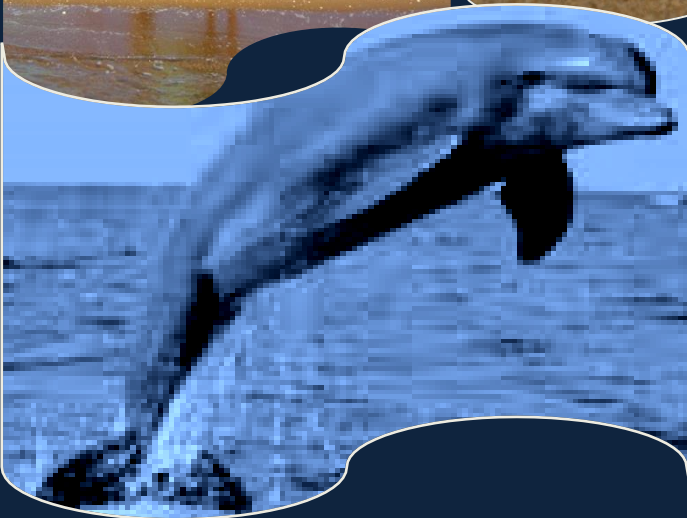




# Timi-Kurm Festival 2013

October 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> at Devbag

**A COASTAL AND MARINE LIFE AWARENESS FESTIVAL**



Organized By

Terra Marine Research Institute, Devbag Fishing Community & Jungle Lodges and Resorts





## Timi-Kurm, Or Whale-Turtle Festival

**Karwar** is a pristine coastal town in the northern most part of the state of Karnataka, neighboring Goa and bordered by the picturesque and magnificent **WESTERN GHATS** or **SAHYADRI MOUNTAIN RANGE** —a biodiversity hotspot and **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.

Off Karwar, dolphins frequent near shore waters, majestic sea turtles journey to nest on moonlit beaches, abundant bird calls can be heard across rich forests and mangroves, and artisanal fishermen still live by and of the sea. A touch of old-worldliness still prevails in this vibrant ecosystem waiting to be embraced and enjoyed.

*“The sea beach of Karwar is certainly a fit place in which to realize that the beauty of Nature is not a mirage of the imagination, but reflects the joy of the Infinite and thus draws us to lose ourselves in it. Where the universe is expressing itself in the magic of its laws it may not be strange if we miss its infinitude; but where the heart gets into immediate touch with immensity in the beauty of the meanest of things, is any room left for argument?” — Rabindranath Tagore on Karwar (1882)*

**THE BEAUTY AND RICHNESS OF KARWAR’S COAST, is under serious threat from indiscriminate exploitation of natural resources and uncontrolled human activities such as overfishing by industrial fisheries, poaching of endangered sea turtle eggs and meat and**

export of dolphin meat to supplement income or nutritional needs of the fishing community, and sand mining leading to beach and riverine erosion. Ultimately, these threats have harmful effects on the biodiversity of Karwar and coastal communities whose livelihoods depend on land and marine resources.

These problems are critical and complex, but definitely within our ability to tackle in this lifetime. We are accountable for the well-being of our fellow humans and our natural environment as it affects our well-being too. This calls for initiatives and efforts, which go beyond the “self”, professional interests, and conventional ways of solving problems.

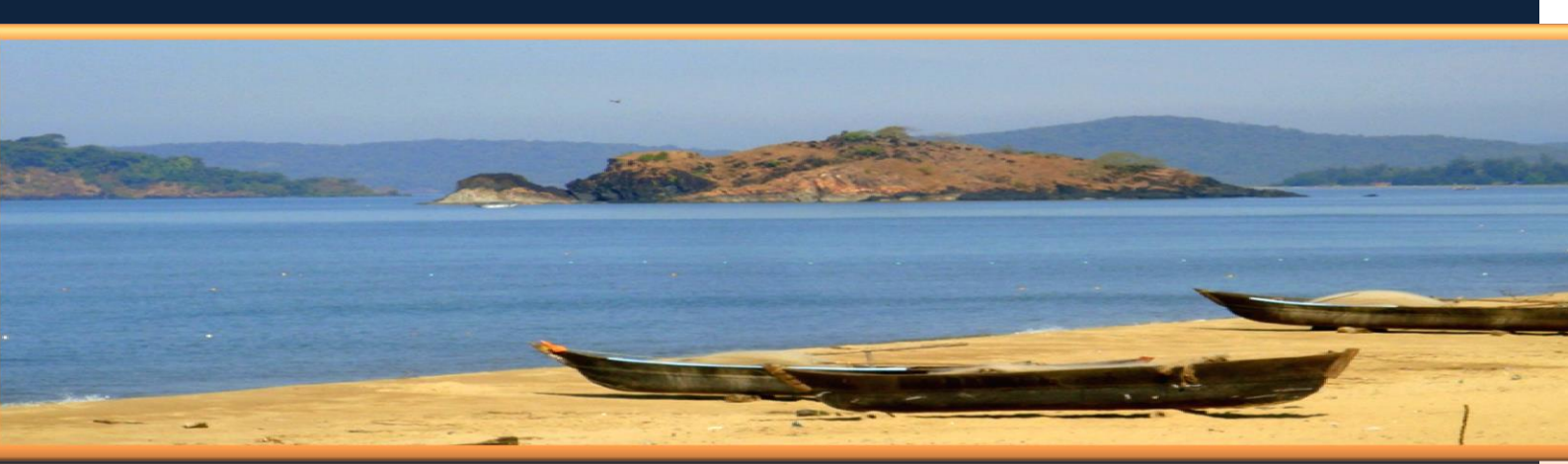
The solution lies in trying to understand and address the problem in a scientific manner recognizing cultural perspectives and stakeholder interests, and learning from other regions and people who have demonstrated practical and efficient ways of championing and preserving the environment for you and me, and our families to enjoy.

Towards this objective, and drawing inspiration from many conservation and livelihood initiative success stories, the Terra Marine Research Institute (TeMI) in coordination with other organizations and the local Karwar community is organizing a Marine Awareness and Livelihoods Festival — “Timi-Kurm Fest”(‘timi’ in Sanskrit means whale, and ‘kurm’ means a turtle).

**This Inaugural and Annual Festival will be held October 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013 in Karwar, Karnataka.**







**The Timi-Kurm Festival** is a unique event that brings together people from various walks of life to understand a common cause- the importance of protecting Karwar's unique natural resources and joining forces to sustain the livelihoods of disadvantaged communities at the event but in the future as well. **It Aims to:**

- 1) Educate and spread public awareness about Karwar's natural wealth, wildlife diversity – marine and coastal, fishing community concerns and practical solutions to resolve environmental challenges within the Karwar context.
- 2) Provide a venue for a diverse group of environmental professionals and stakeholders across Karnataka's coast to build an environmental coastal network to address coastal conservation issues by sharing resources, lessons learned, and scientific information. To engage in environmental education and protection programmes that includes the Western Ghats and coasts. Ghats, Urban and Beach clean ups, afforestation programmes and response to marine mammal and sea turtle strandings.
- 3) Provide a platform for under-represented communities such as – Artisanal fishermen, Small-scale Organic Farmers/industries, and Rural Artisans to exhibit their products, farm produce, and skills. This will help them connect with outside world and potentially lead to sustainable ways to enhance their livelihoods.

4) Help the young and old in Karwar connect and nurture an interest for protecting their natural world, meet specialists in the field, and be exposed, trained and educated for future conservation and research.

## Festival includes-

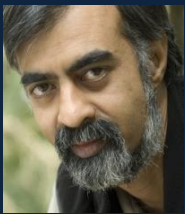
- ❖ **Eco-field trips to explore Karwar** — 1) Boat rides to observe dolphins in the beautiful near shore waters 2) Birds and Insect Life observations in the Devbag Coastal Forest 3) Ride into the mangrove islands, and walk the swamps in the Kali River Estuary 4) Trip to observe endangered Flora in the Western Ghats 5) Indoor and Out door sessions on Sea Turtles and their nesting places.
- ❖ **Plastic trash pick-up** during eco-field trips.
- ❖ **Environmental Documentary Films** and Question & Answer sessions with specialists in the field.
- ❖ Session on **Stranding of Marine life**-Whales, Dolphins, Sea Turtles
- ❖ **Exhibition** and **Sale** of Nature based **local arts and crafts** that are ecologically sustainable, and **Organic Farm Produce** to help Karwar's Fishing and Small scale agricultural communities.
- ❖ Environmental awareness **events for children and young adults**.
- ❖ **Cultural Shows** by International Dance Artiste from San Francisco, based on Karwar's coastal traditions. Cultural performances from Local Fishing Community and Local Artistes will also be showcased.
- ❖ A **Traditional Feast of Cuisine** from Karwar and Surrounding Areas.

**Funds** raised from the event will go in support of the **Artisanal fishing communities of Karwar** to tide over uncertain circumstances caused by fishing bans, reduced fish catches, or insurmountable debt. A portion of the festival proceeds will go towards supporting research and conservation activities conducted by TeMI primarily for setting up **volunteer networks** to respond and collect data from stranded whales, dolphins and sea turtles and conducting systematic scientific studies to understand and describe Karwar's marine ecosystem, and empowering

disadvantaged fisher communities with knowledge and resources for supplementing their livelihoods through sustainable agriculture.

**Participants** of the Festival include - Karwar residents and Fishing Communities, Government Officials, Local Schools and Colleges, Academic and Scientific Institutes, Local Traditional Artists, Agriculturists, Karnataka Forest, Naval, Police, and Ports Department Staff, Non-Governmental Organizations, Environmental Professionals from Karnataka, India and USA and Tourists.

### *Resource People*



**Mr. Karthikeyan.S:** Specialist and Resource Person for the study of Birds and Butterflies. Has worked with WWF-India for over 13 years. He was recently conferred the Carl Zeiss Wild Life Conservation Award 2013. He has over 50 technical publications in International/National journals and periodicals and over 85 popular articles (most with supporting pictures) in leading dailies, magazines and other periodicals. Karthik has been educating and creating awareness among the young and old alike on various aspects of natural history through nature camps, talks, slide shows, and nature-based activities. Is currently working as a Chief Naturalist with the Jungle Lodges and Resorts, Karnataka.



**Dr. Mridula Srinivasan:** Specialist and Resource person for Marine Mammals- Whales and Dolphins. Is a Marine Ecologist from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, USA(NOAA), and Co-Founder and Program Director - Marine Mammals at Terra Marine Research Institute, India . She has several years experience researching dolphins and whales around the world. Her Ph.D. work was focussed on understanding predator-prey interactions involving killer whales and dusky dolphins off New Zealand. She has facilitated training in marine mammal stranding response in India through National and Regional Workshops carried out at Cochin and Chennai in 2010 & 2011.





**Ms. Rasa Vitalia:** Is a multidisciplinary dance-artiste from San-Francisco and performs across the world, which includes conservation causes. In the event she will be an ambassador for the environment, inspiring people through her artistic performances that will emphasize the need for preservation of nature, and will seek to strengthen the cultural traditions of the underrepresented fishing communities of Karwar. As a marine conservationist she will also be sharing her valuable experiences of conservation activities she has been part of across the world.



**Mr. Ganesh Neverekar:** Specialist and Resource person for Endangered, Medicinal and Aromatic plant species of Karwar. Is the director of Amrita Hernal Extracts and Research Centre in Karwar, where they also research and manufacture natural essential oils and extracts of Indian origin. They are also committed to help the society of farmers with increasing the awareness for clean and eco friendly practises of producing medicinal and aromatic plants. They undertake domestication studies of rare and endangered medicinal and aromatic plants from across India.



**Dr. Annie Kurian:** Specialist and Resource Person for Sea Turtles. Is Co-founder and a Program Director - Sea turtles at Terra Marine Research Institute, India. Has pioneered Sea Turtle Research and Conservation efforts in Karwar in 2002. Her Ph.D . work involved the survey of the Indian coastline including the islands of Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshwadeep for the study of sea turtle nesting habitats. The extensive field trip has also enabled close observations into the lives and livelihoods of fishermen communities, particularly along coastal Karnataka. Was part of the 3rd Indian Scientific Expedition around Antarctica (SOE-2009). Has recently Edited the 2013 WWF-India Publication- "Marine Turtles Along the Indian Coast"-Distribution, Status, Threats and Management Implications.



**Mr. Anant Pande:** Marine Ecologist and Research Associate at Terra Marine Research Institute and Resource Person for Marine and Terrestrial Studies and Explorations. Member of -the 28th Indian Scientific Expedition Team to Antarctica, All-India Tiger Monitoring team (2009-11), Cheetah re-introduction in India project (WII). Awarded Ravi Sankaran fellowship for marine mammal research internship at Mingan Island Cetacean Study in Canada. Currently works at Wildlife Institute of India at the Environmental Information System cell (ENVIS) and part of the team for preparation of India's 5th National report to Convention on Biological Diversity.





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