

# Protecting and Nurturing Biodiversity

**M**any states across India have considerable forest cover and these forests are a reservoir of biodiversity that needs to be protected from the constant stress of increasing urbanisation. The need of the hour is to not only preserve the existing biodiversity but also make efforts to restore the pristine glory of the degraded landscapes.

It's encouraging that the central as well as state governments are working on multiple initiatives on that front and have joined hands with the global community that is working towards larger and sustainable solutions to the problem. With 'Project Biodiversity Conservation and Restoration', Hero MotoCorp has taken a firm step towards accomplishing such solutions as it sets out to protect, conserve and

restore large forests as well as reserved areas in urban landscape, including biodiversity parks.

The objectives of the project are to address the issues of global warming, soil erosion and pollution, to help preserve biodiversity and ecological balance, and to foster awareness among people about environmental imperatives and actions required of each one of us.

The primary components of the project include:

## **Adoption of biodiversity parks and other natural forests/reserves**

Biodiversity parks are unique landscapes of wilderness where ecological assemblages of native species in the form of biological communities are recreated and



maintained over a few hundred hectares of degraded or marginal lands. In other words, biodiversity parks are nature reserves that harbour natural heritage of the area, have conservation, educational and cultural values, and enhance the quality of environment in urban centres.

The underlying principle of a biodiversity park is to recreate self-sustaining ecosystems with native flora and fauna characteristic of the area for enhancing the quality of the urban environment. These parks also act like living laboratories for teaching and research in a wide range of areas including field biology, nature conservation and environmental education. Students from schools, colleges and universities in the vicinity visit such parks for educational and recreational purposes.

In FY 2021-2022, we continued the conservation work at **Aravali Biodiversity Park** in Gurugram, Haryana. Several hundreds of saplings of new species were planted and alongside, restoration work as well as clearing of the pathways were completed. The team is also working on larger plans for enhanced protection of the flora and fauna there.

### Planting and nurturing trees

In FY 2021-2022, the company continued to nurture the saplings planted in the last few years. We believe that each sapling should be nurtured for at least three years, which is the time that an average sapling takes to be able to sustain itself on its own with minimal intervention.

