conservation traditions and practices.

Publications Division which produces all resource materials required for the training programmes, etc.,

❖ on paper made from bagasse, an agro waste

- ❖ in 11 languages - Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Hindi, Oriya, Marathi, Punjabi, Bengali, Gujarati and English

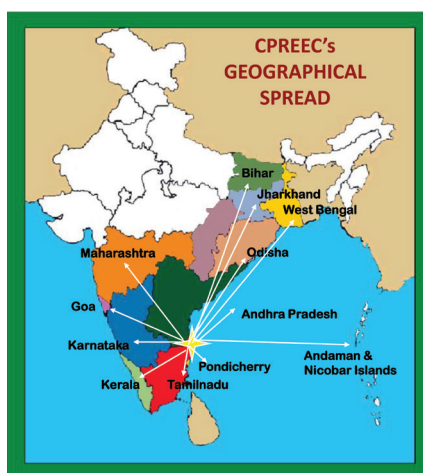
NGO Network

CPREEC has an extensive network of about 600 NGOs. All educational programmes are carried out in partnership with selected NGOs, Universities, Colleges and Schools.

Geographical Spread

CPREEC's activities extend to

- ❖ Andaman & Nicobar Islands
- ❖ Kerala
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh
- ❖ Odisha
- ❖ Goa
- ❖ Tamil Nadu
- ❖ Karnataka
- ❖ Maharashtra
- ❖ Bihar
- ❖ Puducherry
- ❖ Jharkhand
- ❖ Telangana
- ❖ West Bengal



GREEN SCHOOLS OF INDIA (GSI)

CPREEC has devised an innovative and easy way to implement Education for Sustainable Development system called the 'Green Schools of India'. GSI encourages students to become environmentally proactive.

The broad aims of the GSI are :

- ❖ Environmental education through action.
- ❖ Improving environmental standards of schools.
- ❖ Reduction in the use and wastage of resources.
- ❖ Knowledge enrichment through practical experience.
- ❖ Development of personal and social responsibilities for the school and its environment

Green Schools of India has been implemented in select schools in Chennai, Ooty, Puducherry, Hyderabad, Bangalore and Mysore.

GSI is an Education for Sustainable Development programme, integrated activities of the National Green Corps (NGC) and eco clubs.

EXHIBITIONS

- ❖ CPREEC designs three new exhibitions every year and has a bank of mobile exhibitions that travel all over India.
- ❖ Design and development of exhibits & 3-D Models for Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board (APPCB) Mobile Van.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) mobile Van,
- ❖ Lawrence School, Lovedale, Ootacamund,
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh Forest Department
- ❖ MoEF - for COP 10 and COP 11
- ❖ Sacred Groves of Plants
- ❖ Sacred Groves of India
- ❖ Green Pilgrimage for Clean India
- ❖ Millets

We publish

- ❖ Activity and information books and pamphlets for children
- ❖ Environmental training guides and kits for teachers
- ❖ Researched Publications
- ❖ Colourful and informative posters
- ❖ ECONEWS - A quarterly magazine
- ❖ Indian Journal of Environmental Education



TRAINING FOR EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

CPREEC conducts training programmes for

- ❖ Teachers
- ❖ Women
- ❖ NGOs and Rural Workers

SINCE 1989, WE HAVE TRAINED / REACHED OUT TO

- ❖ Over 57,000 teachers
- ❖ Over 6,50,000 students
- ❖ Over 12,000 schools
- ❖ Nearly 33,750 NGOs, villagers & others
- ❖ Over 12,500 Advocates, academicians, lawyers and law students
- ❖ Over 4,000 industries workers
- ❖ Over 10,30,000 people with the video van
- ❖ Over 22,000 women in rural areas

SUSTAINABILITY EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS IN SOUTH INDIA

CPREEC in partnership with the Wipro Foundation, Bengaluru, is executing a Sustainability Education Programme in South India. The programme involves training teachers and students to submit innovative projects on sustainability of water, biodiversity and waste management. Group of students are guided by a teacher. The programme is creative in promoting environmental thinking among the school going children (6-12 standard) which is highly connected to the curriculum of the states.



CPREEC has developed a

- ❖ National Policy for the Conservation of Sacred Groves and Ecological Heritage Sites (of the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Govt. of India), now included in the National Bio diversity Act, 2002.
- ❖ Green Charter for political parties
- ❖ Draft Rules for the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001
- ❖ Inputs for the Draft Rules to the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

RESTORATION OF SACRED GROVES

❖ 53 SACRED GROVES RESTORED

- ❖ Over 3.5 Lakhs of Saplings planted in about 200 acres

❖ RIPPLE EFFECT - 25 GROVES RESTORED

The local villagers are involved in conservation and maintenance. After restoration, sites are handed back to the village.



NENMELI, a wasteland near Chennai, is now a green forest, with water throughout the year, thanks to CPREEC's land and water conservation efforts. It is an example of integrated watershed development. A herbal garden was established and is now maintained by local women. Local fauna has returned. It has become a model of low-cost replicable afforestation involving local people.

SURVEY AND DOCUMENTATION OF ECO HERITAGE

- ❖ Sacred Trees of India
- ❖ Sacred Groves of Tamilnadu
- ❖ Sacred Groves of Tamil Nadu and their Management
- ❖ Sacred Groves of India - a compendium
- ❖ Sacred Tanks of South India
- ❖ Green Pilgrimage for a Clean India
- ❖ Temple Tanks of Chennai
- ❖ Sacred Animals of India
- ❖ Sacred Plants of India
- ❖ Hinduism and Nature
- ❖ Ecological Traditions of Andhra Pradesh
- ❖ Ecological Traditions of Assam
- ❖ Ecological Traditions of Goa
- ❖ Ecological Traditions of Gujarat
- ❖ Ecological Traditions of Jharkhand
- ❖ Ecological Traditions of West Bengal
- ❖ Ecological Traditions of Karnataka
- ❖ Ecological Traditions of Kerala
- ❖ Ecological Traditions of Maharashtra
- ❖ Ecological Traditions of Meghalaya
- ❖ Ecological Traditions of Tamil Nadu
- ❖ Ecological Traditions of Odisha
- ❖ Ecological Traditions of Punjab
- ❖ Ecological Traditions of Rajasthan
- ❖ Ecological Traditions of Madhya Pradesh & Chhattishgarh
- ❖ Ecological Traditions of Sikkim

CONSERVATION OF SACRED TANKS

- ❖ CPREEC has surveyed 125 tanks which serve as traditional rainwater harvesting systems in South India and 50 temple tanks of Chennai.
- ❖ CPREEC has desilted and restored yeris (artificial tanks) at Damal, Nenmeli and Kanakammachatram in Tamil Nadu.

WOMEN AND ECO DEVELOPMENT

- ❖ Raising kitchen gardens or fruit orchards to provide vegetables / fruits.
- ❖ Vermicomposting techniques and establishment of composting pits for solid waste management.
- ❖ Grafting, budding and establishment of tree nurseries.
- ❖ Training in waste paper bag making.
- ❖ Setting up herbal gardens and processing home medicines.
- ❖ Construction and use of smokeless chulhas.

AWARENESS PROGRAMMES IN ECOLOGICALLY FRAGILE AREAS

Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve Conservation Education Programme

1991 - Establishment of a field office in Ooty for

- ❖ Environmental Education
- ❖ Biodiversity conservation
- ❖ Firewood conservation

Our Achievements

- ❖ Cleaning up Doddabetta
- ❖ Sustainable development in a tribal village - Bokkapuram
- ❖ Establishment of a Gene pool of medicinal plants at Thambatty
- ❖ Herbal gardens for NGOs, colleges, schools and rural communities
- ❖ Firewood conservation through establishment of 305 smokeless chulhas and gobar gas plants
- ❖ Restoration of Sacred Grove at Masinagudi
- ❖ Income generation for Kurumba, Kota and Irula tribals through paintings, pottery and fibre craft respectively
- ❖ Water conservation in 5 tribal villages

Andaman and Nicobar Islands

1994 - Establishment of a field office at Port Blair

- ❖ Workshops for teachers & students
- ❖ Seminars and conferences
- ❖ Exhibitions
- ❖ Generation of resource materials

Biodiversity Conservation Education Programme

- ❖ Education for conservation of biodiversity hotspots in and around national parks and sanctuaries
- ❖ Zoos utilized as interpretation centres

CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND SYMPOSIA

- ❖ Scientific and Technical Terminology in Biodiversity of Andaman & Nicobar Islands - 2016
- ❖ Is Chennai Prepared for the Monsoon - 2016
- ❖ Third Indian Biodiversity Congress (co-sponsor) - 2014
- ❖ Ecological Traditions of Rajasthan - 2013
- ❖ Ecological Traditions of Madhya Pradesh & Chhattisgarh - 2012
- ❖ Conservation of Sacred Groves to protect local Biodiversity - 2011
- ❖ Ecological Traditions of Punjab - 2010
- ❖ Ecological Traditions of Orissa - 2010
- ❖ Ecological Traditions of Goa - 2008
- ❖ Environment & Indian History - 2008
- ❖ Conservation of Eastern Ghats (co-sponsor) - 2007
- ❖ Animals for Asia (co-sponsor) - 2007
- ❖ Disaster Management - 2006
- ❖ E-Waste - 2006
- ❖ Ecological Heritage of Kerala - 2005
- ❖ Ecological Heritage of Andhra Pradesh - 2005
- ❖ Ecological Heritage of Karnataka - 2004
- ❖ Traditional Water Harvesting Systems of India - 2004
- ❖ Coastal Ecology - 2003
- ❖ Environmental Journalism - 2002
- ❖ Economic Botany - 2002
- ❖ Environmental Legislation-30 years since Stockholm - 2002
- ❖ Hospital Waste Management - 2001
- ❖ Industrial Pollution and the Law - 2001
- ❖ Environmental Pollution and the Law - 2001
- ❖ Environmental Education for the New Century - 2000
- ❖ Sacred Tanks of South India - 1999
- ❖ Problems in the Enforcement of Environmental Laws-1999
- ❖ National Conference on the Conservation of Sacred Groves and Ecological Heritage Sites of India - 1998
- ❖ Amended CRZ Notification and its Implications - 1998
- ❖ Media and the Environment - 1997
- ❖ Conserving Our Ecological Heritage - the Tamil Tradition -1996
- ❖ Women and Eco - development - 1995

SPECIAL PROJECTS

- ❖ Environment History of India, ICHR.
- ❖ Eco-Eureka, Youth Engagement Workshop on Nature & Labs, DST Programme
- ❖ Ecological Studies of Sacred Groves in Five Agro-Climatic Zones of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ National Nature Camping Programmes for NGC's Students
- ❖ National Biodiversity Authority - Capacity Building workshops on Island Biodiversity Conservation
- ❖ National Biodiversity Authority - Capacity Building workshops on Biodiversity Conservation for DIET's of Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.
- ❖ Solid Waste Management Programmes in North and Middle Andaman.
- ❖ C-DAC, Vikaspedia Tamil Portal
- ❖ Wipro Earthian Sustainability Education Programme
- ❖ STEP - Training in Nursery Rasing, Fodder and Development and Rasing Fruit Sapplings
- ❖ AICRP on Sacred Grove Eco-System Services Assesment in Inland Plains of Tamil Nadu
- ❖ Strengthening Environmental Education in the States and Union Territories of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Orissa, Tamilnadu, Pondicherry and Andaman & Nicobar Islands for Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Government of India
- ❖ Nodal agency of MHRD for Environmental Orientation to School Education (EOSE) from 1993 to 2006.
- ❖ Environmental Education / Studies syllabus for NCERT and AICTE.
- ❖ Status of Environmental concepts in the School Curriculum and the Effectiveness of their delivery in Tamilnadu for Bharati Vidyapeeth Institute of Environment Education and Research, Pune
- ❖ Textbooks on Environmental Science for Standards I to V of Matriculation Schools in Tamilnadu
- ❖ Textbooks on Environmental Science for Std. I to V under CBSE syllabus
- ❖ Textbook on Environmental Studies for Under Graduate Courses for University of Madras
- ❖ Preparation of Low Cost Teaching Aids with National Museum of Natural History, New Delhi
- ❖ Environmental Education through Folk Arts
- ❖ Training for Kota, Kurumba & Irula tribes to adapt their art and craft traditions for the market
- ❖ Conservation / Documentation of Medicinal plants of South India

STATUS OF URBAN WATER BODIES IN TAMILNADU

CPREEC, in collaboration with the Department of Environment, Government of Tamilnadu carried out a survey on the Status of Urban Water Bodies in Tamilnadu in 30 district headquarters and 358 water bodies.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

CPREEC, in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, organises capacity building workshops on Bio Medical Waste Management for Medical officers and Health workers, Management of Municipal Solid Waste and plastics and E-Waste Management.

CPREEC, in collaboration with the Environmental Management and Policy Research Institute (EMPRI), Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), Bangalore, and District Health Offices of Tumkur and Chitradurga districts has trained the Medical Officers and Para Medical staff members on 'Bio Medical Waste Management'.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

CPREEC, in collaboration with the British High Commission, New Delhi, implemented a project on "Biodiversity Conservation through Capacity Building" to provide participants an understanding of the design and implementation of sustainable development programmes with special reference to biodiversity conservation. A series of workshops for NGOs and Chief Judicial Magistrates were organized in the states of Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Karnataka.

TAMIL NADU FOREST DEPARTMENT

CPREEC implemented the project titled Creation of Geospatial Database of the Sacred Groves in Tamil Nadu and Documentation of their Biodiversity for the Tamil Nadu Forest Department.

CPREEC documented the sacred groves in the state of Tamil Nadu, documenting the floral and faunal wealth and prepared GIS map of the sacred grove sites surveyed. A total of 1,025 sacred groves were surveyed throughout the state of Tamil Nadu.

TSUNAMI RELIEF

In collaboration with the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation, CPREEC has constructed 26 ecofriendly houses and established an environmentally sustainable village - Wooster Nagar - in Pudupattinam village of Kanchipuram district. A creche (in collaboration with WIA, Chennai), Computer centre and library has been constructed.

In collaboration with VJSMF, a children's park, amphitheatre and garden have been established at Anumanthaikuppam village of Viluppuram district.

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

UNESCO Workshop to develop self learning materials, modules and curriculum on water conservation

Stern Review: The Economics of Climate Change

Environmental Education for Water Resources Management in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve with UNEP

Environmental Law Institute (ELI), Washington D.C.

Kindness Kids

A project funded by the Winsome Constance Kindness Trust, Australia, and the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu & Puducherry.

Humane Society International (HSI)

Veg outreach programme for schools in Telangana, Nilgiris, Odisha, Puducherry, and Tamilnadu.

Karuna Foundation - Food and the Environment – Eat Healthy and Go Green

CPREEC with the financial support provided by Karuna Foundation implemented the project in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Odisha. Resource material on **Go Veg – Eat Healthy** in English, was translated into Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Odia and distributed to the participants.

CITES

Capacity building workshop on CITES Appendix II listings of Sharks and Mantra Ray species for Bay of Bengal rim countries.

Cities Combating Plastics Entering the Marine Environment (CCP-ME), Port Blair

CPREEC Andaman Field Office implemented the project Cities Combating Plastics Entering the Marine Environment (CCP – ME) in Port Blair with the financial support of GIZ, New Delhi Office.

RESEARCH AND SURVEYS

Surveys and studies of natural resources availability, utilisation and management are also conducted by CPREEC on behalf of governmental and non-governmental agencies, particularly surveys of

- ❖ Ground water and waste water
- ❖ Ambient air quality
- ❖ Noise level
- ❖ Soil

Sustainable Technologies

CPREEC has been instrumental in developing

- ❖ Low cost water and soil testing kits
- ❖ Rainwater harvesting units
- ❖ Waste water recycling units
- ❖ Smokeless chulhas (stoves)

Surveys of Natural Resources

- ❖ Supply and demand of fuelwood in Tamilnadu
- ❖ Non-marketed value of forest produce in Tamilnadu and Andhra Pradesh
- ❖ Sacred Groves and Trees of Tamilnadu; Sacred Tanks of South India and Temple Tanks of Chennai
- ❖ Salt water intrusion in Coastal Aquifers of Chennai City
- ❖ Inventory of sacred groves and preparation of management plan for Forest Department, Government of Tamilnadu
- ❖ Sacred Grove Ecosystem Service Assessment in Inland Plains of Tamil Nadu (SGESA) - Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India

Socio-Economic Surveys

- ❖ Health survey of workers in mini steel plants
- ❖ Social Impact Assessment study for the proposed hazardous waste incineration plant to be set up at Kottur, North Chennai on behalf of M/s. Havan Hazmat India Ltd.

OUR WEBSITES

www.cpreec.org

- ❖ First Environmental Education website in India with information relevant to South Asia
- ❖ Launched on August 23, 1998
- ❖ Over 50,00,000 kilobytes of information have been downloaded
- ❖ All CPREEC publications are on the Website - many with illustrations and some with animated cartoons
- ❖ Section on Environmental Education with three levels: Basic (Primary), Intermediate (Middle), Advanced (Secondary and Tertiary)
- ❖ Facility to ask a question and get a reply



CPREEC EIACP PC-RP

Centre on Conservation of Ecological Heritage and Sacred Sites of India has been set up by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India. Since 2002.

Green Skill Development Programmes

CPREEC conducted several Green Skill Development Programme (GSDP) Courses on Coconut Shell Handicrafts and Bamboo Handicrafts at The Nilgiris and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. It enhances the income generation capacity of women and helps them to become successful entrepreneurs.

- ❖ Provides primary and secondary data on
 - ❖ Sacred Plants of India
 - ❖ Sacred Mountains of India
 - ❖ Sacred Forest / Groves of India
 - ❖ Sacred Rivers of India
 - ❖ Sacred Gardens of India
 - ❖ Sacred Water bodies of India
 - ❖ Sacred Animals of India
 - ❖ Sacred Sites of India
 - ❖ Sacred Seeds of India
 - ❖ Sacred Caves of India

Publications

- ❖ A bi-annual newsletter ECO-HERITAGE. COM
- ❖ Books on Ecological Traditions series - for 16 different states of India.
- ❖ Abstracts of Secondary Sources

CPREEC AWARD FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

- ❖ Since 2001, CPREEC gives an annual Award for Environmental Education to a teacher (or educational institution), preferably from a rural area. The award consists of a cash prize, a silver plaque and a citation.
- ❖ GREEN SCHOOL AWARD is presented in Chennai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Nilgiris.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

- ❖ **Smt. Justice Prabha Sridevan** (Retd.)
Chairman
- ❖ **Dr. Nanditha Krishna**, Member Secretary
- ❖ **Secretary**, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, Ex-Officio Member
- ❖ **Additional Secretary & Financial Adviser (AS&FA)** Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) Government of India, Ex-Officio Member
- ❖ **Additional Chief Secretary**, Department of Environment, Climate Change & Forest, Government of Tamil Nadu
- ❖ **Dr. Chinny Krishna**, Member (Representative of the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation)
- ❖ **Shri. K. Krishnan**, Member (Representative of the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation)
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- ❖ **Dr. T. Sundaramoorthy**, Member

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