

# PROTECTED AREA UPDATE

News and Information from protected areas in India and South Asia

Vol. XV No. 4

August 2009 (No.80)

## LIST OF CONTENTS

### EDITORIAL

A new minister at the helm 2

### NEWS FROM INDIAN STATES

#### Andaman & Nicobar Islands

CEE to develop nature interpretation centre at  
Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park 3

#### Andhra Pradesh

Checklist of the birds of Pulicat 3

Two biosphere reserves proposed for Andhra  
Pradesh

#### Assam

Gibbons in Gibbon WLS not crossing over the  
railway line 4

Hand reared Asiatic black bears released in Manas  
NP

Hydroelectric projects in the North East may pose  
threat to KNP: Researchers

Rhino count in Kaziranga now 2048

Kaziranga Tiger Foundation not formed yet;  
reserve deprived of central funds

#### Chattisgarh

Wildlife enforcement workshop held in Raipur 6

#### Gujarat

State Wildlife Board allows for diversion of land  
in four PAs 6

More wells around Gir covered after government  
hikes subsidy

Gujarat cites Panna TR case to keep lions to itself  
93 lion deaths in Gujarat in last three years

#### Himachal Pradesh

Panel says no to scrapping of sanctuaries 7

#### Karnataka

Only elephants to ferry tourists in PAs 8

Project Elephant Directorate in Madikeri

Proposal to close road through Bandipur NP,  
Wayanad WLS withdrawn

#### Kerala

Tiger population in Wayanad WLS estimated at  
20-25 9

#### Madhya Pradesh

Road widening through Pench TR opposed  
Change in Field Directors at Kanha, Panna and  
Bandavgarh TRs 10

No more tigers in Panna TR – it's official now;  
four cats to be translocated

#### Maharashtra

CAT asks state to appoint Head of Forest Force  
within eight weeks 11

CEE to develop nature interpretation centre at  
Nandur Madhmeshwar WLS

Villagers relocated from Botezari arrested for  
'violating' and entering Tadoba Andhari TR  
11.44 acres reclaimed by Sanjay Gandhi NP  
NGO alleges that Sanjay Gandhi NP authorities  
claiming land illegally in Malad area

Soil testing in Tulsi Lake area in Sanjay Gandhi  
NP without FD permission

Dogs form 50% of leopard diet in  
Sanjay Gandhi NP

#### Orissa

Nandankanan now a member of world zoo body  
Rs. Three crore project to deal with human  
elephant conflict at Chandaka WLS 13

Rs. 5 crore Elephant Management Plan for state  
E-bulletin on the Forest Rights Act in Orissa  
Greenpeace report on turtle-fisheries issues in  
Orissa

#### Rajasthan

70 black bucks die in Tal Chappar WLS due to  
'weather shock' 15

#### Sikkim

Forest fires across the state in March 16  
PANDA Newsletter from ENVIS Sikkim

#### Tamil Nadu

Field Guide to the plants of the Northern Nilgiri  
Biosphere Reserve 16  
Nature Interpretation Centre in the  
Sathyamangalam WLS

<a href="#">Uttarakhand</a>	17
Rs. 8.5 crore security plan for Corbett TR	
<a href="#">West Bengal</a>	17
Nepal police fire at elephant herd	
Community based tourism project in North Bengal	

<b><u>NATIONAL NEWS FROM INDIA</u></b>	18
SC to CAMPA: Provide Rs. 1000 crore per year to states in next five years	
Interactive database on threatened lakes	
Proposal for a National Green Tribunal	
Tripartite MoUs to be signed between Centre, State and Project Tiger Reserves	
Simlipal TR, Pachmari and Nokrek NP added to UNESCO's Global Biosphere Reserve Network	
Forest Administration to be 'modernised' to deal with naxal threat	
NTCA directives on tourism in tiger reserves	
Whitley Award for Dr. MD Madhusudan	
Prem Bhatia Award for Environmental Journalism to Gargi Parsai	
Tiger relocation protocol approved	
Environment in the Indian Parliament: An Analysis 2007	

<b><u>SOUTH ASIA</u></b>	22
Consultation on Landscape Approach to Biodiversity Conservation and Management in the Eastern Himalayas	

<b><u>UPCOMING</u></b>	22
International Conference on Wildlife Conservation, Health and Disease Management	

### **Protected Area Update**

Vol. XV, No. 4, August 2009 (No. 80)

Editor: [Pankaj Sekhsaria](#)

Illustrations: [Madhuvanti Anantharajan](#)

Produced by: [Kalpavriksh](#)

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 – 25654239.

Email: [psekhsaria@gmail.com](mailto:psekhsaria@gmail.com)

Website: [www.kalpavriksh.org](http://www.kalpavriksh.org)

**Publication of the PA Update Vol. XV, No. 4 has been supported by the Duleep Mathai Nature Conservation Trust, the Foundation for Ecological Security and Greenpeace India.**

## **EDITORIAL**

### **A new minister at the helm**

Ever since the new government was sworn in, there has been a flurry of activity on the environment front. The new Union Minister for Environment and Forests, Mr. Jairam Ramesh has certainly been very active, as he has gone around the country meeting officials, people's representatives and NGOs alike.

The developments and his pronouncements too have been wide ranging – covering a diversity of issues that include the proposed Coastal Zone Management regime (allowing for its lapse), ensuring that provisions of the Forest Rights Act are met prior to seeking diversion of forest lands under the Forest Conservation Act; a change in the structure and operation of the CAMPA fund; engagement with a range of actors on provisions of the Biological Diversity Act (BDA) and more resources and steps for wildlife conservation in general and the tiger in particular.

There are still initial days, but clearly, those working on matters of livelihood security, issues of the environment and wildlife protection see a glimmer of hope in all that has been happening. It has been clear that over the years there has been a relentless assault at the hands of a development paradigm that only understands the language of industrialization, urbanization and growth in the GDP. This, therefore, will also then be the location of the biggest challenge for the new minister and the new government.

The undeniable reality is that the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) and the concerns it is supposed to advance have been at the bottom of the priorities of successive governments for a long time. If anything, the MoEF has been considered an unnecessary irritant in the path of development and economic growth - a line of thinking that is not going away very soon. Dealing with particular legislations or policy frameworks, while necessary, is not what is going to stem the rot. There has to be an attempt at dealing

with, or at least questioning the fundamental issues related to 'development'. In the current political and economic climate it will not be the easiest thing to do, but then if there is one space and Ministry that can even start the process it is without doubt, the MoEF.

The developments are, certainly, going to be watched with deep interest as they unfold.

---



### OBITUARY

Mr. Mir Inayatullah, the former Principal Conservator of Forest, Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), passed away recently owing to a sudden heart complication. He had a distinguished career as a forest and conservation administrator and served the state in various capacities.

He was Chief Wildlife Warden of J&K in the 1970s and 80s and is credited with taking path -breaking steps that led to the adoption and implementation of significant policy decisions that helped protect threatened species like the Kashmir Stag (Hangul), Snow Leopard and Black-necked crane. He was also instrumental in the creation and protection of a number of new protected areas in J&K.

In a period when the political situation in J&K was tense and the relationship between the state and the center was often marked by an incapacitating sullenness, Mr. Inayatullah used his immense people skills to keep the focus on the need to find collaborative solutions for conserving the state's wildlife and forests.

Remembering Mr. Inayatullah's contribution, George Archibald, the renowned conservationist called him "the father of conservation in Kashmir". He will be remembered and missed by his admirers in India and abroad. KV extends its heartfelt condolences to Mr. Inayatullah's family.

## NEWS FROM INDIAN STATES

### ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS

#### CEE to develop nature interpretation centre at Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park

The Centre for Environment Education, Ahmedabad will be developing a Nature Interpretation Centre at the Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park, Wandoor, in the Andaman Islands.

The aim of the centre would be to sensitize public at large about the importance of marine life and garner their support and motivate action towards conservation of fragile marine eco-systems.

More details of the proposal are not presently available.

Source: Interpretation Centre at Wandoor, Andaman & Nicobar', *ceenario*, May 1-15, 2009

Contact: CEE. Email: [ceedo@ceeindia.org](mailto:ceedo@ceeindia.org)  
CF, Wildlife, Van Sadan, Forest Department, Port Blair – 744102.

### ANDHRA PRADESH

#### Checklist of the birds of Pulicat

The Pulicat Lake Bird Lover's Society (PLBLS) has published 'Birds of Pulicat Lake – A Checklist'. The 60 page publication has been authored by Chennai based Dr. PJ Sanjeeva Raj and Prof Odd Jacobsen of the Bergen University College, Norway.

Contact: **Dr. PJ Sanjeeva Raj**, 17/1724, 21<sup>st</sup> Main Road, Anna Nagar, Chennai – 600040. Email: [rajsanjeeva@gmail.com](mailto:rajsanjeeva@gmail.com)

#### Two biosphere reserves proposed for Andhra Pradesh

The Union Ministry of Environment and Forests has proposed the creation of two biosphere reserves (BRs) in Andhra Pradesh. One of these will be in the Chintapalle area in

Visakhapatnam district while the second one has been proposed in the Seshachalam hills spread over the Chittoor and Kadapa districts.

Mr. Jairam Ramesh, Union Minister for Forests and Environment, announced this recently in Hyderabad following a meeting with the State Chief Minister, Mr. YSR Reddy. The full details of the proposals and time lines for its implementation are however not presently available.

Source: Santosh Patnaik. 'NGO hails biosphere reserve plan in agency', *The Hindu*, 09/06/09.

Contact: **CWLW**, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, Aranya Bhavan, Saifabad, Hyderabad - 500004, Andhra Pradesh. Tel: 040-23230561 / 23232668. Fax: 337889

## **ASSAM**

### **Gibbons in Gibbon WLS not crossing over the railway line**

Hollock Gibbons in the Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary have refused to use the temporary arrangements made for them to cross over the railway line that runs through the forests here. A Rs. 15 lakh bridge proposal to facilitate the movement of the gibbons was mooted in 2008 (*PA Updates* Vol. XIV, No. 1 and Nos. 57 & 50) and recently a huge wire was hung across on an experimental basis to see if the idea would work.

Since this has not worked the Forest Department (FD) is now planning to connect the both sides with pipes that will be covered with artificial creepers.

In another move, the FD has decided to construct a two km gravel road inside the sanctuary to facilitate the movement of tourists in the dense forests and allow them an opportunity to see the wildlife in the sanctuary, including the endangered gibbons.

Source: 'Forest project on gibbons in sanctuary go awry', *Assam Tribune*, 06/05/09

Contact: **DFO**, I/c Gibbon WLS, Jorhat Division, P.O. Jorhat, Dist. Jorhat – 785001, Assam. Tel: 0376-32008(O), 320456®

### **Hand reared Asiatic black bears released in Manas NP**

Three orphaned Asiatic black bears that were hand reared have been returned to the wild in the Manas National Park. The bears were acclimatised to the wild conditions through daily walks in the forests, following a soft-release protocol called assisted release. The release was executed jointly by the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) and the Assam Forest Department (FD)

The bears had been rescued by the FD in three different incidents from local people, who had held them captive around March 2008. They were handed over to the lower Assam unit of the IFAW-WTI Mobile Veterinary Services for hand-raising and eventual rehabilitation.

This is the third such batch of bears to be successfully sent back to the wild. The first two batches were rehabilitated by the IFAW-WTI and Arunachal Pradesh Forest Department in 2006 and 2008 respectively in the Pakke Tiger Reserve, Arunachal Pradesh.

Source: 'Bears back to the wild', *The Hindu*, 31/05/09

Contact: **Director**, Manas NP, PO Barpetta Rd. Dist. Barpetta – 781315, Assam. Tel: 03666 – 261413. Fax: 232253 / 260253

### **Hydroelectric projects in the North East may pose threat to KNP: Researchers**

A recent research paper: 'Probable impact of flushing and sluicing of sediment from dam reservoirs in the North Eastern India' has expressed concern that the Ranganadi Hydro Electric Project (RHEP) and the Lower Subansiri Hydro Electric Project may pose serious threats to the Kaziranga National Park. This, the paper argues, is in addition to destroying the habitat of the endangered Gangetic dolphins in the Subansiri River.

The report says that the practice of frequent flushing and sluicing sediment and debris by the projects will create a natural sediment dam at the confluence of the Ranganadi and Subansiri rivers with the

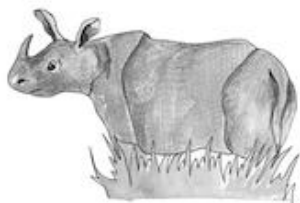
Brahmaputra. This may compel the Brahmaputra to change its morphology for maintaining the river continuum process, resulting in more inundation and erosion and this in turn could pose a threat to the Kaziranga National Park.

The research project was carried out by a team led by Dr Debojit Baruah of Lakhimpur Girls' College Botany Department and is part of a major Union Grants Commission (UGC) project on the pre-impact assessment of the Lower Subansiri hydel project on its downstream areas. The team conducted a study in the down stream areas of the 405-MW Ranganadi Hydroelectric Project (RHEP) which had been affected by flash floods on June 14, 2008 due to the alleged sudden release of waters by the RHEP authorities.

It has been argued that during the last six years of its operation, RHEP has caused lots of negative changes to the Ranganadi river morphology down stream of its dam, besides affecting the river ecology and status of groundwater level and people's livelihood in the riparian areas. The most significant of all these changes is the gradual deposition of sediment from 2003, which attained its peak in 2008 due to sediment sluicing throughout the monsoon. The intensity of sediment deposition was such that even residential houses in Lakhimpur town, situated at a distance of six km from the river course and 50 km from the dam site, recorded deposits of 1.02 cm of sediment.

Source: 'Hydroelectric projects may pose threat to KNP: research team', *The Assam Tribune*, 12/06/09.

### **Rhino count in Kaziranga now 2048**



The rhino count in the Kaziranga National Park is now 2048, substantially higher than the number of 1855 from the last census in 2006.

As per the detailed findings of the 2009 rhino census, Kaziranga has 404 female rhinos with calves. The total number of calves are as

follows: 100 calves (0-1 year), 221 calves (1-3 years), 83 calves (over 3 years). The rest of the population is made up of 597 adult males, 306 adult females, 165 adults of unidentified sex, 54 sub-adult males, 80 sub-adult females, 35 sub-adults of unidentified sex and three abandoned calves.

Source: Bijay Sankar Bora. 'Rhino count goes up at Kaziranga', *The Tribune*, 15/06/09.

Contact: **Director**, Kaziranga NP, PO Bokakhat, Dist. Golaghat – 785612, Assam. Tel: 03776-268095(O), 268086@

### **Kaziranga Tiger Foundation not formed yet; reserve deprived of central funds**

The Assam government is yet to constitute the Kaziranga Tiger Foundation, due to which the tiger reserve has been deprived of the direct flow of funds from the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA). The reserve is also yet to create its full-fledged Tiger Conservation Plan.

The state is required to set up the foundation in accordance with the memorandum of understanding it signed with the NTCA. Of the total of Rs. 4.22 crore sanctioned by the NTCA for the Kaziranga TR for 2008-09, the Central assistance promised was Rs. 3.06 cr, while the balance of Rs. 1.16 cr was to be provided by the state.

Without the creation of the foundation the raising of a dedicated tiger protection force, procurement of weapons and ammunitions, setting up of anti-poaching camps and undertaking other protection and conservation work have also been delayed.

The NTCA had also released Rs. 1.5 cr. as the first installment to the Kaziranga National Park authorities, currently managing the tiger reserve. The money was to be spent before the end of the financial year with the unutilized amount to be returned to the Centre.

Source: 'Kaziranga tiger reserve deprived of direct flow of Central funds', *The Hindu*, 10/06/09.

**Chief Wildlife Warden** – Assam, Rehabari, Guwahati – 781008, Assam. Tel: 0361-2566064. Fax 2547386

## CHATTISGARH

### Wildlife enforcement workshop held in Raipur

TRAFFIC India and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) - India in partnership with the Chattisgarh Forest Department (FD) and National Tiger Conservation Authority, conducted a two day training workshop on wildlife enforcement in Raipur. The workshop that was held in June was attended by over 50 officials of the FD.

Those who spoke at the workshop included Mr Vikram Usendi, Minister of Environment & Forests, Chattisgarh; Mr Sergeous Minj, Addl. Chief Secretary, Chattisgarh; Mr R.K. Sharma, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Chattisgarh; and Mr. N.K. Bhagat PCCF (Wildlife) Chattisgarh.

Technical sessions during the workshop were led by Mr Ritwick Dutta & Mr Saurabh Sharma, Supreme Court Advocates; Dr. SP Goyal, Wildlife Forensics expert of the Wildlife Institute of India and Mr Khalid Pasha of TRAFFIC India.

Contact: **Shubhobroto Ghosh**, WWF, Tel: 011-41504786/43516290. Email: shubhobrotoghosh@gmail.com  
Web: www.traffic.org

## GUJARAT

### State Wildlife Board allows for diversion of land in four PAs

The Gujarat State Wildlife Board has agreed to diversion of land from four protected areas to allow for projects of the government and some industrial houses. The four PAs are the Gir Wildlife Sanctuary, the Wild Ass Sanctuary in the Little Rann of Kutch, the Velavadar Blackbuck Sanctuary and the Narayan Sarovar Bird Sanctuary.

The board has agreed to the diversion of 89.74 hectares of land in the Wild Ass Sanctuary for the power transmission line of Adani Power Limited, and another 241.59 hectares for the state-owned Power Grid Corporation's transmission lines in the same sanctuary. 7.29 hectares of land in the Gir WLS

is being made available for Usha Breco Limited's power ropeway construction, and another 0.450 hectares each for Vodafone Gujarat Limited and Reliance Communication Gujarat Limited for laying fibre-optic lines in the Narayan Sarovar Bird Sanctuary.

The board also cleared the proposal of the State Road Development Corporation, seeking diversion of 4.40 hectares of land in the Velavadar Blackbuck Sanctuary and BSNL's proposal for 0.315 hectares diversion in Balaram Ambaji Sanctuary.

The decisions were taken in the meeting of the board held in the first week of July under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister, Narendra Modi. The proposals will now be sent to the Centre for its approval.

Source: 'Wildlife board clears sanctuary land for Power Grid, Adani transmission line', *The Indian Express*, 05/07/09.

### More wells around Gir covered after government hikes subsidy

The recent decision of the Gujarat State Government to double the subsidy for covering open wells on the periphery of Gir has seen a significant increase in the number of wells that have been covered. The government used to give a grant of Rs 4,000 on each well and had increased it to Rs 8,000 in 2008.

The Forest Department (FD), supported by NGOs and some corporate houses had initiated the move of covering the open wells after it was found that a number of lions and other wild animals had died after falling into them (see *PA Updates* Vol. XIV, No.; Vol XIII, Nos. 5 & 2 and Vol. XII, No. 6). State government figures put the number of lions that died in this manner at 57 for the period 2001 to 2009

The project to barricade the wells was initiated in September 2007. In the initial months 325 odd wells were barricaded on an average every month. Following the increase in subsidy this number has almost doubled and now nearly 650 wells are being covered every month.

Source: Vikram Rautela. 'More wells around Gir covered after government hikes subsidy', *The Indian Express*, 16/06/09.

Contact: **CF (Wildlife)** Junagadh, Sardar Bag, Junagadh, Gujarat. Tel: 0285 - 631678/630051. Fax: 631211. Email: cfwildlife\_ad1@sancharnet.in

### **Gujarat cites Panna TR case to keep lions to itself**

The Gujarat State Government has argued that the disappearance of the tiger from Panna Tiger Reserve (see Page 10) means that Madhya Pradesh is not doing a very good job, and that this is a good reason why lions should not be translocated from in and around Gir National Park. This was an argument the state made recently before the Supreme Court.

The matter of the translocation of lions from Gujarat has been unresolved for a very long time (see *PA Updates* Vol XV, No. 3; and Nos. 50, 46, 43, 34, 33, 32, 26, 22 & 20) and the latest developments are related to a case filed in the Supreme Court by the Biodiversity Conservation Trust. In its response to the case the Gujarat government has also argued that tigers and lions cannot coexist.

Source: Neha Sinha. 'No tigers in MP's Panna means Gir keeps lions' share, says Gujarat', *Indian Express*, 15/06/09

### **93 lion deaths in Gujarat in last three years**

The Gujarat Government has said that 93 lions including 50 cubs have died in the state in the last three years. The figures were presented in the state assembly recently. Of these 85 deaths were due to natural causes while six lions were killed by poachers. (Eds note: Earlier reports have indicated however that the number of lions poached is higher, with the number being eight in the single big case that occurred in 2007: see *PA Update* Vol. XV, No. 3)

It was also informed that the forest and police departments were now working in coordination to check poaching. A joint monitoring committee had been created under the leadership of the Range Inspector General of Police, Junagadh and that the committee had met eight times so far.

It has also been further decided to keep a check on vehicles entering the jungle and a special watch was being kept on activities and movement of labourers coming from other states. In another move to protect the animals 9,350 wells have been covered with parapet walls till May 2009.

Replying to a question on how many persons have been arrested in the poaching incident a couple of years ago (*PA Updates* Vol. XV, No. 3; Vol XIV, No. 3; and Vol XIII Nos. 5 & 4), it was pointed out that 19 persons have been arrested, of which 18 have been sentenced while one person had died in police custody.

Source: '93 lions have died in three years', *The Times of India*, 09/07/09.

Contact: **CWLW - Gujarat**, Block 14, Dr. Jivraj Mehta Bhavan, Old Sachivalaya, Gandhinagar-382010, Gujarat. Tel: 02712-230007. Fax: 221097.

## **HIMACHAL PRADESH**

### **Panel says no to scrapping of sanctuaries**

The panel deputed by the National Board of Wildlife for the final appraisal of the Himachal Pradesh Government's move to rationalise wildlife sanctuaries in the state has disagreed with the proposal to totally scrap some of the sanctuaries (*PA Updates* Vol XIV, No. 2; Vol XIII, No. 3; Vol. XII, Nos. 5 & 3). Instead, it has suggested setting up conservation reserves.

During its week-long visit to the state in April, the two-member committee comprising the Director, Wildlife Institute of India, PR Sinha and well-known expert Dr MK Ranjit Singh, inspected all sanctuaries proposed to be scrapped. They reportedly disapproved of the plan to de-notify the Silli and Darlaghat sanctuaries on the grounds that these included good forests and supported a wide range of wild animals. The panel also did not give its final view on the proposal to scrap the Naina Devi WLS.

Appreciating the state's argument that taking out populated areas was essential for proper management, the committee observed that the purpose would be better served by establishing conservation reserves in such

protected areas. The committee, has however, approved the move to de-notify the Gobind Sagar Sanctuary, endorsing the view that the wetland created by impounding the water of the Sutlej did not support any important wildlife.

In case of the Norgu WLS in Mandi, the committee gave its nod for taking out the thickly populated villages subject to the condition that the forest area of adjoining Kullu was included in it to make it a viable wildlife protected area.

Besides, the boundaries of 20 other sanctuaries would be redrawn to exclude human habitations.

Source: Rakesh Lohumi. 'Panel's no to scrapping of sanctuaries', *The Tribune*, 27/04/09.

Contact: **CWLW**, Talland, Shimla – 171001. Tel: 0177-2624193. Email: [Vtandy@gmail.com](mailto:Vtandy@gmail.com)

## KARNATAKA

### Only elephants to ferry tourists in PAs

The Karnataka State Government had decided to implement the M K Appiah committee report on the operations of private tour operators in protected areas. A government order has been issued in this regard.

The Government had appointed the committee early in 2008, to study and advise it on formulating a policy on private operators taking tourists on safari rides, and the period and time duration of closing national parks and sanctuaries in a year. The committee had submitted its report to the government on August 2, 2008.

Acceptance of the recommendations of the committee means that the operations of private operators in protected areas is to be phased out in the next three years. Elephants will be used to ferry tourists and if necessary, only vehicles of the State Forest Department will be permitted.

The committee has also held that closing down national parks and wildlife sanctuaries in a particular month of a year, would not help breeding activities of wild animals as this is dependant on a number of factors including environmental conditions. It has been suggested that the Chief Wildlife

Warden should be authorised to decide on closing the parks based on the local condition.

Source: PM Raghunandan. 'It's bye to vehicles, hello to jumbos',

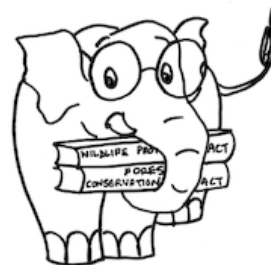
<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/3649/its-bye-vehicles-hello-jumbos.html>

### Project Elephant Directorate in Madikeri

The Central Government is reported to have approved the setting up of a Project Elephant Directorate in Madikeri. An official of grade of Conservator of Forest will be appointed to the directorate that is to be set up within six months. The directorate will also have a veterinary doctor, ambulance, vehicles and other personnel.

The region has seen increased human elephant conflict in recent years and it is hoped that the setting up of this office will help deal with the problem.

Government figures indicate that 15 people died due to wild elephant attack last year, while 20 to 25 elephants were killed in the same period due to shooting or poisoning. The 12 year period of 1996-97 to 2008-09 saw the death of 40 people due to elephants and the total financial loss experienced was a little more than Rs. 146 lakhs.



Source: 'Directorate will be set up in Madikeri within 6 months',

<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/8538/centre-okays-elephant-project-directorate.html>

### Proposal to close road through Bandipur NP, Wayanad WLS withdrawn

The Karnataka State Government move to close the forest stretch of the Kozhikode-Bangalore National Highway 212 between the Kerala border and Gundalpet in Karnataka has



been withdrawn following strong opposition from many quarters. The road that passes through the forests of the Bandipur National Park and the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary in Kerala was to be closed from 9.30 pm to 6 am. The decision of the closure was announced recently by the Collector of Chamrajnagar district in light of the threats to wildlife, particularly elephants, tiger and deer crossing the road and was taken as per the instructions of the Karnataka Forest Department. Reports say that there has been a significant growth in the number of accidents involving vehicles and wildlife in the past several months, and observations have proved that mishaps increased during the rainy season.

The Karnataka authorities had informed that those traveling between Mysore to Kozhikode during nights would now have to take the Coorg-Virajpetta-Kannur road and travelers on the Ooty route will have to take the Chamaraj Nagar-Sathyamangalam-Coimbatore road during nights.

There was however strong opposition to the move and it was argued that the closure would cause great inconvenience to several transport companies, traders and thousands of people from the Kozhikode, Kannur, Wayanad and Malappuram districts. Several political parties and rights groups also aired their opposition to the road-closure. The closure decision was finally reversed following an intervention from Kerala legislators. The Kerala Chief Minister was said to have spoken to his Karnataka counterpart over the issue.

There had been intense protests when the forest stretch of the Mananthawadi-Mysore, winding through the Nagarhole Wildlife Sanctuary was closed earlier.

(Also see *PA Update* Vol. XIV. No. 6)

Source: VR Jayaraj. 'NH through forest to be closed to protect wildlife', *The Pioneer Online Edition*, 09/06/09.

'Govt. withdraws order banning vehicle movement', <http://www.deccanherald.com/content/7449/govt-withdraws-order-banning-vehicle.html>

Contact: **Field Director**, Bandipur Project Tiger Reserve, Aranya Bhawan, Ashokapuram, Mysore – 570008, Karnataka. Tel: 0821-2480901(O), 2484980 (R).

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

## KERALA

### Tiger population in Wayanad WLS estimated at 20-25

The tiger population in the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary has been estimated to be between 20 and 25. The numbers have been suggested following the conclusion of a census exercise in the month of May. Ten big cats, including three cubs, were sighted in the sanctuary during the three-day survey of tigers and co-predators. Five tigers including a cub were sighted in Tholpetty range, one tiger and two cubs were seen in the Sulthan Bathery range and one tiger each was seen in the Kurichiyad and Muthanga areas during the count.

It is based on the actual sightings of these 10 tigers that the total population estimate of 20-25 has been suggested. If correct this would be at least 10 tigers more than were reported during the last census conducted two years ago.

It has also been pointed out, however that a firm idea of the exact number of big cats in the sanctuary could be given only after a detailed analysis of the indicators gathered during the survey, like pug-marks, droppings, hair and scratch marks on trees. The team that carried out the survey is reported to have come across about 50 pug-marks, droppings and hair and scratches on trees. DNA analysis is to be done at the Wildlife Disease Diagnosing Laboratory at Sulthan Bathery.

Source: 'Ten tigers sighted in Wayanad sanctuary', *The Times of India*, 12/05/09

Contact: **Wildlife Warden**, Wayanad Wildlife Division, P.O. Sulthan Bathery, Wayanad-673 592, Kerala. Tel: 0493-2620454

**Chief Wildlife Warden** – Kerala, Vazhudacaud, Trivandrum – 695014, Kerala. Tel: 0471-2322217 / 2360452 / 2204896. Fax: 2360452 / 2322217

## MADHYA PRADESH

### Road widening through Pench TR opposed

The Supreme Court appointed Central Empowered Committee (CEC) has turned down the proposal of the National Highways Authority of India's (NHAI) to widen a road passing through the Pench Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh, contending that it will be a threat to animals and the fragile ecosystem. The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) too had earlier come out against the road widening proposal (*PA Update* Vol XV, No. 1)

In the report submitted to the apex court in June, the CEC members said that the widening of the road connecting Nagpur to Jabalpur from two lanes to four lanes will increase traffic frequency in the area, and could lead to scaring wild animals and also accidents in which they could fall victim to speeding vehicles. NHAI's alternative Rs 600- crore plan to build 13 bridges and underpasses on the route so that wildlife movement is not hampered, was also rejected by the CEC.

The highway project which is a part of the North-South corridor covers a distance of 8.7 kilometre and passes through the tiger reserve and contiguous reserve forest areas. It was referred to the panel after the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) moved a petition for stopping the project. The CEC has, however, not sought closing down of the road but suggested that only light vehicles at a specified speed should be permitted while a complete ban be imposed on night traffic to prevent animal casualty.

Source: Sheren Shrestha. 'CEC opposes NHAI road project in Pench Tiger Reserve', *Economic Times*, 05/07/09

Contact: **Field Director**, Pench Tiger Reserve, P.O. Barapathar, Dist. Seoni - 480 661. Tel: 07692-250794/250594. Fax: 250794/221180. Email: root@trpench.ren.nic.in

### Change in Field Directors at Kanha, Panna and Bandavgarh TRs

The Field Directors of three tiger reserves, Kanha, Panna and Bandavgarh were changed in the month of May. The changes were

announced by the State Chief Minister (CM), Mr. Shivraj Singh Chouhan following consistent pressure from the Centre regarding the state of the tiger reserves.

Additionally, the CM also asked for the list of directors who served in these parks in the last five years and the chief conservators of forests. He said strict action would be taken against officials showing laxity in conservation of tigers and other animals.

Panna director LK Chaudhary and Bandavgarh director Aseem Shrivastava were transferred to the PCCF's office in Bhopal while Kanha director RP Singh was transferred to the State Forest Research Institute in Jabalpur.

Source: 'MP shifts 3 tiger reserve chiefs', *The Indian Express*, 22/05/09.

### No more tigers in Panna – it's official now; four cats to be translocated

It has now been officially admitted that there is no tiger in the Panna Tiger Reserve. The Madhya Pradesh Minister for forests, Rajendra Shukla, confirmed recently that the last resident tiger of the reserve sighted early this year was untraceable. This now only leaves the two tigresses who were recently translocated from nearby Kanha and Bandavgarh.

A special investigation team, headed by former Chief of Project Tiger, PK Sen, was sent to Panna by the National Tiger Conservation Authority in May. The team conducted an inquiry and interviews — all on camera — to now claim that Panna has lost all of its own tigers. The team members visited Panna again in the first half of June to recheck the park's logs and documents. The team found no evidence of the presence of the big cats in the reserve.

The MP state government too admitted in the state assembly that there were no tigers left in Panna. It claimed, however, that only four tigers were poached in the state between 2004 and 2009, two of which were in Panna in May 2006 and two in Kanha TR in April 2006 and November 2008 respectively. The state government said 39 big cats died in its nine reserves in five years till 2009 and

attributed the remaining 35 deaths to fights, disease and old-age among other reasons.

In a subsequent development the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) has also cleared a proposal to translocate two tigers and two tigresses to the reserve. In a letter granting the approval, the Union Minister, MoEF, Mr. Jairam Ramesh has asked the state government to take urgent 'administrative and ecological action' after the 'Panna disaster'. It also asked for the fixing of responsibility as pointed out in the Special Investigation Team (SIT) report and for disciplinary action to be taken against the erring officials.

The Madhya Pradesh Congress has also demanded for the creation of an all-party MLAs committee to look into the matter (Also see *PA Updates* Vol. XV, Nos. 3, 2 & 1)

Source: 'It's official: Panna reserve has no tiger', *The Times of India*, 14/06/09.

'Congress demands probe into vanishing tigers', *Economic Times*, 14/06/09.

'Centre clears translocation of 4 big cats to Panna', *The Indian Express*, 27/06/09.

Milind Ghatwai. 'MP agrees but says only 4 fell prey to poaching', *Indian Express*, 08/07/09.

Contact: **Field Director**, Panna National Park, Panna – 488001, Madhya Pradesh. Tel: 07732-252135. Fax: 07732-252120

**Dr. Rajesh Gopal** NTCA, Annexe No. 5, Bikaner House, Shahjahan Road, New Delhi-110011. Telefax: 2338 4428. E-mail: dirpt-r@nic.in

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

## MAHARASHTRA

### **CAT asks state to appoint Head of Forest Force within eight weeks**

The Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) has directed the Maharashtra State Government to appoint the Head of the Forest Force (HoFF) from among the senior-most principal chief conservators of forests (PCCF) within a period of eight weeks.

The Maharashtra government had sought clarification on April 24 from the

Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) asking whether the post of PCCF (general) automatically stood elevated as HoFF. The MoEF had clarified on June 2, that one of the existing posts of PCCFs in each state had been upgraded to a higher administrative grade (HAG) in the apex scale of Rs 80,000 from September 27, 2008. It said that in Maharashtra, the post of PCCF (general) should be upgraded as HoFF. It also made it clear that HoFF had to be appointed from among the officers holding the rank of PCCF.

It has been suggested by some that the CAT ruling now has tied the hands of Maharashtra Forest Minister, who is it alleged, wanted to appoint a person of his choice to the post after sidelining seniors. The Forest Department (FD) has been without a chief since December 31, 2008.

Source: 'CAT tells state to name forest chief in 8 weeks', *The Times of India*.

### **CEE to develop nature interpretation centre at Nandur Madhmeshwar WLS**

The Centre for Environment Education, Ahmedabad will be developing a Nature Interpretation Centre at the Nandur Madhmeshwar Wildlife Sanctuary in Nashik District of Maharashtra.

The main aim of the Centre would be to disseminate information and create awareness about the importance of the wetland, including a glimpse of its cultural and biological diversity.

More details of the proposal are not presently available.

Source: Interpretation Centre at Wandoor, Andaman & Nicobar', *cenario*, May 1-15, 2009

Contact: CEE. Email: [ceedo@ceeindia.org](mailto:ceedo@ceeindia.org) Web: [www.ceeindia.org](http://www.ceeindia.org)

### **Villagers relocated from Botezari arrested for 'violating' and entering Tadoba Andhari TR**

16 residents of Village Bhagwanpur, who were relocated from village Botezari in the Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve in March 2007, were

arrested on May 21, 2009 after they entered the TATR to gather *tendu* leaves and start cultivation on their old lands.

The Forest Department (FD) charged the group with having felled 60-70 trees and booked them for several offenses. The villagers claimed that they were in a state of semi-starvation in their new location due to lack of irrigation facilities and employment, and all efforts to communicate with officials in this regard had proven futile.

The main bone of contention between the forest and revenue departments of the district on the one hand and the residents of Bhagwanpur on the other is an irrigation tank that was promised to the residents at the time of relocation. The village had been provided a tank situated lower than their fields, and hence unsuitable for irrigation. As a result then have been unable to take a single crop in the last two crop seasons.

In meeting held in the village on May 20, and attended by the TATR field director Sheshrao Patil, RFO Arun Tikhe and District Collector Pradeep Kalbhor, the residents demanded that they be allowed to cultivate their old lands in Botezari village till irrigation facilities were provided at the relocation site. Villagers have alleged that the officials threatened them with arrest during the meeting. Following this a group of people from 24 different households went into the tiger reserve for *tendu* leaf collection and for cultivation.

16 of these (eight men and eight women) were subsequently arrested and presented in court where the women were granted bail on personal bonds. The women, however, refused to accept bail and demanded that the men be freed too. All sixteen people were then remanded to magisterial custody.

Bhagwanpur residents have demanded that the arrested residents be released and all charges against them be dropped. They have also reiterated their demand for cultivation rights on their old lands till all necessary facilities are provided at Bhagwanpur. Villages Kolsa and Rantalodhi located inside the TATR have also supported these demands.

(Also see *PA Updates* Vol XIV, Nos. 5 & 3)

Source: Manohar K. Email to [forestrights@yahoogroups.com](mailto:forestrights@yahoogroups.com) dated 08/06/09

Contact: **Manohar K.**  
Email: [vanvpss.ngp@gmail.com](mailto:vanvpss.ngp@gmail.com)  
**Field Director**, Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Project, Mul Road, In front of Sanchiti Chamber, Chandrapur – 442401, Maharashtra. Tel: 07172-51414(O), 56382(R)

#### **11.44 acres reclaimed by Sanjay Gandhi NP**

11.44 acres of land of the Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP) that was in the possession of a private individual due to a clerical mistake was recently restored to the park. The issue is linked to land acquisition notices issued under the Indian Forest Act on August 27, 1975 to owners of 987.2 acres of land bearing survey number 291 in Owala, Thane. 49.20 acres of this had already been sold by the original owners then, and the FD that should have got possession of the remaining 937.22 acres, actually got only 926.12 acres.

After realising the mistake, the FD approached the court of the Sub Divisional Officer, Thane, for correction of the land records, which has now been made.

Senior forest officials have pointed out that the land was situated at a prime location along Ghodbunder Road and was being eyed by many influential persons, including a few politicians. The FD is said to have been under tremendous pressure throughout these legal proceedings but managed to successfully regain the land.

Source: 'Borivili national park gets back land', *DNA*, 18/06/09

Contact: **DCF**, SGNP, Borivili (East), Mumbai – 400066, Maharashtra. Tel: 022-28860362, 28860389(O), 8862780(R)  
Email: [sgnpsmumbai@rediffmail.com](mailto:sgnpsmumbai@rediffmail.com)

#### **NGO alleges that Sanjay Gandhi NP authorities claiming land illegally in Malad area**

The *Ghar Hakka Jagruti Parishad* (GHJP), an organisation representing the slum-dwellers of

Malad has claimed that the Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP) management was illegally claiming land that never belonged to it. The land covers an area of 200 acres and is part of survey number 239(1) in Malad.

The NGO has argued that the Supreme Court has rejected the plea of the Bombay Environmental Action Group (BEAG) that the SGNP is occupied by unauthorised occupants and held that the Bombay High Court has no jurisdiction under Article 226 of the Constitution to decide the factual adjudication of encroachment, and that this can only be done by a competent statutory authority. The NGO also claimed that the Supreme Court had given the appellants the opportunity to move the appropriate authority to decide the issue.

Forest Department officials have, however, said that re-measuring the boundaries cannot be done since Section [35(5)] of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, doesn't allow alteration of boundaries unless a resolution is passed by the state legislative assembly. (Also see *PA Updates* Vol XV, No. 2; Vol. XIV, No. 3; and Nos. 47, 45, 43, 41 & 39)

Source: 'Forest dept laying claim to our land', *DNA*, <http://www.dnaindia.com/report.asp?newsid=1261022>

### **Soil testing in Tulsi Lake area in Sanjay Gandhi NP without FD permission**

Workers employed by the Bombay Municipal Corporation (BMC) were found doing soil testing work in the Tulsi Lake area that is located within the Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP) without the needed permissions. Park officials and those in the civic body initially claimed ignorance about the work. Neither had a clue about who gave permission for the work, or if any such permission was granted at all.

Forest officials subsequently visited the site, stopped the work and seized all the equipment. The lake is under the BMC but permission for surveys, repair works and new projects has to be taken because it falls within the national park boundaries.

About a year ago, the BMC had sought permission to lay pipes through the SGNP to connect the Bhandup water purification complex with the Malad reservoir. The Ministry

of Environment and Forests (MoEF) had denied permission to dig up the park's core zone, but it has been alleged that the staff at SGNP had unofficially allowed them to do so.

Source: Yogesh Naik. 'BMC's soil work puts wildlife to the test', *The Times of India*, 29/06/09

### **Dogs form 50% of leopard diet in Sanjay Gandhi NP**

An analysis of 117 scats, collected between May 2008 and March 2009, by the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) has indicated that almost half of the prey as detected by studying the droppings was the domestic dog. Rodents and wild boar constitute the majority of the rest. The findings correlated with the results of the human-leopard interaction survey, which indicated that dog/livestock lifting is common in areas surrounding the park.

Source: 'Leopards prefer domestic dogs as prey', <http://www.mid-day.com/news/2009/may/270509-leopard-dogs.htm>

Contact: **Krishna Tiwari**, BNHS, Hornbill House, Shahid Bhagat Singh Marg, Mumbai 400 023 Maharashtra. Tel: 022-2821811. Fax: 2837615

## **ORISSA**

### **Nandankanan now a member of world zoo body**

The Nandankanan Zoological Park has become the first zoo in India to be accepted as a member of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA). The zoo houses a population of nearly 1,200 animals, including 107 reptiles, 574 birds and 437 mammals.

Having more than 240 zoos and aquaria as its members, WAZA works as a catalyst for joint conservation. WAZA membership provides leadership and support for zoos, aquaria and partner organizations around the world in animal care and welfare, conservation of bio-diversity, environmental education and global sustainability.

The tag would also enable Nandankanan staff to take part in different meetings and conferences in which they could interact with other members of WAZA as well as renowned experts in various fields. It would also provide the staff an opportunity to visit foreign zoos, aquaria and nature reserves.

Source: Minati Singha. 'Nandankanan now a member of world zoo body', *The Times of India*, 03/07/09

Contact: **Director**, Nandankanan Zoological Park, Bhubaneswar at Mayurbhawan, P.O. – Saheednagar, Dist. Khurda - 751007. Tel: 0674-515840(O). Email: [director\\_n@hotmail.com](mailto:director_n@hotmail.com)

### **Rs. Three crore project to deal with human elephant conflict at Chandaka WLS**

The Orissa Forest Department (FD) has proposed a Rs. Three crore project to deal with the problem of human-elephant conflict at the Chandaka Wildlife Sanctuary that abuts the state capital, Bhubaneswar. There have been many instances in recent years when elephants from the sanctuary have entered the capital city leading to huge problems (*PA Updates* Vol. XIII, Nos. 6, 3 & 1; Vol. XI, No. 4; and Nos. 49, 46, 41, 39, 34, 32, & 29).

The proposal includes habitat improvement of the degraded forest blocks of Bharatpur and Jagannathprasad that the elephants have used to enter the city. As part of the project the FD has decided to first raise plantations over 450 hectares of the 1,180 hectares in the Bharatpur block. This will be followed by a Rs. Two crore similar project in the Jagannathprasad block.

It is hoped that this will increase the fodder and food availability for the pachyderms and prevent their movement forward into human habitation. In addition to this, the height of the guard wall would be raised by about a metre from its present height of two metres and the trench will be given laterite stone lining. A bamboo plantation is also to come up as the third line of protection.

Nearly 10,000 saplings are to be planted over an area of 25 hectares to begin with and the plantation was recently initiated in

Bharatpur in the presence of senior forest and wildlife officials of the state.

Source: 'Fodder for jumbos, protection for capital', *Indian Express*, 09/07/09.

Contact: **DFO**, Chandaka WLS, SFTRI Campus, Ghatikia, P.O. Barmunda Colony, Bhubaneswar – 751003. Tel: 0674-2440168 @

### **Rs. 5 crore Elephant Management Plan for state**

The Orissa Forest Department is reportedly finalizing a Rs. 5 crore Elephant Management Plan for the state. The string of measures to be implemented under the plan include improvement of elephant habitats for which corridor mapping would soon be carried out to understand the extent of degradation and encroachment. Field officers have been asked to assess new roads, railway lines, farmlands and degraded patches in these corridors.

It has also been decided to place 48 anti-depredation squads, equipped with communication facilities, across 150 ranges. Each squad will have two trackers and will be provided with vehicles and mobile phones to keep an eye on the movement of elephants on a daily basis. 'Kunki' elephants will be procured from Assam for assistance in anti-depredation measures and steps will be taken to get the Crime Cell working.

Protected areas are to be fenced using solar power and each circle is to be assigned a tranquiliser specialist. The issues of mishaps caused by railways lines is to be dealt with by the formation of a joint team of railway officials, putting up of signages at crucial points and enforcing speed restrictions on the trains. Steps will also be taken to deal with the problem of electrocution of elephants due to sagging electricity lines.

These decisions were taken by circle heads of elephant regions of the State at the end of a two-day Wildlife DFOs Conference held in Bhubaneswar recently.

Source: 'Jumbo management plan takes shape', *Indian Express*, 08/06/09.

## E-bulletin on the Forest Rights Act in Orissa

A monthly new E-bulletin '*Swikruti*' has been launched to track the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act in Orissa.

It is a digest of news, information and major happenings in the state in regards to the Act and attempts to be a reflection of the actual issues, conflicts and cooperation faced on the ground as compared to the one presented by the State and Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA). It can be accessed on [www.fra.org.in](http://www.fra.org.in)

Source: Y Giri Rao. Email dated 04/07/09

Contact: **Y Giri Rao.**

Email: [ygiri.rao@gmail.com](mailto:ygiri.rao@gmail.com)

## Greenpeace report on turtle-fisheries issues in Orissa



Greenpeace India recently released an evaluation of the performance of the Orissa State Government on the turtle-fisheries issue in the 2008-2009 season. The report has pointed out that there is a huge gap between measures agreed to by the government on paper and effective action on the ground. It says, for instance, that the state government is yet to effectively act on its commitment of including local and independent organisations in the process of monitoring turtle mortalities along Orissa's coastline and that the state government has also not committed to an annually depreciating turtle mortality target model to demonstrate that it is serious about reducing turtle deaths.

Estimates suggest that a little over 7000 turtle carcasses were recorded in the Chilika to Paradip stretch alone in the 2008-2009 turtle season (November to May). This is above the average turtle mortality of 6,280 recorded in this area in the last six seasons but a marginal decline of 8% when compared to mortality

figures from 2007-2008 in the Devi region. Taken together with mortality figures south of Chilika, in Gahirmatha and north of the Dhamra river mouth, including Udabali Island, the total mortality for the entire state, the report says, is once again likely to be in the region of 14,000–15,000. Similarly, trawler violations in this region, have been in the mean monthly average range of around 473 violations in the critical phase of the turtle season (November to February), resulting both in large scale turtle deaths and severe hardship via loss of fish catch to traditional fisher communities.

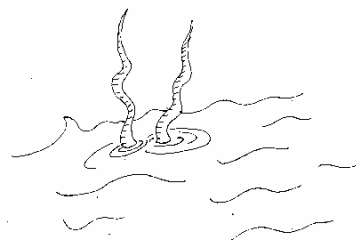
The report also points out that the patrol boats acquired by the Fisheries Department have not yet been deployed in an active patrolling programme and that the government has yet to expedite an additional income generation scheme for impacted traditional fishermen in the Gahirmatha, Devi and Rushikulya regions.

Source: 'Turtle Fisheries crisis: Government of Orissa gets a 'Moderate Pass' in Theory by a 'Fail in Practicals', Press Release by Greenpeace India, 30/06/09.

Contact: **Areeba Hamid**, Greenpeace India. Tel: +91-99005 69456. Email: [areeba.hamid@greenpeace.org](mailto:areeba.hamid@greenpeace.org)  
**CWLW- Orissa**, Plot No. 8, Shahid Nagar, Bhubaneswar – 751007, Orissa. Tel: 0674- 2512502 / 2513134 / 2515840. Fax: 512502

## RAJASTHAN

### 70 black bucks die in Tal Chappar WLS due to 'weather shock'



At least 70 black buck were reported dead in the last week of May and early June in the Tal Chappar Wildlife Sanctuary. The deaths were blamed on 'weather shock' following

unseasonal downpours accompanied by thunderstorms and lightning.

The victims were mostly old animals and the infants and were said to have died due to heart failure on account of shock experienced because of the thunderstorms and lightning.

Source: Rakhee Roy Talukdar. 'Storm shock kills 50 black bucks', *The Telegraph*, 02/06/09  
PJ Joychen. '70 blackbucks die of shock in rain-hit Tal Chappar', *The Times of India*, 02/06/09

Contact: **I/c Tal Chappar WLS**, Dist. Churu, Rajasthan. Tel 0291-2544371 / 2433656.  
Fax: 0291-2629038

## SIKKIM

### Forest fires across the state in March



The continuous dry spell in Sikkim led to widespread fires across the state in the month of March. Areas affected by fire include the following:

East Sikkim: Khesay, Gangyap, Sichey, Ganseh Tok, Daragaon, Nam Nang, Gangyap, Sang, Nazitam, Rongli, Basmey, Ranka Lingdum, Rongey, Namnang; Sang RF, Singchyel RF, Nimthang RF, Syari RF, Rangpo, Rhodong Khasmal forest, Kopibari (private holding), Central Pandam Khasmal area, Basmey RF, Fambong Lho wildlife sanctuary.

West Sikkim: Nethang, Malbasey, Pipaley, Tatopani, Sakyong, Barsey Rhododendron Sanctuary, Achalay RF, Tatopani RF, Reshi RF, Sakey RF, Sakyong RF, Burung RF, Raksang RF

North Sikkim: Dikchu, Lower Phodong (private holding)

South Sikkim: Melli Tribeni RF, Malbasey RF, Rabongla RF, SumbuRF, Tumin RF, Sadam Tareybhair, Salghari, Ralong.

Source: 'Outbreak of forest fires across Sikkim',  
*Panda Newsletter 2009*

## PANDA Newsletter from ENVIS Sikkim

The Sikkim ENVIS, Forests, Environment and Wildlife Management Department, Govt of Sikkim have recently published the PANDA Newsletter 2009.

It is a bi-annual news magazine which was initially published in 1993 but had gone into hibernation after that. It was re-launched on June 5, 2009 by the Sikkim Forest Minister. It can be accessed at the following weblink <http://www.sikennis.nic.in/Newsletter.htm>

Contact: **Rajen Pradhan**, ENVIS Centre Sikkim, Forest, Env. & W/L Mgt. Deptt. Govt. of Sikkim, Deorali, Gangtok 737102, Sikkim. Email: [sik@ennis.nic.in](mailto:sik@ennis.nic.in)  
<http://www.sikennis.nic.in/>

## TAMIL NADU

### Field Guide to the plants of the Northern Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve

The 'Field Guide to the plants of the Northern Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve', the 2<sup>nd</sup> in the series – Forest Plants of the Nilgiris, was launched on June 5, World Environment Day. The launch was organized at the Theppakadu Interpretation Center, Mudumalai Tiger Reserve and was attended by the Field Directors of both the Mudumalai and the Bandipur Tiger Reserves.

The pictorial guide includes the dominant plants of the Bandipur, Nagarhole and Mudumalai Tiger Reserves and has been published by the Kotagiri based Keystone Foundation.

Information on each plant was compiled using secondary sources and indigenous uses of the plant have been recorded in consultation with the Irula people of the region. Field staff of the three tiger reserves were given a copy each of the guide during the program.

The price of the book is Rs. 450.

Contact: **Anita Varghese**, Keystone Foundation, PB 35, Groves Hill Road, Kotagiri 643 217, Nilgiris District, Tamil Nadu.  
Telefax: 04266-272277, Email: [anita@keystone-foundation.org](mailto:anita@keystone-foundation.org)



## Nature Interpretation Centre in the Sathyamangalam WLS

A Nature Interpretation Centre was recently inaugurated at Hasanur in the Sathyamangalam Wildlife Sanctuary (SWLS) in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. The centre was conceptualised by the DFO, Mr S Ramasubramanian and jointly implemented by the Kotagiri based Keystone Foundation and local Village Forest Councils. The center is called the Elephant Valley Nature Interpretation Center and is located along the main highway that connects Coimbatore and Bangalore.

It has a wide range of photographs that portray the people, landscape and wildlife of the region. The center will be managed and run by the Village Forest Councils of the area and also has a coffee and souvenir shop.

The sanctuary itself was created in December 2008 and covers an area of a little over 524 sq. kms. It includes the Thalavady range (Palayam, Belathur, Gettavadi) and Bhavani Sagar range (Thengumarahada, a part of Thalamalai, Gejalatti, and Peerkadavu, entire Kothamangalam and a part of Bannari), which are spread over 22, 325.63 ha.

The second part is the Guthiyalathur and Guthiyalathur extension, which comprises Sathyamangalam range (Thimbam, Vadavalli, Chickarasampalayam, Kondappanaicken Palayam and Kembanaicken Palayam) and T.N. Palayam (a part of Kadambur forests, Vilankombai, Kongarpalayam, a part of Kovilur, entire Bungalow Pudur, Kanackampalayam and a part of Kundri).

Contact: **Anita Varghese**, Keystone Foundation, see above

## UTTARAKHAND

### Rs. 8.5 crore security plan for Corbett TR

The Union Minister for Environment and Forests, Mr. Jairam Ramesh is reported to have cleared a Rs 8.5-crore Comprehensive Security Plan for the Corbett Tiger Reserve, which will be implemented over the next six years. The plan includes purchase of microflight aircraft for surveillance and installation of sensors all over the reserve for monitoring purposes. Funds are

also likely to be made available for a new museum in Ramnagar.

In another move the minister has also proposed to include Van Gujjars in the Special Tiger Protection Force (TPF). The creation of the TPF is the outcome of the budgetary allocation of Rs. 50 crores made last year for the same (*PA Update* Vol XV, No. 2). The TPF for Corbett is slated to have 110 people and the Minister has suggested that the Gujjars who have a good knowledge of the place would be far better suited for the purpose than anyone thrust from the outside.

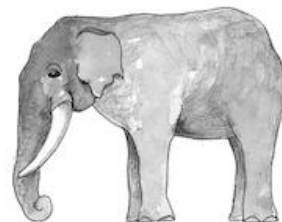
The Minister also suggested that the microflight aircraft like the one to be introduced to Corbett will also be considered for other tiger reserves like Namdapha in Arunachal Pradesh where there is a serious problem of connectivity.

Source: 'Minister spots tiger, clears aircraft and sensors for Corbett', *The Indian Express*, 16/06/09

Contact: **Field Director**, Corbett Tiger Reserve, Ramnagar –244715, Nainital, Uttarakhand. Tel: 05947 – 285489. Fax: 285376  
**CWLW**, 5, Chandrabani, Mohobewala, Dehradun, Uttarakhand. Tel: 0135-2644691

## WEST BENGAL

### Nepal police fire at elephant herd



In a repeat of incidents that have occurred over the last couple of years (*PA Update* Vol XIV, No. 4) the Nepal police allegedly fired at a herd of elephants near the Mechi river on the India-Nepal border. A herd of around 60 pachyderms is said to have entered Dhapa and soon reached Bamondangi village and started raiding homes and fields. The Nepal police opened fire and the firing went on for around two hours. A team of Indian forest guards from the Kurseong division was also shot at when it

crossed over to Nepal to try and persuade the police to desist from firing at the animals. The guards had to take cover on the bank of Mechi and crossed back to India after two hours.

While the herd moved back to the Kalibari forest in Darjeeling district, it was not clear if any elephant was killed in Nepal or if those which returned had suffered bullet injuries. Officials on the Indian side of the border suspect that a number of animals may have been hit by the bullets as distressed trumpeting calls had been heard from the forest.

Mechi lies on the traditional elephant corridor in north Bengal that stretches for 400 km till Sankosh on the Assam border. Every year elephants enter Nepal and then move back to India after having crossed the Mechi river. In 2007, the Nepal police had opened fire on the herd killing a tusk. Several animals had also received bullet injuries

Efforts had been made then by Indian authorities to initiate a dialogue with their Nepalese counterparts and also to put up an electric fence to prevent elephants from crossing over. Senior forest officials in India say that the Nepalese had assured them that they would not fire at the animals but that the latest developments indicate that they were not willing to keep their promise.

Source: Pinal Priya Bhattacharya. 'Nepal police fire at elephant herd', *The Times of India*, 11/06/09

### **Community based tourism project in North Bengal**

The West Bengal Forest Development Corporation (WBFDC) and Help Tourism (HT) have launched a new Community based tourism project in North Bengal in a region contiguous with the Neora Valley and Gorumara National Parks and the Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary.

Called the Naom Chel Teesta Tourism Peace Park, the project is based in the Naom-Chel-Teesta area located east of the River Teesta. It was initiated following a meeting in December 2008 that was attended by representatives of Oodlabari Tourism Development Association, WBFDC and HT.

Contact: Raj Basu, Email: [actraj@gmail.com](mailto:actraj@gmail.com)  
Web: [www.helptourism.com](http://www.helptourism.com);  
[www.easternhimalaya.org](http://www.easternhimalaya.org)

**Chief Wildlife Warden**, Vikas Bhawan,  
North Block, Salt Lake, Calcutta -  
700091, West Bengal. Tel: 033-  
3346900/3583208. Fax: 3345946.  
Email: [wildlife@cal.vsnl.net.in](mailto:wildlife@cal.vsnl.net.in)

## **NATIONAL NEWS FROM INDIA**

### **SC to CAMPA: Provide Rs. 1000 crore per year to states in next five years**

The Supreme Court has recently directed an Ad-Hoc body working on behalf of the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) to release Rs 1,000 crore per year in the next five years to state governments for compensatory afforestation.

A Special forest Bench headed by Chief Justice KG Balakrishnan passed the direction after taking note of the report of the apex court-appointed Central Empowered Committee (CEC) which agreed with the recommendation made by the adhoc CAMPA in the first week of July. The court also directed the Accountant General to audit the account every year and also accepted other recommendations for the notification/implementation of the guidelines and structure of state CAMPAs as prepared by the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF).

(Also see *PA Updates* Vol XIV, Nos. 6 & 2).

Source: 'Provide Rs. 1K to states for forests: SC to Campa', *Financial Express*, 11/07/09

### **Interactive database on threatened lakes**

The Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) has created an interactive database on threatened lakes of India. Presently it has information on a number of lakes from around the country including details of those that are under litigations of various kinds. Lakes on the database include many that are protected areas

or Important Bird Areas like the Pulicat Lake, Kolleru Lake, the Vembanad Lake, the East Kolkata wetlands and the Dal lake in Kashmir.

Readers have been invited to add their own information about threatened lakes with related articles, photographs or news of lakes. Information has also been sought from other countries in South Asia. The site is [http://www.rainwaterharvesting.org/public\\_interest.htm](http://www.rainwaterharvesting.org/public_interest.htm)

Contact: **Sushmita**, Water Unit, CSE. Email: [susm4@yahoo.com](mailto:susm4@yahoo.com)

### **Proposal for a National Green Tribunal**

The Union Ministry for Environment and Forests (MoEF) has proposed the creation of a National Green Tribunal (NGT) in a move to reduce the burden on the judiciary as well as address the increasing number of environment-related litigations. A Cabinet note for inter-ministerial discussions has already been moved to discuss the same.

If established, the tribunal will become the only forum where civil cases pertaining to the entire set of central environment related laws including public interest litigation would be entertained. The tribunal will also address all substantial questions relating to the environment. Appeals against the decisions of the tribunal would go to the Supreme Court.

Keeping in mind that the environment is an evolving subject in jurisprudence, the tribunal shall not be bound to follow the procedure laid down in the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 but would be guided by the principles of natural justice. However, it will have the regular powers that other judicial institutions carry. The NGT shall also not be bound by the rules of evidence contained in the Indian Evidence Act, 1872.

The tribunal shall have a full-time judicial member as its chairperson along with three full-time technical members - one an expert in physical, life sciences or engineering, one an expert in law and another with administrative experience in environmental policy. All members will have a fixed tenure of five-years.

If the tribunal is set up, the National Environment Tribunal Act of 1995 and the

National Environmental Appellate Authority Act of 1997 would be repealed.

Source: 'Govt plans green tribunal to hear environment cases', *The Times of India*, 27/06/09

### **Tripartite MoUs to be signed between Centre, State and Project Tiger Reserves**

The Union Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) will soon be signing tripartite agreements with the State Governments and Directors of Tiger Reserves as a part of a new initiative to ensure tiger conservation. Earlier there were bi-partite agreements between the Centre and States under which funds were received. In some cases like Bihar, however, even this agreement had not been signed and though funds had been allocated for the state they had not been released last year.

The new tri-partite MoUs, which would be a refinement over the existing ones, are aimed at fixing responsibility and accountability for tiger conservation and utilisation of funds.

As things stand, based on the funds utilisation certificates of just 16 of the 37 tiger reserves in the country, it turns out that an amount of over Rs 21 crore remained unspent in 2008-09. Rs. 93 crores had been released to these reserves but only Rs. 72 crores were actually utilized.

Source: 'Union Govt to take up Bihar tiger conservation issue with Nitish', *The Pioneer*, 17/06/09

### **Simlipal TR, Pachmari and Nokrek NP added to UNESCO's Global Biosphere Reserve Network**

The Simlipal Tiger Reserve in Orissa and the Nokrek Biosphere Reserve in Meghalaya have been added by UNESCO to its Global Biosphere Reserve Network. These are three of a new list of 22 sites from across 17 countries. Ten of these sites are in Asia with Europe getting six and the rest divided among Australia, the Middle East, Africa and the Americas. These additions brings the total number to such sites to 553 in 107 countries.

The new additions were announced by UNESCO during the International Coordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB-ICC) meeting held recently on the Island of Jeju in Korea.

Other sites added to the list this year include Great Sandy, a terrestrial, coastal, marine area in Australia which is home to the largest rainforest stand on sand in the world; the Swabian Alb, in Germany which is covered by beech forests and orchards and housed a military training area that was closed to the public for over 100 years until recently; Giam Siak Kecil – Bukit Batu, Indonesia, a peat land area in Sumatra featuring sustainable timber production and two wildlife reserves which are home to the Sumatran tiger, elephant, tapir, and sun bear; and Tasik Chini, the first site in Malaysia to be designated as a UNESCO biosphere reserve, which is a sanctuary for many freshwater species.

The other new sites are: Lagunas de Montebello (Mexico), Flores Island (Portugal), Geres-Xures (Portugal and Spain), Shinan Dadohae (ROK), Altaisky (Russia), Vhembe (South Africa), Fuerteventura (Spain), Lajath Biosphere Reserve (Syria), Desnianskyi (Ukraine), Delta del Orinoco (Venezuela), Cu Lao Cham – Hoi An (Viet Nam), Mui Ca Mau (Vietnam), Mount Myohyang (Democratic People's Republic of Korea), Biosphare Bliesgau (Germany), and Jabal Moussa Biosphere Reserve (Lebanon).

Source: 'UNESCO names 22 new sites to Global Biosphere Reserve Network', *Travel Impact Newswire*, Edition 31 (2009) – Wednesday, 03 June 2009

### **Forest Administration to be 'modernised' to deal with naxal threat**

The Union Government will soon launch a new scheme, 'Modernisation of Forest Administration', to improve the forest administration and simultaneously tackle the growing threat from Naxalites. The Centrally-sponsored scheme would be launched in Orissa, Jharkhand, Chattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar. The information was provided in Hyderabad recently by the Union Minister for Environment and Forests, Mr. Jairam Ramesh.

The Minister said that the details were being worked out and the Centre will extend full financial assistance to the state governments in implementing it. Andhra Pradesh has not been included in the scheme as it has been relatively successful in tackling the Maoist menace on its own.

A number of protected areas including tiger reserves in these states have also been affected and in many cases even reported to be substantially under naxal control.

Source: 'Centre to tackle Naxal menace by launching new scheme'  
<http://www.zeenews.com:80/news537312.html>

### **NTCA directives on tourism in tiger reserves**

In a new set of directives, the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has instructed tiger reserves across the country to put a stop to all "disturbances" in critical tiger areas. It is also proposed to stop tourism for good in core areas. A ban is to be imposed on signboards, foundation stones and other landmarks in these sensitive zones. A ban on entry of tourist jeeps, trucks and lorries in these areas has also been proposed.

In addition, the NTCA has also ordered that no individual can prescribe field activities in tiger reserves and the forest staff intervention in these areas too is to be brought down to a minimum. It has also been decided that no outside agency will be allowed any field activity in the core area without prior permission from the Supreme Court.

Explaining the logic of the decision, the NTCA has said it would be an anomaly to move villages out of the core areas (as part of a new rehabilitation plan) but allow tourism to continue there.

Tourism would however continue in buffer zones of the tiger reserves.

Source: Neha Sinha. 'Save tiger: Govt. to erase tourism footprint', *Indian Express*, 02/0609

## **Whitley Award for Dr. MD Madhusudan**

Dr. MD Madhusudan of the Mysore based Nature Conservation Foundation (NCF) was recently presented the Whitley Award for Conservation for his work to balance the needs of people and wildlife, including elephant and tigers, in the world's most densely-populated biodiversity hotspot, the Western Ghats.

He received the award from Britain's Princess Anne. The prize includes a Whitley Award project grant of £30,000 - donated by HSBC Private Bank - an engraved trophy, membership of an influential network of Whitley Award winners and opportunities to apply for WFN Continuation Funding.

Five other Whitley Awards, including the Whitley Gold (£60,000) went to conservation leaders from Uganda, Bulgaria, Kenya, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

Two other Indian conservationists have also received Associate Awards this year. Sudipto Chatterjee got a £10,000 award to develop an action plan to conserve wild rhododendrons in the Eastern Himalayas, while Supraja Dharini received the same support for a community based initiative to protect sea turtles and dolphins in Kancheepuram.

Contact: **Dr. MD Madhusudan**, NCF, 3076/5 IV Cross, Gokulam Park, Mysore 570002.  
Tel: 0821-2515601. Email: [web@conservation.in](mailto:web@conservation.in) Web: <http://www.conservation.in>

## **Prem Bhatia Award for Environmental Journalism to Gargi Parsai**

The Prem Bhatia Memorial Award for Excellence in Environmental Journalism was recently awarded to Gargi Parsai, Deputy Editor, *The Hindu* and member of the Executive Committee of the Indian Women's Press Corps.

A number of NGOs working on social and environmental issues have welcomed the award. A press release issued by the Narmada Bachao Andolan reads as follows: 'She has been one of the pioneers in investigative journalism in the print media and has made a deep imprint on the ongoing development discourse in the country by covering perspectives of different actors across the board

including the 'development-affected', as in Narmada or Polavaram as well as closely following the policies and positions of bureaucrats and Ministers in critical areas such as water, environment and agriculture for almost three decades.'

Source: Press Release by the Narmada Bachao Andolan, 08/06/09

## **Tiger relocation protocol approved**

The Union Ministry for Environment and Forests (MoEF) has approved a blueprint for tiger relocation prepared by National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).

The protocol has been prepared by the NTCA in association with wildlife experts and the Dehradun based Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and is based on international guidelines. It has details related to which type of animal of what age can be translocated on what conditions. It also deals in detail with the pre and post-release strategy and seeks a long-term plan for the survival of the tiger before any attempt is made to relocate it from one habitat to another. Binding on every state, the tiger relocation will take place under the monitoring of the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), forest departments and experts. The protocol also gives absolute power to the NTCA oversight committee to monitor the shifting process whenever it feels like.

The need for the protocol was raised a few months ago by leading wildlife and tiger experts following the move of two tigresses from Kanha and Bandavgarh Tiger Reserves to Panna (*PA Updates* Vol. XV, Nos. 3, 2, & 1). It was alleged by many that the translocations had happened by over looking basic norms.

It is now hoped that the second phase of the tiger revival plan for Sariska TR in Rajasthan (*PA Updates* Vol. XV, Nos. 2 & 1 and Vol. XIV, No. 5) that had also been put no hold will take off.

Source: 'Environment Ministry approves tiger relocation protocol', *The Hindu*, 21/06/09

## **Environment in the Indian Parliament: An Analysis 2007**

The ENVIS Centre located in the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) – India has recently released the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of ‘Environment in the Indian parliament: An analysis 2007.

The report is a compendium of the discussions held in both the houses of parliament on various sectors of the environment. The ENVIS centre in consultation with the Ministry of Environment and Forests has divided the field of the environment into 18 subject areas. Information has been analyzed subject-wise, ministry wise and state wise. It is hoped that the publication would provide an insight into the trends of parliamentary discussion related to the field of environment amongst India’s legislators and policy makers.

Contact: **Dr. G. Areendran**, Director-ENVIS Programme, WWF-India, 172-B, Lodi Estate, New Delhi - 110 003. Tel: 011-41504791/ 93 / 9968061056  
E-mail: gareendran@wwfindia.net

### **SOUTH ASIA**

## **Consultation on Landscape Approach to Biodiversity Conservation and Management in the Eastern Himalayas**

A ‘Regional Experience Sharing Consultation on Landscape Approach to Biodiversity Conservation and Management in the Eastern Himalayas was held in the last week of May in Tengchong, Yunnan Province, China. The consultation was organized by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and the Kunming Institute of Botany (KIB), Chinese Academy of Sciences .

The meeting was attended by representatives from Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar and discussed a range of issues including the possibility of developing a transboundary landscape around the watersheds of the Brahmaputra and Salween rivers (covering parts of China, India and Myanmar)

and strengthening transboundary landscape approaches in the eastern Himalayas.

The four days consultation shared the biodiversity values and services provided by three key protected areas: the Gaoligongshan National Nature Reserve in China, the Namdapha Tiger Reserve in India, and the Hkakaborazi National Park in Myanmar. Although in different countries, all are within the Bramhaputra-Salween landscape and also very rich in biological diversity.

During the consultation, experiences were shared on landscape approaches used in other areas, including the Kangchenjunga Landscape, the Bhutan Biological Conservation Complex, and the Sacred Himalayan Landscape-Nepal, and on the proposed initiatives for the Karakoram Complex and the Kailash Sacred Landscape. The consultation identified areas where more information was needed, especially in biodiversity, socioeconomics, and cultural understanding, and follow up actions in each of the countries. The workshop also identified potential for regional cooperation in thematic areas, capacity building needs, and transboundary issues and initiatives, and steps to be considered in developing a regional cooperation framework (RCF) for the landscape.

A field visit was organised to the Gaoligongshan National Nature Reserve by the Tengchong County Office of the Baoshan Administration Bureau of the Gaoligongshan National Nature Reserve.

Contact: **Dr. Eklabya Sharma**, ICIMOD, GPO Box 3226, Kathmandu, Nepal. Email: info@icimod.org; website: www.icimod.org

### **UPCOMING**

## **International Conference on Wildlife Conservation, Health and Disease Management**

The Department of Wildlife Science, Madras Veterinary College under the auspices of

Tamilnadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University is organizing an 'International Conference on Wildlife Conservation, Health and Disease Management – A Post Millenium Approach' from February 3 to 5, 2010 in Chennai.

A number of technical sessions have been planned for the Conference including Status of Wildlife Health Management; International Collaboration in Wildlife Research; Capture, Restraint and

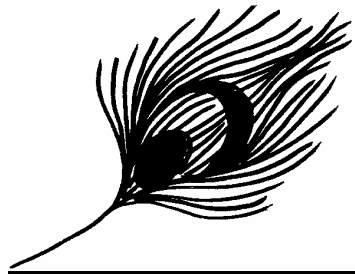
Immobilisation of Wildlife; Avian, Aquatic and Reptile Medicine; Emerging and Zoonotic diseases in Wildlife and Wildlife-Human-Livestock conflict and issues.

Contact: **Dr. MG Jayathangaraj**, Dept. of Wildlife Science, Madras Veterinary College, Chennai-7. Tel: 044-25360700. Email: mgjayathangaraj@yahoo.com

### **New Titles from Kalpavriksh**

**Nought Without Cause** (Almost everyones' guide to deforestation and forest degradation in the era of neoliberal globalization).

Compiled by Milind Wani, this book seeks to understand the link between neoliberal globalization and deforestation. It tries to engage with the issue of deforestation at two levels, theoretical & empirical. While the *thematic papers* in this volume attempt to look at the theory, issues and impacts of neoliberal globalization through philosophical, legal & socio-economic lenses, a set of *case-studies* inform the lay reader about the ground situations that arise as a result of adopting an ecologically unsustainable model of economic development based on neoliberal paradigms...



### **Community Conserved Areas in India – A Directory**

Community Conserved Areas (CCAs) in India – A Directory is the first publication of its kind that systematically documents community led conservation initiatives across the country. The Directory highlights 140 case studies of CCAs from 23 states and from a diversity of ecosystems, communities, and kinds of efforts. It is hoped the publication will contribute towards a deeper understanding of biodiversity conservation by people, and issues of livelihoods, tenure, development, legal and policy environment, and ecological impacts. The case studies are complemented by state-level analyses, and a national overview by the editor. The 800 page Directory has been compiled and edited by Neema Pathak and includes national and state maps in colour; B&W photos and illustrations.

Contact: **Swati Arjunwadkar**, Kalpavriksh, Editorial Address. Email: [kybooks@vsnl.net](mailto:kybooks@vsnl.net)

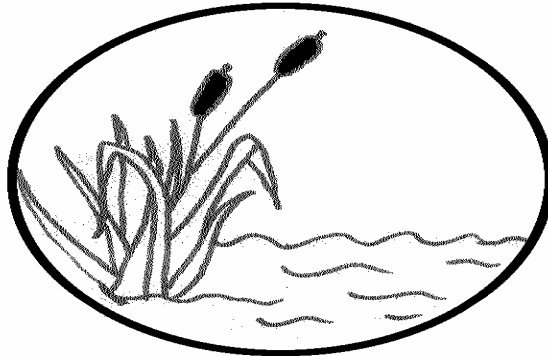
### **The PA UPDATE carries on!**

The last few weeks have been very anxious ones for us as far as the future of the *Protected Area Update* was concerned. As we had mentioned in the last issue, we were finding it difficult to raise the resources to keep the newsletter going and were indeed thinking of drastic measures to deal with the situation.

Appeals for help and support had also been sent out widely and slowly but surely commitments and actual support started to trickle in. It was particularly heart warming that a number of individuals wrote in and sent in personal contributions; it was to us an affirmation that the Update is valued by many and that they were willing to be a part of the ongoing effort.

Though very valuable, these individual contributions were not going to make up for all the *PA Update* needed and it is only in the last few weeks that things have improved considerably. This is when three institutions – the Foundation for Ecological Security, The Duleep Mathai Trust for Nature Conservation and Greenpeace India – came forward with a substantial grant each. We, at the *PA Update* are indeed extremely grateful and would like to thank them immensely for this.

The struggle, however, is not fully over yet. We still don't have all the money we need for this year, and importantly want to keep the effort on to ensure that we don't run into a similar crisis next year. So please let all your ideas and support coming in. We will keep needing it all the time to ensure that the *PA Update* carries on!



For Private Circulation / Printed Matter

From

**Kalpavriksh**

Apt. 5, Sri Dutta Krupa

908 Deccan Gymkhana

Pune 411004

To