

ZOO OUTREACH ORGANIZATION

ACTIVITY REPORT 2017







CONSERVATION

THE SEASONAL STREAM CRINUM

Title: Development of a conservation plan for the Malabar River Lily (*Crinum malabaricum*)

Objectives:

1. Search for the Critically Endangered *Crinum malabaricum* plant.
2. Identify and map the distribution of the species and record threats.

Activities:

1. Contacted local botanists for information.
2. Visited the type locality and other locations.
3. Contacted the government college for volunteers.
4. Visited the Malabar Botanic Gardens and met with officials.

Results:

1. Identified healthy populations of the species in the type locality and three new localities.
2. Developed a monitoring protocol with students of Government College, Kasargode.
3. Built a network of interested botanists, students and individual landowners interested in the species.
4. Collaborations between various institutes initiated for future conservation action.

Partners: Freshwater Plant Specialist Group - Conservation Planning Specialist Group, South Asia.

PI: Richard Lansdowne, Sanjay Molur

INDIAN PANGOLIN OF TAMIL NADU

Title: Survey on Species threats and conservation outreach programmes for Indian Pangolin (*Manis crassicaudata*) in Western Ghats of Tamil Nadu, India

Objectives:

1. Compile information on distribution, existing trade, and ethnic use.
2. Create awareness on pangolin conservation among stakeholders in selected Western Ghats districts of Tamil Nadu.

Activities:

1. Questionnaire surveys of communities conducted with volunteers.
2. Education materials developed.
3. Outreach activities planned and executed.

Results:

1. Distribution data and threats in the state mapped.
2. Education/outreach programmes conducted in nine districts.
3. Forest department sensitized.

Partners: St. Johns College, Palayamkottai; Sri Parmakalyani College, Alwarkurichi; Ayya Nadar Janaki Ammal College, Sivakasi; Nethaji Snake Trust, Usilampatti and Government Arts College, Udthagamandalam.

PI: R. Marimuthu

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CONSERVATION FUND

COOL CUCUMBERS!

Title: Cool Cucumbers: Can these marine invertebrates be exploited?

Objectives:

1. Understand the livelihood dependence on sea cucumbers in India.
2. Evaluate the ban on the trade and listing of sea cucumbers in the Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972

Activities:

1. Community surveys conducted through personal visits and questionnaire surveys.
 2. Opportunistic field surveys of sea cucumbers.
 3. Consultations with state-specific and other subject experts.
- Literature review.

Results:

1. Understanding of sea cucumber trade in India such as, the extent of the trade in the past and present, dependence, harvest techniques, and the conservation measures undertaken.
2. Ongoing cucumber extraction regions mapped.
3. Attitudes, perceptions and dependency mapped.
4. Lack of clear-cut solutions identified.
5. Education & awareness found critical in harvested areas.

PI: Priyanka Iyer



A TARANTULA HABITAT

Title: Feasibility study for establishment of the first invertebrate sanctuary in India for the Theraphosid spider *Poecilotheria hanumavilasumica* (Mygalomorphae, Araneae) on Rameswaram Island, Tamil Nadu, India

Objectives:

1. Scoping the possibility of securing the last habitat of the highly threatened Hanumavilasum Tarantula.

Activities:

1. Conducted field survey.
2. personal discussions with village head, local political persons, advocates, surveyor, temple authorities, temple property manager, forest personnel, local NGOs,
3. Conducted livelihood training program coordinators, land mediators.
4. Important parameters for site selection used.

Results:

1. Presence/absence of the tarantula.
2. Identified a potential location with high congregation of the spider.

Partners: NeithalResource Trust, Rameswaram

PI: B.A. Daniel



RAINFOREST
TRUST

BUILDING EVIDENCE FOR CONSERVATION GLOBALLY!



12

issues published

1474

pages published

205

publications

The Journal of Threatened Taxa (JoTT) is an open access and print, peer reviewed monthly (not including special edition, supplementary and monographs), rapid, international journal for conservation and taxonomy. JoTT is a platform for quick and timely publication of research findings, reviews and other aspects of science related to conservation and taxonomy including subject areas like ecology, behavior, physiology, methodology, veterinary, diseases, management, and models among others. JoTT encourages professional and amateur upcoming scientists from around the world to publish. The journal provides assistance and mentors first time writers, or writers of non-native English language countries in presenting science to the world. **JoTT is published with Wildlife Information Liaison Development and Zoo Outreach Organisation hosts and supports the journal.**







PLANNING

RISK ASSESMENT ON SOUTH ASIAN THERAPOSID SPIDERS

Title: IUCN South Asian Theraphosid Spider Assessments

Objectives:

1. Compile information on South Asian theraphosid spiders for risk assessments.

Plans:

1. Create theraphosid spider species list for all South Asian countries.
2. Compile information on species from literature.
3. Compile new information for not assessed species.
4. Update information for already assessed species.
5. Compile distribution data and map localities and polygons.

Progress:

1. Compilations ongoing.

Partner: Conservation Planning Specialist Group - South Asia, South Asian Invertebrate Specialist Group, IUCN, Invertebrate Conservation Subcommittee

PI: B.A. Daniel, Sanjay Molur



WONDER GECKO CONSERVATION PLAN

Title: The Arabian Wonder Gecko Conservation Planning Workshop

Objectives:

1. Develop a conservation action plan for the Arabian population of the Wonder Gecko.

Activities:

1. Network all experts in the UAE.
2. Compile baseline information from literature and experts.

Results:

1. Conservation Planning workshop conducted in Abu Dhabi.
2. Red List assessment of the Arabian Wonder Gecko.
3. Wonder Gecko Action Plan Report.

Partners: Conservation Planning Specialist Group – South Asia, Environment Agency Abu Dhabi

PI: Pritpal Soorae, Sanjay Molur

VERTEBRATE SCOPING WORKSHOP

Title: Himachal Pradesh Vertebrate Conservation Planning

Objectives:

1. Identify and link all vertebrate experts of the state.
2. Develop a complete checklist of vertebrates of the state.
3. Develop an existing knowledge base for an eventual action plan.

Plans:

1. Discussions with the Himachal forest department executives.
2. Initiate networking with experts and forest department personnel.
3. Prepare checklists from literature and expert knowledge.
4. Develop maps.

Progress:

1. Workshop organized for scoping the status of vertebrate knowledge in the state.
2. Checklists discussed and finalized.
3. Working groups formed for future actions.
4. Report to be published after feedback from participants and forest department.

Partners: Himachal Pradesh Forest Department, Conservation Planning Specialist Group - South Asia

PI: Sanjay Molur

RISK ASSESSMENT OF SOUTH ASIAN REPTILES

Title: IUCN South Asian Reptile Assessments

Objectives:

1. Compile information on South Asian reptiles other than the peninsular India endemics for risk assessments.

Plans:

1. Create reptile species list for all South Asian countries.
2. Compile information on species from literature.
3. Compile new information for not assessed species.
4. Update information for already assessed species.
5. Compile a list of national and regional reptile experts.
6. Compile distribution data and map localities and polygons.
7. Identify a list of prospective experts to attend the regional assessment workshop.

Progress:

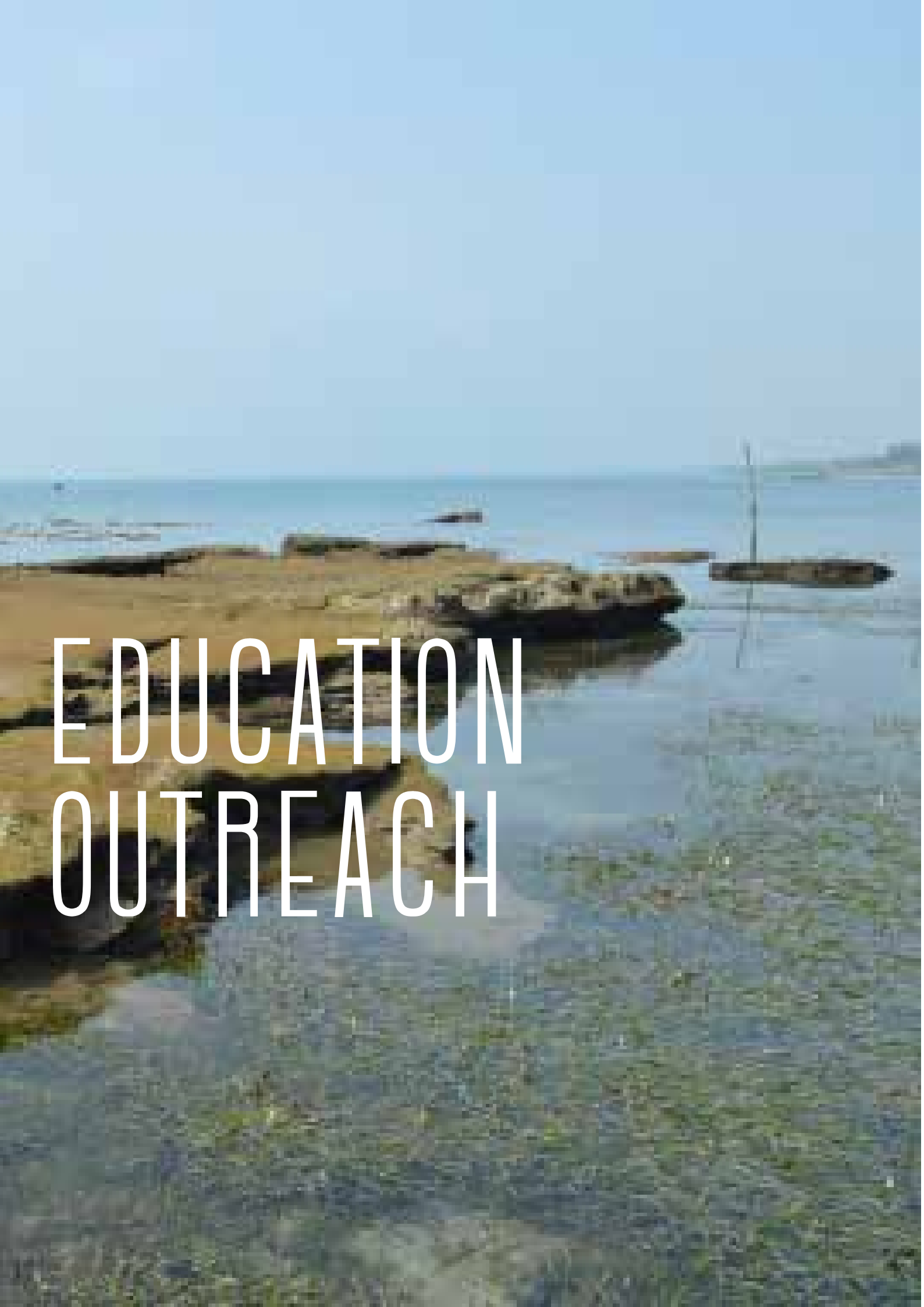
1. Compilations for endemics of Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh completed.
2. Some species information entered into the Species Information System database of IUCN Red List.
3. Expert lists for Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh completed.
4. Maps for reptiles of Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh completed.
5. Compilations ongoing for remaining species from India and Sri Lanka

Partners: Conservation Planning Specialist Group, South Asia, IUCN, Conservation International's Biodiversity Assessment Unit

PI: Neil Cox, Sanjay Molur







EDUCATION OUTREACH

EMPOWERING FRONTLINE STAFF IN TAMIL NADU

Title: Capacity building for frontline forest personnel for the mitigation of Human-animal conflict (Tiger and elephant) in and around Protected Areas of Tamil Nadu, India

Objectives:

1. Address Human-animal conflict issues
2. Promote protection of tiger and elephant habitats through effective monitoring and reporting.

Activities:

1. Develop resource materials
2. Conduct 5 days training programme
3. Conduct hands-on training
4. Source field kits for field staff

Results:

1. Trained forest frontline staff
2. Organized hand-on training programmes
3. Created a network of the trained staff
4. Supplied resource materials

Partners: TN Forest Department, Chennai, Society for Interface and Forestry Training SWIFT, Tamil Nadu Forest Academy TNFA, Coimbatore, and a local NGO, VANAM

PI: B.A. Daniel



IMPACT ASSESMENT ON HEC(X) COIMBATORE

Title: Human Elephant Conflict impact assessment on Human Elephant Co-existence in Coimbatore

Objectives:

1. Identify the core cause of Human-Elephant conflict
2. Understand the socio-economic issues such as crop and property damage
3. Understand human and elephant deaths and people's tolerance towards the problem elephants

Activities:

1. Conduct questionnaire surveys in Coimbatore Forest Division.
2. Develop education materials.
3. Outreach to communities.

Results:

1. Several school awareness programmes conducted.
2. Degree of human-elephant conflict mapped.

Partners: Forest Department, Tulsi Trust, and Nature Conservation Society.

PI: R. Marimuthu

MAHOUTS AND CONSERVATION WELFARE

Title: Elephant conservation welfare training for Mahouts and Cawadi in Tamil Nadu

Objectives:

1. Train elephant handlers about animal welfare.
2. Create a network of elephant handlers and find a way for the daily reporting system.

Plans:

1. Visits to private elephant holders to conduct a personal interview
2. Consult local NGOs to organize workshops
3. Prepare for workshop

Progress:

The project is ongoing and will be completed in July 2018.

Partners: Srinivasan Social Network, Tholvilaimangalam

PI: B.A. Daniel



CAPACITY BUILDING FOR TIGER CONSERVATION

Title: Conservation Education and Capacity Building for Tiger Conservation in the Protected Areas of Arunachal Pradesh

Objectives:

1. Provide conservation education training to teachers, non-governmental organisations, and volunteers
2. Build capacity for forest front-line staff in Arunachal Pradesh.

Activities:

1. Develop a teaching manual and tiger tool kit packets.
2. Training of teachers from forest fringe areas.
3. Training of forest staff.
4. Field materials for forest staff sourced.

Results:

1. Forty frontline staff trained in modern practices of tiger conservation
2. Thirty five teachers were taught about the importance of tiger conservation by using active learning methods.
3. The trained teachers teach their wards about tiger conservation and importance of saving its habitat.

Partners: Namdapha Tiger Reserve, Arunachal Pradesh Forest Department.

PI: R. Marimuthu



FRAGMENTED RHINO POPULATIONS

Title: Safeguarding the Greater One-horned Rhino meta-population in North Bengal and Uttar Pradesh, India

Objectives:

1. Educate educators and community members about the importance of rhinos and its conservation.
2. Reduce human-rhino conflict by conveying positive attitudes and effective preventative and practical behaviour.
3. Create a network of educators to help promote species conservation for rhino and other threatened species in this region.

Plans:

1. Met key forest officers for effective discussions about the programme.
2. Identified point persons in workshop locations.
3. Identified venues and logistic requirements.
4. Developed Rhino resource materials for the workshop.

Progress: Ongoing and it will be completed by December 2018.

Partners: West Bengal Forest Department, Forest Department of Uttar Pradesh

PI: B.A. Daniel



ZOO'S PRINT

Magazine of Zoo Outreach Organisation

12

issues

368

pages

86

articles

Bird-o-soar # 7 (34 pages)

Bugs R All # 9 (56 pages)

Fantastic Facts # 11 (53 pgs)

Field Report # 6 (23 pages)

Froleg # 3 (16 pages)

Mammal Tales # 1 (5 pages)

Plantasia # 2 (7 pages)

Reptile Rap # 10 (48 pages)

SMM # 7 (25 pages)

Travelogue # 1 (3 pages)

Vet Brief # 4 (20 pages)

ZOO activities # 4 (17 pgs)

Ex situ # 7 (38 pages)

Activity # 11 (19 pages)

Announcement # 2 (2 pages)

Editorial #1 (2 pages)

COMMUNITY



PROJECT KAZHIRU

Title: USFWS Project Kazhiru (Elephant): Targeting to achieve zero mortality in HEC areas in partnership with Tamil Nadu Forest department.

Objectives:

1. Educate stakeholders to modify livelihood / lifestyle incompatible in HEC areas
2. Educate local bodies in developing safety protocols in conflict areas;
3. Conduct mass awareness programmes for the community in HECx in Coimbatore forest range.

Plans:

1. A one-day training programme planned for different stakeholders Boluvampatti and Periyanaicken Palayam forest ranges.
2. Several short awareness programmes planned to sensitize the community, school teachers and students in elephant areas.

Progress:

1. Education materials for education programmes developed and printed.
2. Programmes to be held starting in July 2018.

Partners: Nature Conservation Society, Tamil Nadu Forest Department, District Administration, School Education Department and Department of Environment.

PI: R. Marimuthu



HUMAN – ELEPHANT COEXISTENCE

Title: Fostering Human Elephant Coexistence (HECx) awareness in Erode, Tamil Nadu, India

Objectives:

1. Reach out to schools near northern Western Ghats (Sathyamangalam and Erode forest divisions)
2. Impart safety education in elephant areas to save lives and live harmoniously with elephants.

Activities:

1. Development of a teaching guide on elephants.
2. Preparation of ele-kit packets.
3. Teacher training workshop planned
4. School outreach programmes planned.

Results:

1. Organized a 2-days teacher-training workshop.
2. Conducted 25 school awareness programmes.
3. Teachers and students in elephant areas addressed regarding human-elephant coexistence.

Partners: School Education Department, National Green Corps (NGC), Department of Environment and Forest Department.

PI: R. Marimuthu

