

BOOK REVIEWS

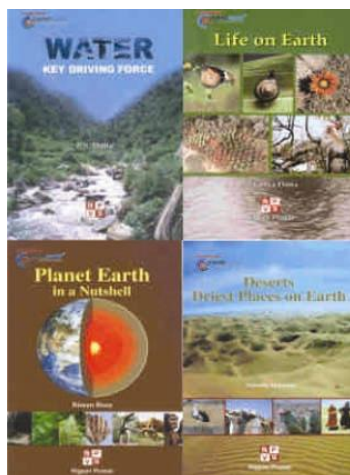


The International Collective in support of Fishworkers, Chennai has brought out a set of five monographs titled: *The social dimensions of marine protected areas: A case study of the Mafia Island Marine Park in Tanzania* by Rosemarie Nyigulila Mwaipopo; *Marine conservation and coastal communities: Who carries the costs? A study of marine protected areas and their impact on traditional small-scale fishing communities in South Africa* by Jackie Sunde and Moenieba Isaacs; *Marine protected areas and artisanal fisheries in Brazil* by Antonio Carlos Diegues; *Marine protected areas in India* by Ramya Rajagopalan, and *Coastal and marine protected areas in Mexico* by Julia Fraga and Ana Jesus.

These collectively constitute the Samudra Monographs. These booklets are an attempt towards conservation of marine resources which is becoming a growing global priority while the concept of marine protected areas (MPAs) is being widely propagated. An MPA is considered to be any coastal or marine area in which certain uses are regulated to conserve natural resources, biodiversity, and historical and cultural features. They are

seen as tools to address abuse and destruction of the environment.

On the basis of documentary surveys and interviews with residents of the island's villagers, national government officials, and the parks' managements, these studies put forth several proposals through which traditional, small-scale and artisanal coastal communities can engage better in protecting marine ecosystems and their rights.



On the occasion of the International Year of Planet Earth – 2008, Vigyan Prasar, Noida has published the following ten wonderful books titled *Water, Key Driving Force* by P. S. Datta; *Life on Earth* by Sukanya Datta; *Planet Earth in a Nutshell* by Biman Basu; *The Weather Riddle* by Biman Basu; *Deserts – Driest*

Places on Earth by Subodh Mahanti; *Snakes* by Sukanya Datta; *Mangroves – The Tidal Forest* by R. Paneerselvam; *Mountains Under Siege* by Hasan Jawaid Khan; *Earth's Changing Climate* by Biman Basu; and *The Violent Earth – Earthquakes, Volcanoes and Tsunamis* by Subodh Mahanti.

The Earth is the only planet we know of our solar system that is capable of sustaining life and home to a myriad of life forms. Even a cursory glance around us shows that the Earth is a complex and dynamic system. No one denies the need to understand the interactions of air, soil, water and living elements – Earth's atmosphere, land, oceans, ice, and life – as a single, connected system. We need to do this to really study the Earth as a single connected system. And to be able to do so, we need to appreciate the beauty and importance of every denizen on Earth, including the most humble and the most insignificant. However, despite our incredible advances, in both science and philosophy we are yet to understand the intricacies of these interactions.

These ten books are reasonably priced; all of them within Rs 100. The website of the publisher is www.vigyanprasar.gov.in.

These books are by well-known popularizers of science, some of whom have been awarded prestigious awards for their outstanding work. These books are intended to inform the lay reader and they undoubtedly achieve their goal.

SHANTHA NAIR

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SECOND SCHOOL IN NEUROSCIENCES

The Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India, New Delhi, sponsored SECOND SERC SCHOOL IN NEUROSCIENCES will be conducted at The Center for Neuroscience, Indian Institute of Science from February 1st to February 16th, 2009. The School aims at imparting intense training (courses as well as lab work) in Neuroscience specifically on the physiology of nerve cells. The School will provide a unique opportunity to receive hands-on training on electrophysiological recordings (extra-cellular and intracellular) and on the interpretation of the results. In addition to some of the most renowned workers from India, outstanding scientists from abroad like Prof. John Nicholls FRS of SISSA, Italy; Prof. Ken Muller of Miami Florida; Prof. Jan M. Ramirez, University of Chicago, USA, will serve as faculty at the School. Young researchers, Ph.D. students, and faculty members in the universities and colleges who are keen to participate in the School should write to Prof. M. K. Mathew, School Director on the e-mail: mathew@ncbs.res.in with a copy to Prof. N. K. Subhedar (past director) on the following e-mail: nksubhedar@hotmail.com. Some of the students who have participated in the first course may also apply.

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