

# Indo-US workshop on Biodiversity Informatics: 19-20 January, 2013 ATREE, Bangalore

On 19-20 January 2013 ATREE hosted researchers in biodiversity informatics, taxonomists, herbarium managers and curators, biodiversity portal initiatives, and young graduate students, in a workshop that examined advances in information technology that enable open, Net-based access to India's biodiversity information.

This joint Indo-US workshop was organized by ATREE, in collaboration with [India Biodiversity Portal](#) (IBP), [Encyclopedia of Life](#) (EOL), [the Western Ghats Portal](#) (WGP) and [Strand Life Sciences](#). This workshop was primarily sponsored by the Indo-US Science and Technology Forum (IUSSTF) with additional support from the [Sir Dorabji Tata and Allied Trusts](#).

The objective of the workshop was to encourage the diverse initiatives taken up by various portals towards sharing and exchange of biodiversity information, while maintaining their individual efforts and identities. Specific goals were:

- to undertake a survey of the state-of-the-art biodiversity initiatives in India and the United States
- to propose improved standards for species pages and species distributions for convergence and exchange among diverse biodiversity portals
- to promote integration of diverse geospatial data with species pages
- to facilitate increased citizen motivation and involvement in biodiversity informatics

One of the expected outcomes of this meeting was a review of the latest developments in biodiversity informatics, and a definition of research priorities in the Indian context. Another key output of the workshop was a publication on the state of the art of biodiversity informatics and the way forward.

The workshop coordinators were Gladwin Joseph, ATREE; Cynthia Sims Parr, Encyclopedia of Life; R. Prabhakar, India Biodiversity Portal, WGP, and Strand Life Sciences Pvt. Ltd.

Source: [http://www.atree.org/Indo\\_US\\_workshop\\_Biodiversity\\_Informatics](http://www.atree.org/Indo_US_workshop_Biodiversity_Informatics)

Mr Ravindra Amarasinghe participated at the workshop representing TERN