WILDLIFE INFORMATION LIAISON DEVELOPMENT (WILD)

ACTIVITY REPORT
2019-2020
CONSERVATION
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.
Title: Conserving the endangered and endemic Chamba Sacred Langur – native food plants preference study to devise crop-raiding mitigation strategies.

Objectives
1. Understand native vegetation composition in and around Khajjiar-Kalatop Wildlife Sanctuary
2. Understand langur dietary preferences

Activities
1. Surveys were conducted from February to November to collect and identify plants in and around study area.
2. The plant list was prepared for wild plants of Kalatop-Khajjiar Wildlife Sanctuary
3. Collected 483 plants and herbarium has been prepared for the same.
4. 247 plants belonging to 77 families have been identified
5. Data on Langur’s diet was collected based upon opportunistic observation and observed Langurs have been found feeding upon 20 plants species of 247 collected
4. Build a network of volunteers to help with raider data collection from the study area
5. Work extensively with selected villages on developing conflict mitigation strategies, and implement the strategies as pilot studies for emulation throughout the district.

Impacts
Developed healthy relationship with Wildlife Department Chamba and local communities living around the sanctuary. This will help us design a strategy to achieve conservation goals and build a participatory mechanism for ensuring sustainable restoration efforts throughout the Valley.

Partners: Wildlife Information Liaison Development Society

PI: Vishal Ahuja
Objectives
1. To understand their current population status (abundance and health) as well as changes to their microhabitats.
2. To undertake a rapid biodiversity survey to understand the immediate impacts of the catastrophic floods on the habitats (changes to morphology and microhabitat structure and hydrological parameters) and populations (abundance) of thirteen AZE species in the Kerala part of Western Ghats Hotspot.

Activities
1. Comprehensive surveys were carried out to assess the impacts of extreme climatic events (i.e. catastrophic floods) on the habitats and populations of single location endemic and threatened species in the rivers of Kerala. Comprehensive field surveys are being carried out in four major river systems affected by floods, viz, Periyar, Chalakudy, Pampa, and Achankovil.
2. Micro-habitat-based surveys carried out in six critical freshwater fish habitats including Periyar Tiger Reserve, Valparai, Malakkapara, Santhampara, New Amarambalam, and Shenduruney Wildlife Sanctuary to determine the abundance, population status, and impacts to the habitats of the ‘single-location fish species’.
3. The survey is supplemented by unstructured interviews and focus group discussions with relevant stakeholders including local fishers, forest guards, local communities residing along the river banks, and researchers.
4. Surveys carried out in the Kallada River, particularly in three areas, (i) upstream of, (ii) downstream of, and (iii) actual range of D. exclamatio, an endemic species of the river indicated no changes to either the morphology of the stream habitats or to the populations of the species.

The floods, however, had significant impacts on the riverine microhabitats located in the middle and lower reaches of the major river systems affected by floods. The morphology of many middle and lower reach fish habitats has been severely affected and many have been transformed beyond recognition. Serious depletion of in-stream and riparian cover in rivers such as Periyar, Chalakudy and Achankovil were observed. Shoreline vegetation and riparian cover has been significantly affected in the lower reaches of Periyar River.

Partners: Wildlife Information Liaison Development Society and Zoo Outreach Organisation

PI: Rajeev Raghavan
Title: Prioritizing mitigation strategies for human-animal negative interactions in western Himalaya.

Objectives
1. Network with women’s self-help groups civic societies and schools (communities)
2. Build an education programme on the ills of habitat loss, introduction of problem animals, non-availability of food plants & natural feed and fragmentation
3. Initiate awareness programme to the communities
4. Initiate discussions with the forest department on unscientific and knee-jerk capture and release of animals.
5. Prioritise the mitigation method available until date.

Activities
1. Initiated network with civic societies and schools
2. Conducted various education awareness at Chmaba and nearby villages
3. Initiated discussion with the forest department

Partners: Wildlife Information Liaison Development Society

PI: Sanjay Molur and Vishal Ahuja
EDUCATION
OUTREACH
Objectives: raise awareness, build capacity of local people and contribute to conservation science

Activities:
• A year of field work at a local school (Yellow Train) to teach the students about Wild India, bio-mapping, Pollinator Conservation, etc.
• LivelyWaters! Citizen science initiative: Conducted bird surveys every month and collated the data for analyses.
• Collaborated with Zoo Outreach Organisation and Mango Education and organised various courses (Wildlife Photography, Science Conference, hands-on experience with various aquatic animals, launched wildlife online courses) for children.
• Conducted Vulture programme for 25 nature club members of BOSCH, Coimbatore
• Conducted Marine and freshwater education at a local college in Kerala
• Conducted one day Conservation Education Training for newly recruited Foresters & Guards of Erode Forest Division at Bannari

Impacts: Building local network of citizens interested in wildlife conservation and help them improve their knowledge base related to wildlife issues and conservation.

PI: Payal Molur, Sanjay Molur, B.A. Daniel, Priyanka Iyer
ONLINE CONSERVATION PLATFORM FOR CITIZEN

Title: Developing an online conservation platform for citizen participation in crop-raiding mitigation by the Chamba Sacred Langur (*Seminopithecus ajax*) in India

**Objectives:**
1. To provide local people with information about the Chamba Sacred Langur and its habitat by developing an online educational platform that helps in building a database through the involvement of local citizens and students.
2. To make information easily accessible and people-friendly to use.
3. To develop positive attitudes towards conservation of the species by introducing the platform in schools.
4. To encourage environment-friendly behaviour towards the species to mitigate any human-animal conflict that is a potential danger due to possible crop raiding.

**Progress:**
1. Started Himalayan Langur Facebook page
2. Developed a brochure and printed 4000 copies for distribution
3. Himalayan Langur Project website work is going on

**Partners:** Wildlife Information Liaison Development Society

**PI:** Vidya Mary George

CITIZEN SCIENCE PROGRAM

**Activities**
1. Established a citizen community interested in understanding the water bodies
2. Trained citizens in water bird identification
3. Trained citizens in point count method for monitoring the water bodies
4. Collected data on species richness, threats and habitat modifications for a year from specific water bodies from Coimbatore

**Impacts**
1. Empowered an urban community with data collection methods
2. Built a network of over 50 citizen scientists
3. Created a larger community interested in wildlife

**PI:** Sanjay Molur, Priyanka Iyer

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