

Greens to build artificial ponds for birds and animals near forest areas

TNN | Mar 26, 2024, 04.32 AM IST

Mangaluru: In response to rising temperature and water scarcity even in places in and around the Western Ghats, the National Environment Care Federation (NECF) in Mangaluru has taken the initiative to build artificial ponds near forest fringe areas.

Shashidhar Shetty, general secretary, NECF told TOI that the organisation had undertaken similar efforts during the Covid-19 pandemic and is now set to revive these projects. Previously, they had successfully constructed about three such ponds.

“The artificial ponds are created using one concrete ring and a concrete bed, a technique that is both cost-effective and practical, with each project estimated to cost around Rs 10,000,” said Shetty. “During the pandemic, with the support of the forest department and the local community, three ponds were built in Udupi,” he said.

Shetty stressed on the importance of community involvement, noting that the water sources are often shared with areca plantations.

Shetty and his team are currently in the process of identifying potential sites for new ponds. They plan to seek approval from the forest department before proceeding with construction in areas adjacent to forests.

“Community support is deemed essential for the success of this project. The significance of these artificial ponds extends beyond merely providing a water source; they help create micro-ecosystems that support a variety of wildlife. By offering breeding grounds, these ponds contribute to the conservation of biodiversity and maintain the balance of local ecosystems. The ponds are instrumental in promoting the well-being of forest-dwelling species and fostering ecological harmony in the landscape,” he said.

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