

# PROTECTED AREA UPDATE

News and Information from protected areas in India and South Asia

No. 45

October 2003

## LIST OF CONTENTS

### News Item

### EDITORIAL

The National Board for Wildlife?

### NEWS FROM INDIAN STATES

#### Andhra Pradesh

Uranium mine near Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem TR  
Dam construction inside Venkateswara WLS

#### Assam

Deepor Beel to be the venue for water sports during  
National Games 2005

Large scale timber trafficking in Tinsukia; source of  
timber suspected to be Dibru-Saikhowa NP

State submits Rs. 150 cr schemes for forests, PAs

Special steps mooted for Manas NP

Meeting of the Manas Biosphere Conservation  
Forum

Rhino habitat in Kaziranga decreasing

WPSI petition before CEC regarding encroachments  
in six additions to Kaziranga NP

Tunnels, overhead passages proposed to protect  
wildlife fleeing from floods in Kaziranga

Kaziranga to open for tourists in October

#### Bihar

Two forest divisions to be closed down in Bihar

#### Chattisgarh

Drumbeats, electric fences to scare tuskers

#### Gujarat

CEC stops removal of bamboo from Shoolpaneshwar  
Chharidandh lake likely to be declared a WLS

69 lion deaths reported from Gir in last two years

#### Haryana

Presupposed sanctuary in Morni faces huge threats  
from tourism development plans

#### Jammu & Kashmir

Rs. 179 project formulated for Wular lake

Tourism adversely impacting wetlands in Ladakh

### Pg. No

2

3

4

4

6

7

7

7

7

7

7

7

7

7

7

7

7

7

7

7

7

7

7

7

7

7

7

7

7

7

7

7

7

7

7

#### Jharkhand

*Katha* manufacture threatens Palamau Radio collars  
for tigers and elephants to track their movement

#### Karnataka

Science city adjoining Bannerghatta to cut off forest  
corridor

Rumble strips planned for national highway through  
Bandipur TR to prevent animal deaths

700 sq. kms national park in Kodagu likely

Severe water scarcity in Bandipur NP

#### Madhya Pradesh

State takes selective action against encroachments in  
Pachmarhi WLS

#### Maharashtra

HC orders removal of encroachments from Sanjay  
Gandhi NP

Divisional meeting of Special Tiger Cell held in  
Amravati

Ghatghar hydro power project impacting Kalsubai-  
Harishchandragad WLS

#### Meghalaya

Stronger punishment urged against poachers

#### Orissa

Orissa FD to be reorganised

Fishermen plead innocent to Ridley deaths, decry  
marine law

Large number of crocodile hatchlings seen in  
Bhitarkanika

#### Rajasthan

Disagreement over Great Indian Bustard population  
in Rajasthan

New national park to be declared in Hadauti region

Nine people washed away in floods inside Sariska;  
park indefinitely closed

#### Tamil Nadu

TR Baalu proposes national park near Coimbatore

9

9

9

9

9

9

9

9

9

9

9

9

9

9

9

9

9

9

9

9

9

9

9

9

9

9

9

9

9

9

9

9

9

9

9

9

9

<a href="#">Uttaranchal</a>	14
Forest fires in Rajaji, Corbett & Nandadevi NPs in June	
<a href="#">West Bengal</a>	14
Major focus on PAs in North Bengal for tourism season	
Recruitment by Darjeeling Wildlife Division opposed by hill staff	
Folk singers in Murshidabad take up cause of wildlife and environment	
Floods benefit wild herbivores	
Centre seeks state's opinion on east west corridor of golden quadrilateral project	
Deer park in Ballavpur WLS to be extended	
<a href="#">NATIONAL NEWS FROM INDIA</a>	16
New National Board for Wildlife constituted	
Indian National Man and Biosphere panel reconstituted	
<a href="#">SOUTH ASIA</a>	16
International programme for snow leopard conservation launched	
<a href="#">Nepal</a>	16
Conservationists oppose government to hand over PAs to NGOs and private sector for management	
Nepal to allow farming of wild animals	
Three new Ramsar sites in Nepal by year end	
Large scale rhino deaths force authorities to postpone census by a year	
<a href="#">Pakistan</a>	18
Pakistan to curb hunting of migratory birds	
<a href="#">OPPORTUNITIES</a>	18
Opportunities with ATREE	
<a href="#">WHAT'S AVAILABLE</a>	18
▪ Troubled Waters	
<a href="#">SPECIAL REPORTS</a>	19
<a href="#">World Parks Congress:</a> The Theme Group on Indigenous and Local Communities, Equity and Protected Areas (TILCEPA)	
<a href="#">Relocation of people from Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Parks in India:</a> Report of National Seminar - cum - Consultation	
<a href="#">INDEX OF PROTECTED AREAS</a>	21
Protected Area Update 1-45	

## EDITORIAL

### The National Board for Wildlife?

The newly constituted National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) had its first meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> of October. One of the matters that was up for discussion was the diversion of land from the Desert National Park in

Rajasthan, for exploration by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC). An expert committee that had looked into the matter had recommended that the ONGC should deposit an amount of Rs. five crores as an initial compensation for the exploratory phase. This money was to go into a specially created fund for the conservation and management of the park. One would have expected that the apex body in the country for wildlife would take a stand opposing this diversion, leave alone talk of the monetary compensation that was being suggested.

This, however, is not what transpired. What the NBWL did, and shockingly so, was to reduce the deposit to Rs. two crores and this was facilitated by the argument of a senior minister. "Once they (ONGC) strike oil", he is reported to have stated, "they will be paying for the socio-economic development of the area, so why punish ONGC?"

It would be natural if one was left wondering what a Minister from the Ministry of Mines or Petroleum, was doing in a meeting of this sort. These ministries are not even there on the NBWL, and neither was there any special representation this time.

The argument, then, was made by none other than the Indian Minister for Environment and Forests, Mr. TR Baalu himself who is also the Vice Chairperson of the NBWL and the Chairperson of its Standing Committee. Can we really believe that wildlife and areas that support wildlife have any chance in this country? What happened seems even in conflict with the speech made on the occasion by the Prime Minister himself. "We in India" he said, "have also inherited a unique and rich ecological diversity in the form of forests, grasslands, wetlands, mountains, desert and marine ecosystems. These provide shelter to a large number of fauna and flora that meet the essential needs of the poor and rich as well. Protection of this bio-diversity is not only our ethical responsibility. It is also necessary for our sustainable economic development".

When the announcement was made under the Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 2002, that a new National Board for Wildlife will be constituted, there was great hope and expectation. When it did finally get constituted, a lot of this was not just belied, it was crushed. Prominent environmentalists, wildlifers, and even reputed institutions like the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), key members of the earlier Indian Board for Wildlife (IBWL), were simply not considered. They were apparently been punished for talking of the interests of wildlife and conservation when they questioned certain projects that would have destroyed

sensitive wildlife habitats and ecosystems. Even the Supreme Court of the country made a note about this.

The new board that has now been formed has 47 members. This includes the Prime Minister as Chairperson; Minister, MoEF as Vice Chair; three Members of Parliament; one representative of the Planning Commission and a majority of 26 senior government functionaries. That leaves a mere 15 members who represent the voice of conservation and of wild life preservation from outside the government. Here too, a majority are actually retired government officers.

If anyone still had any doubts, surely, these must have been rested after the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the board on October 15.

There is no denying that the NBWL can and should be an important ally in conservation in this country. There is a need, however, for corrective action at the earliest, if that is to happen. To begin with, the government representation on the board should to be brought down. Criteria should then be listed out for the selection of those members who are from outside the government and to ensure that the NBWL becomes truly representative of the country's conservation community. This would then have to be topped up with adequate measures to allow this body to function transparently and independently.

Until that happens it is unlikely that the NBWL will be able to serve the purpose that it has actually been created for.

## NEWS FROM INDIAN STATES

### ANDHRA PRADESH

#### Uranium mine near Nagarjunasagar-Srisaillam Tiger Reserve

The Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL) has been granted a lease for uranium mining in the Nalgonda district of Andhra Pradesh, close to the Rajiv Gandhi Tiger Reserve (also known as the Nagarjunasagar-Srisaillam TR). The mine will be situated only 3 km. from the boundary of the tiger reserve and also from the Akkampally project, which supplies drinking water to Hyderabad. The mining will be carried in 526.65 hectares in Peddagattu and Yellapur villages, while the processing plant is to come up over 318.25 hectares in Dugyal and Mallapuram villages. Out of the 526.65 hectares for which the mining lease has been sought, at least 80 per cent is forestland. The public hearing for, both,

the ore extraction site and the plant was held in the area on August 19, 2003.

The National Board for Wildlife of the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests has been consistently rejecting UCIL's proposals, from prospecting to actual mining in the sanctuary. After its proposal was rejected in 1998, UCIL shifted the project to the buffer zone of the sanctuary, following which approval was, reportedly, granted by a high-level committee.

UCIL is setting up a 1,250 tonnes a day capacity uranium ore mining unit (Rs. 91 crores) and a processing unit (Rs. 315 crores). The company has promised to take steps to minimise the effect of mining in the buffer zone on the fauna of the sanctuary and also to carry out 'compensatory afforestation' to make up for 423.27 hectares of forest in the Yellapur reserve in the Nagarjunasagar Range

The People's War Group (PWG) too has said that it will oppose the project.

Source: 'Uranium mine near Nagarjunasagar-Srisaillam Tiger Reserve'

[www.sanctuaryasia.com](http://www.sanctuaryasia.com); 02/08/03.

BG Rajeshwari. 'PW to oppose U-project', *Times News Network*, 25/08/03

### Dam construction inside Venkateswara WLS

The Standing Committee of the Indian Board for Wildlife recently allowed the Andhra Pradesh Government and the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam to go ahead and construct the Kapil Teerthan Dam inside the Venkateswara Wildlife Sanctuary. It has however laid the condition that a minimum level of water should be maintained in the lean season for animals. The committee has also stated that the construction should be carried out under the supervision of the forest department; the sanctuary area should be declared a no plastic zone; and that the Devasthanam would provide Rs one crore to the Tirupati Zoo for its upkeep and a recurring expense of Rs 25 lakh per annum for its maintenance.

The dam is expected to provide water for nearly 30,000 pilgrims that visit the famous temple at Tirupati. A Supreme Court Bench comprising Justice Y K Sabharwal and Justice B N Agrawal recently also issued notices to the state and the Central Government on the petition which said that it would adhere to all environmental restrictions imposed on the construction of such a dam.

Source: 'SC issues notices to Centre, Andhra on Tirupati', *Press Trust of India*, 25/08/03.

## ASSAM

### Deepor Beel to be the venue for water sports during National Games 2005

The Kamrup (Metro) DC and the president of the Rowing Association, AK Absar Hazarika recently said that the developmental works for promoting adventure and water sports in the state are being taken up soon.

As part of this, it has also been decided that Deepor Beel, which is a wildlife sanctuary, has been finalized as the venue for rowing, kayaking and canoeing in the National Games, 2005, that are being held in Assam. Further details are not yet known.

Source: 'Deepor beel venue for games, water sports', *The Sentinel*, 16/07/03.

### Large scale timber trafficking in Tinsukia; source of timber suspected to be Dibru-Saikhowa NP

A large consignment of timber including sawn timber, planks and about 600 logs was seized recently at Kaliapani Ghat in Natun Gaon of Tinsukia district that lies of the Assam Arunachal Pradesh border. The logs were discovered when the Superintendent of Police was visiting the Kaliapani Ghat on Dibru River in some other connection. No one came forward to claim the logs when enquiries were made. The police also seized some equipment for hand sawing of the logs and seven unregistered country boats in the ghat. It is suspected that these were used for the transportation of the timber. The owner of the boats too could not be found.

The Dibru-Saikhowa National Park is located on the other side of the river and according to some, the locals here, who are flood affected people, fell the trees in the national park. They transport the logs to the other side of the river by boats and thus eke out their livelihood.

According to another version the timber is brought to this area in rafts from Arunachal Pradesh via the Na-Dehing, Brahmaputra and Dibru rivers through Ananta Nulluh. The logs are then transported to the illegal bench saw mills that have been set up in large numbers in Tinsukia. A large number of local rural people are employed in these operations. They are lured with money, while protection for these illegal operations comes from influential businessmen. Government officials and politically influenced persons too are alleged to be involved.

The Assam Minister for Forests has said that the logs found in Tinsukia were definitely from

Arunachal Pradesh and that their number was 150, not 600. He however could not provide an answer when asked how these logs were being rafted about 60 km within the territory of Assam and then lying for months by the river, without being noticed by the personnel of the Forest department.

Source: Illegal timber trafficking continues in Tinsukia', *The Assam Tribune*, 10/09/03

### State submits Rs. 150 cr schemes for forests, PAs

The Assam Forest Department has submitted 15 schemes worth Rs. 150 crores to the Central Government related to forests and wildlife conservation. These include the setting up a genetics library, tree plantation through Forest Development Agencies (FDA), strengthening of the Assam Forest Protection Force (see *PA Update* 44), and improvement of the conditions in the Kaziranga and Manas National Parks.

The FD has said that already 780 joint forest management committees and 28 FDAs had been set up and that these were to be used to involve people in forest fringe areas for conservation related work.

A scheme for Rs. eight crores has been submitted for the genetic library, a Rs. 15 crore scheme for Manas NP, and a Rs. 25 crore management action plan proposal has been submitted for Deepor Beel Wildlife Sanctuary.

Source: 'Rs. 150 cr schemes to develop state forests', *The Assam Tribune*, 25/07/03.

Contact: **Dr. Anwaruddin Choudhary**, Jt. Secretary, Forests, Govt. of Assam, C/o The Assam Company Ltd., G Bordoloi Path, Bamuni Maidan, Guwahati 781 021 Assam. Email: badru1@sancharnet.in

### Special steps mooted for Manas NP

The Assam Government has proposed to raise an eco-task force and sensitize the police, army and other paramilitary forces to improve the security situation and end militant activities in the Manas National Park and its surrounding areas under the proposed Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC). This was discussed at a high level meeting held in Guwahati in the month of July. It was suggested that the expense to raise the task force could be met from the funds sanctioned by the MoEF and grants proposed to be given by the Centre to the BTC.

The Forest Department has proposed a number of steps towards improving the situation in

Manas. These include the clearing of the Bansbari Mathonguri road to Bhuyanpara via Uchila, restoration of more than 15 damaged bridges on the boundary road of the park and making functional the forest camps at Uchila, Buraburi and Kuribil. The Field Director of the park has been instructed to intensify patrolling in the park and the Deputy Director and Research Officer are to undertake an extensive motivation and awareness drive in the fringe villages here.

It has been reported that the question of bringing of the core and buffer areas under a unified control was also examined, but not found feasible as the buffer zone extends over a massive area.

Meanwhile the Dolphin Conservation Society (DCS) too has in collaboration with the park, initiated socio-economic surveys in 28 villages under the Bansbari range office area the main objective of the programme is to gain the support and cooperation of fringe villages.

Source: 'Assam plan to corner rebels, bring Manas Park back to life', *The Sentinel*, 16/07/03. 'Dolphin Conservation Society to help restore Manas National Park', [www.sanctuaryasia.com](http://www.sanctuaryasia.com), 28/08/03.

Contact: **Director**, Manas NP, PO Barpeta Rd. Dist. Barpeta – 781315, Assam. Tel: 03666 – 61413. Fax: 60253

**Sujit Bairagi**, Dolphin Conservation Society, Blue Hills, Jyoti Nagar. Guwahati-781021, Assam. Tel: 0361-552564 Mobile: 098640-67428. Email: [sbairagi1@sancharnet.in](mailto:sbairagi1@sancharnet.in); [sujitbairagi@sify.com](mailto:sujitbairagi@sify.com)

### Meeting of the Manas Biosphere Conservation Forum

A two-day meeting-cum-workshop of the Manas Biosphere Conservation Forum (MBCF) was recently held at Mathanguri inside the Manas National Park. It was attended by members of a large number of wildlife organisations that included Aranyak, Nature's Foster, Green Heart Nature Club, New Horizon, Green Forest Conservation, and Community Conservation Incorporate (CCI Inc), USA along with research scholars of Assam.

Stress was laid during the meeting on the core issue of developing a suitable strategy for conservation of the Manas Biosphere Reserve. It was resolved during the meeting to accelerate the move for amending the JFM rules of 1998 and to speed up constitution of community conserved forests as per

the latest notification under Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. It was also decided to initiate short and long-term plans to manage and develop activities of the forum and to urgently prepare a draft plan for the conservation of the Manas Biosphere that is to be submitted to the government for necessary consideration.

Some of the other points discussed during the meeting included sharing of information, studying the ground realities, the trans-border protected area programme, socio-economic studies of communities for development, channelising of government support, and the protection of the Golden Langur as an umbrella species.

In this regard, eight committees have been formed with the initiative of Dr Rob Horwich of CCI to work out plans and initiate activities. It was also decided in the meeting that the DCs of the districts of Kokrajhar, Bongaigaon, Barpeta, Nalbari and Darrang are to be included in the Manas Biosphere Reserve Committee.

The Manas Biosphere Conservation Forum (MBCF) was formally founded on February 22, 2003 at Kokrajhar with five partner organisations, and an objective of conservation and protection of biodiversity in Manas with a special focus on the Golden Langur as a flagship species.

Source: 'Strategy for conservation of Manas Biosphere Reserve discussed', *The Assam Tribune*, 21/09/03.

Contact: **NK Dey**, Nature's Foster, 815B, BRPL Township, P. O. Dhaligaon, Bongaigaon - 783385, Assam. Tel: 03664 - 41431(R) / 41029(O). Email: [naturesfoster@indiatimes.com](mailto:naturesfoster@indiatimes.com)

### Rhino habitat in Kaziranga decreasing

A study of satellite images taken during the last thirty years has revealed that 27% of the total area of Kaziranga National Park has become unsuitable for the rhino due to the lack of water bodies and short grass. There has been considerable siltation and fragmentation of the water bodies in the park and invasion by the exotic 'mimosa' plant too has made vast stretches unsuitable for rhinos and other animals as well (see *PA Updates* 40, 34 & 30).

Additionally the Brahmaputra too has been eroding land along the northern boundary of the park, particularly in the Agratoli and Bagori ranges, resulting in further loss of areas under beels and short grasses. A total of 22 sq. kms of the park has been

lost in this manner along the eastern boundary of the park alone.

It has also been found that the total wetland area in the park including the Jiya and Mora Diphlu rivers has decreased in the last three decades from 8.5% in 1967-68 to 6.7% in 1997. (also see *PA Updates* 34 & 29)

Source: Daulat Rahman. 'Battle to save rhino habitat', *The Times of India*, 23/08/03.

Contact: **Director**, Kaziranga National Park, PO Bokakhat, Dist. Golaghat – 785612, Assam.

### **WPSI petition before CEC regarding encroachments in six additions to Kaziranga NP**

The Wildlife Protection Society of India has filed a petition before the Supreme Court appointed Central Empowered Committee (CEC) in the matter of encroachments in the six additions made to the Kaziranga NP. The additions that have been made to the park to offset the loss of land due to riverbank erosion (see above), provide vital habitats and corridors that act as escape routes to higher ground for Kaziranga's herbivores during the Brahmaputra's annual flooding (see *PA Update* 44). These have however been the subject of persistent litigation in the Guwahati High Court by the encroachers.

The matter was heard by the CEC on August 19. The CEC has issued notices to all the respondents, including the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Secretary of Assam. In recognition of Kaziranga's status as a UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site, Mr. A. D. N. Rao, counsel for the Ministry of Environment and Forests, agreed to formulate a legal strategy for the settlement of claims in Guwahati High Court. (Also see *PA Update* 36)

Source: 'CEC Hears WPSI's Kaziranga Petition', [www.sanctuaryasia.com](http://www.sanctuaryasia.com), 20/08/03.

Contact: **WPSI**, M-52, Greater Kailash Part I, New Delhi 110 048. Tel: 011- 26213864 / 26292492. Fax: 011- 26464918 Email: [wpsi@vsnl.com](mailto:wpsi@vsnl.com). Website: [www.wpsi-india.org](http://www.wpsi-india.org)

### **Tunnels, overhead passages proposed to protect wildlife fleeing from floods in Kaziranga**

The Assam State Government has proposed the construction of tunnels and overhead passages to protect rhinos and other wildlife when fleeing the floods in the Kaziranga National Park. The animals

have to cross the National Highway 37 to reach the higher grounds in the Karbi Anglong Hills on the southern edge of the park. Many of them are killed by speeding vehicles and poachers (See *PA Updates* 44, 38, & 34).

This proposal was one among the 27 that the state has recently made to the Union Ministry for Environment and Forests (MoEF). The MoEF has agreed to provide the funds to conduct a feasibility study on this project. Union Minister, Mr. TR Baalu also said they will talk to other ministries for the sanctioning of the project. The information was provided by the Minister recently during a question hour discussion in the Rajya Sabha.

Source: 'Tunnels in Kaziranga to protect rhinos', *The Assam Tribune*, 26/07/03.

### **Kaziranga to open for tourists in October**

The Kaziranga National Park is to be opened up from October 1 for tourists. Initially, days tourists will be allowed to visit only the Bagori and Kohora ranges because other areas of the park were still under water following floods in July and August.

The lodges and tourist bungalows under the State Tourist and Forest Departments have been given a facelift and private operators too are reported to have geared themselves up for the oncoming season.

The authorities have also planned a three day elephant festival from January 30 to February 1, 2004 and about 100 elephants from different parts of the state will arrive here.

Spurred by the popularity of the park among national and international tourists, a five member team of the World Bank headed by its Country Director too visited the park recently. Their main aim was to assess the facilities and explore the possibilities of funding projects for the further development and protection of the wildlife here.

Source: 'Kaziranga Park to open for tourists from Oct.', *The Hindu Business Line*, 09/09/03.

Contact: **Chief Wildlife Warden** – Assam, Rehabari, Guwahati – 781008, Assam.

## **BIHAR**

### **Two forest divisions to be closed down in Bihar**

The Bihar State cabinet has recently decided to close down two divisions of the Forest Department of the

state. The exercise is aimed at reducing flab in the Department and will help bring down annual expenditure by Rs. 60 lakh.

The two divisions, which are to be closed, are Wildlife Division, Gaya, and Departmental Works Division, Munger. With this the number of divisions of the department will come down from 27 to 25

Source: '2 forest dept divisions to be closed down',  
*Times News Network*, 03/09/03.

## CHATTISGARH

### Drumbeats, electric fences to scare tuskers

The Chattisgarh Forest Department has decided to employ drum beaters from West Bengal to scare away wild elephants and deal with the problem of elephant human conflict in the state. The formalities for the exercise that will cost Rs. Four lakh have almost been completed and the drum beaters are to arrive in the state soon.

Thirty villages in the districts of Jashpur, Sarguja and Raigarh located in the northern part of the state are the most affected. At least 50 people have been killed and large areas of crops have also been destroyed in this region by wild elephants in the last couple of years

Along with the drum beaters, it has also been decided to install an electrified fence around these villages at the cost of Rs. Five million.

Source: 'Drumbeats, electric fences to scare tuskers',  
*India Abroad News Service*, 11/09/03.

## GUJARAT

### CEC stops removal of bamboo from Shoolpaneshwar WLS

The Central Empowered Committee constituted by the Supreme Court of India, recently issued a stay order on the operation of the 10 year lease granted to Central Pulp Mill (owned by the JK Industries) to extract Bamboo from the Shoolpaneshwar Wildlife Sanctuary in Bharuch District.

The lease had been granted by the Chief Wildlife Warden of the state under Section 29 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, on the reasoning that it is beneficial for wildlife. Other officers in the state including the Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) had opposed this lease. Further it was reported that bamboo was removed during the monsoons, which is

the breeding season for most wildlife and that the influx of vehicles and labourers was also causing a lot of disturbance to the wildlife here.

The CEC wanted immediate compliance of its order in view of the fact that lease for the extraction of bamboo from the sanctuary was in violation of an earlier order of the Supreme Court dated 14-2-2000. The order of the CEC was passed in response to an application that had been filed ARCH, an NGO based in Gujarat.

Source: Ritwick Dutta. Email dated 21/08/03.

Contact: **Trupti Parekh**, ARCH, E-702, Samrajya Complex. Fatehgunj, Vadodara - 390002, Gujarat. Email: [truptiparekh1@hotmail.com](mailto:truptiparekh1@hotmail.com)  
**Ritwick Dutta**, B-41, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Sector 14, NOIDA - 201301, Uttar Pradesh. Tel: 09810044660. Email: ritwick1@vsnl.com

### Chharidandh lake likely to be declared a wildlife sanctuary

The Gujarat State Wildlife Advisory Board is reported to have suggested to the State Forest Department that Chharidandh be declared a wildlife sanctuary. Chharidandh is a wetland spread over 50 sq. kms near the Banni grasslands in the state. There have been good rains in the Kutch this year and water bodies including Chharidandh have filled up completely for the first time in the last few years.

A large number of flamingoes have been spotted in a number of places which include the Great Rann of Kutch, Surkha, Naliya, Nakhatrana and Dhrangadhra.

Source: 'Rains turn Kutch into haven for winged visitors' *Times News Network*, 06/08/03

### 69 lion deaths reported from Gir in last two years

A large number of 69 lion deaths have been reported from Gir National Park since the last census was conducted two years ago. This figure includes 16 cubs and seven newly borns. 327 lions were counted during that census.

The deaths are being attributed to a number of reasons by the Forest Department. These include old age, diseases, fights over territory and mates, electrocution by electrified fences, poisoning by farmers in retaliation for cattle killings and also poaching for claws, hide and bones.

Source: Anil Pathak. 'Born to be free, but trapped in a hostile habitat', *The Times of India*, 14/09/03.

Contact: **Bharat Pathak**, CF (Wildlife) Junagadh, Sardar Bag, Junagadh, Gujarat. Tel: 0285 - 631678/ 630051. Fax: 631211

**Chief Wildlife Warden** - Gujarat, Block 14, Dr. Jivraj Mehta Bhavan, Old Sachivalaya, Gandhinagar, Gujarat. Tel: 02712-30007. Fax: 21097

## HARYANA

### **Proposed sanctuary in Morni faces huge threats from tourism development plans**

A huge tourism development plan by the Shivalik Development Board (SDB) threatens the proposed Morni Wildlife Sanctuary. Major developments that are being suggested here include at least five new link roads to Morni to popularise it as a tourist resort and the construction of a tourism complex at an estimated cost of Rs. 2.5 crore. The complex would have two three-storey structures, flats for government employees posted in Morni, water sports, tree houses, and a 700 sq. mtrs. roof water harvesting structure for meeting most water demands of this project.

The five new routes to be developed are the following— Pinjore-Thapli-Morni; Thapli-Badisher-Morni; Raipur Rani-Tikkar-Morni; Bhud-Trilokpur-Morni; and, Chandimandir-Burj Kotian-Morni. There is an existing Panchkula Morni route but the others are expected to shorten the distance to Morni considerably. The new roads are expected to be operational in about a year's time.

It is feared that this huge road making and construction activity will adversely impact the fragile ecosystem of the region. Already lateral cutting and toe-cutting of hills for creating and widening of roads, coupled with large scale deforestation here, has made this area vulnerable to soil erosion and landslides. Earlier this year, beginning mid-July, several areas of Morni remained cut off for days because of landslides after each heavy downpour. The laying of more roads and widening of existing roads, would only disturb the ecology further.

Ironically Morni is being declared a sanctuary in lieu of the decision of the government to denotify two other sanctuaries - Saraswati Forest, which falls partly in Kaithal district and partly in Kurukshetra and spread over an area of 4400 hectares; and, Bada Ban in Jind in an area of 400 hectares (see *PA Update* 36).

The area of the sanctuary proposed at Morni includes Khol Raitan, protected forest area in Balwali, Mandana, Asrewali and Bir Ghaggar. Originally, the Wildlife Wing of the Forest Department had earmarked an area of the over 50,000 acres, including 14 different bhojs in Morni. They were, however, asked to shrink the proposed area under the sanctuary to 12, 259 acres.

Source: Ruchika Khanna. 'Development becomes Morni's bane', *The Tribune*, 13/09/03

## JAMMU & KASHMIR

### **Rs. 179 project formulated for Wular lake**

An integrated Rs 179-crore, 10 year project to restore the Wular lake has reportedly been formulated by the Jammu and Kashmir Government. The features of the project and measures required to conserve the water body in the valley were discussed at a high-level meeting held in August that was attended by the Chief Minister of state. Various activities envisaged as part of the project include protection of the lake body, correct land usage and flood control strategy, and proper sewage disposal.

The CM asked for the prioritising of the various components and stressed on the need to explore possibilities for external funding in addition to the funds that will be made available by the Central Government. He also emphasised that the people of the adjoining areas should be made aware about the objectives of the Wular lake development project and should be involved in it in a big way.

He also ordered the Deputy Commissioner concerned not to allow any plantation in and around the lake. He said steps should also be taken to demarcate the area of the lake and asked the revenue, wildlife, environment and other concerned agencies to work in a coordinated manner for the purpose.

Source: 'Wular to get lease of life under project', *The Tribune*, 11/08/03.

### **Tourism adversely impacting wetlands in Ladakh**

The opening up of the high altitude wetlands in the Changthang region of Ladakh for tourism is reported to be disturbing the extremely fragile ecosystem here. The wetlands that are being affected include Tsokar, Pangong Tso and Tsomoriri, the last of which is also a Ramsar site.

Changthang was opened up for tourism in 1994 and since then the number of visitors has



increased substantially; from a couple of 100 in 1996 to more than a 1000 in 2000. This is, reportedly, breaking down the traditional management systems and affecting the local communities and their cultures as well. There has also been an increase in the number of trekker's pack animals like donkeys, mules and horses and this has started putting pressure on the few pasture lands here as well.

Additionally, the latest move of the State Government to settle Tibetan refugees in the area is adding to complexity of the situation. The refugees have been given marshy land for farming. This is playing havoc with the wetland systems and also driving away the waterfowl that depends on the marshes.

These findings have been published in a recent report of the World Wide Fund For Nature (WWF) - India report titled, 'High Altitude Wetlands of Ladakh: A Conservation Initiative'.

The WWF is also now trying to motivate the security and defence forces in Ladakh to refrain from conducting shooting exercises near the lakes. The army has also provided space to the organisation to set up a nature interpretation centre in Ladakh for the orientation of defence personnel.

Source: Aarti Dhar. 'Tourism hits Ladakh ecosystem', *The Hindu*, 06/07/03.

## **JHARKHAND**

### ***Katha* manufacture threatens Palamau**

The large number of *khair* (*Acacia catechu*) trees in the forests of Palamau has led to the creation of a flourishing *katha* manufacturing industry here and also a huge battle between the Forest Department and the MCC. Large quantities of *katha* are manufactured here and then supplied to *guthka* and *paan masala* manufacturers across the country.

The *katha* industry here is reportedly controlled by the MCC, which charges extortion money from the illegal manufacturing units and their workers who are employed for cutting the trees and making *guthka*. Even forest officials are said to be scared to enter the forests here. In fact, seven forest officers including DFOs, Forest rangers and Forest Guards are on a hit list of the MCC.

On June 30, earlier this year two daily wagers employed by the forest department as trackers were killed, allegedly, by the MCC. This was done in retaliation to a raid on *katha* manufacturers by DFO, Santosh Tiwari three weeks earlier. While returning from the raid, Tiwari was gheraoed by miscreants

carrying arms and in the illegal possession of deer antlers. He however opened fire to defend his life, and somehow managed to escape. Tiwari now figures on the hit-list of the MCC and has since been transferred out of Palamau.

Such is supposed to have been the extraction of the *khair* tree, that in the last few years it has completely vanished from the buffer areas of the park. Now the *katha* making operations have moved to the 132 sq. kms core zone of the tiger reserve.

Source: Prerna Bindra. 'Palamau tiger reserve: Tiger habitat or *Katha* factory?', *The Pioneer*, 17/08/03.

### **Radio collars for tigers and elephants to track their movement**

The Jharkhand Forest Department has mooted a plan to fit radio collars on tigers and elephants in the state to monitor their movements, save them from poachers and prevent them from coming in contact with humans.

The collars are to be first fitted on elephants in the Dumka and Pakur districts where they have caused large scale damage to human settlements. Tigers too are to be radio-collared but this proposal is still in its initial stages. It is likely to be first tried with tigers in the Betla National Park.

The move to fit these animals with radio collars has been recommended by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII).

Source: Nityanand Shukla. 'Jharkhand out to protect its wildlife', *The Pioneer*, 26/07/03.

## **KARNATAKA**

### **Science city adjoining Bannerghatta to cut off forest corridor**

NGOs have decried the move of the Karnataka State Government to build a 100 acre science city on land adjacent to the Bannerghatta National Park. It is feared that it will further escalate the already serious human-wildlife conflict that exists in the region.

The science city is to come up on land that connects the park to the Thali forests in Tamil Nadu. Already, animal movement is hampered in this corridor because of various 'constrictions' on the Karnataka part. The FD was hoping to free this corridor in the interest of wildlife, but now the science city is being planned here.

On the other hand however, there are plans to increase the area of the national park as well, essentially by taking over land that has allegedly been encroached upon. It has been suggested that villagers will be requested to voluntarily hand over the land that they have encroached and that a move to compensate them for land at market rates is also being considered.

Source: Divya Sreedharan. 'Lost ground around BNP to be recovered', *The Hindu*, 17/09/03.

### **Rumble strips planned for national highway through Bandipur TR to prevent animal deaths**

The Karnataka Forest Department has requested the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) to install rumble strips on the roads that run through the Bandipur Tiger Reserve in an effort to prevent the continued death of wild animals because of speeding vehicles. The two roads in question are the Mysore - Calicut National Highway 212 and the Mysore-Ooty state highway.

Many animals and birds including spotted deer, peafowl, monkeys, mouse deer and on one occasion even an elephant calf have become victims of reckless and negligent driving on these roads. The incident that prompted the latest move for the installation of the rumble strips was the recent killing of a tiger in a similar fashion.

Officials have pointed out that the speed of vehicles on the highways inside the park is restricted to 40 km/hr, but drivers often ignore this rule. The FD has now planned a campaign to create awareness among the drivers frequenting the highways about the importance of wildlife conservation. They are planning to distribute pamphlets at the entry points of the park, highlighting the seriousness of the problem and seeking their co-operation in dealing with it. There have also been some suggestions that the highways should be diverted so that they do not run through the forests of the protected areas here.

Source: Shankar Bennur. 'Humps to make highways safer for tigers', *Deccan Herald*, 10/09/03

### **700 sq. kms national park in Kodagu likely**

The Chief Minister of Karnataka, Mr. SM Krishna is reported to have directed the State Forest Department to prepare a detailed project for the declaration of a national park in Kodagu district. The instructions were issued following his meeting with representatives of NGOs; Wildlife First, Coorg

Wildlife Society, Centre for Environment Education and Kodagu Ekikarana Ranga.

The proposed park is to cover an area of 700 sq. kms and will include the forest ranges of Brahmagiri, Talacauvery and Pushpagiri in the district. It will also include the forests of Urti, Kadanakal and Pattigatu. Presently all these are under the category of reserve forests. The CM has also instructed the officials to urge UNESCO to recognise the proposed national park as World Biodiversity Heritage site.

He further directed the forest officials not to remove dead and fallen trees from this region and assured compensation for the loss of revenue by releasing Rs. 8 crore from the contingency fund.

Source: 'Kodagu forest to become national park', *Times News Network*, 04/08/03.

Contact: **Wildlife First!**, No. 1235, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, 26<sup>th</sup> A Main, IVth, T Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore - 560041. Tel: 080-6535763. Fax: 6535811. Email: pbsolus@vsnl.com

### **Severe water scarcity in Bandipur NP**

The Bandipur National Park is reported to be facing one of its worst water scarcity seasons in recent years. Average rainfall in the region is 1,110 mm. In 1999, it was 802 mm, in 2000, 1,318 mm; in 2001, 826 mm; in 2002, 653 mm and till August 2003, a mere 273 mm. Of the nearly 150 water holes in the park, more than 100 had gone dry by the end of August. In Bandipur range alone, just five out of 60 ponds had sufficient water. Also, only 4 of the 20 borewells in the Park were operating successfully. The last time the forests here faced a similar crisis was in 1982.

The FD is apprehending largescale migration of animals towards perennial sources of water like the Kabini backwaters, Nugu river and natural streams in the Gopalswamy range. Senior park officials have said that so far there have been no deaths of large animals and that one would need to wait till November when the north-east monsoon begins to recede. If there is no improvement in the water situation till then, there will be a certain cause for concern.

Ironically, forests and PAs neighbouring Bandipur have received bountiful rains. These include Mudumalai in Tamil Nadu and Nagarahole in Karnataka.

Source: Araving Gowda. 'Water scarcity hits Bandipur', *Times News Network*, 08/09/03.

**Contact: Chief Wildlife Warden - Karnataka, 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
Floor, 18<sup>th</sup> Cross, Malleshwaram, Bangalore  
– 560003, Karnataka. Tel: 080-3341993 /  
3345846. Email: pccfwl@vsnl.com

## **MADHYA PRADESH**

### **State takes selective action against encroachments in Pachmarhi WLS**

In response to a writ petition filed in the Jabalpur High Court in 2002, the Forest Department had listed at least 100 illegal properties within the boundaries of the Pachmarhi WLS. The state government recently initiated action, but limited it to just four properties, those belonging to some well known personalities.

However many other prominent violations were completely ignored. These include a house owned by PWD Minister Shravan Patel, who is known as the 'beedi king' here and a hotel built by the tourism department of the state government.

Source: Hartosh Singh Bal. 'MP spares rod for minister, spoils Pachmarhi', *The Indian Express*, 19/08/03.

## **MAHARASHTRA**

### **HC orders removal of encroachments from Sanjay Gandhi NP**

The Bombay High Court recently directed the removal of all existing encroachments in the Sanjay Gandhi National Park within six months. It has also directed the state to relocate the 33,000-odd slum dwellers who have been living on park land prior to 1995 in accordance with an earlier HC directive and the state slum rehabilitation policy. Eligible slumdwellers have to pay Rs 7,000 for the relocation. The court then stayed the implementation of the orders for eight weeks to enable the affected party to appeal to the Supreme Court

The order was passed in a public interest litigation that has been filed by the Bombay Environmental Action Group (BEAG). The state government had already demolished about 49,000 illegal hutments in the park between 1997 and 2000 but 12,000-odd illegal structures are still remaining.

Disposing of 37-odd petitions on the issue, the judges said as per the Wild Life (Protection) Act and forest laws, the encroachers have no right to continue to reside in the park. They observed that the occupants had been unable to establish, even prima

facie, legal occupation of the land. The slumdwellers' lawyers had questioned the validity of the park boundary, arguing that the slums actually fall outside park land. It was also argued that parts of Yeoor hills, which houses many posh bungalows owned by politicians, was deliberately excluded from the national park boundary.

The court also dismissed a petition by the Shramik Mukti Andolan seeking permanent injunction against eviction of the park's original 2,500 adivasis. In this matter the court relied on DCF AR Bharati's report that all of the park's original tribals had been shifted to Palghar in the 80s. The court was of the opinion that the adivasis had not been able to prove that they are the original inhabitants. (Also see PA Updates 43, 41, & 39)

Source: Swati Deshpande. 'HC orders to remove encroachments National Park', *Times News Network*, 15/09/03

Contact: Debi Goenka, BEAG, Kalbadevi Municipal School, No. 54, 2nd floor, Mumbai 400002, Maharashtra. Tel: 022-22426385 / 9820086404. Email: [debi@beag.net](mailto:debi@beag.net).  
**DFO**, SGNP, Borivili (E), Mumbai - 400066, Maharashtra  
**NHSS**, Sankalp Bldg., 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Plot 1040, Off Sayani Rd. Prabhadevi, Mumbai - 400025. Tel: 020-24227690.

### **Divisional meeting of Special Tiger Cell held in Amravati**

The Maharashtra State Government has established a Special Tiger Cell (STC) to deal with crimes related to wildlife and tigers. A divisional meeting of the cell was held in Amravati in the last week of July. It was attended by senior officials from the Forest and Police Departments including Field Director of Melghat Tiger Reserve, Ramanuj Choudhary and Inspector General of Police, Pankaj Gupta.

Some of the discussions and decisions taken during the meeting include the following: filing of chargesheet within eight days against the persons guilty of electrocuting a tigress and her four cubs in Melghat (see *PA Update* 41); judicial pursuit of the tiger and leopard skin smuggling case in May 1999 at Akola; exchange of information regarding crime control and forest and wildlife crime between forest and police departments; establishing better co-ordination in wildlife crime control work; joint meetings of the police and forest department officials of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra in view of Melghat's location on the border of two states;

awards for policemen doing good work in forest and wildlife crime control; and training in arms handling by police department to foresters.

Source: 'Special tiger cell to curb wildlife crimes', *The Hitwada*, 25/07/03.

Contact: **Field Director**, Melghat Tiger Reserve  
Amravati- 444 602 Maharashtra  
**Kishore Rithe**, Satpuda Foundation 1st  
Floor, "Pratishtha", Bharat Nagar, Akoli,  
Road, Near Sainagar, Amravati - 444607,  
Maharashtra. Tel: 0721-2511966. Email:  
satpuda\_found@yahoo.com

### **Ghatghar hydro power project impacting Kalsubai-Harishchandragad WLS**

There have been reports that the construction of the ongoing Ghatghar Hydro (Pumped Storage Scheme) Power Project works which envisages an output potential of 2 x125 MW of hydel electricity to be produced by further damming river Parvara, is causing substantial destruction of forest areas lying within the Kalsubai – Harishchandragad WLS.

The Rs. 1200 crore project is being promoted as the first of its kind. It includes an 84 m high Roller Compacted Cement (RCC) built dam – which includes the mix up of Fly Ash. 80,000 tons of fly ash for the project is to be from a thermal power plant. The project is to be completed in 2005.

Concerns have also been raised whether the upper reservoir that will get created will further submerge forest lands within the sanctuary and whether appropriate hat steps are being taken to store the large quantities of fly ash that are to be used for the construction of the dam

Source: John Manjali. Email dated 19/08/03.

Contact: **John Manjai**. Email:  
johnmanjali@yahoo.com  
**Chief Wildlife Warden** – Maharashtra,  
Jaika Building, Civil Lines, Nagpur –  
440001, Maharashtra. Tel: 0712 – 526758 /  
530126.

## **MEGHALAYA**

### **Stronger punishment urged against poachers**

A Shillong based NGO, The Wilderness Concern, along with the Eastern Ri Bhoi Wildlife and Forest Protection Association and *Sordars* and *Rangbah Shnongs* of the villages of the Nongkhyllem Wildlife Sanctuary have urged wildlife authorities to mete out

stronger punishments to poachers and other miscreants who are involved in wildlife crime.

Recently, in fact, miscreants accused of dynamiting fishes near Nongkhyllem Wild Life Sanctuary were fined Rs 30,000 by the concerned authorities.

Source: 'Stronger punishment urged against poachers', *Shillong Times*, 20/09/03.

## **ORISSA**

### **Orissa FD to be reorganised**

The Orissa Forest Department is to be reorganised with a move towards the integration of its four wings - territorial, social forestry, afforestation and wildlife. This is aimed at preventing overlapping of functions, better forest management and environment protection. This decision of the government was given the approval of the state cabinet a few months ago in May.

An NGO, Abhipraya, had filed a petition before the Orissa High Court seeking the squashing of this move of the government, on the grounds that it will lead to the loss of employment for a large number of forest staff. The government has said that the fear was unfounded, following which the HC too dismissed the petition.

Source: 'HC clean chit to forest policy', *The Statesman*, 05/08/03.

### **Fishermen plead innocent to Ridley deaths, decry marine law**

An estimated 25,000 traditional fisherfolk in the coastal districts of Kendrapada and Jagatsinghpur districts have voiced their protest against the move of the government to ban fishing here in the nesting season of the olive ridley sea turtles. As is the practice, the state government in a bid to curb high mortality of this marine species will prohibit fishing activity within a sea radius of 20 km from Gahirmatha, probably from September. The ban is clamped in accordance with sections 2, 7 and 4 of Orissa Marine Fishing Regulation Act, 1982.

The fisherfolk have requested that in view of the drop in their marine catch over the years, they be provided temporary permits for fishing on a 'once-a-week' basis. Last year, the government had reportedly agreed to this, but the move was never implemented.

The fisherfolk pointed out that they believed that the conservation of the turtles was of paramount

importance, but that it should not be at the cost of livelihood of thousands of fishermen, particularly those who cause no harm to the turtles. They have said the capacity of their traditional boats are low; that unlike the deep sea trawlers they only fish five km off the sea coast and that they use their *kani* in which turtles never get entangled

There are also related reports that many ancillary sectors, owing their existence to the thriving marine fish industries, are equally hit by the ban. Instances of ice factories closing down following sliding commercial viability are seen in areas like Dhamra, Jamboo, Kharinasi, Ramnagar, Sandhakuda, Ambiki, Erasama and Paradipgada. Skilled boatmakers from these areas are reported to be slowly making their way to Digha and Vishakhapatnam as the business in these parts will come to a grinding halt once the ban becomes effective. (Also see *PA Updates* 41, 40, 38, 34, 30 & 25)

Source: 'Fishermen plead innocent to Ridley deaths, decry marine law', *The Statesman*, 12/08/03

### **Large number of crocodile hatchlings seen in Bhitarkanika**

Nearly 700 crocodile hatchlings were reported to have hatched from the nests in the wild in the Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary in the first half of August. Earlier, more than 50 nests had been sighted by the wildlife enumerators of the Forest Department (FD) along the many nullahs, creeks and water-inlets in the Bhitarkanika river system, which is an ideal habitat for salt water crocodiles.

The FD had taken special care for the protection of the nests to prevent the eggs being devoured by predators like snakes, wild jackals and wild dogs. Conservation measures by the state FD have over the years led to an increase in the population of crocodiles here. Their number according to the latest census report was 1300. (Also see *PA Updates* 44, 43, 40, 36, 34, 33, & 32).

Source: 'Wildlife fans laud crocodile births', *The Statesman*, 18/08/03.

Contact: **Chief Wildlife Warden – Orissa**, Plot No. 8, Shahid Nagar, Bhubaneshwar – 751007, Orissa. Tel: 0674-513134 / 515840. Fax: 512502

## **RAJASTHAN**

### **Disagreement over Great Indian Bustard population in Rajasthan**

There has been confusion and disagreement over the total numbers of the Great Indian Bustard (GIB) in Rajasthan. Census figures show that the population has been declining over the last few years: it was 131 in 2001, 97 in 2002, and 85 in 2003. The Chief Wildlife Warden of state has, however, said the figures are incomplete, and in fact, the numbers are higher than what the census show. He has said that 202 census missed out 52 GIBs at Sonkhaliya in Ajmer district, while the 2003 census did not even count the birds in this area. The Census 2003 report had mentioned the population in Ajmer as nil.

Wildlife organisations and experts including Dr. Asad Rahmani of Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) and the former Chief Wildlife Warden of the State Mr. VD Sharma are of the opinion that the GIB is, indeed, fast disappearing in Rajasthan due to poaching, habitat destruction and lack of conservation efforts. Dr. Rahmani estimates that all over the Thar, there is more than 50 percent decline in the number of the birds.

Mr. Sharma has said that increasing pressure on the GIB habitat because of the Indira Gandhi Canal and the colonisation of the grasslands is having an adverse impact. He has suggested the starting of Project Bustard on lines similar to that of Project Tiger to ensure the protection of this, the state bird of Rajasthan.

GIBs are found mainly in Desert National Park, Jaisalmer, Sonkhaliya in Ajmer, Sorsang in Baran and Barmer in Rajasthan

Source: 'Indian bustard: soaring high or dropping down?', *HT Live*, 09/08/03.

Contact: **Dr. Asad Rahmani**, Director BNHS, Hornbill House, Shahid Bhagat Singh Marg, Mumbai 400 023 Maharashtra. Tel: 022-2821811. Fax: 2837615. Email: bnhs@bom3.vsnl.net.in

### **New national park to be declared in Hadauti region**

The Rajasthan State Government has announced the declaration of a new national park in the Hadauti region of the state. This will include parts of the Dara WLS, the National Chambal WLS, in Kota district and the Bhainsrogarh WLS in Chittorgarh district.

To be named the Rajiv Gandhi National Park, it will initially cover an area of 100 sq. kms.

There are about ten villages in the area and the residents are mostly Gujjars, whose principle occupation is said to be collecting firewood and animal husbandry. It has been reported that the Forest Department and these villagers have reached an agreement, as part of which the families are to be shifted elsewhere.

Source: 'National Park status a boon for Dara', *Times News Network*, 12/09/03.

### **Nine people washed away in floods inside Sariska; park indefinitely closed**

Nine visitors, six from Jaipur and three from Kairthal in Alwar district, were washed away in a stream at Pandupole inside the Sariska Tiger Reserve. The incident occurred in the third week of July, following continued heavy rains in region that led to the overflowing of the streams. The rain had also caused extensive damage to the mountain roads inside the sanctuary.

As a safety measure the park has been indefinitely closed to tourists and pilgrims.

Source: 'Sariska sanctuary closed', *The Hindu*, 23/07/03.

Contact: **Director**, Sariska Tiger Reserve, Sariska, Alwar – 301022, Rajasthan. Tel: 01465-25043

## **TAMIL NADU**

### **TR Baalu proposes national park near Coimbatore**

The Union Minister for Environment and Forests, Mr TR Baalu has proposed the creation of a national park in the Western Ghats that will be modelled on the Jurong National Park in Singapore.

The park is to be located near the city of Coimbatore for availability of water resources and is aimed at creating awareness of ecology and wildlife among the younger generation.

The minister is reported to have requested the Director of the Coimbatore based Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Nature (SACON) to carry out a feasibility study for the park and also to gather inputs on the facilities available in the park in Singapore.

Source: 'National park coming up near Coimbatore: Baalu', *The Hindu*, 09/09/03.

Contact: **Dr. VS Vijayan**, SACON, Annaikatty, Coimbatore - 641 108 Tamil Nadu.  
Email: salimali@md4.vsnl.net.in;  
vsvijayan@yahoo.com

## **UTTARANCHAL**

### **Forest fires in Rajaji, Corbett & Nandadevi NPs in June**

There were a large number of forest fires in June in the Corbett, Rajaji and Nandadevi National Parks in the state. 19 incidents of fire were reported from Corbett, seven of which were in the Kalagarh Range. The total number of incidents in Rajaji and Nandadevi together was 32, while there were five such reports from the Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary in Almora district.

The situation came under control because of unexpected, but welcome, light showers of rain. An estimated 3000 hectares of forest was destroyed, but the damage could clearly have been much larger.

Source: 'Forest fires in national parks put out' *Daily Excelsior*, 07/06/03.  
Sharat Pradhan. 'Forest fires devastate 3,000 hectares in Uttaranchal', *www.rediff.com*, 06/06/03.

## **WEST BENGAL**

### **Major focus on PAs in North Bengal for tourism season**

With the beginning of the tourist season, PAs in the North Bengal region are all gearing up for the visitors. This includes the Mahananda and Jaldapara WLS and the Buxa Tiger Reserve. Forest bungalows of the Dooars at Hollong, Madarihat, Jayanti, Malbazar, Jaldapara, Gorumara and Samsing have been readied and spruced up. The State Tourism Department is also said to be considering a plan to bring all bungalows of various departments under a single umbrella in a bid to boost tourism here.

A publicity programme has already been started and steps are being taken to declare the Dooars as a special tourism area. There are also plans to organise a special package tour, as part of which tourists will be taken to various places of interest, from the Cooch Behar Palace to the Royal Palace of Bhutan. Talks with the Government of Bhutan are being initiated for the purpose.

Source: 'Bengal dreams of more revenue from tourism', *The Statesman*, 09/08/03.

### **Recruitment by Darjeeling Wildlife Division opposed by hill staff**

The Hill Employees Association (HEA) has objected to the recruitment drive being conducted by the Darjeeling Wildlife Division I on the grounds that there were several decade-old appointments on 'compassionate grounds' that were still pending. The FD had announced interviews for the post of forest guards that were to be held in the middle of September. The Department did however go ahead with the programme.

In a related development, a youth association of the Hills said in a press statement that HEA's claims were baseless because the forest department had actually settled two cases on compassionate grounds. They also accused the HEA of trying to block employment opportunity for youth in the hills

Source: 'Hill staff oppose recruitment', *The Statesman*, 05/09/03.

### **Folk singers in Murshidabad take up cause of wildlife and environment**

Folk singers in the Murshidabad district of West Bengal have started singing songs with environmental messages and those of wildlife conservation. The initiative was taken by 'My Dear Trees and Wilds' an NGO that works in the region and supported by the District Information and Culture Department. The songs of the *baul* singers were recorded on audio cassettes, which were then distributed free in cinema halls, lottery counters and by rickshaw campaigners in various parts of the district. The costs for this were incurred by the local Zilla Parishad.

The songs recorded by the *bauls* included the following: *Ortho jadi kom thake* (if penny does not suffice, make low-cost latrine); *boli saper dwara hoi upakar* (snake comes to help) and *banya prani raksha karo* (save the wild animals),

The NGO was awarded the Paribesh Utkarsha Puraskar - 2003 by the Chief Minister of the state for this initiative

Source: Asim Pramanik. 'Folk singers add trees and wildlife to their repertoire', *The Statesman*, 12/07/03.

### **Floods benefit wild herbivores**

Forest officials have said that the floods in North Bengal, which wreaked havoc on the human population, has proved beneficial to herbivores found in forests and grasslands of the region, including in the protected areas of Jaldapara, Mahananda and Chapramari WLSs and the Gorumara NP.

Floods facilitate the creation of new grasslands and also the greater growth of grasses, which are extremely beneficial for the herbivores. This also ensures that they do not move into or around human habitation in search of food, reducing in the process the chances of human wildlife conflict.

Another significant development in Jaldapara due to this year's floods was the rejuvenation of the Torsa stream, which runs through the forests but had dried up in 1968.

Source: 'Floods benefit wild herbivores', *The Statesman*, 29/07/03.

### **Centre seeks state's opinion on east west corridor of golden quadrilateral project**

The Central Road Transport and National Highway Minister Mr BC Khanduri is reported to have asked the opinion of the West Bengal State Government on the route of the four-lane East West corridor. He has written a letter to the state environment minister and forest minister requesting the views of the state government.

Mr Khanduri's move comes in the backdrop of allegations that the construction of the corridor will deal a fatal blow to the wildlife and forests of the region (see *PA Updates* 44 & 43). Some NGOs have also pointed out that building the road will be prohibitively expensive because the route will cross many rivers.

Source: Centre seeks state's opinion on corridor, *The Statesman*, 11/09/03.

**CF (Wildlife)**, North Bengal, West Bengal Forest Dept., Aranya Bhawan (Near Court), Jalpaiguri, West Bengal. Tel: 03561- 25627(O) 25596 (R)

### **Deer park in Ballavpur WLS to be extended**

Birbhum district officials have taken a decision to extend the area of the deer park in the Ballavpur Wildlife Sanctuary from its present 35 hectares to 200 hectares. There are 130 deer in the park and there

were reports that the deer were not being provided enough food because of a financial crunch being faced by the FD (see *PA Update* 43).

Source: 'Deer park to extend grazing grounds', *The Statesman*, 27/09/03

**CWLW**, Government of West Bengal, Vikas Bhawan, North Block, Salt Lake, Calcutta 700 091, West Bengal. Tel: 033-3346900/3583208. Fax: 3345946. Email: wildlife@cal.vsnl.net.in

## NATIONAL NEWS FROM INDIA

### **New National Board for Wildlife constituted**

The National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) as mandated under the amended Wildlife Protection Act (WLPA) has been constituted.

The non-governmental representatives on the Board are the following:

NGOs - Bandhavgarh Foundation Trust, Prakrity Samsad, Kolkata, Foundation for Revitalisation of Local Health Traditions, Bangalore, CP Ramaswamy Environmental Education Centre, Chennai and Gujarat Ecological Education and Research (GEER) Foundation.

Individuals: Mr. Mir Inayatullah, Mr. Saketanad Singh, Mr. Samar Singh, Mr. Raj Chengappa, Mr. Ravi Singh, Mr. Mithesh K Sharma, Mr. R L Singh, Ms. Dilnawaz Variawa, Mr. Govind Patel and Mr. Suresh C. Sharma.

Source: Govt. Gazette Notification.

### **Indian National Man and Biosphere panel reconstituted**

The Indian National Man and Biosphere Committee has been reconstituted. The committee will have Secretary or Special Secretary or the Additional Secretary (CS Division), Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) as its Chairperson.

It will have the Additional DG (Wildlife); Joint Secretary (CS); Joint Secretary and FA from MoEF, Director General; ICFRE, Dehradun; and Director, Botanical Survey of India, Kolkata as members. The other members on the committee include Prof. Madhav Gadgil, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore; Prof. RS Tripathi, North Eastern Hill University, Shillong; Prof. CR Babu, Delhi

University; Prof KC Malhotra, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata; and Prof. AC Bhagwati, Guahati University, Guwahati.

Director, CS, in the MoEF is the member secretary of the committee.

Source: 'Indian National Man and Biosphere panel reconstituted', *Indian Express*', 29/08/03.

## SOUTH ASIA

### **International programme for snow leopard conservation launched**

International conservation organisations including Traffic, the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the International Snow Leopard Trust have launched a snow leopard survival strategy with the help of over 70 conservationists from 18 countries. The strategy includes anti-poaching patrols and compensation schemes for livestock killings by snow leopards. Under this scheme an entire village contributes to a common fund which is paid back to the villagers as dividend after a period of time.

Efforts are also on to construct night shelters out of stone for livestock, which would prevent snow leopards from entering them. The creation of alternative sources of income for herders, and improving herding practices to reduce conflict situations between local communities and snow leopards have also been suggested.

The three organisations mentioned, have also just released a report - 'Fading Footprints: The Killing And Trade Of Snow Leopards' which estimates that snow leopard numbers have declined to 4000-7000 today because of the illegal trade of the animal's skin, mostly used in the fashion industry.

Source: Kalyani. 'Activists launch crusade to save snow leopard', [www.oneworld.com](http://www.oneworld.com), 10/09/03.

## NEPAL

### **Conservationists oppose government move to hand over PAs to NGOs and private sector for management**

The Nepalese Government recently announced that it was considering handing over a majority of the protected areas in the country to NGOs and the private sector for their management. The PAs in the



initial list for this hand over include Khaptad, Shey-Phoksundo and Makalu-Barun National Park and Koshi Tappu, Parsa and Dhorpatan Wildlife Reserves. It had been announced in the latest budget that the parks that will remain with the government would be the Royal Chitwan, Sagarmatha, Langtang, and Royal Bardia National Parks and the Sukhlaphanta Wildlife Reserve.

The move has however come is for severe criticism and opposition from wildlife conservationists and international organisations in Nepal like the World Wide Fund for Nature and the World Conservation Union (IUCN). These ironically are the organisations that are said to be capable of taking over the management of the parks as suggested by the government. The WWF representative has in fact said that International NGOs like the WWF can only co-operate with the government in the protection of wildlife and that in fact they had been assisting them both financially and technically for the past decade.

There has also been the fear that private bodies and multinationals would take over the parks and this too has been opposed. The argument has been made that this decision of the government was taken in haste and without the necessary discussions. Legal experts have also opined that there would be legal difficulties in the implementation of this decision as the existing legal status does not allow the NGOs and other institutions to manage PAs.

The government has defended its move, saying that proper studies have been done and that the decision was taken in line with existing national regulations. It has also clarified that there was no business motive involved in the plan.

Source: 'Conservationists flay government decision', *The Kathmandu Post*, 16/08/03.

'Experts flay decision on reserved areas', *The Kathmandu Post*, 27/08/03.

Govt. defends national parks, protected areas handover to NGOs, *The Kathmandu Post*, 30/08/03.

'Conservationists oppose protected area policy', *The Himalayan Times*, 02/09/03.

Contact: **Director**, Dept. of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, PO Box 860, Babarmahal, Kathmandu, Nepal. Tel: +977-1-227675. Fax: 250850

### **Nepal to allow farming of wild animals**

The Nepalese government recently approved its 'Wildlife Farming, Reproduction and Research

Policy', which seeks to allow the farming of wild animals like crocodiles, snakes, deer and pheasants. Under the all-encompassing theme of poverty alleviation, the Tenth Plan mentions farming high-value wild animals and birds with special emphasis on improving the livelihoods of women, rural poor and disadvantaged groups, and simultaneously conserving biodiversity. The idea is to generate employment at the local level.

Licence fees for this would range from Rs 5,000 to 40,000 and a similar amount for the seed animal, which will be supplied by the Department for National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) to the applicant. The seed animals will be provided from the stock that is bred in captivity and for others they will be procured from the wild.

The details and criteria for the applicant are being worked to ensure that this policy is not abused. The Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (MFSC) will work with the DNPWC to monitor the farmers and the animals in these farms every six months. Some NGOs like the World Wide Fund for Nature in Nepal have welcomed the development saying this is a good initiative for biomedical research and any genetic discoveries or findings can be claimed by Nepal. A large number of other conservationists and groups have opposed the move.

Source: Robin Giri. 'Conservation bid may run into rough weather', *The Himalayan Times*, 13/09/03.

### **Three new Ramsar sites in Nepal by year end**

Three important wetlands in Nepal: Ghodaghodi, Beeshazar and Jagdishpur are to be declared as Ramsar sites by the end of the year. This will take the total number of these sites to four. Koshi Tappu is the only site in Nepal that is presently on the Ramsar list.

Another seven sites have also been identified for inclusion in the Ramsar list, but the proposals for these have not yet been made.

Source: 'Four Ramsar sites by this year', *Nepalnews*, 29/08/03.

### **Large scale rhino deaths force authorities to prepone census by a year**

A large number of rhino deaths, numbering over a 100, a majority of which are due to poaching, have been reported in Nepal in the last two years (see *PA Update* 43, 41 & 40). The situation has forced the authorities to now conduct the five yearly rhino

census in the country in February 2004 itself, one year ahead of schedule.

The authorities are hoping to take stock of the population, mortality rate and birth rate, which would then form the basis of the policy for rhinos in the three parks where they are found: Royal Chitwan National Park (RCNP), Royal Bardia National Park (RBNP) and the Royal Sukhlaphanta Wildlife Reserve (RSWR),

The last census had recorded the population of the rhino in Nepal at 612. 544 of these were in RCNP and 67 had been counted in RBNP.

Source: 'Rhino deaths scare Govt. into early count', *The Himalayan Times*, 05/09/03.

## PAKISTAN

### Pakistan to curb hunting of migratory birds

An effort is being launched in Pakistan to curb the hunting of birds that migrate in winter from Central Asia and Siberia to wetlands in Pakistan and India. A scheme involving local communities in wildlife protection efforts is now being implemented, in which salaried wildlife watchers have been given the power to issue hunting permits, prosecute violators of regulations and cordon off game reserves and protected areas.

Pakistan so far had banned only the shooting of endangered migratory birds, such as the greylag goose and the Siberian crane, which fly over Pakistan to winter in India. The present move was prompted when surveyors monitoring the passage of Siberian cranes recorded an alarming decrease in numbers, culminating in a situation last year, when no Siberian cranes were seen.

Source: 'Pakistan to curb migratory bird hunting', [www.sanctuaryasia.com](http://www.sanctuaryasia.com), 12/08/03.

## OPPURTUNITIES

### Oppurtunities with ATREE

The Ashoka Trust for Research in ecology and the environment has announced the following positions:

**1. Social Scientist:** The applicant should have a Ph.D and/or have a credible publication and research record in sociology, anthropology, political science or related discipline, with demonstrable research

experience in applying an interdisciplinary approach to ecological and environmental issues. Familiarity with public policy, legal, and governance issues associated with conservation of biological resources and management of natural resources. Candidate should have the ability to initiate and manage projects independently and to work as a member of an interdisciplinary team.

**2. Outreach Coordinator:** The position is based out of Bangalore, but requires extensive travel to project sites in South India, to implement community based developmental activities and participatory research in the area of natural resource conservation and management. A Master's Degree is required in any relevant discipline with 3 years experience in coordinating and implementing relevant community based activities.

Contact: **The Director, ATREE**, 659, 5<sup>th</sup> A Main Rd, Hebbal, Bangalore 560024. Tel: 080-3533942, 3530069 Fax: 3530070. Email: [director@atree.org](mailto:director@atree.org) or [info@atree.org](mailto:info@atree.org) Web: [www.atree.org](http://www.atree.org)

## WHAT'S AVAILABLE?

### ▪ *Troubled Waters*

A new film on the Lakshadweep islands, it explores the biological wealth of this archipelago and also the impacts of human activity on the fragile ecological system here.

Contact: **Sudarshan Rodriguez**, Reef Watch Marine Conservation, Priyanka Building, Ground Floor, 50, St. Paul's Road Bandra (W), Mumbai, India- 400050. Tel: 022-26432497 / 26518206 / 26518223. Fax: 26518209. Email: [sudarshanr@yahoo.com](mailto:sudarshanr@yahoo.com)

## SPECIAL REPORTS

### World Parks Congress:

#### The Theme Group on Indigenous / Local Communities, Equity and Protected Areas (TILCEPA)

The Theme on Indigenous/Local Communities, Equity, and Protected Areas (TILCEPA), brought a new dimension to the Vth World Parks Congress that was held in September in Durban, South Africa. It facilitated the presence of over 200 representatives of indigenous peoples, mobile peoples, and other local communities, who could themselves recount their experiences and perspectives in the congress. This is significant because it was one of the largest representations of such a kind in the history of the Parks Congress or any international conservation conference for that matter. .

One of the highlights of the Congress was the recognition of **Community Conserved Areas (CCAs)**, i.e. initiatives of protecting natural ecosystems and species by indigenous and local communities as a viable and important tool for conservation. Many examples of such CCAs were presented during the congress, some which are presented here:

#### **1. Protection of Wild Animals And Juniper Forests, Takatu Range, Pakistan**

About 130,000 hectares is being protected in this region by the local communities. The Takuta Range has been under constant pressure of indiscriminate hunting and cutting of natural forests. Protection could not be possible here without the support of the local people. The management is now being done through various village associations.

#### **2. Beej Bachao Aandolan (Save Seeds Campaign), India**

This is a collective of farmer's activists from the Himalayan state of Uttaranchal in India. The initiative seeks to preserve *in situ* the rich variety of traditional seeds that has ensured food security and well being of both humans and cattle through history. These include over 300 varieties of rice, 180 varieties of beans, 30 of wheat, 12 of finger millet, and eight of barnyard millet. The villagers have also established a Forest Protection Committee, which has formulated its own laws and policies; they have appointed guards to manage the forests, grasslands and water. Women play an important role in these conservation efforts.

#### **3. Los Flamencos National Park, Chile**

This National Park is in the El Lao Province of Chile. The Lican Antai (Atacamenos) people have been living here for over 5000 years, and have evolved a characteristic set of traditional management practices and a rich culture. The environment of *Puna* and salt deposits harbour many endemic species, associated with highly specialized eco-systems. This park is co-managed on the basis of provisions of the Indigenous Law of Chile, Article 35 of which states that in cases where protected areas fall within the Indigenous development areas, "participation of the respective communities in co-management of protected areas will be considered".

The management plan focuses on three areas:

a) Capacity Building for communities on protected areas management, b) Developing a co-management model and c) Establishment for required agreements for implementing co-management.

#### **4. CCA's in African Forests**

Over half the 56 states of Africa have developed policies, laws and programs which enable communities to bring local forest commons under protected area management regimes. An estimated 5 million hectares and 10,000 communities are now conservators of these community forests. Developments in Tanzania and the Gambia are particularly advanced.

This development is also helping to strengthen community level institutions. An unusual feature of this development is that in many jurisdictions women have an equal role in decision making related to protected forests. Developments in the wildlife areas are less advanced but similar approaches are beginning to be adopted.

#### **5. CCA's in Australia**

In Australia there are a variety of CCA's, both inside and outside the official protected areas systems. Many CCA's on private lands and in the coastal and riparian areas are managed by landowner groups and volunteers, often with support from the Natural Heritage Trust and other funding and in-kind sources of support.

Indigenous Protected Areas (IPA's) are CCA's on lands owned by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people. The Nantawarrina IPA in the north

of South Australia, was the first IPA to be declared in Australia, in 1998. The IPA has enabled the aboriginal traditional owners to control feral animals and invasive plants and to develop an ecotourism enterprise. The IPA has also promoted regional conservation initiatives through the development of partnerships with neighbouring protected areas.

Aboriginal people from elsewhere in Australia too have subsequently established IPA's on their own traditional lands. IPA's are recognized as a component of the National Reserve System, and receive some Federal funding support for planning and ongoing management. IPA's consistent with IUCN guidelines are usually categorised as Category V or VI protected areas.

#### **6. The Potato Park , Peru**

In Pisac, Peru, six communities and 8,000 people voluntarily joined their lands and labour to manage land for potato crop production. This CCA highlights the importance of traditional community knowledge and institutions and their importance for governance and management of resources. This park also illustrates the multi-functionality of an agro-ecosystem

#### **Main Outcomes from TILCEPA:**

The main outcomes of the Congress towards which members of TILCEPA contributed to include:

1. Recognising that biodiversity conservation has a much longer **history** than government-designated protected areas; in particular that traditional ecosystem management systems of adivasi, nomadic, and other local communities have helped to conserve biodiversity across entire landscapes and seascapes.
2. Recognising **Community Conserved Areas** (including indigenous protected areas, mobile peoples' territories, village wetlands and watersheds, marine and fisheries reserves, sacred groves, and others) as a legitimate and effective means of conservation. In particular, acknowledging and giving legal backing to their role in conserving critical biodiversity elements, providing linkages across the land and seascape, filling gaps in conservation coverage, and providing cultural, livelihood, and political security to millions of people.
3. Moving existing government-designated protected areas towards **collaborative management**, by providing full and equitable share in decision-making to relevant indigenous peoples and local communities.

4. Urging that issues of community **rights and responsibilities**, and compensation for past injustices, be rapidly addressed.
5. Integrating **cultural diversity** as a key objective and strategy for protected areas, including the protection of sacred sites and cultural practices of conservation.
6. More **equitably distributing the costs and benefits of PAs**, through securing local livelihoods and revenues, reducing damage by wildlife, addressing poverty and resource deprivation, and encouraging ecologically and culturally sensitive tourism controlled by communities.
7. Specially focusing on the needs of **disprivileged sections**, including mobile and indigenous peoples within multi-ethnic societies, the landless, marginal farmers / fisherfolk / pastoralists and in particular women and youth within these.
8. Promoting positive linkages between **sustainable agriculture** and biodiversity conservation, especially building on traditional biodiverse farming, pastoralism, and fisheries, that help to maintain ecosystem services, corridors, and wildlife refuges;
9. Understanding and facilitating community-based approaches to **livelihood security and sustainable development**, as an alternative to the destructive path of development that is dominant today.

The **World Parks Congress** as a whole resulted in the following main outputs:

1. Durban Accord and Action Plan.
2. Message to the Convention on Biological Diversity (which early next year will be discussing protected areas in its 7<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties).
3. 32 Recommendations on diverse topics including governance, capacity-building, mining, poverty, finance, evaluating management effectiveness, and so on.

A detailed report, recommendations, and Durban Accord and Action Plan are also available.

Contact: **Ashish Kothari / Manisha Sheth Gutman / Tasneem H.** at the editorial address.

Email: [ashish@nda.vsnl.net.in](mailto:ashish@nda.vsnl.net.in);

[shethgutman@satyam.net.in](mailto:shethgutman@satyam.net.in);

[tilcepa@vsnl.net](mailto:tilcepa@vsnl.net)

Website: <http://www.iucn.org/wpc2003>

**Relocation of people from Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Parks in India**  
Report of a National Seminar - cum - Consultation organised by the Environmental Studies  
Group of the Council for Social Development, New Delhi, September 18, 2003

Relocation of people from protected areas (PAs) has been opposed by many as unjust and unnecessary, and has often had adverse impacts on the livelihoods and lives of the displaced people. However, at the same time, relocations have been deemed necessary in many cases where growing human-wildlife conflicts and increasing pressure on the natural resource base appears to be threatening biodiversity. Further, though relocation has been widespread during the twentieth century, little is known about the policies underlying it or its effectiveness as a tool in PA management in India.

The Environmental Studies Group of the Council for Social Development, New Delhi organized a national seminar-cum-consultation to discuss the policy and process of relocation of people from wildlife sanctuaries and national parks in India. The objective of the seminar was to explore the issues surrounding people's relocation from PAs including scientific and sociological basis for relocation of people from PAs, alternatives to relocation, Government of India's policy on the relocation package offered to oustees and its implementation; and importantly, socio-economic and ecological impacts of relocation efforts. . The seminar was attended by approximately 80 people including forest officials, wildlife biologists, sociologists, members of NGOs, and representatives of grassroots development organizations.

Three kinds of papers were presented at the seminar. The first set of papers was aimed at describing the process of relocation from various PAs in India. This included a presentation on the first relocation from a PA in post-independence India, which was in Kanha Tiger Reserve, by Mr. H.S. Panwar (ex-IFS). Other presentations were on Corbett Tiger Reserve by Mr. A.S. Negi (ex-IFS); on Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary in Karnataka by Mr. Yathish Kumar (Karnataka Forest Department) and the controversial case of Nagarhole National Park in Karnataka by Mr. S.K. Chakrabarty (Karnataka Forest Department). Mr. Yathish Kumar of the Karnataka Forest Department said that a community can be justly and satisfactorily relocated given sufficient interest and attention to detail. The speakers also dwelled on the perception of the need for relocation vis-à-vis biodiversity conservation as well as the constraints in the process faced by the Forest Department.

The second set of papers went into the important issue of effectiveness of people's rehabilitation after relocation. Ms. Asmita Kabra of Samrakshan Trust presented perhaps the only data-based socio-economic evaluation of relocation efforts in India, from Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh, the proposed site of a reintroduction of the Asiatic Lion. She pointed out the faults in the relocation strategy that has left numerous homes worse off than before and that too, in an alien environment. Dr. Rucha Ghate presented the results of her economic evaluation of people's dependence on forest produce inside Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra and demonstrated the necessity of taking this into account while planning any relocation. She emphasized the economic cost that local people have to pay because of the delays during the long planning period preceding relocation caused by the stalling of all development works and suspension of rights on forest produce. Mr. Joy Dasgupta's evaluation of relocated people from Rajaji National Park showed that the process had been highly unjust, with no attention to land quality, lack of agricultural support services and corruption. He emphasized the need to ensure the voluntary nature of displacement and to avoid alterations to original ways of life as far as possible. He also advocated a more structured approach to displacement and less politicization of the issue.

The third significant issue tackled during the seminar was the ecological and political basis for relocations. Dr. Avdhesh Kaushal of RLEK, Dehradun, questioned the very basis for relocation and criticized the entire paradigm of development that forces 'ecosystem' people who are living in harmony with their forests, to move out. Dr. Diwakar Sharma presented the only ecological assessment of relocation, based on ecological studies in forest areas from where the nomadic maldhari peoples have been relocated in the past. His data showed that maldhari *neses* in Gir are limited in their impacts on biodiversity, with the effects varying from species to species and with distance from settlements. Dr. Rucha Ghate also questioned the policy of exclusive management of PAs in which local communities have to pay the costs of global biodiversity conservation and called for discussing alternative models for biodiversity conservation.

Several important issues emerged from the seminar proceedings: In the past, there has insufficient attention to the needs of the displaced peoples, particularly with respect to their transition into a new economy and their livelihood security . There is a need to look at alternative models for PA management in which relocation of people is not seen as the sole panacea for solving problems of habitat degradation inside PAs. . There have been very few socio-economic evaluations of relocated peoples from anywhere in India. Only detailed baseline and post-relocation surveys can help deduce the actual impact of relocation on people's lives and should be done as a matter of course in every case. The same is true of ecological evaluations with respect to post-relocation regeneration of biodiversity.

The important role of the local administration in justly and efficiently carrying out rehabilitation was emphasized. Relocations cannot be the sole responsibility of the Forest Department alone, given the complexities of settling people in an alien environment. At the same time, there is a lot of scope for improvement in the role of the Forest Departments in relocating people.

Few generalizations can be made regarding the 'voluntariness' of relocation. The willingness of people to venture out into an alien environment, as well as the success of their rehabilitation, appears to be correlated to their educational status, level of awareness of their rights and knowledge of the outside world. In this situation, marginalized groups including tribals are more likely to be worse-off after relocation while more educated and economically better-off people are able to make a success of it.

The workshop provided a platform for sharing experiences, and more than that, perceptions

of the practitioners as well as researchers and representatives of civil society organisations.

The most critical outcome of the workshop was that it made it ever more clearer that reality is generally mixed and that, one needs to have a more candid assessment of both the achievements as well as problems in PA management in general and relocation of people in particular. Such initiatives will lead to a shared realization that one needs to constantly look for new perspectives on the various aspects of PA management. And that, the perspectives could emerge only when there is willingness on the part of the various stakeholders (PA-managers, researchers, people) to share information, be open to alternative approaches, and above all, commitment for both-conservation as well as people's livelihood.

This seminar could be an important initiative towards setting up of a long-drawn process of fact-finding research dialogues and negotiations on PA management.

Full proceedings of the seminar including presented papers and discussions, can be obtained on a CD from **Jaya Nair** at [jaya-csd@yahoo.co.in](mailto:jaya-csd@yahoo.co.in)

Report by: **Dr. Ghazala Shahabuddin,**

Environmental Studies Group, Council for Social Development, 53, Lodi Estate, New Delhi - 110003. Email: [ghazalafarzin@yahoo.com](mailto:ghazalafarzin@yahoo.com)

**Dr. Amita Shah,** Gujarat Institute of Development Research, Gota, Ahmedabad, Gujarat- 380060.

## **Special offer: Books on the Andaman & Nicobar Islands**

### **TREASURED ISLANDS**

An environmental Handbook for Teachers in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands

By

Sunita Rao

(Also available in Hindi. Price Rs. 120)

### **TROUBLED ISLANDS**

Writings on the indigenous peoples and environment of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands

By

Pankaj Sekhsaria

(Co-published with LEAD - India. Price Rs. 100)

**Special Price for the set of two: Rs. 150/-**

(Please add Rs. 25 for outstation cheque and another Rs. 25 for postage and handling)

Contact: **Swati** at the editorial address

## INDEX OF PROTECTED AREAS: Protected Area Update 1-45

### ANDHRA PRADESH

Coringa: 38 Kambalakonda: 41, 34, 33 Kasu  
Brahmanand Reddy: 43, 33, 32, 30, 26 Kolleru: 43, 29,  
20, 19 Mrugavani: 33 Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem: 45, 30,  
19, 18, 17, 15, 14 Nelapattu: 34 Papikonda: 30  
Pulicat: 44, 34, 29 Rolapadu: 39 Uppalapadu: 34  
Venkateswara: 45

### ARUNACHAL PRADESH

Pakhui: 39 Namdapha: 38, 30, 23, 21

### ASSAM

Bhalukpong: 30 Burachapori: 30 Chakrashila: 44, 12  
Deepor Beel: 45, 43, 39, 38, 36, 32, 30, 26, 25  
Dibru-Saikhowa: 45, 40, 30, 29, 19 Garampani: 34  
Joyedhing: 41, 29 Karbi Anglong: 29 Kaziranga: 44, 43,  
41, 40, 39, 38, 36, 34, 32, 30, 29, 27, 26, 24, 23, 22, 21,  
20, 19, 18 Laokhowa: 45, 41, 38, 30 Manas: 39, 34, 30,  
29, 27, 26, 21, 20 Nambar: 41, 34 Nameri: 39, 38, 36, 33,  
32, 30 Orang: 39, 38, 36, 30, 29, 27, 26, 24, 21  
Panidihing: 41 Pobitara: 43, 40, 36, 34, 33  
Kakoijana: 29, 26, 25, 20 Sankosh-Aie: 41  
Sonai-Rupai: 39, 38, 30

### BIHAR

Kaimur: 32 Kowar Lake: 44, 26 Lavalong: 26  
Mahuadarn: 25 Valmiki: 44, 41, 36, 34, 26

### CHATTISGARH

Bhoramdeo: 44 Indravati: 34, 27 Pamed: 34 Udanti: 30

### DELHI

Asola: 39, 34, 32

### GOA

Bondla: 41 Cotigao: 39, 33 Madei: 39, 33, 30 Mahaveer:  
41 Netravali: 39, 33, 30 Salim Ai (Chorao): 39, 33, 32

### GUJARAT

Balaram Ambaji: 27 Barda: 26 Charidandh: 45  
Dhrangadhra Wild Ass: 40, 36, 33, 21, 12  
Great Rann: 27 Gir: 45, 44, 43, 41, 39, 36, 34, 33, 32, 30,  
29, 27, 26, 25, 24, 23, 22, 19, 17, 16, 10, 4, 2  
Hingolghadh: 4 Jambughoda: 44, 34 Kutch Marine: 34, 32,  
30, 29, 27, 26, 25, 24, 23, 21, 17 Nalsarovar: 41, 27, 22  
Narayan Sarovar: 24, 22, 19, 10 Purna: 29  
Ratanmahal: 34 Shoolpaneshwar: 29, 16, 9, 8, 4  
Thol: 22 Vansada: 27 Velavadar: 38

### HARYANA

Abushahr: 29 Bhindawas: 44, 34, 20 Bir Bara Ban: 37, 29  
Chhilchhila: 29, 22 Khaparhwas: 30 Morni: 45, 36, 29  
Saraswathi: 36, 29 Sukhna: 44, 29 Sultanpur: 29, 20

### HIMACHAL PRADESH

Bandli: 30, 24 Chail: 41 Darlaghat: 24  
Great Himalayan: 39, 25, 23, 21, 11  
Kalatop-Khajjar: 41, 39, 36 Kalesar: 43 Pong Dam: 44,  
30, 29 Renuka: 39, 32 Simbalbara: 43

### JAMMU & KASHMIR

Salim Ali: 27, 26, 23, 21, 19 Dachigam: 32  
Gharana: 34, 25 Hemis High Altitude: 22 Hokersar:  
41, 17. Tso Moriri: 41 Wular: 45, 43, 27

### JHARKHAND

Betla (Palamau): 45, 44, 40, 36, 30, 27, 23, 20, 16  
Dalma: 36, 34, 25, 21, 12, 11, 9 Hazaribagh: 44, 33, 26

### KARNATAKA

Anshi / Dandeli: 36, 33, 32, 24, 23, 22, 21, 18, 14 :  
Bandipur: 45, 44, 41, 36, 33, 30, 26, 23, 22  
Bannerghatta: 45, 44, 43, 40, 38, 36, 33, 30, 27, 26,  
25, 24 Bhadra: 43, 40, 38, 30, 24, 23, 18, 15  
Brahmagiri: 36, 30 BRT: 8, 6 Cauvery: 15 Gudvi: 34  
Kudremukh: 43, 41, 34, 32, 30, 29, 27, 26, 25, 23, 22,  
21, 20, 18, 14 Mandagadde: 33 Nagarhole: 41, 39,  
38, 36, 34, 32, 30, 27, 26, 25, 24, 23, 22, 21, 20, 17,  
14, 13, 9 Puspagiri: 30 Ranganthithu: 41, 36, 34, 27,  
26 Kokare Bellur 43, 41, 14

### KERALA

Chinnar: 27 Ervikulam: 25 Idukki: 26 Neyyar: 33  
Parambikulam: 43, 34 Peechi Vazani: 18 Periyar: 44,  
43, 41, 40, 39, 36, 34, 30, 29, 27, 26, 24, 23, 21, 20  
14 Shendurney: 33 Silent Valley: 44, 34, 32  
Vembanad: 43 Wayanad: 41, 30, 29

### MADHYA PRADESH

Achankmar: 7 Bandavgarh: 43, 34, 33 Bori: 26, 7  
Ghatigaon GIB: 22, 10 Kangerghatti: 23 Kanha: 32,  
27, 26, 21, 15, 4 Karera GI Bustard: 14  
Kuno Palpur: 36, 34, 33, 29 Madhav: 34, 22, 21, 15  
Pachmarhi: 45, 21 Panna: 25, 23 Panpatha: 34  
Pench: 41, 39, 16, 13, 12 Satpura: 44, 7

### MAHARASHTRA

Andhari: 33 Bhimashankar: 41, 26, 17, 6, 5, 4  
Chandoli: 36, 32 DeulgaonRehekuri Black Buck: 25,  
16 Dnyanaganga: 20 Kalsubai: 45 Karnala Bird: 20  
Koyna: 41, 39, 36, 27, 20, 4 Melghat: 45, 41, 39, 36,  
34, 33, 30, 25, 22, 21, 18, 17, 16 Nagzira: 44, 33, 24  
Nannaj: 29 Nandur Madhmeshwar: 17 Nawegaon:  
23 Pench: 24, 22, 17 Radhanagari: 36, 32, 17, 16, 4  
Rajmachi: 27 Sagarshwar: 36, 34, 32, 30 Sanjay  
Gandhi (Borivli): 45, 43, 41, 39, 36, 33, 30, 29, 27,  
26, 25, 24, 22, 21, 20. 19, 17, 15, 14, 4 Tansa: 17  
Tamini-Sudhgarh: 27 Tadoba: 33, 18 Tipeswar: 33

### MANIPUR

Keibul Lamjao: 43, 41, 40, 39, 36, 30, 29, 27, 25, 21

### MEGHALAYA

Balphakram: 38, 24 Nongkhylllem: 45 Nokrek: 40

### MIZORAM

Dampa: 36 Ngenpui: 44, 39 Palak: 39, 34 Thorang: 34

### NAGALAND

Japhu: 44

## **ORISSA**

Badrama: 32 Barabara: 36 Bhitarkanika: 45, 44, 43, 40, 36, 34, 33, 32, 30, 29, 27, 26, 25, 23, 20, 19, 18, 17, 14, 13, 10 Chandka: 41, 33, 32, 29, 27, 26, 25, 23

Chilka (Nalaban): 44, 41, 40, 38, 36, 34, 32, 30, 29, 27, 26, 23, 22, 21, 20, 19, 16 Debrigarh: 44

Gahirmatha: 45, 41, 40, 38, 36, 34, 30, 27 Kuldiha: 36

Satkosia Gorge: 44, 41, 32, 30, 26, 25, 24, 23, 21

Simlipal: 43, 41, 27, 26, 25, 21, 17 Sunabeda: 44, 38, 26

## **PUNJAB**

Abohar: 34, 32, 29 Harike Lake: 44, 41, 34, 32, Kanjli: 44, 30, 26, 24, 18 Takhni: 29

## **RAJASTHAN**

Bassi: 39 Bhaisrogarh: 45, 39 Dara: 45, Desert National Park: 43, 14 Jamwa Ramgarh: 23, 19, 5, 4

Keladevi: 14, 13, 12, 7 Keoladeo Ghana: 43, 40, 39, 34, 26, 21, 20, 19, 4 Phulwari-ki-nal: 4 Ranthambore: 39, 38, 29, 27, 26, 25, 22, 21, 8, 4 Sariska: 45, 39, 27, 26, 25, 20, 19, 13, 6, 4 Sambar: 22, 21 Sitamata: 39

## **SIKKIM**

Khangchendzonga: 34, 33, 24

## **TAMIL NADU**

Annamalai: 43, 38, 36, 33, 30, 26 Ervikulam: 41

Mudumalai: 36, 33, 30, 23, 21, 20, 16 Mukurthi: 16

KMTR: 38, 20, 15, 14 Koonthankulam: 36, 25

Guindy: 37 Gulf of Mannar: 43, 40, 39, 38, 36, 30, 25, 22

Karikili Point Calimere: 41, 23 Pulicat: 27, 24,

Srivilliputhur: 24 Kattupalli: 38 Pallikaranai: 38  
Vedanthal: 40

## **TRIPURA**

Trisna: 43

## **UTTARANCHAL**

Rajaji: 45, 44, 43, 41, 40, 36, 34, 32, 29, 26, 25, 24, 23, 21, 20, 15, 12, 11, 9, Corbett: 45, 44, 43, 41, 40,

36, 34, 33, 30, 29, 25, 22, 21, 17, 51, 14

Nanda Devi: 45, 43, 34, 33, 32, 17

Valley of Flowers: 44

## **UTTAR PRADESH**

Chambal: 34, 32 Chandraprabha: 34 Dudhwa: 44, 43, 41, 36, 34, 20, 14 Govind Pashu Vihar: 27

Hastinapur: 27, 25, 23, 19, 15 Kaimur: 29

Katerniaghat: 37, 34, 20 Nawabganj: 43, 34, 20

Rajaji: 7, 4 Ranipur: 27, Sohewa: 37, 30, 20

Valley of Flowers: 24, 20

## **WEST BENGAL**

Ballavpur: 45, 43 Buxa: 44, 43, 39, 34, 32, 29, 21

Chapramari: 44, 43, 39, 36, 32, 34, 29

Gorumara: 44, 43, 39, 34, 33, 32, 29, 22

Jaldapara: 45, 44, 43, 39, 34, 33, 32, 29, 27

Mahananda: 45, 44, 43, 40, 39, 32, 29

Neora: 44, 34 Raiganj: 36 Santragachi: 34

Senchal: 44 Singalila: 44, 40, 34 Sunderbans: 44, 43, 41, 40, 39, 38, 36, 34, 33, 30, 29, 27, 26, 25, 21, 20, 14

***Protected Area (PA) Update*** is produced every two months as a follow-up to the workshop on ***Exploring the Possibilities of Joint Protected Area Management (JPAM)***, organised at the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), New Delhi, in September 1994.

We acknowledge the support of the ***Foundation for Ecological Security*** in the compiling and production of ***PA Update 45***. This issue has been compiled and edited by Pankaj Sekhsaria.

Several news items were accessed from the Centre for Science and Environment's (CSE) Green Files and the EnvironmentNepal website, but have been credited to their original sources.

The ***PA Update*** can be accessed on the following websites as well

[www.indianjungles.com](http://www.indianjungles.com) & [www.sanctuaryasia.com/resources/paupdate](http://www.sanctuaryasia.com/resources/paupdate)

Ideas, comments, news and information may please be sent to the editorial address:

### **KALPAVRIKSH**

**Apartment 5, Shri Dutta Krupa, 908 Deccan Gymkhana, Pune 411004, Maharashtra, India.**

Tel/Fax: 020 – 5654239 Email: [kvriksh@vsnl.com](mailto:kvriksh@vsnl.com)

Book Post / Printed Matter

From

Kalpavriksh

Apt. 5, Sri Dutta Krupa

908 Deccan Gymkhana

Pune 411004