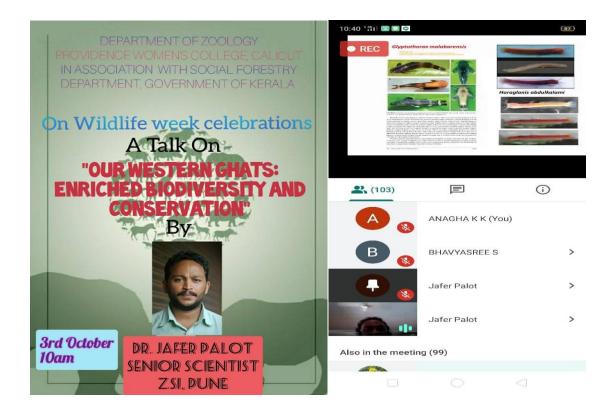
REPORT

Our Western Ghats: Enriched Biodiversity

On 3rd October 2020, the **Department of Zoology**, in association with the Social Forestry Department, Government Of Kerala, conducted a webinar on the topic "Our Western Ghats: Enriched Biodiversity" The webinar was inaugurated by Sri N.T.Sajan IFS, Sri Jayaprakas V P, ACF Extension Kozhikode, welcomed the gathering. There were 103 participants comprising the officials, students, and community members. The session was led by Dr. JAFOR **PALOT**, Senior Scientist at Zoological Survey of India, Pune. The speaker took a virtual tour to the Western Ghats, which are biologically rich and biogeographically unique - a veritable treasure house of biodiversity. covering an area of 180,000km², or just under 6 percent of the land area of India, the Western Ghats contain more than 30 percent of all plant, fish, herpeto-fauna, bird, and mammal species found in India. Many species are endemic, such as the Nilgiri tahr and the lion-tailed macaque. In fact, 50 percent of India's amphibians and 67 percent of fish species are endemic to this region. The region has a spectacular assemblage of large mammals - around 30 percent of the world's Asian elephant population and 17 percent of the world's existing tigerscall this area their home. Protection for these is extended through several nationally significant wildlife sanctuaries, tiger reserves, and national parks. The Western Ghats include a diversity of ecosystems ranging from tropical wet evergreen forests to montane grasslands containing numerous medicinal plants and important genetic resources such as the wild relatives of grains, fruit, and spices. They also include the unique shola ecosystem which consists of montane grasslands interspersed with evergreen

forest patches. The main cardinal point discussed in the webinar was to create an integrated Ecological perspective providing for both environmental protection as well as the rights of the rural communities. The program ended with a vote of thanks by Lakshmi Vinod the association secretary of the department of zoology.





കേരള വനം-വന്യജീവി വക്ഷ്

സാമൂഹ്യ വനവൽക്കരണ വിജ്ഞാന വ്യാപന വിഭാഗം -കോഴിക്കോട് പ്രൊവിഡൻസ് വിമൻസ് കോളേജ്- കോഴിക്കോട് വന്യജീവി വാരാഘോഷത്തോടനുബന്ധിച്ച്

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(അസോസിയേഷൻ സെക്രട്ടറി സുവോളജി വിഭാഗം, പൊവിഡൻസ് വിമൻസ് കോളേജ് കോഴിക്കോട്)

