## Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Park, (CMBP) Airoli, Maharashtra

This centre is the gateway to the Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary. Spread over 40 acres, the CMBP site comprises 5 acres of land and 35 acres of dense mangroves and mudflats within the Thane Creek. The CMBP was developed as part of the CMPA project to sensitise visitors about the coastal and marine biodiversity of Maharashtra.

The CMBP is designed in a way so that visitors attention is drawn to specific aspects of biodiversity through indoor and outdoor exhibits on biodiversity conservation. The park was inaugurated on 30th April 30, 2017 by Mr. Sudhir Mungantivar, Honourable Minister, Finance and Planning, Forests, Maharashtra.

The CMPA Project in partnership with the Mangrove Cell Maharashtra has facilitated the creation of this center through several measures









## Interpretation Facilities

It has state of the art indoor and outdoor interpretation facilities. The content was developed in India and the exhibits were manufactured in Germany.

Landscape planning was done so that visitors experience the park as a whole but their attention is drawn to specific aspects of biodiversity

A film, field guides and coffee table books have been developed for tourists

Agencies: Archimedes, Grassroots

## Training local communities as Naturalists through the CMPA Project

25 members of the local fishing community have been trained as naturalists, to identify plants and birds.

They have also been trained in hospitality to interact with tourists

They are now operating natural history tours of the Sanctuary

Bird and mangrove identification guides in the local language have been distributed to community members.

Agency: BNHS

## Feasibility study and financial sustainability planning

The CMBP will be developed in a phased manner and open with the Exhibition Block, Interpretation Centre, Office Block, Galleries, Nature Trails and Boat rides.

Facilities like 5D theatre boxes, amphitheatre, a cetacean museum and dome exhibition centre will be introduced later.

The CMBP is projected to become fully functional by 2019-20 and self-sustainable by 2022. The projected Gross Operating Profit for 2027 is 5.7 crores.

Agency: Mahajan and Aibara







Photo credits Supriya Jhunjhunwala

CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF COASTAL AND MARINE PROTECTED AREAS (CMPA)



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