

# Declaration of Charter

The following Declaration of Charter was adopted at the workshop on "Fisheries and Marine Reserves in India", held in New Delhi, India

Over 50 participants, from across different sections of society—State-level traditional fisher representatives and national functionaries, conservation and environmental groups, fishworker, civil society groups and marine park managers, scientists, academics and experts, were involved in a three-day workshop, between 8 and 10 October 2007, on "Fisheries and Marine Reserves in India" and their relevance.

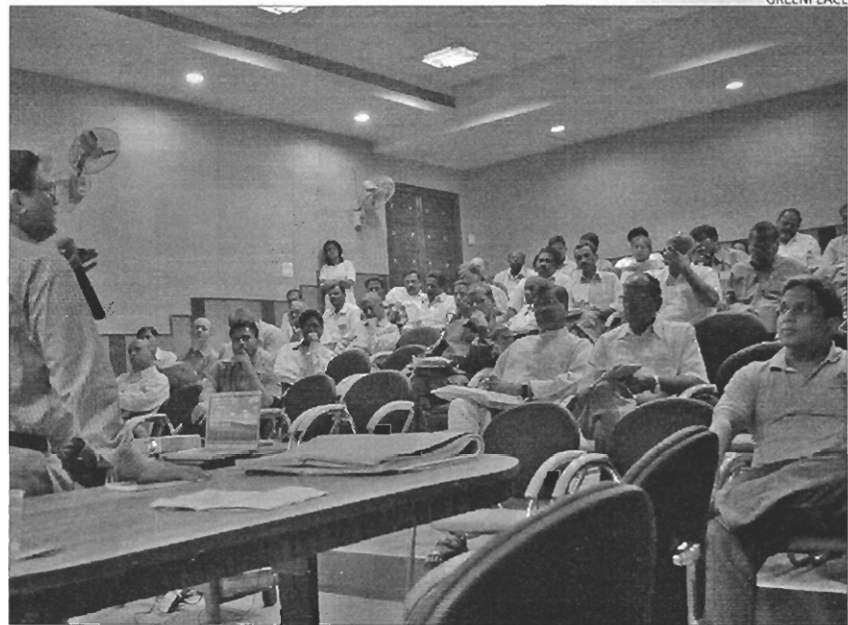
The objective of the workshop was to facilitate a movement towards sustainable models of development and resource utilization, in order to protect and preserve India's seas and coastal zone for the present and future generations.

The workshop covered discussions and sessions on preserving the health and productivity of India's oceans, and examined mechanisms and options by which the participants can work together to achieve common goals. This included providing an overview of the scientific, institutional and evaluative experiences on marine reserves as a tool for conservation of biodiversity and enhancing fisheries.

## Declaration

Conscious of the importance of fisheries as a vital sector of development and high dependence of millions of fisher and coastal communities on the ocean and the coastal environment for their food and livelihood security;

Recognizing that marine ecosystems, in particular, coastal ecosystems, are rich spawning and breeding grounds, and provide vital coastal-protection benefits;



Three-day workshop, between 8 and 10 October 2007, on "Fisheries and Marine Reserves in India" and their relevance

Concerned that the marine environment and, in particular, coastal ecosystems, are under increasing threat of degradation of habitats and depletion of resources resulting from overexploitation and overcapacity, discharge of pollutants from land and at sea, destructive infrastructural and industrial projects, existing and proposed, and impacts of activities such as agriculture, intensive aquaculture and forestry; and the adverse impact of these on the livelihoods of traditional fishing communities and other dependent communities,

This assembly of concerned fishing community representatives, scientists, academics and experts, environmental, conservation and civil society groups hereby declares that it will:

*The New Delhi Greenpeace Workshop was conducted during 8-10 October 2007*

GREENPEACE