

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON
**BIODIVERSITY, ENVIRONMENT AND
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

4-6 OCTOBER 1994

The powerful grace that lies in herbs, plants and all the creatures of this living planet is ebbing away in silent retreat. We are severing, ever so swiftly, our genetic attachment to the natural world.

The future startles us with visions of high-tech marvels: clothes that change colour to suit our moods, tap-dancing caterpillars, and cars that navigate by satellite. The cyberspace teases us with promises of information highways and virtual reality. But, we will be watching all these cocooned in our cute little pollution masks!

This is all very interesting. But there is an underlying warning that we are declining: we are flogging energy until it is tired, and we will be forced to run on fumes. And if we continue to rip on, we will be closed out of nature's turf!

Therefore, the moment is upon us to create a culture that will demand intervention. And we hope that our forthcoming international conference on **Biodiversity, Environment and Sustainable Development** will highlight the mismatch between our demand for autonomy and nature's insistence on reciprocity, and the need to combine gracious living with ecological piety.

Organized by

Post-Graduate Departments of
Botany and Zoology

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