

PROTECTED AREA UPDATE

News and Information from protected areas in India and South Asia

No. 29

February 2001

EDITORIAL

NEWS FROM INDIAN STATES

Andhra Pradesh

CM asks Japanese help for Pulicat, Kolleru

Assam

Brahmaputra threatens Dibru- Saikhowa NP; tea gardens in upper Assam

48 rhinos killed in Kaziranga in 2000

Magisterial probe ordered in torture case in Kaziranga

New sanctuary in Karbi Anglong forests

Medical camp in Orang

13 rhino deaths in Orang in 2000

Delay in sanctuary status for Joyedhing

Kakoijana yet to get sanctuary status

Tourists not permitted in Manas

Poachers pledge to protect wildlife in Manas

Militant activity in Manas resumes

Gujarat

Ports along Gulf of Kutch to affect Marine NP

FD violates SC order, bamboo extraction continuing in Shoolpaneshwar, Purna WLSs

Over 30 lakh compensation paid in Gir in 1999

Threat of temples inside Gir

Harvaha

Chhilchhila and Abushahr WLSs denotified

Piped water for Sultanpur NP

Chain link fencing for Sukhna

New sanctuary at Morni; denotification proposed of Bir Bara Ban & Saraswati WLSs

Himachal Pradesh

Tourism promotion for Pong Dam

Jharkhand

List of PAs in Jharkhand

Karnataka

KIOCL gets ISO 14001, permission to cut 500 trees inside Kudremukh

Kerala

Puthur village demands relocation from Wayanad Periyar TR to include Meghamalai forests of Tamil Nadu

Madhya Pradesh

Update on relocation from Kuno

Maharashtra

Stay on demolition work in Sanjay Gandhi NP

Expansion of Nannaj opposed

Manipur

Threat to destroy hydro-electric project in Loktak

Encroachment threat to 2nd home for *sangai* at Iroishembba in Imphal West district

Orissa

Mangrove protection in and around Bhitarkanika

Fresh water Crocodile found in Chilka

Irrawaddy Dolphin population dwindling in Chilka

Elephant – human conflict around Chandka

Orissa reports fall in tiger numbers

Punjab

Abohar to have hospital for animals

Large scale hunting in Takhni WLS, other areas

Rajasthan

Fees for entry to PAs increased

New proposal for Ranthambhor

Uttaranchal

List of PAs in Uttaranchal

Gujjars and villagers gate crash into Rajaji Director's residence

Pesticides threaten Lesser Fishing Eagle in Corbett, other habitats.

New year bash by industrialist near Corbett worries FD

Uttar Pradesh

New year bash in PAs banned

Vulture breeding colony located in Kaimur Hills WLS.

West Bengal

New marine park in West Bengal

State police to file wildlife crimes

Safari park near Jaldapara

Elephant orphanage in Jaldapara

Threat to Mahananda WLS, Chapramari WLS,

Jaldapara WLS, Buxa TR and Gorumara NP due to railway gauge conversion.

Photo I-cards for rhinos in Gorumara and Jaldapara

Research plans for Sundarbans TR

NATIONAL NEWS FROM INDIA

Workshop on eco-tourism

WHATS AVAILABLE?

– Jan Aranya

UPCOMING

5th Consultation on Wildlife Conservation and People's Livelihood Rights
Seminar on Development and Conservation in Himachal Pradesh

PA UPDATE MATTERS

Life Subscriptions / Funding

CORRESPONDENCE

EDITORIAL

Building Bridges between Conservation and Livelihoods

Natural, wild, India faces a crisis like never before. There is sense of gloom as a combination of powerful interests: mining, poaching, timber extraction, and consumerism rip through what is left of our wilderness. At the same time these forces are also critically undermining the resource base and survival capacities of millions of rural and tribal folk around the country. Surveys in the early eighties revealed that, at a conservative estimate, between 3 to 6 million people depend for their survival on our protected area network. If conservation in India has to succeed, it has to include these millions. It has to be with them, not without them. Definitely not against them. Conservation cannot succeed by alienating these millions. It would be against their basic human rights; it would be against natural justice. At the same time, of course, those espousing human rights need to be aware of the need for wildlife conservation and have to be proactive in fighting for it. The knowledge of ecological principles and the concepts of ecological fragility should be made part of learning for all of us.

Human rights struggles, particularly for communities that depend critically on natural resources from habitats like forests and wetlands, and the struggle to conserve these habitats and the wildlife they support have to be two sides of the same coin. They cannot but be otherwise. Various factors over the years have led to positions being extremely polarised in this conservation / livelihoods debate. There is an urgent need for reconciliation, for fences to be broken, for bridges to be built.

Over the last few years there have been various initiatives to bring together people who represent the cause of wildlife conservation on one hand and human rights activists, particularly those working with forest and other natural resource dependent communities, on the other. One of these have been the Annual National Consultations on Wildlife Conservation and People's Livelihood Rights that have been held regularly for the last four years. The first two were held at Tarun Bharat Sangh, Alwar District, Rajasthan in April 1997 and April 1998. The third consultation was held at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, in May 1999, while the fourth one was held in the BR Hills in Karnataka in April, 2000.

People from various sectors, be it local communities, NGOs, the Forest Department, research organisations, community organisations or the media have regularly participated. The Consultations have tried to present a forum for constructive interaction among the various interest groups; to provide an opportunity to learn about the strengths and concerns about each other; and to work towards joint strategies for action against the larger threats to the habitats that support both wildlife and local communities.

The 5th Consultations has been planned at the Makaibari Tea Estate in Kurseong, West Bengal on April 8-10 later this year. It is being jointly organised by Kalpavriksh and the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment – Eastern Himalaya Program. Success will depend on the inputs, suggestions and participation from as wide a cross section of interest groups as possible. That is you! (for more details see UPCOMING; contact Pankaj Sekhsaria at the editorial address)

NEWS FROM INDIAN STATES

ANDHRA PRADESH

CM asks Japanese help for Pulicat, Kolleru

During his visit to Japan in October last year, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Mr. Chandrababu Naidu is reported to have requested the Hiyoshi Ecological Society to extend co-operation for cleansing of the Hussain Sagar, Kolleru and Pulicat lakes and also for taking up other anti-pollution measures in the state. Further details are however not available.

Source: 'Babu seeks help for lakes', *Deccan Chronicle*, 22/10/2000.

Contact: **PCCF (WL)**, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, Aranya Bhavan, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh.

ASSAM

Brahmaputra threatens Dibru- Saikhowa NP; tea gardens in upper Assam

Unabated erosion by the River Brahmaputra and its tributaries has severely threatened the Dibru-Saikhowa National Park and a number of tea estates in Tinsukhia and Dibrugarh districts of upper Assam. Some of the severely-affected tea gardens include Digulturrung, Nalini, Baghjan, Rungagora, Baljan, Dinjan, Thanai, Greenwood, and Maijan. Additionally a number of villages, the Indian Army base at Dinjan, and the Mohanbari airport in Dibrugarh district are also threatened. The erosion-hit tea gardens lost over 1500 hectares of land in the last few years in addition to executive bungalows, staff quarters, garden healthcare unit and even tea factories. Sources in the tea industry informed that damage caused by river erosion here during the period 1992-99 was calculated at over Rs. 5.40 billion.

The Indian Tea Association (ITA) has constituted a Flood Damage and Soil Erosion Sub-Committee and has approached both, the State and Central government seeking emergency measures to mitigate the grave threat of erosion. Memoranda have been submitted to the Prime Minister, the Union Water Resources Minister, the Chief Minister of Assam, the Flood Control Minister. A memorandum was also submitted to the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission seeking release of adequate funds to the State government to take up steps to mitigate the problem. However, the Plan panel advised that the matter must be moved by the State government and proposals for fund should be forwarded to the Commission by the State government.

Meanwhile the Pune-based Central Water and Power Research Station (CWPRS) has stated in an interim report that to arrest floods and erosion in the Upper Assam districts, the river Debang will have to be brought to its old course and the Ananta Nalla blocked at its offtake point near Hatighuli in Tinsukia district. Other experts have also suggested that a check dam should be constructed to close the offshoot of the Ananta Nalla at Saikhowa. Additionally, it has been suggested that temporary protection works at eroded patches can save agricultural lands at Hatighuli, Nepalibasti, Daisajan gaon, Katiagaon, Kaliapani, Motapong, Natungaon, Guijan and Rohmaria and that the construction of semi-permeable spurs can save tea estates located along the Brahmaputra.

Source: Bijay Shankar Bora. 'Tea gardens facing extinction threat', *The Assam Tribune*, 19/10/2000.

'Mighty Brahmaputra threatens Assam's tea heartland', *Indian Express*, 31/10/2000. 'Pune based body moots plan to tackle floods', *The Assam Tribune*, 05/08/2000.

Contact: **Director**, CWPRS, PO Khadakwasla, Pune – 411024, Maharashtra. Tel: 020-802652 / 511. Fax: 592004.

48 rhinos killed in Kaziranga in 2000

A total of 48 one-horned rhinos were reported to have been killed inside the Kaziranga National Park (KNP) in the year 2000. 36 horns were recovered by the forest guards during the year that also saw the arrest of 30 poachers and the killing of one poacher who was a Bhutanese national. One forest guard, Niren Saikia, was also killed.

Source: '48 rhinos killed in Kaziranga last year' *The Assam Tribune*, 04/01/2001.

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

Magisterial probe ordered in torture case in Kaziranga

Residents of No. 1 Sildubi village, Sunil Das, his wife and brother, were allegedly tortured by forest personnel of the Kaziranga National Park. The forest officials claim that Mr. Das, who is the President of Kaziranga Gana Adhikar Suraksha Samiti (KGASS) allowed the 'Solmarajan' beel to be used for commercial purpose in violation of a High Court order. The FD has proposed to include the beel in the national park, but the high court had ordered to maintain status quo after a public petition was filed against its inclusion. The Bokakhat SDO (C), in the meanwhile, has ordered for a magisterial inquiry into the torture incident.

Source: 'Magisterial probe ordered' *The Assam Tribune*, 03/10/2000.

Contact: **Director**, Kaziranga NP, see above .

New sanctuary in Karbi Anglong forests

The East Karbi Anglong reserve forest has been officially declared a wildlife sanctuary. Surrounded by rivers Dikru, Kalyani and Barpung, the sanctuary is spread over an area of 221 sq kms. It is home to a wide diversity of flora and fauna and supports populations of endangered animals like the tiger, elephant, barking deer, mungoose, and the Himalayan black bear.

Source: Karbi Anglong forest declared as sanctuary, *The Assam Tribune*, 30/08/2000.

Medical camp in Orang

The Refineries Employees Trekkers Guild (RETG) along with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) – India, North East and Early Birds conducted a month long veterinary and human camp in January in villages around Rajiv Gandhi (Orang) National Park.

Over 1000 heads of cattle were vaccinated, in the villages of Bezimari, Mislamari, Borbhogia, Thaparara, Nalbari and Kaoharitop bordering the park. The Forest Department (FD) elephants were also treated. Employees and family members of the FD were also examined on the occasion.

These organisations have been regularly organising such medical camps in various PAs in the state for last few years. For more details also see *PA Updates* 26 and 25.

Contact: **Moloy Baruah**, Early Birds, 26, Surujmukhi, PO Silpukhri, Guwahati – 781003, Assam. Fax: 0361 – 550158. Email: baruahm@iocl.co.in

13 rhino deaths in Orang in 2000

13 rhino deaths were reported from the Rajiv Gandhi (Orang) National Park in the year 2000. Of these eight were killed by poachers while the other five rhinos died during floods. Orang has been adversely affected by a number of factors including poaching, encroachment and a severe shortage of staff (also see *PA Updates* 27 & 28, 26, 24 and 21). The FD says that it needs atleast another 150 personnel including forest guards to effectively protect the park. According to the, 1999 census report, the park had 46 rhinos. This is now reported to have fallen to 30. According to police sources, poachers have links with an international gang of mafia dons who supply rhino horns from Dimapur in Nagaland.

In spite of the problems the FD was able to apprehend five poachers with the help of the police last year. Those arrested included notorious poachers like Hasen Ali of Rangagara village, and others like Roysuddin, Naresh Mandal, and Maqbul Ali.

Source: ‘Rhino death toll 13 in Orang’, *The Assam Tribune*, 16/12/2000.
‘Orang sanctuary in danger from encroachers, poachers’, *The Assam Tribune* 19/12/2000.

Delay in sanctuary status for Joydehing

The Union Minister of State for Environment and Forests, Mr. Babulal Marandi (now the CM of the

new state of Jharkhand) said in October last year that the Centre had been waiting for a recommendation from the Assam Government to declare the proposed Joydehing Wildlife Sanctuary (see *PA Update* 21). Several environmental groups have been lobbying for the Joydehing wildlife sanctuary as this would facilitate preservation of one of the last remaining forests in the region as well as protecting an important elephant corridor. The MoEF has sought a report from the Assam government, but the Dibrugarh territorial DFO was still to respond. This was proving to be the major hurdle in the declaration of the sanctuary.

Source: ‘Centre awaiting State report on Joydehing sanctuary : Marandi’, *The Assam Tribune*, 03/10/2000.

Kakoijana yet to get sanctuary status

Despite a public declaration by the Chief Minister and requests from prominent persons, the State Government has failed to issue the notification to declare Kakoijana Reserve Forest in Bongaigaon district as a wildlife sanctuary. Chief Minister Prafulla Kumar Mahanta, addressing a public meeting at Abhayapuri on May 31 last year had announced the State Government’s decision to declare Kakoijana as a wildlife sanctuary. (see *PA Updates* 26, 25 and 20).

The Appropriate Technology Mission, Assam (ATMA) has been spearheading the movement for wildlife sanctuary status for the Kakoijana forests which are home to a large population of the rare Golden Langur and other endangered animals. The total area of the reserve forest is 17.2 sq km and there is a potential to increase it by another three sq kms.

Source: Kakoijana yet to get sanctuary status, *The Assam Tribune*, 29/09/2000.

Contact: **ATMA**, Sawaheed Path, Main Road, Bongaigaon – 783380, Assam. Tel: 03664 – 20879 / 22320. Fax: 20206.

Tourists not permitted in Manas

Fearing attacks from gun toting militants in the Manas National Park, the State Government did not allow the Assam Tourist Development Corporation (ATDC) to take tourists to the park when the tourist season started in early November, 2000. Some private tour operators were, however, reported to have taken the risk and guided a few tourists who were keen on visiting the park.

The latest information on the situation in Manas is not yet known.

Source: ‘State Govt yet to permit tourists into Manas’ *The Assam Tribune*, 19/11/2000

Contact: **Director**, Manas National Park, PO Barpeta Road, Dist. Barpeta – 781315, Assam. Tel: 03666-61413. Fax: 60253.

Poachers pledge to protect wildlife in Manas

In an unprecedented development, 18 poachers who has been engaged in the killing of wild animals in Manas National Park (MNP) recently took an oath to give up poaching. *Manas Bandhu* groups, that have been formed here over the last two years for the protection of the park played a key role in this development (see *PA Update 27*). The *Manas Bandhu* group from village Kahibari, in particular, played a vital role in motivating this group of 18 poachers.

The oath was taken at a public meeting organised at Basbari village on the fringe of the park in September last year. Before a gathering of over 300 people that included village heads, members of NGOs, and forest staff, they swore that would not hunt animals in Manas again, provide information to wildlife staff engaged in curbing poaching inside the park and join hands in the efforts of the *Manas Bandhu* Groups for preservation of this endangered wildlife habitat.

The chief guest at the event was Mr. K D Choudhury, IFS (retd), former Field Director of Namdapha National Park and the function was presided over by Senior Honorary Wildlife Warden, Mr. Dharanidhar Wari.

90 beneficiary families including 18 of the former poachers were also provided with handlooms and pressure cookers on this occasion. The beneficiaries were selected by frontline forest staff in co-operation with volunteers of the *Manas Bandhu* groups and final approval was given by respective Range officers of the Park. The gifts were sponsored under an ongoing ecodevelopment program here.

Source: 'Poachers pledge to save wildlife', *The Assam Tribune*, 30/09/2000.

Contact: **Director**, Manas TR, see above

Militant activity in Manas resumes

After five years of relative peace, militants are reported to have again become active in the Manas National Park since September 2000. Militants of both, the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) and the National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB), fleeing from camps in southern Bhutan following a military build-up in the Himalayan kingdom have taken shelter inside Manas. (see *PA Updates 27, 21 and 20*). In fierce encounters between militant groups and security forces, in September, at least one forest guard camp was reduced to ashes. The Dighari forest guard camp was burnt to ashes and the another camp at Bhuyanpara was also partially damaged. The park authorities had

subsequently ordered the forest guards to temporarily pull out of the park so that the militants did not get an opportunity to steal their arms and ammunition.

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), on the other hand, claimed that they had flushed out about 200 militants from inside the park. They were helped by villagers living on the fringes of the park who constitute the *Manas Bandhu* groups.

Manas had borne the brunt of militancy, with Bodo rebels virtually holding sway over it for two years in 1993-95, when militancy was at its peak in the state. The rebels had even 'captured' the main tourist bungalow inside the park, converting it into their headquarters until the Army was called in to flush them out in 1995.

Source: 'Security forces flush out armed rebels from Manas National Park', *Indian Express*, 26/09/2000.

Contact: **Director**, Manas TR, see above

Chief Wildlife Warden – Assam, Rehabari, Guwahati – 781008, Assam.

GUJARAT

Ports along Gulf of Kutch to affect Marine NP

A study done by the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), Goa has said that the proposed ports at Positra and Bedi will adversely affect marine life in and around the Marine National Park here. The study commissioned by the Gujarat State government says that the construction of the ports would disturb the large intertidal and subtidal areas due to construction of marine structures, platform, storage spaces etc. Wildlife experts too have opposed the construction of these ports on the grounds that the ecology of the marine park will be adversely affected (see *PA Update 27*).

The report of the NIO has suggested that instead of constructing ports, single point moorings (SPM) should be provided and their location should be based on 'ecological criteria'. It has also suggested the setting up of a Gulf Development Authority to regulate port and port related activities in the Gulf, and has warned that the heavy volume of container traffic here makes the Gulf prone to accidents and oil spills. Already oil spills, causing considerable damage to the marine life that have been reported in the Gulf over the last couple of years (see *PA Updates 27, 26, 25, 24, 23, and 21*).

Reacting to the report of the NIO, state officials have said that the institute has got its 'perceptions wrong'. Gujarat Maritime Board Managing Director, PN Roychowdhary has stressed that the port projects will cause no harm to ecology of the area and steps are being taken to avoid

accidents and oil spills. A 100 crore project is to be initiated here for this purpose.

Source: Rajiv Shah. 'Ports along Gulf of Kutch conflict with marine life: Report', *The Times of India*, 23/11/2000.

Contact: **Rishad Parvez**, Dept. of Zoology, School of Sciences, Gujarat University, Ahmedabad, Gujarat. Tel: 079-6302362 / 1648.

FD violates SC order, bamboo extraction continuing in Shoolpaneshwar, Purna WLSs

The Gujarat Forest Department (FD) has been violating a Supreme Court (SC) stay order by cutting vast tracts of bamboo from within the Shoolpaneshwar (Rajpipla and Bharuch districts) and Purna (Dangs district) Wildlife Sanctuaries for supplying to a paper mill. It has extended permits to cut bamboo twice since the February 14, 2000 order of the SC which restrained all governments 'from ordering the removal of dead, diseased, dying or wind fallen trees, drift wood and grasses from any national park or wildlife sanctuary' (see *PA Update 27*).

Yet the FD has continued to extract bamboo and supply to the Central Pulp Mills, Sonagadh in Surat district. It justified the move by saying that extensive growth of bamboos, when dry could lead to forest fires (also see *JPAM Update 16 and 9*).

Source: Shyam Parekh. 'Gujarat forest dept. flouts SC stay on bamboo felling', *The Times of India*, 06/12/2000.

Contact: **ARCH –Vahini**, Mangrol, Tal. Rajpipla, Dist. Rajpipla – 393150, Gujarat.
Michael & Swati, Juna Mozda, Dediapada - 393 040, Gujarat. Tel: 02640 – 20629. Email: pss@wilnetonline.net

Over 30 lakh compensation paid in Gir in 1999

An estimated Rs 30 lakhs was paid by Gir authorities in the year 1999 for damages and death to cattle caused by wild animals, particularly the lion. 1,800 to 2,000 animals were reported to have been killed by the predator here in 1999. The compensation for animals killed varies, from Rs 10,000 for a camel to Rs 2,000 for smaller animals. This money was in addition to the compensation paid for humans killed or injured in the sanctuary area. A sum of Rs 1 lakh is paid for those killed and Rs 20,000 for those injured in animal attacks. An estimated 5000 maldharis live within the area of the park and another 1,20,000 people live on its periphery.

Source: Anil Rana. 'Struggle to protect predator from prey' *Statesman*, 21/02/2000.

Contact: **DCF (Wildlife)**, Sasan, Junagadh – 363125, Gujarat.

GEER, Indrora Park, Sector – 9, Gandhinagar – 382009, Gujarat. Tel: 02712-21385. Fax: 41128. Email: geer@guj.nic.in

Threat of temples inside Gir

Parliament's standing committee on environment and forests has slammed the Gujarat government for failing to keep the Gir sanctuary, free of encroachments' particularly religious activities. There are reported to be 24 religious places inside the sanctuary which cause considerable disturbance to the forests and the wildlife here (also see *PA Update 27*).

A major issue is the area occupied by the Kanakeshwari temple trust. Only 3,751 sq m of land was allotted to the trust which now reportedly occupies 9,516 sq m. of land. The report noted that even though the leases expired as far back as the 1970s, the government did nothing to extend the lease or cancel it and recover the land. Complacency on part of the government had led to the present situation which was now difficult to resolve.

Another issue was regarding the diversion of a railway line and the highway that run through the protected area. The Committee concluded that doing this may not be financially practical, and has suggested steps like declaring the area a silence zone, or fencing the periphery to minimise accidents.

Source: 'Temples endanger wildlife in Gir', *The Times of India*, 14/12/2000.

Contact: **DCF (WL)**, Sasan, see above
Chief Wildlife Warden - Gujarat, Block 14, Dr. Jivraj Mehta Bhavan, Old Sachivalaya, Gandhinagar, Gujarat. Tel: 02712-30007. Fax: 21097.

HARYANA

Chhilchhila and Abushahr WLSs denotified

The Chhilchhila and Abushahr Wildlife Sanctuaries have been denotified. The land belonged to the villagers and no compensation was given to them. These areas had been leased out to the FD for a thirty year period by the village panchayat which was happy to let the sanctuary status continue provided cash compensation was paid to them. The Wildlife Department did not have the money for the same and the ownership of the land had to be reverted back to the panchayat (also see *PA Update 22*).

Source: Suresh Sharma. Email to Kalpavriksh dated 13/02/2001.

Contact: **Suresh Sharma**, Gokul Nagar, Rohtak
Road Sonipat 131001, Haryana. Tel.:
911-45228 / 3012264. Email:
suresh_haryana@vsnl.net.

Piped water for Sultanpur NP

After being affected by drought for five years, water was piped to the Sultanpur National Park in October 2000 from the Gurgaon water supply channel. The Wildlife Department of Haryana provided Rs. 49 lakhs for the project which was implemented by the Public Health Division of the State Public Works Department (PWD). Piping of the water is however, being seen only as a temporary solution to the problem of water shortage in Sultanpur.

In the past thousands of acres of land surrounding the lake constituted the catchment area, which ensured that the lake had sufficient water. However residential and other construction activities in nearby Sultanpur, Sadrana, Budhnera, Kaliawas and Dhani Sultanpur have seriously hampered the flow of water into the lake. The ground water in the area too has receded by a minimum of 5-10 feet.

Source: Sumant Bhattacharya. '5-year drought ends for national park', *Indian Express*, 17/10/2000.

Chain link fencing for Sukhna

In an attempt to check encroachments and conserve forest land and wildlife, a huge chain link fencing exercise has been undertaken around Sukhna Lake Wildlife Sanctuary in Chandigarh.

The Central Government has sanctioned Rs 36 lakhs for the fencing of Sukhna sanctuary, the Department of Forests, Wildlife and Environment of the Chandigarh Administration has also started chain link fencing of forest land in Kishengarh and the Industrial Area here on its own. The total length of the chain link fencing is almost 4 km.

Over the last couple of years a large number of animals, particularly sambhar, have found their way into Chandigarh from the lake area, indicating that wildlife in the Sukhna sanctuary and the adjoining catchment area was flourishing. At least four of these animals are reported to have died in the year 2000 because of injuries they received while evading human contact.

Source: Prabhjot Singh. 'Fencing for Sukhna sanctuary, forest area', *The Tribune*, 24/04/2000.

New sanctuary at Morni; denotification proposed of Bir Bara Ban & Saraswati WLSs

The Haryana Wildlife Department has once again moved a proposal to set up a wildlife sanctuary in the

Shivalik hills falling in the Morni Forest Range. The wildlife census conducted here in 1997 had revealed that the area supports significant populations of animals like the leopard, chital, sambhar, wild boar, barking deer, monkey, and jungle fowl. The idea to create a wildlife sanctuary at Morni, which is interspersed with a number of villages was first mooted in 1988 by the then Chief Conservator of Forest-cum-Chief Wild Life Warden of the state. The proposal has, however, been hanging fire due to differences between the Wildlife and Territorial wings of the Forest Department (FD).

The proposal for the sanctuary has already been put on hold on at least two occasions in the past. The first time was in 1989 on the plea that the villagers of the area, proposed to be included in the boundary of the wildlife sanctuary, had been waiting for certain rights like grazing and collection of wood. Again in 1997, a draft notification in which an area of 50,807 acres was proposed for a sanctuary, was put on hold on the plea that the proposed area included a number of villages and inhabited areas. The FD and the villagers here have not yet been able to reach an understanding on this, which has resulted in the matter being held up.

In the latest proposal the area of the sanctuary has been drastically reduced from the earlier 50,807 acres to 12,259 acres (about 5 sq km). Now the area includes Khol Raitan, Protected forest area in Balwali, Mandana, Asrewali and Bir Ghaggar. A draft notification in this regard has been sent to the state government for being forwarded to the Union Government.

Ironically, in lieu of Morni being declared as a wildlife sanctuary, the FD has demanded the denotification of two of its protected areas, the Saraswati WLS spread over 4400 hectares in Kurukshetra district and the Bir Bara Ban WLS spread over 400 hectares in the Jind district of the state. The matter was brought up in the state wildlife advisory board that was held in December 2000 under the Chairmanship of the Chief Minister of the state. It was however decided that the matter could not be pursued further in view of the Supreme Court's recent directive, banning the denotification of protected areas (see *PA Update* 27).

Source: Rajmeet Singh, 'Morni Wildlife Sanctuary proposed', *The Tribune*, 07/06/2000.

Contact: **Suresh Sharma**, see above

CWLW, Govt. of Haryana C-18, Van
Bhawan, Sector 6, Panchkula 134109,
Haryana. Tel: 0172-561224

HIMACHAL PRADESH

Tourism promotion for Pong Dam

To give a fillip to tourism in the region, the state government is making efforts to promote the Maharana Pratap Sagar (Pong Dam) Wildlife Sanctuary as a new tourist paradise in the scenic Kangra valley. The Pong Dam christened as Maharana Partap Sarovar was constructed in 1960 across the Beas on the Himachal and Punjab border. Its reservoir is about 310 sq km and was developed for hydel generation apart from creating infrastructure for irrigation.

A Regional Water Sports Centre was created here to encourage water sports. The state has now proposed to use this centre for water sports on a commercial basis to attract tourists. It has also been proposed to undertake the construction of a platform for tents with toilets at *Ransar Ki-Garhi* island in the lake. A few other sites are also to be selected in and around the lake to promote water sports. Angling and Birdwatching towers are to be developed.

The Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) authorities have been asked to grant permission for the use of the new sites. A high-level meeting between the BBMB authorities and Himachal Government officials was recently held after which the survey of new areas was undertaken.

Services of an expert from the World Tourism Organisation, Mr Hans Carl Jacobson, were hired to survey the area in order to explore the potential for promoting tourism. His report is being considered by the state government which is also planning to invite private parties for setting up tourist resorts along the banks of the dam.

Source: 'Steps to develop dam into tourist spot', *The Tribune*, 07/08/2000.

Contact: **State Council for Science, Technology and Environment**, 34 SDA Complex, Kasumpti, Shimla - 171009, Himachal Pradesh.

Chief Wildlife Warden – HP,
Mistchamber, Khalini, Shimla – 171002,
Himachal Pradesh. Tel: 0177-201660 /
223030.

JHARKHAND

List of PAs in Jharkhand

Following are the PAs in the new state of Jharkhand:
Wildlife Sanctuaries: Dalma, Singhbhum, East district; Gautam Buddha, Gaya district; Hazaribagh, Hazaribagh district; Koderma, Hazaribagh / Gaya districts; Lawalong, Chatra district; Mahuadarn, Palamau district; Parasnath, Giridih district and Topanchi, Dhanbad district.
National Parks: Betla, Palamau district.

Contact: **CWLW** Jharkhand, Van Bhavan, Doranda, Ranchi, Jharkhand.

KARNATAKA

Efforts on to extend KIOCL lease

Efforts of the Central Government are continuing to persuade the Karnataka State Government to extend the lease agreement of the Kudremukh Iron Ore Company (KIOCL). The Centre has even issued an official statement to that effect. Mr. B K Tripathy, Union steel minister, has said that in the absence of a 20-year mining lease, KIOCL had held up many of its major capital and expansion projects. The minister clarified that as stipulated by the state government, the study on environment impact assessment and impact of mining on flora and fauna in the region was in progress and reports were awaited shortly. He further added that the state had agreed in-principle to exclude the entire lease area from the Kudremukh National Park and that he had requested the state government to expedite the notification of the park.

Source: 'Efforts on to extend Kudremukh's Iron lease', *Economic Times*, 14/12/2000.

Contact: **Leo Saldanha** Environment Support Group S-3, Rajashree Apartments, 18/57, 1st Main, S. R. K. Gardens, Jayanagar, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore 560041, Karnataka.
Telefax: 080-6341977. Fax: 080-6723926
(PP) Email: esg@bgl.vsnl.net.in

Highway to pass through Kudremukh

The proposed highway connecting Mangalore and Chitradurga - which is said to be the expansion of the existing narrow road - is to pass through the heart of the Kudremukh National Park. It would connect Mangalore, Moodabidri, Karkala, Kerekatte, Sringeri, Thirthahalli, Shimoga, Bhadravati, Channagiri, Holalkere and Chitradurga (see *PA Update 27*) The forests here support large numbers of endangered animals like the Liontailed Macaque (LTM) and the leopard. For the last few years a big troop of LTMs has been regularly spotted in the forest patch next to the road at Kerekatte. There have also been reports of animals like the sand boa, monitor lizard and leopard being run over by vehicles on road here.

Source : 'The Kudremukh National Park in Chikmagalur is now facing new trouble' *The New Indian Express*, 08/01/2001
Harish Bhat. Email to
nathistory-india@lists.Princeton.EDU dated
08/01/2001.

Contact: **Harish Bhat** Centre for Ecological Sciences,
Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore -
560012, Karnataka.. Email: harish@ces.iisc.ernet.in
S A Hussain, 504 Lawns View Apts,
Sturrock Road, Falnir, Mangalore - 575001,
Karnataka. Tel::0824-448976. Tel/fax :
0824-445647. Email: sahbird@vsnl.com

KIOCL gets ISO 14001; permission to cut 500 trees inside Kudremukh

The Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited (KIOCL), which has destroyed some of the finest forests in the Western Ghats, including those inside Kudremukh National Park (KNP), was awarded the ISO 14001 certification for its Environmental Management System in December 2000. This award has been conferred by Des Norske Veritas as per the accreditation by RvA Netherlands. The company had earlier got its ISO 9002 certification in May 1996. It is the first Central Public Sector Undertaking in Karnataka to receive this certification.

However, just about a week later, the Karnataka Forest Department gave the company permission to fell 500 trees within the national park for the relaying of their ore pipeline. The company was allowed to enter the Bhagawati Forest Block, which is outside the KIOCL lease area to clear and open up the old forest track (involving the cutting of over 500 trees) to enable them to take heavy equipment and huge trucks, for the relaying of its the old 90 km-long ore pipeline. (also see *PA Updates* 26, 25, 23, 22, 21, 20, 18 and 14).

The reasons for permission given by the PCCF has been spelt out in his letter as follows:

'The permission is given under the assumption that:

- a) the trees are cut for non-commercial extraction.
- b) it will help in "improvement" of the wildlife habitat and
- c) The wood thus extracted will be used only for the "eco-development" of the Kudremukh National Park'

Source: 'KIOCL bags ISO 14001', *Deccan Herald*, 16/12/2000.
SA Hussain. Email to nathistory-india@lists.Princeton.EDU dated 21/12/2000.

Contact: **SA Hussain**, see above
DCF (WL), Kudremukh Wildlife Division,
Karkala - 574104, Karnataka.
ACF (WL), Bannerghatta NP, Bangalore-
560083, Karnataka.

Chief Wildlife Warden - Karnataka, 2nd
Floor, 18th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bangalore
- 560003, Karnataka. Tel: 080-3341993.

KERALA

Puthur village demands relocation from Wayanad

The 64 families of Puthur village inside the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary have offered to move out to the periphery of the forests if adequately compensated. Puthur is the only village within the Wayanad sanctuary, and the 11,000 odd residents here include tribals who have been living here for generations as well as settlers who migrated here from Travancore more than 50 years ago.

Large scale depredations by wild animals (including elephants, bear and monkeys), loss of human lives and remoteness have forced these villagers to ask for relocation. A report for this purpose was prepared by the Wildlife Warden of the sanctuary in 1995 itself but no action has been taken. The Union Minister of Forests and Environment, had, in June last year said that the Central ministry had not received any proposal from the state for the rehabilitation of farmers residing in the lease-hold forest land in the Wayanad Sanctuary.

The Wayanad Forest Lease Karshaka Samiti (WFLKS) is now in the forefront of fighting for the rights of settlers and has submitted several petitions before the state government and in the courts seeking the relocation of farmers in the forests to adjoining forest lands which have less or no wildlife populations.

Source: 'Villagers trapped in sanctuary', *The Tribune*, 05/06/2000.

Contact: **Wildlife Warden**, Wayanad Wildlife Division, Sulthan, Bathery-673592, Wayanad, Kerala

Periyar TR to include Meghamalai forests of Tamil Nadu

The Project Tiger Directorate has initiated steps to extend the 777-sq.km. Periyar Tiger Reserve (PTR) over the inter-State boundary to include the 600 sq. kms of the Meghamalai forests in Tamil Nadu. The move which will create the first inter-State Tiger Reserve of South India will help plug a huge hole in the conservation strategy of this critical stretch of forests straddling the porous inter-State boundary. The decision was taken at a meeting of Field Directors of Tiger Reserves of the country held at Thekkady in March 2000. Another workshop, Ecologue-2000, organised at the PTR by the Jaiji Peter Foundation, Alappuzha, had also articulated a similar need for the extension of the conservation and protection cover over forests across the boundary.

A status paper prepared by the Kerala Forest Department on PTR has identified the 90-km inter-State boundary as a protection nightmare with 22 entry points. It is pointed out that there are 26

private estates along the boundary on the Tamil Nadu side, threatening sensitive eco-systems. The fact that the terrain along the inter-State boundary is almost inaccessible also adds to the protection problems here. Timber operations in the estates across the state boundary have also increased and are having a detrimental effect on the forests of the PTR.

The Tamil Nadu Forest Department too has proposed the creation of a Meghamalai Wildlife Sanctuary (see *PA Update* 27). This, along with the inclusion of the area into PTR, will make available for conservation one of the largest chunks of unbroken forest cover in Southern India, facilitating large mammal migration over a long distance. The network would then extend right from the Parambikulam Wildlife Sanctuary in the north which is contiguous with the Indira Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary across the inter-State boundary. The wedge formed by the pristine evergreen forests of Sholayar and Vazhachal divisions would also provide continuity in the cover along the Kerala side of the boundary up to Edamalayar. On the Tamil Nadu side, the Indira Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary provides a bridge up to Eravikulam National Park and Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary. To the south of the Indira Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary, the Meghamalai forests extend the cover along parts called High Wavies to PTR, which has excellent evergreen cover continuing into the Goodrikkal and Ranni ranges on the Kerala side and Srivilliputhur Grizzled Giant Squirrel Sanctuary on the Tamil Nadu side. This cover extends all the way up to the Kalakkad-Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve in Tamil Nadu and the wildlife sanctuaries of Neyyar, Peppara and Shenduruni on the Kerala side.

Source: B. Prathapan. 'Steps to make inter-State sanctuary', *The Hindu*, 05/03/2000.

Contact: **Director**, Periyar Tiger Reserve, Aranya Bhavan, Forest Complex, SH Mount, PO Kottayam – 686006, Kerala. Tel: 0481-505940.

Chief Wildlife Warden – Kerala,
Vazhudacaud, Trivandrum – 695014,
Kerala. Tel: 0471-322217 / 204896. Fax:
325804.

MADHYA PRADESH

Update on relocation from Kuno

18 out of the 24 villages slated for relocation from the Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary for the lion reintroduction project had reportedly moved out to the relocation site around village Agraa by January 2001. The Govt. of MP is executing the lion reintroduction programme with assistance from the Ministry of Environment & Forests in the Kuno Sanctuary. The Samrakshan Trust has been working

closely with the government and the villages of Laddar, Khallai and Chhoti Khajuri to ensure that the relocation and rehabilitation of the villagers is carried out in a fair manner.

The current condition of the relocated villages has however become a cause for concern as rains have failed for the second consecutive year. The harvest has been poor and drinking water too is becoming scarce. There is a risk that some of the relocatees may migrate away from the relocation site in search of short term wage employment to nearby cities. Attempts are being made in association with the FD to initiate wage employment programmes and work has been started on construction of check-dams and other rainwater harvesting structures.

A team of scientists from Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun too visited the sanctuary and surrounding areas in December last year to assess the possibility of translocating Neelgai to the PA to boost the existing prey base.

Source: Asmita Kabra. Report sent to Kalpavriksh dated 11/02/2001

Contact: **Asmita Kabra**, Samrakshan Trust, C/o. C-II/2, I.I.P.A. Campus, I.P. Estate, Ring Road, New Delhi 110002. Tel: 011 – 2495088/ 371 5382 Email: asmitak@vsnl.com

Gautam Bandopadhyay, Ekta Prishad, O3 Anupam Nagar, Shankar Nagar, Raipur-492007, Chattisgarh. Tel: 0771-421926, 07721 – 4498. Email:

gautamb@bom6.vsnl.net.in

CWLW, MP, Van Bhawan, Tulsi Nagar Bhopal 462003, Madhya Pradesh. Tel: 0755-557371/ 550391. Fax: 011- 761102.

MAHARASHTRA

Stay on demolition work in Sanjay Gandhi NP

Demolition work of encroachments in the Sanjay Gandhi National Park has been stayed and the people whose houses were slated for demolition have been given till April 30 to apply for alternative accommodation. The demolitions had been resumed in November last year following the order of the division bench of the Bombay High Court headed by Chief Justice B.P. Singh, passed just three days after the Maharashtra government withdrew security cover for demolition crews working in the park. The crews had then refused to work any further.

Demolition work in a hamlet called Ketkipada was disrupted following fears of severe law and order problems and attempts by the encroachers to set themselves on fire to prevent the demolitions. According to state government officials, more than 46,000 of the 75,000 shanties earmarked for demolition had been already demolished.

The court's ruling follows a public interest suit filed by the Bombay Environment Action Group and has been severely criticised by many human rights groups and retired judges of different high courts in the country (see *PA Updates* 27, 26, 25, 23 and 22).

Meanwhile, a delegation that included Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Mr. Ram Naik and BJP MLA Hemendra Mehta met the Maharashtra Chief Minister to discuss the rehabilitation of the families displaced from the park. They requested the state government not to rehabilitate the oustees to distant Kalyan-Dombivali in Thane district, but to an find area within a radius of 10 kms of the national park.

Source: Shiv Kumar. 'Demolition of shanties at Mumbai national park to resume', *India Abroad News Service*, 18/11/2000.
'Naik, CM discuss rehabilitation of slum-dwellers', *The Times of India*, 05/01/2001.

Contact: **DFO**, Sanjay Gandhi Rashtriya Udyan, Borivali (E), Mumbai – 400066, Maharashtra.
Nivara Hakk Suraksha Samiti, Sankalp Bldg. 5th Floor, Plot 1040 off Sayani Rd. Prabhadevi, Mumbai – 400025, Maharashtra. Tel: 022 – 4227690.
Debi Goenka, BEAG, 4, Kurla Industrial Estate, LBS Marg, Mumbai – 400086, Maharashtra. Tel: 022 – 5798638. Fax: 5771459 Email: debi.beag@softhome.net
Ram Naik, Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shastri Bhawan, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Marg, New Delhi – 110001. Tel: 011 – 3386622 / 3381462

Expansion of Nannaj opposed

The move of the Forest Department (FD) to increase the area of the Nannaj Wildlife Sanctuary has been strongly opposed by local farmers in the region. The FD had issued a notification that only non cultivable land linking up various areas that support the Great Indian Bustard (GIB) were to be acquired and that too with the consent of the respective owners.

There have been reports that some land identification proceedings were initiated by the Revenue Department and the FD for the purpose of inclusion in the sanctuary. Villagers were not informed about this and a group of farmers met the District Collector of Solapur seeking a clarification. He however professed ignorance of the developments but agreed to stay the land acquisition proceedings if there were any.

Recent reports suggest that the numbers of the GIB found in Nannaj have fallen further. According to the latest count it now stands at 39.

Source: Rajneesh Joshi. 'Farmers cry foul over bid to expand Nannaj bird Sanctuary', *The Times of India*, 14/12/2000.

Rajneesh Joshi. 'Great Indian Bustard numbers shrink further', *The Times of India*, 03/01/2001.

Contact: **Deepak Kapoor**, District Collector, Solapur, Maharashtra.

Mr. NHN Shaikh, DCF (Wildlife), New PMT Bldg., Swargate, Pune – 411042. Tel: 020-4471465. Fax: 666326.

Chief Wildlife Warden – Maharashtra, Jaika Building, Civil Lines, Nagpur – 440001, Maharashtra. Tel: 0712 – 526758 / 530126.

MANIPUR

Threat to destroy hydro-electric project in Loktak

A proscribed underground organisation, the Kanglei Yawol Kunna Lup (KYKL) has demanded the winding up of the 105 MW Loktak Hydroelectric project and threatened that it would resort to its demolition for the purpose. The project has been constructed and is being run by the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC).

The KYKL has said that the promises made by the project have not been realised. The villagers in the area still continue to face a power shortage. Industries too are having a serious problem.

Additionally large areas of fertile farm land and grazing grounds for cattle have been submerged, causing huge losses to the local people. The quantum of fish production too has reportedly decreased. There have been reports in the past that the commissioning of the project has adversely affected the fauna and flora in the lake and the Keibul Lamjao National Park, the only home of the highly endangered brow antlered deer (see *PA Update* 21). However it is not known how the wildlife and the national park will be affected if indeed the KYKL goes ahead with its threat.

Source: 'KYKL threatens to demolish Loktak project', *The Sentinel*, 17/10/2000.

Encroachment threat to 2nd home for *sangai* at Iroishemba in Imphal West district

The Manipur governments attempt to find a second home for the rare brow antlered deer, *sangai*, at Iroishemba in Imphal West district is facing threats from encroachments. Some persons have been allegedly allotted land on the sly by the Settlement Department of the State without the knowledge of the Forest Department. The encroached area is a reserve

forest and a formal complaint has been lodged with the police.

Recently a small number of *sangai*, whose main home is the Keibul Lamjao National Park in the Loktak lake, were shifted to the Irioshemba area. At present, the total population of the *sangai* in the state is reported to be around 150 animals.

Source: 'Concern over encroachment at sangai sanctuary', *The Sentinel*, 23/12/2000.

Contact: **CWLW**, Govt. of Manipur, Sanjenthong, Imphal – 795001, Manipur. Tel: 03852-220854 / 285358.

ORISSA

Mangrove protection in and around Bhitarkanika

Saline water intrusion into wells and depletion of fish and prawns due to the destruction of mangroves appears to have prompted villagers in and around Bhitarkanika to campaign for the protection of the mangrove forests here.

The devastation wrought by the super cyclone in Orissa last year too seems to have reinforced this need in the villagers. There are reports that self help groups advocating mangrove protection have come up in villages like Dangmal, Rangani and Talchua, that are dependant on the mangroves and the services provided by them.

Source: 'Campaign for protection of mangroves', *Statesman*, 08/10/2000.

Contact: **DFO** Bhitarkanika NP, Forest Dept, AT/Po Rajnagar, Dist. Kendrapara – 745225, Orissa. Tel: 06729 – 72460/64. Fax: 06727-20775

Biswajit Mohanty, Wildlife Society of Orissa, Shantikunj, Link Road, Cuttack – 753012, Orissa. Tel: 0671 – 334625. Fax: 610980. Email: biswajit@cal.vsnl.net.in

PK Mishra, MS Swaminathan Research Foundation, 3rd Cross Rd., Taramani Inst. Area, CPT Campus, Chennai – 600113. Tamil Nadu. Tel: 044-2351229. Fax: 2351319

Fresh water Crocodile found in Chilka

A seven foot long, female, fresh water crocodile was recently caught in the nets of fishermen in the Chilka lake. The presence of the reptile, which is generally sighted in Chambal, Ganga and Mahanadi rivers, in the brackish water of the Chilka lake baffled wildlife experts. It was initially thought that the reptile was one among those released from the Crocodile Research Center at Tikarpada inside the Satkosia Wildlife Sanctuary. It was later figured out that the animal had sneaked into the lake through the tributaries of the Mahanadi river.

According to Chief Conservator of Forest S. K. Patnaik, extensive fishing and disturbance in the Mahanadi river system has forced the crocodiles to migrate to other water systems. He said the animal, was able to survive in the brackish water here only because the salinity was low on the north east side of the lake from where the animal was netted. The animal, which suffered multiple injuries, was handed over to the Nandankanan Zoo for treatment and will be released in the Satkosia WLS once it recovers.

There have been an increasing number of reports of sightings of crocodiles from the tributaries of Mahanadi river and Puri canal. This unusual phenomenon is being attributed to disturbances caused due to extensive fishing in the Mahanadi system. Crocodiles have also been found migrating upstream of Mahanadi and have been found near Sambalpur in Western Orissa.

Source: 'Fresh water crocodile found in Chilka', *Indian Express*, 24/12/2000.

Contact: **DFO (WL)**, Chilka, 1865/66 Nuasahi Nayapalli (near Sub PO), Bhubaneshwar – 751012. Orissa. Email: bravo_123@satyam.net.in

Irrawaddy Dolphin population dwindling in Chilka lake

The population of the extremely rare Irrawaddy dolphins in the Chilka lake has, reportedly, fallen drastically in the last few years. A recent survey conducted by the Chilka Development Authority (CDA) revealed that the population of the dolphin in the lake had been reduced to a little over 50. According to the last census conducted in the 1980s by the Zoological Survey of India in association with the Wildlife Department of the Orissa government their population in the lake was over 150.

Gill and drag net fishing is considered to one of the biggest culprits. Every year five to six dolphins have been found floating dead inside the lake and all the deaths were caused due to indiscriminate netting inside the lake (also see *PA Update* 26). Additionally large-scale, illegal prawn fishery in the area and widescale encroachment and poaching have also adversely affected the animals. Earlier, the dolphins were seen moving freely in the Satpada-Magarmukh zone of the lake but now their movement had been restricted to smaller pockets.

Perturbed over this drastic fall in the dolphin population, the CDA had taken up an ambitious three-pronged strategy to deal with the matter. The Switzerland based International Union of Conservation and Nature (IUCN) has been approached to provide necessary technical expertise and equipment to undertake behavioral study of the dolphins inside the brackish water lagoon. Satellite telemetry and radio collaring are likely to be used to

track the movement of the animals. A study is also to be undertaken to find out whether these dolphins have any genetic linkage with those found in the basin of River Mekong in South East Asia.

The Orissa Forest Department had earlier submitted a proposal to the government to declare the entire outer channel of the lake as a prohibited zone for fishing by mechanized boats. A ban on the use of the gill nets was also suggested but none of the suggestions have been implemented. The CDA too has submitted a proposal to the state government to declare the entire outer channel of Chilka Lake, Satpada, Palur Canal, the Rambha belt and the mouth of River Rushikulia spread over 150 sq km as a dolphin sanctuary. The proposal is with the state Law Department pending examination and necessary clearance. The CDA has also urged the government to put a complete ban on the use of gill or drag net by the fishermen and has approached the Ahmedabad based Center for Environment Education (CEE) to chalk out an eco-tourism program involving the local people for better conservation of the dolphins. Information on the dolphins and their conservation are to be distributed among the fishermen community here to make them aware of the necessity of preserving the endangered dolphins.

Meanwhile two dead male dolphins were found during a bird survey on January 23, earlier this year. One of these was found in Nalabana Sanctuary where as the other one was located near Satpada. They appeared to have succumbed to severe injuries caused by the propellers of motorized boats. It is estimated that as many as five thousand boats including power boats ply in the lake everyday, taking a heavy toll of both dolphins and other wild fauna including migratory waterfowl.

Source: 'Rare Irrawaddy Dolphin population dwindling in Chilka lake', *Indian Express*, 15/09/2000.

Contact: **AK Pattnaik**, CDA, BJ-45, BJB Nagar, Bhubaneswar, Orissa. Fax: 0674 – 434485. Email: ajitpattnaik@hotmail.com
DFO (WL), Chilka, see above
BC Choudhary, Wildlife Institute of India, PO Box 18, Chandrabani, Dehradun - 248001, Uttaranchal. Email: bcc@wii.gov.in; undpturtle@wii.gov.in

Elephant – human conflict around Chandka

At least three people, including two women, were killed by rampaging elephants from the Chandka Wildlife Sanctuary near Bhubaneswar in December last year. The incidents took place in Mendhasal, Bharatpur and Gangapada around the sanctuary. Attracted by the paddy crop, the herd, comprising seven to nine elephants, had crossed the national highway and sneaked into the villages.

The Chandka forest had only 40 odd elephants when it was declared a protected area in 1981. Over the last two decades this population has doubled. Coupled with growing encroachment and large scale illegal felling, timber smuggling, and disruption of the migratory corridor between Chandka and Satkosia Wildlife Sanctuary, this has led to an increase in the human – animal conflict (see *PA Update* 25). Elephants now regularly enter the nearby paddy fields and feast on the standing crop. The villagers, both angry and horror-struck by the deaths, stopped the traffic on the Calcutta-Chennai highway for about two hours in protest and demanding protection from the pachyderms.

Earlier in August too, a herd of 12 elephants had left the forest and spent an entire day in the orchard of the Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT). Though no deaths were caused the OUAT has said that they may have no option but to shut down the orchard as the elephants had become a big threat to the project.

Electric wire fencing and elephant proof trenching has been tried but with little success. Many of trenches were allegedly filled up by the timber mafia and others had been damaged in the super cyclone of 2000. According to the Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF) – Wildlife, SK Patnaik, the super cyclone of October 2000 had also caused extensive damage to the bamboo rhizomes which are the staple food of the elephant in the sanctuary, forcing them to move out (see *PA Update* 23).

Source: 'Orissa: Marauding elephants return to forest', *The Hindu*, 30/08/2000
'Elephant menace in Orissa sanctuary vicinity', *Indian Express*, 10/12/2001.
'Elephants causing havoc in Orissa villages', *The Times of India*, 14/12/2000.

Contact: **DFO - Chandka Wildlife Division**, Forest Department, SFTRI Campus, At/ Po Ghatkia, Bhubaneswar, Dist. Khurda, Orissa

Orissa reports fall in tiger numbers

In a report submitted to the Centre, the Orissa state government has said that the census carried out in 2000 has reported 194 tigers in the wild in the state. This is down from the 243 that were reported in the 1989 tiger census. 94 tigers were counted in Simlipal National Park, while 12 each were reported from the forests of the Satkosia and Sunabeda WLSs. None were however reported from the forests of Deogark, Karanjia and Chandka WLS, which once sheltered a large number of tigers.

State wildlife officials said the fall in the number of tigers may be linked to its shrinking habitat, loss of forest cover because of felling and spread of agriculture, and the reduction in prey base

because of poaching. The officials, however, denied that poaching was one of the main causes behind the fall in Orissa's tiger population. It has also been proposed to bring the Satkosia and Sunabeda Sanctuaries under Project Tiger.

Source: Fearful symmetry in Orissa, *Statesman*, 03/06/2000.

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

PUNJAB

Abohar to have hospital for animals

Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, Mrs. Maneka Gandhi has said that a state-of-the-art veterinary hospital to treat animals and birds will be constructed at the Abohar Wildlife Sanctuary. This assurance was given by the Minister recently to the All India Jeev Raksha Bishnoi Sabha (AIJRBS) in Abohar. She has reportedly offered grant of Rs 25 lakh for the hospital, provided land was made available for it. An additional Rs 5 lakh for an ambulance has also been promised. The AIJRBS has also demanded that armed security guards be provided in the sanctuary to deal with poachers.

Source: 'Maneka promises hospital for sanctuary animals', *The Tribune*, 11/12/2000.

Large scale hunting in Takhni WLS, other areas

There are reports that large scale hunting of wild animals is going on unabated in the Ropar, Hoshiarpur and Gurdaspur districts of Punjab. The animals regularly killed include the leopard, sambhar, wild boar, red jungle fowl and hare. Even animals in the Takhni Wildlife Sanctuary, in Hoshiarpur district are not spared, making a mockery of the Wild Life (Protection) Act (WLP). The main culprits are influential people like police officers, businessmen and politicians who are often flanked by AK-47 wielding security guards. This coupled with the fact that the forest department (FD) is under staffed and ill equipped, allows the culprits to go scot-free.

There has been a disturbing rise of such incidents in Hoshiarpur district, primarily due to the presence of roads going deep into the woods and semi-hilly areas falling in the neighbouring Una district of Himachal Pradesh. A number of villages of the district such as Kuka Ner near Jaijon, Tappa Bahara near Dholbaha, Manhote near Gardhiwala, Sansarpur Makkowal near Talwara, Neela Naloya, Mangrowal, Dholbaha, Janauri, Manguwal, Chack Sadhu and Mahilpur are favoured by the hunters as they are well-connected with roads and are close to

the dense forests of the Shivalik hills where animals are found in abundance.

These influential hunting parties usually hire the services of professional hunters, generally the "Saansis" who have settled in the foothills here. The hunting party sets out in a caravan of vehicles on Saturday nights and return the next morning with boots of their vehicles full of dead animals. They are then either instantly consumed or their meat is preserved in the form of pickles. The hunting parties are well equipped. They move around in powerful vehicles and use weapons like the .312 bore single barrel and .22 bore rifles, which are generally without any license.

In 1995, a senior Congress leader, known for his "shikar sprees", was caught while playing shikar in the Bhunga area. Wildlife officials had requested the police to register a case in this regard, but no action was taken. Two department guards were allegedly framed by the police for having dared to take action against well-connected people. The department has also not taken any action against Patiala-based relatives of a senior Akali leader, from whose custody some pea-fowl were recovered recently. According to sources, Neela Naloya village in Hoshiarpur district has become a favourite resort for a textile tycoon, who comes to the area with a cavalcade of trucks and forest tents and stays there with a farmer for about a month every year, for hunting. No one has dared to check the practice so far.

Source: Varinder Singh. 'Hunting goes on in wildlife sanctuary', *The Tribune*, 24/07/2000.

RAJASTHAN

Fees for entry to PAs increased

According to recent notification issued by the Rajasthan State Forest Department the fees for entry into national parks and wildlife sanctuaries in the state has been increased. For foreign nationals, the entry fee to national parks like Keoladeo NP and Ranthambore & Sariska TRs has been raised from Rs. 100 to Rs. 200 per visit, while for Indians it has been hiked to Rs. 25 from the current Rs. 20. Similarly, the entry fee for visit to sanctuaries, too has been hiked by 100 per cent. Foreigners will now be charged Rs. 80 instead of Rs. 40 while the Indian tourists would pay Rs. 10 in place of Rs. five. The camping fee at the selected sites in sanctuaries has been fixed at Rs. 100 per tent per day and Rs. 25 per person. The fee for shooting non-feature films has been raised to Rs. 5000 from Rs. 3000.

Sources: 'Foreigners to pay double to visit national parks', *Indian Express*, 19/11/2000.

'Entry fees to parks, sanctuaries raised', *The Times of India*, 20/11/2000.

New proposal for Ranthambhor

The Rajasthan government is preparing an action plan that will ensure distribution of economic benefits among thousands of villagers outside the Ranthambhor sanctuary. This was disclosed by Mr. Rakesh Sharma, Forest Secretary of Rajasthan at an international meeting on ecotourism held recently. The plan proposes to serve twin purposes; to ensure that villagers do not depend solely on the forest for their fuel need and create among villagers an awareness about the need of protection for the sanctuary. The new action plan will also ensure the equal distribution of the benefits among villagers and hotel owners who have cornered the entire share of the earnings from influx of tourists to Ranthambhor. An awareness program for the tourists who visit has also been suggested.

Full details of the proposal or the program are not available.

Source: KS Tomar. 'Move on to save Ranthambhor sanctuary', *Hindustan Times*, 06/10/2000.

Contact: **Director**, Ranthambhor TR, Sawai Madhopur – 322001, Rajasthan. Tel: 07462-20223

Rakesh Sharma, Forest Secretary, Govt. of Rajasthan, Jaipur, Rajasthan

UTTARANCHAL

List of PAs in Uttaranchal

Following protected areas will now be in the new state of Uttaranchal:

Wildlife Sanctuaries: Askot in Pithoragarh district, Binsar in Almora dist., Kedarnath in Chamoli dist., Sandi in Hardoi dist., and Sonanadi in Pauri Garhwal dist.

National Parks: Corbett in Garhwal / Nainital districts, Gangotri and Govind Pashu Vihar in Uttar Kashi, Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers in Chamoli dist and Rajaji in Dehradun / Haridwar districts.

Contact: **CWLW**, Uttaranchal Dehradun.

Gujjars and villagers gatecrash into Rajaji Director's residence

Hundreds of van gujjars and villagers, supported by media persons, social workers and members of Rural Litigation and Entitlement Kendra (RLEK), Dehradun, recently staged a protest march demanding enforcement of the NHRC order granting

permission to lop and graze in the forests of Rajaji. Van Gujjars living in the proposed Rajaji National Park and villagers from the proposed Govind Pashu Vihar Sanctuary marched to the residence of the Director of the proposed Rajaji NP, C.P. Goyal, to protest against harassment by the officials of the forest department. They alleged that the FD was harassing people to force them to move out of the proposed park area and that this was being done despite the directions of the NHRC that only those gujjar families which the district judge identifies as willing to move out would be moved under the rehabilitation scheme (see *JPAM Update 20*).

The protesters have demanded the removal of the park director from his post and said that if this was not done within a month, a mass demonstration would be organized.

Source: 'Gujjars and villagers gatecrash into park director's residence', *Indian Express*, 27/10/2000.

Contact: **Director**, Rajaji National Park, Shivalik House, Dehradun- 248001, Uttaranchal.

Website: www.rajajinationalpark.com

(**RLEK**), PO Box. 10, 21, East Canal Road, Dehradun 248001, Uttaranchal.

Pesticides threaten Lesser Fishing Eagle in Corbett, other habitats.

Studies by leading ornithologists have revealed that the Lesser Fishing Eagle has disappeared from most of its original habitat of the lower Himalayan ranges. Only a few pairs survive in and around the Corbett National Park. The study in and around Corbett was undertaken by Rishad Naoroji and Leon Pereira. The experts reported that the species was facing a severe reproduction failure. They found that the concentration of DDT, an insecticide, in unhatched eggs was about 990 PPM lipid weight which is nine times higher than the concentration that causes reproduction failure in the bald eagle in the USA. Studies by Rishad Naoroji have also shown that other raptors like the Peregrine Falcon and the Grey Headed Fishing Eagle too have been adversely affected by excessive use of pesticides (see *PA Update 21*).

Source: 'Lesser Fishing Eagle vanishes from the habitat', *Indian Express*, 19/11/2000.

Contact: **Rishad Naoroji**, Godrej & Boyce Mfg. Co., Godrej Bhavan, 4A Home St., Fort, Mumbai 400001, Maharashtra.

Field Director, Corbett Tiger Reserve, Ramnagar –244715, Nainital, Uttaranchal. Tel: 05947 – 85489. Fax: 85376.

New year bash by industrialist near Corbett worries FD

The plan of the industrialist Samir Thapar to have a new year party at Kolhu Chaur bordering Corbett caused a great deal of the worry to the Forest Department (FD). Fearing that Mr. Thapar and his guests would indulge in hunting, drastic pre-emptive measures were taken. The Additional IG (Wildlife) in the environment ministry authorised three members of the Project Tiger Steering Committee to carry firearms in to the forest 'for their own safety' and keep an eye on the Thapar show. The three members were Mr. Brijendra Singh, Hon. Wildlife Warden of Corbett NP, Mr. Jaswinder Singh and Mr. Navin Raheja.

The Director of the park too, directed his staff to be close to the potential trouble spots in light of the programme of the Thapars. Meanwhile, Mr Samir Thapar, himself, denied that hunting was the objective of the trip and lashed out saying that the reactions of the authorities were 'absurd'. He added that the environment ministry and the FD were ganging up against him because he belonged to a prominent industrial house.

It is not known if the party happened and what transpired at that time.

Source: Ajay Suri. 'Environment Ministry trains guns on Thapar's forest bash', *Indian Express*, 27/12/2000.

Contact: **Field Director**, Corbett TR, see above
Brijendra Singh, 28, Sundarnagar, New Delhi – 110003.
SC Sharma, Addl. IGF, MoEF, Paryavaran Bhavan, CGO Complex, Lodi Estate, New Delhi – 110003. Tel: 011- 4362285.

UTTAR PRADESH

New year bash in PAs banned

In a welcome development the Uttar Pradesh Forest Department (FD) slapped a blanket ban on bookings in protected areas for new year celebrations for 2001. This was done following the experience of the earlier year when new year festivities left two dozen deer and wild boar dead in and around various PAs in the state.

Request for bookings in Dudhwa National Park, and the Sohelwa and Katerniaghat Wildlife Sanctuaries by film stars, models, bureaucrats, businessmen and legal luminaries were refused. Three recommendations for top bureaucrats and industrialists from the Prime Ministers' Office (PMO) were also politely turned down. Top forest officials had also planned to conduct surprise visits to the PAs and a patrol party comprising 250 armed guards were also put into action.

However, there were some cases where the VIPs did manage to get bookings for some of these

PAs. A 28 member strong contingent of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of Uttar Pradesh managed a booking in Dudhwa for what was an official programme 'to discuss wasteful expenditure in the state'. Accommodations in Katerniaghat and Sohelwa too were spruced up for this group of VIPs.

Source: Mohit Dubey. 'UP forest dept. will keep New Year party animals as bay', *The Times of India*, 26/12/2000.

Vulture breeding colony located in Kaimur Hills WLS.

A breeding colony of the endangered Long Billed Vulture has recently been discovered in the Kaimur Hills Wildlife Sanctuary in Sonbhadra district in east Uttar Pradesh. An announcement to this effect was made by the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW) of the state, Mr. RL Singh. This is a significant discovery in light of recent reports of the drastic fall in vulture numbers across the country.

Source: Hemendra Narayan. 'Vultures bring relief to villagers', *Statesman*, 11/09/2000.
Usha Jaiswal. 'Rare vulture-breeding colony discovered in UP', *Business and Political Observer*, 18/10/2000.

Contact: **CWLW-UP**, 17, Rana Pratap Marg, Lucknow – 226001, Uttar Pradesh. Tel: 0522-283864. Fax: 283868.

WEST BENGAL

New marine park in West Bengal

The Central government has cleared a proposal of the West Bengal Government for a marine national park where the River Ganga meets the Bay of Bengal. The West Bengal government has already sanctioned Rs. 19.3 million for the Sagar Marine National Park, work on which was to start in December 2000. The park will be spread over 50 sq km and will be divided into three zones -- buffer, estuary and wilderness. While mechanized fishing boats and trawlers will be allowed in the buffer zone, only limited fishing on country boats would be permitted in the estuary zone. The wilderness zone, which will cover 16 sq km, will be completely closed to fishing. Five islands -- Sagar, Chemaguri, Shibpur, Dhablughat and Gangasagar will form part of the park's territory.

Plans are also on the anvil to develop the park into a major tourist attraction. There are proposals to construct accommodation for tourists and also for a glass room underwater where one can observe marine life in its natural habitat. The nearest railhead from the proposed park is Diamond Harbour.

Source: Kritivas Mukherjee. 'Park for marine life to come up in Bengal', *India Abroad News Service*, 14/12/2000.

Contact: **Ganesh Pal**, Chief Executive, 24 Parganas District Forest Committee, 24 Parganas, West Bengal.

State police to file wildlife crimes

For the first time in the country, the police department of a state will maintain a record of crimes related to wildlife. The decision was announced in June last year after a meeting convened by Mr Dipak Sanyal, Director General of Police, West Bengal. The meeting was attended by senior police officers and forest department officials. The offences to be recorded include poaching, trading in birds and animals banned under the WLP, trading in skins or body parts of scheduled animals, illegal felling of trees and keeping scheduled animals captive.

Earlier, government agencies like the Customs, Forest Department, Coast Guards, BSF and the Railways maintained a record of wildlife crimes. Now the crimes would be filed by the police after one of these agencies either seizes smuggled animal products or arrests persons involved in trafficking. Wildlife crimes will now find a place in a crime data bank, which officials hope will help ensure better law enforcement. One of the reasons for this development is that often those involved in poaching and trafficking of animal products are also involved in other criminal activities. Information collected by the state crime bureau will be used as reference for gathering more information on the criminals.

Forest officials feel that poachers and traffickers often slip through the police dragnet because many police officers are not familiar with the Wildlife Act. To dispense with this lacuna, the forest department has decided to give a copy of the Act to all police stations in the state.

Source: Tirthankar Mitra. 'Police to file wildlife crimes', *Statesman*, 05/06/2000.

Safari park near Jaldapara

The West Bengal Forest Department (WBFD) is planning to create a new forest safari in the forest areas near Jaldapara Wildlife Sanctuary. The proposed safari park will be spread over 100 hectares of forest land and will be on the lines of the one in Kenya. Karibari, a town near Jaldapara, is being considered as the headquarters of the park. Most wildlife species except for elephants will be found in the proposed park.

Source: Safari park for North Bengal, *Statesman*, 24/08/2000.

Contact: **Jogesh Burman**, Forest Minister, Calcutta, West Bengal.

DFO- Jaldapara WLS, Forest Dept., Cooch Behar Division, PO & Dist. Cooch Behar, West Bengal.

Elephant orphanage in Jaldapara

An orphanage for baby elephants who have strayed from their herd or lost their mothers is to be constructed within the Jaldapara Wildlife Sanctuary. The Forest Department also intends to help relocate the orphaned elephants to their natural habitat once they come of age.

Source: 'Home planned for orphan elephants', *The Statesman*, 20/10/2000.

Contact: **DFO-** Jaldapara WLS, see above

Threat to Mahananda WLS, Chapramari WLS, Jaldapara WLS, Buxa TR and Gorumara NP due to railway gauge conversion.

The Indian Railway's plans to convert the existing metre-gauge railway track between Siliguri and Guwahati via Alipurduar and Coochbehar in North Bengal into broad-gauge is likely to adversely affect many protected areas and reserve forests in North Bengal. Presently four passenger trains and a few goods trains run on this track daily.

The expansion of the existing track, which runs through the Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary, dense forests under the Kalimpong Forest Division in the foothills, Baikunthapur Reserve forests, Tandur Forest between Gorumara National Park and Chapramari Wildlife Sanctuary, Diana Reserve Forests of Jalpaiguri Forest Division, Jaldapara Wildlife Sanctuary, part of Cooch Behar Forest Division, Chilapata Forests, Buxa Tiger Reserve and innumerable green patches of 150 Tea gardens located around Terai and Doars Region, is a part of the various packages "gifted to West Bengal" in Union Railway Minister, Mamata Banerjee's rail budget of 2000. Foundation work for the conversion has already commenced in the non protected area sections

Railway officials and the minister have said that the gauge conversion of the existing MG (metre-gauge) to BG (broad-gauge) was essential to meet the operational requirement of the Northern Frontier Railway as the existing single line BG section from New Jalpaiguri to New Bongaigaon was not able to meet the requirements of the county's North Eastern Region. They have further clarified that the work will be confined within the existing railway land boundary and the impact will be minimal on ecology and environment of the area.

Wildlife experts and organisations have, however, opposed the gauge conversion. Lt. Col

(Retd.) SR Banerjee, Director of the West Bengal Chapter of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) – India has filed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in the Calcutta High Court to stop the implementation of the proposed project of railway track conversion on grounds of "irreparable damage that would be caused to wild life and the environment. It is feared that faster and more number of trains following the track conversion will result in an increase in deaths and injuries to wild animals, particularly inside protected areas. Already there are regular reports of elephants and other wild animals being killed here by speeding trains. It is also feared that this development will further intensify the problem of crop degradation by elephants in the southern fringes of the forests here.

WWF – India has also made the following suggestions to resolve the problem.:

1. The existing broad-gauge single track from New Jalpaiguri to New Bongaigaon be doubled.
2. More facilities such as reservation facilities, introduction of faster trains should be incorporated in the existing broad gauge track.
3. The existing metre gauge track should continue as a heritage railway track.
4. Eco-tourism facilities should be introduced in the metre-gauge track by making the train attractive to tourists. Eco-tourism will also bring economic benefits to the region.

Source: Suman K. Chakrabarti. 'Indian Railways spell doom for wildlife in North Bengal forests', *News Today*, 01/09/2000.

Contact: **Mamata Banerjee**, Rail Bhavan, New Delhi – 110001. Tel: 011 – 3386645 / 3381213

Lt. Col SR Banerjee, WWF- I, West Bengal State Office, 5th Floor, Tata Centre, 43, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Calcutta 700071, West Bengal. Tel: 033 – 2889530. Fax: 2883761,

Director, Buxa TR, Alipurduar Court, Dist. Jalpaiguri – 736122, West Bengal. Tel: 03564-56333 / 55579. Fax: 55577.

Photo I-cards for rhinos in Gorumara and Jaldapara

Rhinos in the Gorumara National Park and Jaldapara Wildlife Sanctuary are to have photo identity cards. The West Bengal Forest Department has decided to do this to keep track of the rhino populations in these two protected areas, the most important ones outside Assam. Work on this is supposed to have started in November 2000. The rhino is the second animal after elephants in West Bengal to have such photo I cards.

Source: Krittivas Mukherjee. 'Photo I-cards for West Bengal's rhinos', *India Abroad News Service*, 26/11/2000.

Research plans for Sundarbans TR

Project Tiger authorities have planned a detailed study of tigers in the Sundarbans Tiger Reserve. Estimated to cost Rs. 120 million the program is to begin in March 2001 and will involve the radio collaring of three tigresses. The Forest Department also has plans of holding a census of deer, monkeys and boars, prey species of the tiger. Another part of the venture is the construction of enclosures along the fringe areas of the Sundarbans forest to aid tourists to view the wildlife here.

Source: Krittivas Mukherjee. 'Photo I-cards for West Bengal's rhinos', *India Abroad News Service*, 26/11/2000.

Contact: **Director**, Sundarbans TR, PO Canning Town, Dist. 24 Parganas – 743329, West Bengal. Tel: 03218 – 55280 / 721683. **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

Workshop on eco-tourism

A five day training workshop was held in October 2000 on 'Eco-tourism planning and management'. It was jointly organised by the Wildlife Institute of India and the Jungle Lodges and Resorts Ltd and held at the Kabini River Lodge at Karapur in Karnataka. A national policy on ecotourism was one of the focal areas of the workshop that was attended by forest officials, NGOs, members from the private sector and representatives of the organisers.

The workshop, the second of its kind was aimed at orienting the participants to the concept of eco-tourism and the issues connected with it through relevant case studies. Some of the case studies that were discussed were the Sikkim Ecotourism Project, Jungle Lodges and Resorts, Periyar Tiger Reserve and Corbett Tiger Reserve.

The workshop focused on various aspects of tourism that included minimum impact or no disturbance, and increased stake of local communities in their regions park/forest area.

Source: Rashmi Rao. 'Plan to promote eco-tourism in a big way', *Deccan Herald*, 21/10/2000.

Contact: **Rajiv Bhartari**, WII, PB No. 18,
Chandrabani, Dehradun – 248001,
Uttaranchal. Tel: 0135 – 620912 – 5. Fax:
620217. Email: rajivb@wii.gov.in

WHAT'S AVAILABLE ?

– *Jan Aranya*

A new quarterly dealing with issues related to Community Involvement in Forest Management in the state of Himachal Pradesh (HP). Published by the HP Forest Department, it is available, both, in English and Hindi.

Contact: **Vasant Saberwal**, Moving Images,
D-3 / 3425, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi –
110070. Tel: 011- 6893384. Tel / Fax:
6124317. Email: moving@vsnl.com
Website: www.movingimagesindia.com

UPCOMING

5th National Consultation on Wildlife Conservation and People's Livelihood Rights

The 5th National Consultation on Wildlife Conservation and People's Livelihood Rights, organised by the Conservation and Livelihoods Network (CLN) is to be held in the Makaibari Tea Estate (MTE), Kurseong, in West Bengal. It is being held from April 8-10, 2001 and is being co-organised by Kalpavriksh and the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment – Eastern Himalaya Programme (ATREE-EHP), with assistance from the North Eastern Society for the Protection of Nature and Wildlife (NESPON) and the Makaibari Tea Estate (MTE).

Earlier the dates had been fixed for April 11-13, but have been preponed on account of Easter and another West Bengal JFM meeting that was planned for the same dates.

Contact: **Pankaj Sekhsaria**, at the editorial address below

Ruchi Pant, ATREE-EHP, Bungalow No. 2,
Near Airforce Officers Enclave,
Bhujipani, PO Bagdogra, Darjeeling –
734422, West Bengal. Tel: 0353 – 550093
/ 551110. Email: atree@dte.vsnl.net.in

Seminar on Development and Conservation in Himachal Pradesh

A 2 day seminar is being organised on April 20-21 in Shimla on the topic 'Development and Conservation in Himachal Pradesh. Themes that are to be discussed include 'Environmental and Social Impact of Large Development Projects', 'Aspects of Conservation in HP', 'The Unique Case of the Great Himalayan National Park (GHNP), Kullu', 'GHNP and the Dilemma of Conservation' and 'Towards Reconciliation : Development Paradigm and Conservation Practice'.

Contact: **Vasant Saberwal**, see above

PA UPDATE MATTERS

Life Subscriptions / Funding

In an effort to make the publication and distribution of the *PA Update* economically viable, we now have a scheme for life subscriptions for the readers. It has been fixed at Rs. 1000. We request and would appreciate if as many readers as possible would send in their subscriptions for the *Update*.

For the last year one year the production and publication of the *PA Update* has been supported by the South Asian Conservation Foundation (SACF). We are now looking for funds for the forthcoming year. If readers have ideas and suggestions for this, please let us know at the earliest.

Contact: **Pankaj Sekhsaria**, at the editorial address below.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Dr.M.G.Jayathangaraj...

This is with reference to the news item 'Information needed on diseases and wildlife' published in the Announcement column in *PA Update* 27 & 28 (December 2000) In this regard, I wish to supplement that recently, the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) in collaboration with Veterinary Institutions of different regions (Department of Wildlife Science, Madras Veterinary College, in Southern India), has already made a beginning towards obtaining of field information on diseases encountered in the past in both, captive and free ranging wild animals. Wildlife health related research activities are systematically being carried out in our department which is a pioneering dept in the field of wildlife health in India

Contact: **Dr. MG Jayathangaraj**, Indian Wildlife Health Coordinator-South, & As. Professor, Dept. of Wildlife Science, Madras

Veterinary College, Chennai-600007, Tamil
Nadu. E mail: mgjayathangaraj@yahoo.com

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 South Asian**

Conservation Foundation in the compiling and production of *PA Update 29*

PA Update 29 was prepared by Pankaj Sekhsaria with help from Neeraj Vaghlikar .

Several news items were accessed from Centre for Science and Environment's *Green File*, but have been credited to their original sources.

The *PA Update* can also be accessed on the following websites:

<http://www.indianjungles.com>;

<http://home.att.net/~spiderhunters/attachments.htm>;

<http://www.iucaa.ernet.in/~yogesh/jpamhome.shtml>

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

Book - Post / Printed Matter

From
KALPAVRIKSH
Apt. 5, Shri Dutta Krupa,
908 Deccan Gymkhana,
Pune - 411004