

JPAM UPDATE

News on Action Towards Joint Protected Area Management

No. 18

October 1998

EDITORIAL

UNDERMINING PROTECTED AREAS AND PEOPLE...

Protected areas and other natural habitats have always been under threat, especially so since the from the liberalised economic policies that were introduced by the Congress Government. in 1991, and which are being followed by every successive government regardless of their political colour. This issue has *six* cases of destruction underway or threatened by *mining*. Mineral prospecting and extraction from protected areas has always been a major threat, but has now assumed menacing proportions because of the liberalised mining policy of the government; the entry of the world's biggest mining interests into the Indian economy; and the rapid increase in demand for minerals for export and industrial use.

Little hesitation has been demonstrated by state and central governments appear to dereserve, denotify, or in other ways open out wildlife habitats for such activities. The fact that many of these habitats are also home to, or the resource catchments of, tribal and other forest-dwelling communities, adds to the sense of alarm... but also provides yet another opportunity for conservationists and social activists to join hands rather than fight against each other.

We must be able to collectively respond to this threat, whether it is in Kudremukh, Bhadra, Palamau/Hazaribagh, Kanha, Kutch, or elsewhere. Apart from grassroots resistance, legal action (see Kudremukh in this issue), and other means, we should also demand that the Mining Policy of the government explicitly state that ecologically and culturally sensitive areas will be off-limits to mining activities.

The repercussions of the WWF petition on protected areas in the Supreme Court, which we

have reported about in the past few issues of the *Update*, continue to be felt in various parts of the country (see NATIONAL NEWS FROM INDIA). Agitations against feared displacement, demands for denotification (alarmingly supported by some Chief Wildlife Wardens and many District Collectors), harassment in the rights settlement procedure.... the sequence of events that were predicted by some of us when the Court ordered settlement of rights within one year in all PAs (see *JPAM Update* 15), are indeed taking place now. Some local organisations, with help from Delhi-based groups, are filing an intervention to apprise the Court of the serious nature of the consequences, and to seek a more just and sensible process of settlement.

Fortunately, WWF-India, which has otherwise not been pro-active in responding to the situation created by its petition, has agreed to go along with the intervention in spirit. If admitted (a big IF), this intervention may partly defuse the crisis, but nevertheless in many parts of the country, our protected area network and its inhabitants (wildlife and human) are going to suffer grievously if hasty actions are taken by district authorities. On the positive side are instances such as the unusual stand taken by the DCF (Wildlife), Anshi National Park (see NEWS FROM INDIAN PROTECTED AREAS).

Also on the positive side, a meeting of forest officials, NGOs, independent wildlifers, and social activists was held to discuss the future of wildlife conservation in Maharashtra. The meeting was marked by frank and open discussions, and its recommendations bring hope that a more participatory and effective mode of conservation is going to emerge (see NEWS FROM INDIAN STATES).

NEWS FROM INDIAN PROTECTED AREAS

ANDHRA PRADESH

Prospecting for uranium in Nagarjunsagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve

The State government has agreed to allow the Atomic Mineral Division (AMD) for exploration of uranium deposits in about 7 sq.km. of the Nagarjunsagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve at Chitral in Guntur district, Andhra Pradesh. A communication to this effect was sent to AMD director K. K. Dwivedi on July 20, after a two-year protracted wrangle between AMD and the State government. The government was initially reluctant to hand over the forest land and sanctuary to the AMD, as this would defeat the aim of protecting wildlife and habitat. However, in recent months, following several requests from the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), officials of the Forest Department and AMD conducted several inspections at the sanctuary and found "no wildlife activity in the sanctuary at all", and only "shrubs and scanty vegetation on account of massive deforestation".

According to sources, the allotment of the sanctuary to the AMD would give a tremendous boost to their uranium exploration works, essential for atomic energy and development of nuclear technology. Preliminary studies at the sanctuary site indicated that the area had the potential to yield 30 million tonnes of uranium ore deposits (valued at Rs 50 lakh per tonne). Presently only three other States -- Bihar, Meghalaya and Karnataka -- are rich in uranium deposits. The uranium deposits found in Andhra Pradesh are said to be of superior quality than that of even Bihar, where it was first discovered in the 1970s. Hence, Andhra Pradesh is being considered by the DAE as the best prospect for future uranium requirements.

Source: *Deccan Chronicle*, quoted in e-mail from K. Jagdish on nathistory-india@lists.princeton.edu dated 24/7/98.

ASSAM

SOS : Catastrophe at Kaziranga

Manju Barua, a member of the Indian Board for Wildlife, and the NGO Aaranyak Nature Club, have reported that the worst flood in recent history in the Brahmaputra river valley has taken a

terrible toll of wildlife at Kaziranga National Park. The entire protected area has been swamped with water, and rhinos and elephants have moved to high ground in thickly inhabited human areas including into cowsheds and tea estates. The Government of Assam simply does not have the infrastructure to deal with a crisis of this proportion. And what little facilities they have are understandably diverted for thinly distributed relief of human communities.

The floods hit Kaziranga in three waves this year, in May, June and September. Normally the flood waters recede in three to seven days, but this year, allegedly because of severe deforestation of upstream catchments in the Brahmaputra Valley, the flood has lasted for weeks on end. As a result serious damage has been caused to the food sources of animals such as rhinos, elephants, deer and wild pigs. The crops of the neighbouring villages have also been destroyed by flood waters. Wildlife has been forced to move away from the protected area of Kaziranga and are now reported in areas of human habitation.

Hundreds of deer and wild pigs have been drowned, and a large number that escaped drowning are reportedly being slaughtered by poachers. According to the Aaranyak, the casualties so far reported are: 500 deer drowned, 200 killed by people, 32 rhinos drowned, 2 killed by people; also believed to be affected is the population of about 500 swamp deer. 60% of the rhinos are anticipated to have left the Park and poaching gangs have moved in on them. Forest Guards are hopelessly outnumbered by these poachers.

Meanwhile, the Chief of Army Staff at a meeting in Bombay, has also offered to help by getting his *jawans* to take up rehabilitation or other work; however, he needs to first be formally requested by the Assam Government.

APPEAL FOR FUNDS FOR KAZIRANGA...

Manju Barua and NGOs he is associated with have taken it upon themselves to borrow or otherwise raise money to mitigate the tragedy. They feel that by focussing their efforts on relief to the human population living in and around Kaziranga, they will be able to prevent humans from turning on wild animals; funds will of course also go to direct relief measures for affected wildlife.

Contributions can be made by bank drafts (payable at Guwahati) in favour of: 'Wildlife Areas Development and Welfare Trust'. All these should be sent to Manju Baruah (address below).

Aaranyak is also collecting donations for wildlife relief work; donations should go in the name of 'Aaranyak Nature Club', and can be wired directly to their bank ((Bank A/C No. 9387, Punjab National Bank, Zoo Road Branch, Guwahati).

Source: Emails from Bittu Sahgal, through August-September 1998; Email from Bibhab K. Talukdar, Aaranyak, 17/9/98.

Contact: Manju Barua, Wild Grass, 107, M.C. Road, Uzanbazaar, Guwahati 781 001, Assam. Tel: (Guwahati) 91-361-546 827; (Wild Grass) 91-377-662 437. Fax: 91-361-541 186 or 520 348.
Aaranyak Nature Club, Samanwoy Path (Survey), P.O. Beltola, Guwahati 781 028, Assam. Tel: 91-361-566 087. Email: bibhab@gw1.vsnl.net.in.

New Sanctuary Proposed in Dibrugarh Forest Division

Nature's Beckon, an environmental activist NGO, has proposed to the Government of Assam to declare Jaipur, Dirak and West block of Upper Dihing Reserve Forest areas as a Wildlife Sanctuary. Jaipur Reserved Forest is located along a part of the Dibrugarh Forest Division with the river Buridihing flowing along its north-east boundary. This Reserved Forest harbours many species of endangered animals including the Hoolock gibbon, Capped langur, Assamese macaque, elephants, tigers, leopard and various types of squirrels.

Nature's Beckon is well-known for its persistent efforts in getting the Chakrashila forests, the southern-most range of the threatened Golden langur, declared a sanctuary, for which they mobilised the local villagers to great effect.

Source: 'Nature's Beckon: Keen on the Conservation of Wildlife of Jaipur Reserved Forest.' Nature's Beckon, Assam.

Contact: Mridu Paban Phukan, Nature's Beckon, 'Datta Bari' Ward No.1, Dhubri 783 301, Assam. Tel: 91-3662-21 067; Fax: 91-3662-20 076.

GUJARAT

Kutch Projects Yet to Get Wildlife Clearance

The mineral mining projects proposed to come up in Kutch district, Gujarat are on hold as they impinge on wildlife sanctuaries of the area. The lignite, bauxite, bentonite and China clay deposits prospected by the Mines Department have not been acquired for concession due to this constraint, according to J V Bhatt, Additional Director of Geology and Mining, government of Gujarat. Bhatt stated that sizeable reserves of these minerals had been found in the Narayan Sarovar Wildlife Sanctuary.

It may be recalled in this connection that the

current extent of the Sanctuary (about 444 sq.km) is considerably smaller than what was originally notified in 1981 (about 766 sq.km.); already almost half the area has been denotified in 1995 to make way for mining and a cement factory. Now it seems that 'development' may claim even more of this habitat, which is amongst the last remaining for the threatened Chinkara, Houbara and Great Indian bustard, and other wildlife species.

Mining officials said a study of the area should be carried out to demarcate viable prime areas for wildlife conservation and assess the environmental impact of existing and proposed industries near Narayan Sarovar Sanctuary.

Source: Chakravorti, Tapan. 1998. 'Kutch Projects Yet to Get Wildlife Clearance'. *Financial Express*. 30/8/98

KARNATAKA

High Court Takes Serious View of Mining in Kudremukh National Park

Based on a petition filed by the Environment Support Group, Nature Conservation Guild, Save Western Ghats Movement, Nellibeedu Samraskhana Samithi, and K. R. Sethna, former Member of the Indian Board for Wildlife, the Division Bench of the Karnataka High Court has reviewed alleged violations of the prospecting license conditions by Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Ltd. (KIOCL) within the Kudremukh National Park. After considering various options, the Bench directed the Petitioners to file a comprehensive complaint to the Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) over the matter, and to demand corrective action. Further, the Bench assured the petitioners that the writ petition itself would be treated as a representation to the respondents.

The petitioners drew the attention of the Court to the actions of the MoEF, the Karnataka State Forest Department, the Karnataka Department of Ecology and Environment, and the Chief Wildlife Warden of Karnataka, for fundamentally violating the Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972, in allowing 'prospecting' within the notified Kudremukh National Park for the benefit of KIOCL, a public sector undertaking.

KIOCL, in utter contempt of the law, cut roads through the mountainous tracts and endemic *shola* forests; engaged in blasting operations scaring away the wildlife from the Nellibeedu region; drilled bore-wells on Sujigudda mountain drying up streams and springs; and felled hundreds of trees. This continued for over three years, and went unchecked by any of the relevant government agencies, despite repeated protests and

representations, locally and nationally, by the petitioners, local elected representatives, various experts and environmental groups. The petitioners are now preparing a comprehensive complaint to the MoEF on the case.

Source: Email from Environment Support Group, 28/8/98.

Contact: Environment Support Group (ESG),
Reservoir Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore
560 004. Telefax: 91-80-665 7995;
Email: admin@leo.ilban.ernet.in;
esg@bgl.vsnl.net.in; Website:
<http://www.cfar.umd.edu/~venu>.

Bhadra Sanctuary: Union Minister to Inspect Iron Ore Mines

Union Minister for Environment and Forests Suresh Prabhu has agreed to carry out a personal inspection of the Kemmanagundi iron ore mines of the Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Limited (VISL), Bhadravati, following a plea from Shimoga MP, Ayanur Manjunath, to resume mining activity. The mines have been closed because they are within the Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary.

Mr Manjunath said the Karnataka Government had recommended for renewal of the VISL mining lease. He claimed that there was no forest as such at the place where mining activity was carried out. The area, for which permission for mining lease was requested, lay on the outer periphery of the sanctuary, and would not affect flora and fauna in any manner.

As the mines were located partly within the forest land, the State Government had sent a proposal to the MoEF for clearance as required under the Forest (Conservation) Act, so that the renewal of the mining lease could be granted to the VISL. The proposal was still pending in the MoEF.

The NGO Kalpavriksh has sent a letter to Prabhu (in September 1998), expressing concern regarding this move, and asking him to reject any proposal for restarting mining here.

Sources: 'Union Minister to Inspect Kemmanagundi Iron Ore Mines'. *Deccan Herald*, 29/8/98; Letter of 2/9/98 from Pankaj Sekhsaria, Kalpavriksh, to Suresh Prabhu, MoEF.

Contact: ESG (see above, for Kudremukh).

Anshi National Park: Agitation Against Involuntary Displacement

Local communities inside the Anshi National Park in Karnataka are opposing what they fear is a move to displace them from the Park. In response

to a March 1998 proclamation of the Asst. Commissioner, Karwar for the settlement of rights (in pursuance of the Supreme Court's directions in the WWF case, see NATIONAL NEWS FROM INDIA), the Anshi Udyanavan Punaravasti Virodhi Samiti ('Anshi National Park Resettlement Opposition Committee') has in a letter dated 9th May 1998, expressed their opposition to any plans to move them out, and have stressed that they are the ones who have protected and helped regenerate the forests in the area.

Significantly, in an independent letter to the Conservator of Forests, Wildlife North Circle, Shimoga, the Deputy Conservator, Wildlife Division, Dandeli, too has suggested that the resettlement of people from the Park is not a good idea. According to him many of the management activities in the protected area involving labour are carried out by the local people, and their co-operation is needed to provide social fencing which will protect the National Park. Any attempt at resettlement will only further antagonise the already agitating people and will be a very futile and counter-productive step. He has suggested that instead, their settlements should become 'enclaves', physically located inside the boundaries of the Park but legally excluded from it.

(Ed. note: The DCF's suggestion for enclaves or enclosures has precedence in Karnataka, where several PAs have such an arrangement. Ref: Lal, R., Kothari, A., Pande, P., and Singh. S. 1994. *Directory of National Parks and Sanctuaries in Karnataka*. Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi.)

KERALA

Tribal colony in Peechi Sanctuary under Naxalite control?

Trouble may be brewing in the Peechi Wildlife Sanctuary. The Thamaravallachal tribal colony, situated just 3 km from the Peechi reservoir, is spread over a patch of more than 100 acres of reserved forest, with a population of about 500 men, women and children.

Government officials allege that this village is now virtually under the control of CPI-ML (Red Flag), a faction of Naxalites who physically prevents the entry of any non-member irrespective of his official status, to the colony.

According to the Superintendent of Police, A. Hemachandran, the police do not take much action partly because there is no immediate law and order issue and the area is under the jurisdiction of the Forest Department. According to the SP, the

tribals fall prey to the 'extremist' groups mainly because of poverty. If adequate measures for their welfare were taken, tribals would be prevented from turning to the extremists.

The tribal community is demanding its rights to the land and forests, arguing that they acquired the relevant skills and expertise to protect forests through generations. However, owing to the inaccessibility of the colony for over a decade, the Forest Department has been in the dark about the developments there.

As per the existing laws, the state government cannot allocate the land encroached upon since January 01, 1977 to the encroachers. It cannot even demarcate the boundaries of land under the possession of encroachers since January 01, 1977, as it would amount to granting permission to encroachers to occupy the forest land under their unauthorised possession. The Forest Department, therefore, could not take any action to contain the expansion of the colony and keep a watch on the activities of its members.

MAHARASHTRA

Melghat Tiger Reserve: Destructive Development

Two projects are causing serious concern about the future of the Melghat Tiger Reserve: the first is a highway being built through the Reserve; the second a pumped storage scheme in the adjacent area.

The road works undertaken in the Melghat Tiger Reserve, against which NGOs have been agitating for months, have been found to have violated the Forest (Conservation) Act of 1980. The work has now been stopped and an FIR is being prepared against the Contractor. But, the question that Kishor Rithe, the Hon. Wildlife Warden of Amravati correctly asks is "What were the Field Director and the Chief Wildlife Warden of Maharashtra doing while the violations were on and all of us were complaining almost daily about it?" The situation now is that the Executive Engineer of PWD and CF are liable for punishment.

Some years ago, when around 4,000 tribal children died in the Melghat area due to so-called 'malnutrition', almost no rise in the normal infant mortality was observed in the 57 forest villages *inside* the Melghat Tiger Reserve. This could be because quite apart from fresh and safe drinking water, the Korku communities had access to tubers, roots, creepers, wild fruit, fish, crabs and other such life supporting resources. These

communities will probably have to face outside "competition" as the roads that have been constructed now enable outsiders in vehicles to enter the very heart of the forest.

The Chikhaldara Reserved Forest surrounds the proposed Chikhaldara Pumped Storage Project (CPSP) site on all four sides - a dense mixed 'A' class forest with old growth trees including teak and a reported evidence of tigers. These forests are contiguous with the Melghat Tiger Reserve and serve as both corridor and buffer for the TR.

Contrary to the information provided by the Chief WL Warden, the CPSP is a mere 4 km away from the Sanctuary, and 6-7 km from the NP boundary (core area). Any construction that involves non-forest purpose could contravene SC instructions, irrespective of its status as a PA or otherwise.

As per Indian Board for Wildlife/Project Tiger stipulations, no project is allowed within 10 km. radius of the boundary of a Project Tiger Reserve. As per the EIA report, the following endangered species have been recorded at this site: tiger, panther, bear, flying squirrel, giant squirrel, rattle, python, gaur, nilgai, sambar, pangolin. It is highly undesirable that such prime habitat be destroyed for this project.

The proposed project requires about 144 ha of forest land, for submergence (almost 100 ha.), colony, quarries, etc. Much of this forest is reportedly of density higher than 0.4. According to the EIA report, the land falling under submergence is proposed from 4 villages with a total area of 104.36 ha. (Forest land/Revenue land). Though the project report is claiming that no *gaunthan* (village common land, for grazing and other uses) will be affected, it is important to study any direct or indirect effect of the same (e.g. through agricultural changes).

The project being located in the reserved forest, violates the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980. In addition, the Gawaligarh Fort, just one km away from the project site, is an important ASI/State Archaeological Monument, but is not mentioned in the EIA. The influx of more than 1,300 labourers could drive away all the wildlife in the area. The pipes and tunnels between the lower and upper reservoirs will become an artificial barrier for the wildlife. NGOs are demanding that this project should be rejected at the outset.

Source: E-mails from Bittu Sahgal, 04/18/98 and 11/08/98, on nathistory-india@lists.princeton.edu.

Contact: Kishor Rithe, Honorary Wildlife Warden, 'Prathishtha', Bharat Nagar, Akoli Rd., Near Sainagar, Amravati 444

605, Maharashtra. Tel: 91-721-672 359;
Email: ncsa@bom3.vsnl.net.in.

Bittu Sahgal, Sanctuary Magazine, 602
Maker Chambers V, Nariman Point,
Mumbai 400 021. Fax: 91-22-287 4380;
Email: bittu@viasbm01.vsnl.net.in.

Village Protection Force for Tadoba-Andhari

A progressive partnership between the Forest Department and local communities, which was developing in the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve, recently received a rude shock when a tribal youth was killed allegedly by vested interests. Under the centrally sponsored ecodevelopment programme, a Adivasi Youth Wildlife Protection Committee was established for the Reserve. Five youths from six tribal villages situated in and on the periphery of the Andhari Wildlife Sanctuary were trained and their services utilised for the protection of wildlife and its habitat in the Tiger Reserve. Ten protection huts were constructed in different parts of the Reserve and patrolling parties were stationed at these huts in order to curb illegal activities. The Committee's first success was the nabbing of 22 poachers from Jabalpur, after which several illicit bamboo cutters were caught.

Research undertaken by people from the Nagpur University suggests that the Forest Department and the local tribals were working out a meaningful partnership. However, in May 1998, one of the tribals, Vinod Sidam, was found murdered. The Forest Department reportedly moved fast to arrange compensation, but some local politicians have doubted its handling of the situation and complicated the matter.

Source: 'New Protection Force for TATR', *Tigerlink News*, Vol.4, No.2, September 1998

Contact: **Rucha Ghate / Mukund Kulkarni**,
Postgraduate Training Dept., Economics
Dept., Nagpur University Campus,
Amravati Road, Nagpur, Maharashtra.

ORISSA

Major Port Proposed near Bhitarkanika Sanctuary

The Orissa Chief Minister has laid the foundation stone for a major port to be built on the left bank of the Dhamra River (the Bhitarkanika Sanctuary is on the right bank). Forest clearance was not sought though the site lies in the Banipahi forest range near Chandinipal. It is a CRZ I area, thick with mangroves and is part of the proposed extension of the Bhitarkanika National Park for which a draft notification was issued in 1988.

Recent amendments to the Coastal Regulation Zone Rules have provided a very small loophole, which the State government is trying to exploit to avoid environmental clearance. The amendment allows the Surface Transport Ministry at the Centre to give environmental clearance if the existing port or harbour is expanded or modernises "within port limits." The government is taking the position that in the 19th and the early part of the 20th century, a port existed at Dhamra! Unless there is massive protests and resistance at this stage itself, Bhitarkanika may well be lost forever.

Source: E-mail from Bittu Sahgal 26/07/98

PUNJAB

Harike Wetland Conservation Mission

The Punjab government has constituted a Harike Wetland Conservation Mission with the aim of safeguarding the future of this lake. Situated 55 km south of Amritsar, Harike is the largest wetland in northern India. It is a vital winter home of an enormous concentration of migratory waterfowl, including a number of globally threatened species. Harike's shallow reservoir was created in 1953 by the construction of a barrage at the confluence of the Sutlej and Beas rivers. It was declared a 41 sq.km wildlife sanctuary in 1982, and later enlarged to 86 sq.km.

Considered a wetland of international importance, it was included in the list of Ramsar sites in 1990. Like many wetlands in India, Harike has considerable human use of its resources, including fishing, grazing, and use of water for irrigation. There are also several perceived problems, including silting and shrinking of the water body, water hyacinth infestation, encroachment, and water pollution.

The Mission has been asked to review all existing management plans and submit a comprehensive report within one month. The long term objective is to prepare an integrated masterplan for the conservation and management of Harike lake and the development of the region around it; screening, and monitoring of development activities, and evaluation of plans and proposals of departments of the Government which concern the future of Harike.

Source: Email from Belinda Wright, 23/07/98, on nathistory-india@lists.princeton.edu.

Contact: **Belinda Wright**, Wildlife Protection Society of India (WPSI), Thapar House, 124 Janpath, New Delhi 110 001. Tel.: 91-11-621 3864; Fax: 91-11-336 8729; Email: blue@nda.vsnl.net.in.

UTTAR PRADESH

Rajaji National Park - A Breakthrough?

The Friends of Doon Society (FDS), a Dehradun-based NGO, have reported that there is some progress on the move to relocate Gujjars outside the Rajaji National Park. On a visit to the Park, the former Minister for Environment and Forests Saifuddin Soz, accompanied by the Park Director and senior officials of the Ministry, was shown the degradation taking place in the area. He also met many Gujjars inside the Park.

The Minister reviewed with the Park authorities and the Chief WL Warden of UP some pressing problems, such as restoration of green corridor connecting the two halves of the Park at Raiwala, and widening the bridge at the Chilla Hydel Power Channel to enable elephants and other animals to cross. Addressing a deputation of Gujjars, Prof. Soz categorically ruled out any consideration of a proposal mooted by a local NGO (Rural Litigation and Entitlement Kendra) to hand over the Park to the Gujjars. He advised them instead to give up the idea of living inside the Park. The UP government has since then forwarded the proposal for the allocation of two acres of land to each Gujjar family.

FDS also reports that the Pathri rehabilitation colony, which now has 150 Gujjar families, has been significantly improved, and there is a vocational training centre for the residents which includes training in tailoring and electrician's work.

One wonders, however, why there is not similar enthusiasm amongst urban conservationists to save Rajaji from the ravages of railway lines, highways, the IDPL/BHEL factories, the Haridwar district headquarters, the army ammunition dump, the demands for fuel/timber by Dehra Dun/Rishikesh/Haridwar which are met by illegal felling, and dozens of other 'developmental' and commercial activities which are eating away the Park's habitat?

Source: 'Rajaji National Park - A Breakthrough', *The Friends of the Doon Society Newsletter*, Winter 1997-98

Contact: **P.K. Ghosh**, Friends of Doon Society, c/o EBD Business Centre, 49 Rajpur Road, Dehra Dun 248001. Tel: 91-135-654 487.

Poachers benefit as Corbett Park staff denied entry into Park

The Irrigation Department has reportedly banned the entry of forest officials in or near the dam at Kalagarh, where it controls the functioning of a 178 sq.km. reservoir running through the heart of the Corbett Tiger Reserve. The Forest Guards are even being denied access to speed boats without which they are unable to reach Sonanadi Sanctuary, which forms the western part of the Tiger Reserve, for normal day-to-day patrolling.

Apparently this step was taken after Park staff caught six Irrigation Department officials catching fish from the reservoir, an offence under the Wild Life (Protection) Act. The Irrigation Dept., however, claims that all vehicular movement (for all departments) has been stopped to ensure the safety of the dam during the monsoons, and this has nothing to do with the fishing incident.

The Chief Wildlife Warden of UP, R.L.Singh, feels that if the situation persists for long, it would create havoc for the Reserve as poachers may have a free hand.

Source: Suri, A. 1998. 'Advantage Poachers as Departments Wage a Battle'. *Indian Express*, 28/8/98. Contact: Field Director, Corbett Tiger Reserve, Forest Department, Ramnagar 244 715, District Nainital, Uttar Pradesh.

Dudhwa National Park on Way to Recovery

Effective habitat management and positive interaction of the Park authorities with local communities, are helping in the revival of Dudhwa National Park. According to the findings of a six-year study conducted by Dr. Salim Javed, Aligarh Muslim University, the status of the *terai* grasslands, which had earlier suffered considerably due to habitat destruction, is now showing positive improvement, thanks to sustained conservation efforts in recent years.

The presence of large numbers of rare species of birds including Swamp francolin and Black stork, bear testimony to the "improved ecological status of the park".

Further details of what kind of local community and other inputs are being provided, have been sought from Dr. Javed.

Source: Hasan, Tariq. 'Project Helps Improve Dudhwa Park Ecology'. *Times of India*, 23/6/98

Contact: **Dr. Salim Javed**, Centre of Wildlife and Ornithology, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh 202 002, Uttar Pradesh.

NEWS FROM INDIAN STATES

BIHAR

Railway Threatens Wildlife Corridor

The auxiliary double loop railway line being built for Central Coalfields Ltd. (North Karanpur Coalfields Project), a subsidiary of Coal India Ltd., is being laid partly through old *sal* (*Shorea robusta*) forests that form a forest corridor for wildlife in the area. This corridor directly connects the Satpahar Range with Palamau forests to the east. Satpahar itself connects through the corridor of open woodland into the Mahudi Range that runs the length of the North Karanpur valleys and forms the last link to Hazaribagh on the north bank of river Damodar. Both Palamau and Hazaribagh have protected areas, the former a Tiger Reserve.

This forested area is interspersed with tribal hamlets, many of which will be displaced by the rail project. Also affected will be ancient mesolithic (c. 8000 BC) rock art sites which are world-famous. The World Bank, which is financially supporting the project, has been fully apprised of the situation and they plan to study the damage by CCL's mining operations before going ahead with their loan. Local NGOs have alleged that if the plans for all the mines in the area are allowed to go ahead, they will annihilate all existing forest corridors.

The good news is that, the Hurilong Underground Coal Mine Project of CCL was rejected at the last MoEF Expert Committee on Mining in June 1998. The project required 165.93 ha of forest land next to Palamau Tiger Reserve. The mouth of the proposed mine was to be situated only 1.5 km from the Reserve boundary and the underground mining would have taken place inside.

Sources: Krishnan Kutty, on nathistory-india@lists.princeton.edu, 16/07/98; and *Tigerlink News*, Vol.4, No.2, September 1998. See also articles by Philip Carter in *Sanctuary Asia* (Vol. VIII(5), 1997); *CSE Change*, 15 Sept. 1998; *The Ecologist Asia* (Vol. 6(2), March-April 1998); and *Cheetal*, Vol. 36(3&4).

Contact: **Krishnan Kutty**, E-mail: 6wwc@sparrl.com.

Bulu Imam, INTACH, The Grove, Hazaribagh 825 301, Bihar.

KARNATAKA

The Karnataka Tiger Conservation Project

The Karnataka Tiger Conservation Project (KTCP) was launched in January 1998 to strengthen the conservation status of four important tiger habitats in Karnataka - Nagarahole, Bandipur, Kudremukh and Bhadra - through field-oriented protection and community involvement activities. It is supported by the Wildlife Conservation Society (USA) in collaboration with the Karnataka Forest Department, Wildlife First!, and other NGOs.

Since its inception, the KTCP has implemented several activities such as providing jeeps in important ranges of the four protected areas for patrolling; protection and fire control duties; staff training and welfare activities; training camps to improve field craft, anti-poaching and protection skills of field staff; an innovative scheme for providing insurance cover to field staff; educational campaign about the negative impact of forest fires; and community contact programmes including talks and slide shows.

After considerable lobbying and follow up, the voluntary resettlement and relocation programme of tribal families is likely to be taken up soon with all governmental clearances and funding in place. Due to pressure from Wildlife First!, this year no permits were issued for bamboo removal from Bhadra Sanctuary by the Mysore Paper Mills or for supply to artisans.

Source: 'KTCP-update'. *Tigerlink News*, Vol. 4 No.2, September 1998.

Contact: **Wildlife First!**, 248, 4th Main Road, Chamrajpat, Bangalore 560 018, Karnataka.

MAHARASHTRA

Workshop on Protected Areas in Maharashtra

The Maharashtra Forest Department called a meeting, 'Biodiversity Conservation in Maharashtra: Vision Beyond 200' on 3-4 September 1998 at Nagpur, to discuss various issues relating to the management of protected areas and other conservation matters in the state. The meeting was spurred by the preparation of a *Directory of National Parks and Sanctuaries in Maharashtra*, part of a series of directories being produced at the Indian Institute of Public Administration (and now being produced by an

independent team of researchers, funded by WWF-India). This Directory is in a draft stage, and its authors felt that a discussion on the various issues raised during its compilation would help both in its finalisation and be an occasion to take decisions regarding the future of wildlife conservation in Maharashtra.

Over 100 persons from the Forest Department, conservation and social action NGOs, and independent wildlifers attended the meeting. Discussions were held on management, research and monitoring, awareness/education, conservation and development interface, and other issues. Though the topic of the workshop was conservation in general, much of the discussion was focused on PAs.

The recommendations of the workshop are being finalised by the Forest Department; a first draft of these recommendations has critical points: the need to strengthen the legal and other capacities of the PA staff, joint custodianship of PAs with local communities, guaranteeing the right to life (including to bona fide biomass resources) of local communities, strong steps against destructive developmental and commercial activities in and around PAs, the need for conservation measures across the entire landscape and not just restricted to PAs, etc.

Contact: **M.G. Gogate**, Chief Wildlife Warden (Maharashtra), Jaika Building, Civil Lines, Nagpur 440 001, Maharashtra.
Fax: 91-712-552 518; 536 669.

Meeting of People Affected by PAs in Western Maharashtra

A meeting was held at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, on 7 September 1998, of villagers affected by protected areas in western Maharashtra including Bhimashankar, Koyna, Radhanagari, Malvan, Harishchandragad and Kalsubai Sanctuaries. Among the issues discussed were the situation arising from the WWF - India case regarding settlement of rights of people in PAs (see NATIONAL NEWS), and the proposed changes in the Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972. A resolution was adopted at the meeting.

Contact: **Kusum Karnik**, Shaswat, At and PO Manchar, District Pune 410 503, Maharashtra.

ORISSA

GOI Announces Project Turtle; Orissa Govt. Moves to Build Port

As reported in *JPAM Update* 15, thousands of sea turtles are being killed every year off the coast of Orissa, mainly due to the indiscriminate fishing practices of trawlers. Bivash Pandav, a researcher of the Wildlife Institute of India, who has personally walked the length of the nesting beaches of the Olive Ridley turtle in Orissa, estimates the total mortality this year at over 13,500.

This is an epidemic of major proportions, entirely human-made (and not caused, as one imaginative official of the Orissa government said, due to fatigue during the turtles' migration!).

In August, responding to national and international calls for action, the Government of India announced a major programme called Project Turtle, conceived by scientists of the WII. The Ministry of Environment and Forests committed about Rs. 1 crore for stepped-up patrols of the waters to prevent turtles from being snared in shrimp baskets and other nets. It also hopes to get US\$ 5 million over five years from the Global Environment Facility for more sustained conservation efforts, like tracking turtle migration routes by satellite.

In a move that could undermine the above efforts, however, the Orissa Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for a major port to be built on the left bank of the Dhamra River. The Bhitarkanika National Park is on the right bank of the same river! Banka Behari Das of the Orissa Krushak Mahasangh alleges that this port will be in violation of the Forest Conservation Act as also the CRZ regulations. The area is part of the proposed extension of the Bhitarkanika National Park.

The Orissa Government is using a small loophole in the Coastal Regulation Zone rules, which allows the Surface Transport Ministry, Government of India, to give clearance if an existing port is being expanded --- the government claims that in the 19th and early part of the 20th century, a port existed at Dhamra!

Sources: Email from Bivash Pandav, 25/8/98; *Science*, Volume 281, Number 5384, 18 September 1998; mail from Banka Behari Das, 26/7/98.

Contact: **Bivash Pandav / B.C. Choudhury**, Wildlife Institute of India, Post Box 18, Chandrabani, Dehradun 248 001. Tel: 91-135-640 112-15; Fax: 91-135-640 117;

Email: (for Choudhury) wii@wii.gov.in
(for Pandav) pandavb@yahoo.com.

Banka Behari Das, Orissa Krushak Mahasangh, Parivesh Bhavan, 14 Ashok Nagar, Bhubaneshwar 751 009, Orissa.
Tel: 91-674-400 305; Fax: 91-674-404 222.

NATIONAL NEWS FROM INDIA

Voluntary Relocation Scheme for Protected Areas; and Note on 'Voluntary Relocation'

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MSJE) (formerly the Ministry of Welfare), Government of India, under the leadership of Maneka Gandhi, has proposed a scheme to reduce human-wildlife conflicts and address the critical livelihood needs of people living inside PAs. The scheme envisages financial support to NGOs in implementing voluntary resettlement and rehabilitation programmes for such people, especially those who are being denied developmental opportunities on account of the Wild Life (Protection) Act. It is reported that the Planning Commission has cleared about Rs. 25 crores for the scheme.

However, the first draft of the scheme contains a series of fundamental faults. The programme has the grandiose title of Scheme for Voluntary Conservation of Nature by Tribals and Others, but has nothing to do with such conservation within PAs. NGOs have criticised it on the following counts:

- for assuming that tribals can only participate in conservation by voluntarily agreeing to move out
- For not critically defining 'voluntary'
- for not explicitly rejecting forced displacement, and
- for not laying out essential aspects of what would constitute a fair resettlement process (such as a public hearing, independent monitoring, etc).

At a recent meeting, these points were put across to the MSJE, which has promised to consider them in a revised draft. At the time of going to press, it was not clear whether a revised version has come out.

Meanwhile, in a follow-up to the Second Consultation on Wildlife Conservation and People's Livelihood Rights, held in April 1998 (see *JPAM Update* 17), Sunil of Kisan Adivasi Sanghatan, Kesla (MP) has prepared a discussion note on what constitutes 'voluntary' relocation and what does not. He has clearly distinguished between 'induced' and 'voluntary' relocation, the first being a situation in which artificial conditions (such as restrictions related to wildlife laws) force people to ask for relocation.

A comment note on Sunil's draft has been prepared by Ashish Kothari of Kalpavriksh. These two documents, along with the MSEJ's draft and Kalpavriksh's critique, are currently under circulation for further discussion, with the aim of coming out with a commonly acceptable definition of what could constitute 'voluntary' relocation from PAs. Readers wishing to have a copy of these documents may pl. contact the Editors at the *JPAM Update* address (see end of newsletter).

Sources: '*Scheme for Voluntary Conservation of Nature by Tribals and Others*', circulated by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment vide letter dated 29th June, 1998; comments on this Scheme by Ashish Kothari, vide letter to the Ministry dated 2nd July 1998; *Rashtriya Udhyan va Abhyaranyon se Swaichhik aur Jabardasti Visthapan: Ek Tippani* (in Hindi), by Sunil, Kisan Adivasi Sanghatan; and comments on Sunil's note by Ashish Kothari.

Contact (for official scheme): **Maneka Gandhi**,
Minister for Social Justice and
Empowerment, Shastri Bhawan, New
Delhi 110 001.

For other notes, contact Editors at *JPAM Update* address.

WWF implements Tiger Conservation Programme

WWF-India's Tiger Conservation Programme (TCP) is paying special attention to reducing conflicts between wildlife and people living in and around tiger reserves. A plan for providing immediate compensation for cattle killed by tigers is being implemented in three states where the maximum number of poisoning cases have been reported: Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, and Bihar. The compensation programme seeks to counter the added threat to the Indian tiger, i.e. poisoning of tigers that are killing livestock. Such poisoning has been reported from several reserves, including Corbett and Dudhwa National Parks, U.P., and Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Sanctuary, A.P. (see *JPAM Update* 15).

In association with local NGOs and/or the Forest Department, the programme has started with activities in Corbett and Dudhwa National Parks and Katerniaghat Sanctuary, U.P.; Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem and Eturnagaram-Pakhhal Sanctuaries, A.P., and Palamau Tiger Reserve, Bihar.

Source: 'Reducing Human-Animal Conflicts', *Tigerlink News*, Vol.4, No.2, September 1998

WWF Case on Protected Areas

As reported in a previous issue of *JPAM Update* (No. 15), a petition filed by the World Wide Fund for Nature - India in 1997, in the Supreme Court, had sought directions to state governments to expeditiously implement the Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972. Amongst the various interim orders passed by the Court, one related to the settlement of rights of people living inside or otherwise using protected areas.

The Court directed that such settlement should be carried out within one year. NGO have subsequently pointed out that a hasty process of settlement in which there are no clear guidelines, could be disastrous both for the protected areas and for those communities who depend on the resources of these areas. Some of the implications that were brought out by these NGOs, have already started manifesting themselves in various parts of India.

In Maharashtra, reportedly there are moves to delete substantial portions of the PAs, in the mistaken belief that people will otherwise have to be moved outside the boundaries. What happened with Melghat Sanctuary (which was partially denotified in 1994, ostensibly to avoid having to shift people out of a PA), could well happen to dozens of other PAs in the country... a sad (but not unpredictable) consequence of the petition. In Anshi, Karnataka (see story inside), local people are agitating against the national park, fearing displacement (as was reported from several other PAs in past issues of the *Update*). At a recent meeting of affected people in Bombay, villagers from several PAs of Maharashtra asserted that they would rather see the PAs denotified than to have to move out.

An intervention is now being prepared by a number of environmental and social action groups, most of whom are working with people in and around protected areas. The intervention petition will argue that the settlement process should be participatory so that everyone can have a fair say in decision-making; that it should be culturally and socially sensitive; that it should use a clear

definition of 'rights' (which includes both recorded or unrecorded customary rights), and should not presume that all rights have to be extinguished, etc.

WWF-India, while not being pro-active in trying to resolve the issue, has nevertheless agreed to the idea, and has stated its preference for "a just and participatory approach at all times".

Readers are requested to send in any details that they think would have a bearing on this case, especially if there are genuine instances of violation of people's rights in the settlement process, examples of good settlement processes happening, instances where district authorities, forest officials, and local people are collaborating in the process, etc. Any news especially on threatened denotification by state governments, may pl. be brought to notice immediately; if the Editors of *JPAM Update* are alerted, we will in turn send out an alert to others in the network.

Contact (for the main case): **Samar Singh**, World Wide Fund for Nature - India, 172 B, Lodi Estate, New Delhi 110 003. Tel: 91-11-461 6532; Fax: 91-11-462 6837.

(for the intervention): **Farhad Vania / Sanjay Upadhyay**, B39, Dainik Janyug Aptmts., Vasundhara Enclave, Delhi 110096. Telefax: 91-11-2477375; Email: fvania@ndb.vsnl.net.in (or) upadhyay@del3.vsnl.net.in.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Workshop on Collaborative Management of PAs in the Asian Region

As reported in *JPAM Update* 17, a workshop on the Collaborative Management of PAs in the Asian Region was held at the Royal Chitwan National Park, Nepal, on 25-28 May 1998. The workshop was aimed at discussing a proposal for a regional programme to promote co-management (with a primary focus on involving local communities in conservation) of PAs in several countries of South and South-east Asia. The meeting was organised by IUCN-Nepal and the King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation, with assistance from the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, HM Government of Nepal and IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas.

A core working group formed during the workshop, which has subsequently met and revised the proposal in the light of the participants'

suggestions, has subsequently finalised it at a meeting in Bangkok in August. The proposal, after being discussed by a steering committee formed at the workshop, will be sent for consideration by the interested donors.

Contact: **Scott Perkin**, S. & SE. Asia Regional Biodiversity Programme, IUCN- The World Conservation Union, No. 48, Vajira Road, Colombo 5, Sri Lanka. Tel.: 94-74-510-517; Fax: 94-1-580-202; E-mail: scott@slt.lk.

Krishna Oli, IUCN-Nepal, P.O.Box 3923, Kathmandu, Nepal. Tel.: 97-71-535-921; Fax: 97-71-536-786; E-mail: iucn@mos.com.np.

Initiatives by the World Commission on Protected Areas

The World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), a global network of people working on PAs, has come out with a series of interesting and innovative ideas regarding the future of PAs. At a series of meetings (including a 5-year review of its global mandate, held in Albany, Australia, see *JPAM Update* 15, and a Steering Committee meeting in June 1998) and related processes, it has proposed or finalised the following:

1. A draft policy on PAs and indigenous peoples, jointly prepared by WWF and IUCN (the World Conservation Union) staff, which stresses the need to respect the rights of such peoples and involve them in the planning and management of PAs;
2. A draft policy on mining and PAs, which stresses that no mining should be allowed in most categories of PAs, and even in others, only localised extraction under strict environmental supervision should be allowed;
3. A Task Force on Local Communities and Protected Areas. This task force would be an inter-commission one, between the WCPA and IUCN's Commission on Environmental Education and Social Planning (CEESP).
4. A Task Force on Management Effectiveness of PAs.

Contact: **David Sheppard**, Head, Programme on Protected Areas, IUCN The World Conservation Union, Rue Mauverney 28, Ch-1196, Gland, Switzerland. Tel: 41-22-999 0001; Fax: 41-22-999 0002; Email: das@hq.iucn.org.

WHAT'S AVAILABLE?

 Dwivedi, Ranjit. 1997. Parks, People and Protest: The Mediating Role of Environmental Action Groups. *Sociological Bulletin*, 46(2).

This paper focuses on analysing the effect and dynamics of the Jungle Jeevan Bachao Yatra (reported in *JPAM Update* 2,3,4), which traversed through several national parks and sanctuaries in central and western India. Organised by a conglomerate of NGOs, conservation groups, grassroot organisations and environmentalists, the aim of the march was a critical assessment of official conservation policies and practices. Dwivedi feels that though the Yatra raised critical issues and awareness, it portrayed a somewhat romantic picture of rural India, and thereby lessened the chances of true empowerment of local communities.

 Sivaganesan, N., Sivasubramanian, G., and Limatoshi, A.O. 1998. People Participatory Approach for Conservation of Elephant Corridor - A Case Study in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. Paper presented in the National Seminar on Wildlife Conservation, Research and Management, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, 10-13 August, 1998.

A case study report on the pilot project launched by SACON and Sathyamangalam Forest Division, focusing on providing alternatives to fuelwood collectors in the forest corridors in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. Details of how these people were also involved in protection work, including the creation of multi-stakeholder committees, are provided.

Contact: **N. Sivaganesan**, Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, Moongilpallam, Anaikatty (PO), Coimbatore 681 108, Tamil Nadu. Tel: 91-422-807973; Fax: 91-422-807952.

 Pabla, H.S. and Mathur, V.B. 1998. Policy Options for Wildlife Conservation in India. Paper presented in the National Seminar on Wildlife Conservation, Research and Management, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehra Dun, 10-13 August, 1998.

This paper takes stock of the wildlife conservation policies in India, admitting that past policies have created suffering and hostility among local communities. It suggests some new initiatives for distributing costs borne by such communities, treating over-abundant wildlife as local resources, and proper rehabilitation of some villages from PAs.

Contact: **V.B. Mathur**, Wildlife Institute of India, P.O. Chandrabani, Dehra Dun 248 001. Tel: 91-135-640112-15. Fax: 91-135-640117. Email: wii@wii.gov.in.

📖 Nath, Cheryl D. and Sukumar, R. 1998. *Elephant-Human Conflict in Kodagu, Southern India: Distribution Patterns, People's Perceptions and Mitigation Methods*. Asian Elephant Conservation Centre, Bangalore. Unpriced.

Report on a research project to study 'selected aspects of elephant-human conflict', conducted in Kodagu district of Karnataka.

Contact: **R. Sukumar**, Asian Elephant Conservation Centre, Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore 560 012, India. Tel: 91-80-3092786; Fax: 91-80-3311280; Email: aecc@ces.iisc.ernet.in.

📖 Gautam, R.C. and Bhartari, Rajiv. 1998. *Jeev Vividhata Sanrakshan Me Sahbhagita: Kyon aur Kaise?* Corbett Tiger Reserve, Forest Department, Uttar Pradesh. Unpriced.

A booklet in Hindi (roughly translating as 'People's Participation in Biodiversity Conservation: How and Why?'), published by Corbett Tiger Reserve as a part of its eco-awareness programme. It aims to sensitise and inform forest department employees and officers about the importance of strategies used with/by local communities to conserve biodiversity.

Contact: **R. Bhartari**, Dy. Field Director, Corbett Tiger Reserve, Ramnagar, Dist. Nainital, Uttar Pradesh. Tel: 91-5945-85489; Fax: 91-5945-85376; Email: rajiv.bhartari@lead.sprintrpg.ems.vsnl.net.in.

📖 Kothari, A., Pathak, N., Anuradha, R.V., and Taneja, B. (eds.). 1998. *Communities and Conservation: Natural Resource Management in South and Central Asia*. UNESCO and Sage Publications, New Delhi. 506 pp., Rs. 325 (paperback); Rs.

495 (hardcover).

A compilation of 25 papers on community involvement in conservation of wildlife and biodiversity. Analytical pieces are complemented by country overviews from India, the Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, and case studies from India and Sri Lanka. Both protected areas and areas outside of PAs are covered.

📖 Sharma, Arpan. 1998. *Implementation of the Relocation Plan in Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary: An Assessment*. Unpublished report.

One of the few independent assessments made of a relocation programme from a protected area. Palpur Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh is slated to be the second home of the endangered Asiatic lion (to be relocated here from Gir National Park in Gujarat), for which several villages are being moved out of the sanctuary. Is the relocation voluntary? What are the provisions? How is its implementation? These questions are addressed by the author in this preliminary study.

Contact: **Arpan Sharma**, c/o College of Social Work, Nirmala Niketan, 38 New Marine Lines, Mumbai 400 020.

📖 Report of the Expert Committee on Conferring Ownership Rights of MFPs on Panchayats/Gram Sabhas. January 1998. Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India. 93 pp.

With the enactment of the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act of 1996, ownership of minor forest products has been transferred to the tribals living in Scheduled Areas. This Committee, set up by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, has gone into the implications of such ownership. Arguing that the Act does not transfer absolute ownership (since this could threaten forests and wildlife), the Committee has defined MFP (basically excluding trees and bamboo/cane), recommended full usufructory rights over such MFP to Gram Sabhas everywhere (not just Scheduled Areas), *except in protected areas*, and suggested ways by which local people can get maximum benefits from MFP without threatening the resource base.

The report does not suggest what should be done in the case of protected areas (which it defines as not just national parks and sanctuaries but also biosphere reserves), which is a major oversight considering the dependence of communities on

MFP within such areas.

Contact: **Ministry of Environment and Forests,**
Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex, Lodi
Estate, New Delhi 110 003.

UPCOMING...

Training Workshop On Wetland Research Methodology, January 5-10, 1999

As a part of its ongoing wetlands ecology, conservation and management Programme, the Wildlife Institute of India is in the process of consolidating wetland research methodology, and intends to develop a cadre of biologists who could contribute significantly in wetland conservation. Keeping this in view the Institute is planning to organise a one week Training Workshop on Wetland Research Methodology. The course is intended for research personnel from universities, research institutions, and protected areas. An MSc in any branch of biological science, preferably with 1-2 years of research experience in the field of wetland ecology, conservation and management, is required.

The workshop is field based and will be conducted at Chilika, Orissa with additional field trip to Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary. There is no course fee for the workshop. However, the participant will have to pay Rs.1000.00 as registration fee that will cover lodging and boarding and cost of the course materials. No travelling allowance will be given to report at the workshop venue.

Interested candidates can send their biodata stating

qualification, name of the institution/ project/ protected area with whom they are associated, experience if any, with a letter of recommendation from two referees addressed to:

Last date for application is November 15.

Contact: **The Director,** Wildlife Institute of India,
Post Box # 18, Dehradun.248 001, India.
Tel: 91-135-640 112/5; Fax: +91-135-
640117; Email: wii@wii.gov.in.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Appeal for funds for a film on Melghat

'The Political Economy of Khichri' is a video film being made by Nancy Adjanja, a Film and Television Institute of India graduate, on the issues related to the Melghat region of Maharashtra, including the Melghat Tiger Reserve. What began as an investigation into the child mortality in the area, has evolved into an exploration of the region's various social, economic, environmental and developmental problems. The film project revolves around the fact that starvation arises from the alienation of people from their resource base, traditional medicines and nutritious indigenous foods. The film is in its final stages and the film maker has made an appeal for funds for its completion. A funding proposal can be made available on request.

Contact: **Nancy Adjanja,** C-13, Usha Sadan, Near
Colaba Post Office, Colaba, Mumbai 400
005. Tel.: 91-22-215 1070; E-mail:
ranjithoskote@hotmail.com.

We are constantly trying to update our mailing list for *JPAM Update*. Do keep us informed of changes, including names and addresses of persons whom you feel would benefit from receiving the *Update*.

If you would like to receive *JPAM Update* as an attachment via email, send your request to

ashish@giasdl01.vsnl.net.in

JPAM Update is also available on the Internet at

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

<gopher://lists.princeton.edu:70/11/nathistory-india>

<http://www.ee.princeton.edu/~vivek/indian-birds.html>

JPAM Update is produced roughly 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, New Delhi, in September 1994.

JPAM Update 18 was prepared by Anuprita Patel, Ashish Kothari, Farhad Vania and Pankaj Sekhsaria with secretarial assistance from Vishal Thakre, on behalf of Kalpavriksh - Environmental Action Group.

This issue has been sponsored by World Wide Fund for Nature - India.

Ideas, comments, news, and information may pl. be sent to the following address:

**Ashish Kothari
Kalpavriksh
Apartment 5, Shree Dutta Krupa
908 Deccan Gymkhana
Pune 411 004
Maharashtra
India**

**Telefax: 91-212-354 239
Email: ashish@giasdl01.vsnl.net.in**