### **2012 Annual Report**







**Activity Report** 

(01 April 2012-31 March 2013)

### **HECx workshops for Tamil Nadu and Kerala**

ZOO's popular educators' training workshop, 'Getting along with elephants' to promote Human elephant Coexistence HECx has been organised to reach HEC areas of Tamil Nadu and Kerala. USFWS sponsored project has so far organized in India (West Bengal, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu), Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Indonesia and Thailand. With an intention to reach HEC areas of South India, a series of workshops has been organised in select areas of Rajapalayam, Nilgiris and Krishnagiri districts of Tamil Nadu with funding from USFWS. Awareness training with the support of IEF has been organised in Kerala as well. Education materials (Human Elephant Co-existence (HECx) Teaching Guide, HECx packet, drama kit along with a guideline, participants hand over materials etc) in local language were developed.

The project objective is reduction of death and injury by the simplest approach ... convincing local people that they must be careful! The workshops train teachers, NGOs, forest and wildlife staffers, volunteers, wildlife researchers and selected others who live and work in or near HEC areas. This program is preceded by a survey of local residents to document their state of mind, fine tune materials and assess the effectiveness of the approach. A 2-day refresher training to reinforce what they learned and provide additional teaching techniques will follow it.

### Getting along with Elephants HECx (Human Elephant Coexistence), Rajapalayam, Tamil Nadu

The first educator skills training programme was conducted at Rajapalayam inviting educators from Kalakad, Thirunelvali, Sivagiri, Devathanam, Rajapalayam, Srivilliputher, Saptur, Watrap, Theni, and Usilampatti. The Wildlife Association of Rajapalayam being the local partners of the three-day programme in collaboration with the Grizzled Giant Squirrel Wildlife Sanctuary. The first workshop of the series was organized at Chinmaya Vidyalaya P.A.C. Ramasamy Raja Matriculation hr. Sec. School, Rajapalayam in which 36 educators participated from 18-20 August 2012. A pre workshop survey was conducted in all these areas before the training programme.

**The second workshop** of the USFWS sponsored Human Elephant Coexistence *HECx* educators training was held at Ooty, Tamil Nadu from 26-28 September 2012. District Forest Officer, Nilgiris south division inaugurated the event. A total of 34 educators participated from Gudalur, Ooty, Conoor, Kothagiri, Masinagudi, Aruvankadu, Erumadu, Kollapalli, and Devala. Of the total participants 13 were teachers, 6 graduates and postgraduates involved in conservation education, 4 NGO members, 6 forest personnel, 2 conservation educators and 3 researchers. Dr. Ramakrishnan, Department of Zoology and Wildlife Biology, Government Arts College, Ooty coordinated the programme. We greatly



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appreciate the interest shown by the CEO, Nilgiri District, and also all the educational institutes for their interest, participation and commitment to create awareness in HEC areas of Nilgiri District.

### Changing local attitudes and behaviour towards Elephants in Kerala, India

The International Elephant Foundation IEF, USA sponsored HECx workshop was held at Centre for Wildlife Studies of Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (KVASU), Pookode, Wayanad, Kerala from 12-14 October 2012. The centre was the host/coordinator and Nirmala College, Moovattupuzha, Ernakulam was another coordinator of the workshop.

About 40 persons attended this educator training and they represented from schools /colleges/ university and forest departments of human conflict areas of Thrissur, Palakkad and Wayanad districts. During the training each participant was provided with a teaching manual, 50 ele-kit packets, drama and finger puppet kit each in order to conduct their own programmes at their area from the knowledge they gained out of the training.

### School programme

Subsequent to the workshop, two awareness programmes were planned at the schools and one was conducted on 15 October 2012 at Jawahar Navodaya Vidhyalaya, Pookode, Wayanad.

The second HECx awareness programme was conducted at Silent Valley Modern Residential School, Mukkali, Attappady in Kerala on 31 October 2012. From this school, four teachers participated in the Pookode, Wayanad HECx workshop. About 100 girl students participated in this programme and another 120 students participated as observers. All the students come from human elephant conflict areas and they are exposed to

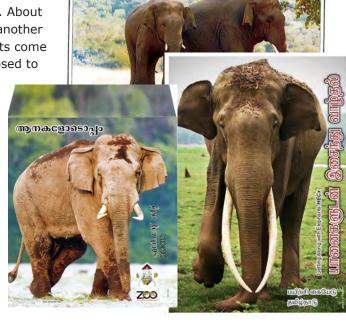
HEC problems. The students were briefed about the reasons for human elephant conflict and told them how to coexist with them. Elephant characteristics activity from the HECx teaching guide was done in order to understand elephant's body weight, running and walking speed, sense organs and communication skills etc. that they didn't know.

Do's and don'ts in elephant habitat also told to them in detail so as to save their life whenever they confront with elephants. Then ele-kit packet items were demonstrated and used.









**Activity Report** 

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### **Indian Alliance for Zero Extinction**

Alliance for Zero Extinction is the coming together of different Non Government Organizations across the globe to prevent the immediate threat to species extinction! The Alliance is an initiative to develop conservation strategies for species assessed as Critically Endangered or Endangered as per IUCN categories and criteria found in a single location. The ideology of setting up the Alliance is in tandem with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Aichi 2020 Target 12: By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.

The Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) sites are declared based on three criteria:

**Endangerment**. An AZE site contains at least one Endangered (EN) or Critically Endangered (CR) species, as listed on the IUCN Red List.

**Irreplaceability**. An AZE site is only designated if it is the sole area where an EN or CR species occurs, contains the overwhelmingly significant known resident population (>95%) of the EN or CR species, or contains the overwhelmingly significant known population (>95%) for one life history segment (e.g. breeding or wintering) of the EN or CR species.

**Discreteness**. The area is a definable boundary within which the characters of habitats, biological communities, and/or management issues have more in common with each other than they do with those in adjacent areas.

Globally 587 AZE sites are identified based on these three criteria and these sites are inhabited by 920 species of mammals, birds, amphibians, some reptiles and conifers. The Alliance has national representations in Brazil, Mexico, Colombia and India among others. The Indian Alliance for Zero Extinction (Indian AZE) was established in January 2011 by Zoo Outreach Organisation to bring together NGOs in India to prevent extinction of the Critically Endangered and Endangered species found in a single location in India.

The 2010 global AZE update includes 17 AZE species (including birds, amphibians, mammals and reptiles) in 17 sites in India. Post the 2010 listing the Indian AZE has identified 21 AZE fish species and 14 AZE plant



Indian Alliance for Zero Extinction Side event, 17 October 2012 at eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 11), Hyderabad, India

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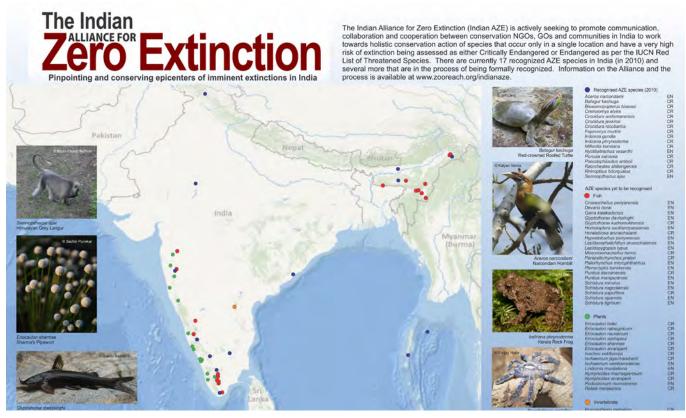
species based on the freshwater assessments conducted in Eastern Himalaya and Western Ghats by the IUCN Freshwater Biodiversity Unit and Zoo Outreach Organization. One tarantula is also recognized in this Indian AZE list. This list provides an idea of species in India that are highly restricted in distribution and at a very high risk of extinction with the highest priority for undertaking status survey, and developing and implementing conservation plans.

Understanding this pressing need and the similarity in the vision with the CBD Aichi 2020 Target 12, the Alliance for Zero Extinction organized a side event titled "Seven Wonders of Conservation" at the Convention of Parties 11 at Hyderabad on 17 October 2012, to present this concept and invite other NGOs to be a part of this network.

Olivier Langrand of Island Conservation and AZE Steering Committee member introduced the programme, the AZE concept and about the Seven Wonders of Conservation, an initiative to identify, through social networking, the worlds top seven AZE species/sites. Along with him two other AZE Steering Committee members, Russ Mittermeier of Conservation International and Sanjay Molur of Zoo Outreach Organization were part of this side event along with other speakers and supporters, Jane Smart and Aban Marker Kabraji of IUCN, and Nick Holmes of Island Conservation. The event was concluded with an interesting interactive session with participation from people belonging to different parts of the world. There were questions pertaining to protection awarded to freshwater groups in India and also sharing of case studies speaking of the success stories and complications involved in conservation.

Organizations in India who are interested in becoming members may visit the Indian AZE website for more details <www.zooreach.org/indianaze/indianaze.html>. Organizations and individuals wishing to join in the conservation efforts of any of the above species, or wishing to start action on other AZE species may write to <herpinvert@gmail.com> or <zooreach@zooreach.org>(CHFSTFR)





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### Western Ghats Freshwater Biodiversity Conservation Teaching workshop Karl Kubel Institute, Anaikatty, Coimbatore, 25-27 February 2013

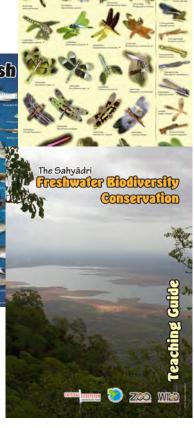
A three-day trainers training on Freshwater Biodiversity Conservation Education was conducted by WILD/ZOO at Coimbatore inviting selected educators from five states (Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Goa and Maharashtra) of the Western Ghats. This CEPF sponsored project is the follow up of the Western Ghats Freshwater Biodiversity Assessment report published by ZOO/IUCN Biodiversity Unit in 2011.

The objective of this three-day training is to take the assessment results of the report to a wide range of stakeholders such as local people, students, community and also journalists living in peninsular India. The aim of the training is to empower educators to teach about freshwater biodiversity and its conservation

that can be practiced with their local audience in the Western Ghats area and to demonstrate innovative teaching and learning techniques designed to change human behaviour for the better. As part of this project a teaching manual has been developed along with a variety of education materials that was used throughout the training.

About 17 educators took part in this training and utilizing the resource materials used during the training, they will be reaching out to a wider audience involving journalists. This training is a collaborative effort of Conservation Breeding Specialist Group, Conservation Research Group, Kerala, Freshwater Fish SG – South Asia region, South Asian Invertebrate Specialist Group and ZOO's Educator Network.















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### South Asian Zoo Association for Regional Cooperation (SAZARC)

### **Background**

The South Asian Zoo Association for Regional Cooperation SAZARC was founded in Kathmandu Zoo, Nepal in 2000 with a range of zoo directors from 5 countries, e.g., Nepal, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. Throughout last 12 years, ZOO has hosted SAZARC as a project and raised all funds from external zoos and NGO's for an annual regional conference with all expenses paid for all invitees. Founder/Director SAZARC put a ten-year limit on raising funds from western zoos and animal welfare organizations for directors to attend a conference. The 10 year mark was 2010 when we conducted the conference in Chitwan National Park with truly outstanding resource persons such as Dr. Wendy Foden, the IUCN point person for Climate Change research



and Dr. Mark Irwin, a Veterinarian and university professor specializing in zoo and wild animal medicine. The NTNC/Central Zoo pulled out all the stops to entertain and the conference attendees, even providing an expensive Thagka, a famous wall-hanging especially made for the conference and a well-known and beautiful symbol of Nepal and trips into the nearby jungle to see wildlife on several occasions. Now, we are trying to raise a small amount to conduct a small meeting that will include a selected person from each country to meet and discuss SAZARC's future.

This meeting will focus on to how to strengthen South Asian zoos first nationally and then perhaps regionally, collecting ideas from each country. The meeting will encourage founding of national associations with guidance from SAZARC. Thus far no country except India has a national association but it is under the auspices of the government entity over the zoos. SAZARC will provide some help for the new national associations by linking them with other regional and national associations that can provide advice to assist them in this transition until they become established and work together effectively. The reasoning behind this is that more zoo directors will be able to attend meetings at their own expense within their own country as it is not so expensive.

The primary focus of SAZARC always has been teaching the members about wildlife conservation. There are many misunderstandings about conservation in our region of South Asia such as if zoos simply have the animals in their zoo, they believe they are practicing conservation. SAZARC in collaboration with its host, Zoo Outreach Organisation attempts to provide appropriate information and advice when requested and on a regularly basis

with the monthly magazine ZOOS' PRINT and monthly peer reviewed publication JOURNAL OF THREATENED TAXA. SAZARC members are on a mailing list for circulating occasional documents that would be helpful to zoo personnel.

In 2012 SAZARC chair Ms. Sally Walker visited three South Asian countries, India, where the office of ZOO and SAZARC reside, Bangladesh, and Nepal.

#### **Bangladesh**

In Bangladesh she discussed current activities of the Ministry and Zoo with senior officials and officers regarding the renovation of the zoo. As usual, she stressed the need for continuity of all levels of staff members and long term, serious zoo management training at all levels. She conducted a short but serious inspection of the zoo premises over two days, to the extent possible in a



Dhaka Zoo has been in crisis for some years now due to many wrongful practices by the Ministry administering the zoo ... routine transfe officials, paltry budget for zoo infrastructure, lack of discipline, corrupt practices

lack of expertise, refusal of Ministry to provide training, etc. Government has come to the rescue of the zoo but Ministry spends the funds taking large groups of people to see the world's zoos, and ordering over 250 exotic animals that inadequately trained zoo personnel are unable to care for. It happened also two years ago but no lesson was learned.

Leopard in despair after years in a cage that can be surrounded by visitors and has no mate or enrichment. Hoolock gibbons ordered from illegal trappers. Waterless crocodillian on concrete. Ribs stick out on a chronically ill female Indian rhinoceros. Just a few of the indicators that Dhaka Zoo needs many changes.





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short time, using the WAZA Zoo Assessment Tool Model. Sally used the model to compare Dhaka Zoo of today with years past as well as to ascertain its overall quality in all respects. This was to establish whether sufficient improvement had been made to justify the order of over 250 exotic animals from South Africa. The Dhaka Zoo condition had not improved much and Sally conveyed her overall opinion in June 2012 issue of ZOOS' PRINT (see <a href="https://www.zoosprint.org">www.zoosprint.org</a>).

Sally encouraged the Dhaka Zoo people to start a Bangladesh Zoo Association involving all the zoos in the country. Mr. Abdur Razzaque, former D.G., Animal Husbandry Department, will help out with this. Zoo and Ministry officials informed that the Bangladesh Zoo Act would be passed soon. A report of Sally's visit and the Dhaka Zoo Crisis can be found in ZOOS' PRINT, June 2012 at www.zooreach.org.

#### Nepal

In Nepal Sally attended the first meeting of the Nepal Zoo Network, a brainchild of Director of NTNC/Central Zoo, Sarita Jnawali. The meeting went very well with all attendees on board with the new idea of a national network and meeting often to discuss and hopefully solve some of the problems. NTNC/Central Zoo has been making dramatic renovations to the small zoo. Already it could be seen that animals were more comfortable, safe and at the same time more easily seen by visitors. Important landscaping has been done and also still in

process, making the zoo more attractive and spacious while adding to animals and visitors comfort. The NTNC/Central Zoo runs an outstanding education programme supported largely by memberships in their Friends of the Zoo of which there are over 100,000 members. Central Zoo is now on the right track in all aspects, e.g., conservation, animal welfare, training of staff, veterinary care, nutrition, signage, education programmes. See details of Central Zoo's work in July 2012, ZOOS' PRINT.

Pending visits: Sri Lanka, Pakistan, and Afghanistan will get a visit in 2013.









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### Protected Area analysis with respect to Freshwater Biodiversity & Reptile Assessments, & Development of National Policy for inclusion in Legislation Project

A follow up to a comprehensive assessment concluded by the Zoo Outreach Organization and the IUCN Freshwater Biodiversity Unit funded by the CEPF.

### **Objectives:**

identification and networking with various stakeholders like State Forest Departments, State Biodiversity Boards, local communities; prioritizing methods for inclusion of select freshwater fish and other species on the

Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972; detailed analyses of data generated from the freshwater assessments by the respective IUCN units to understand the current effectiveness of the Indian protected area system; workshops with renowned subject experts and stake holders to get a holistic viewpoint from all the five states involved in conservation of Western Ghats freshwater biodiversity; and develop illustrative posters and projections in simple language for conservationists, foresters and policy makers to disseminate results at the ground level as well as the state and central government levels.

### **Updates:**

- 1. Preliminary meetings with relevant stakeholders such as state forest departments, state biodiversity boards, policy makers, subject experts, universities and communities from four of the five states (Kerala, Karnataka, Goa and Maharashtra)
- 2. Preliminary analysis of the mammals listed in Indian Wildlife Protection Act to understand possible rationale behind the listing and set up a basic framework for analysis of freshwater taxa and other groups listed in the Act
- 3. Preliminary workshop with subject experts to discuss and define the various values such as cultural, biological, livelihood and commercial that determine listing of species in the Indian Wildlife Protection Act
- 4. Identified a highly diverse protected area and a non-protected area to understand protected area effectiveness in each of the four states
- 5. Provided state-specific data from the Western Ghats freshwater assessments to the state forest departments for inclusion into the working plans and management plans
- 6. Inform the officials at the wildlife department in the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) about the plight of freshwater taxa and the possible collaboration and solutions to address the threats keeping in mind the different use values of this group.
- 7. Attended an Aquarium Trade meeting at Vijayawada organized by MPEDA to understand the export and import value of taxa.



Eriocaulon sharmae



Mating pair of Cremnochonchus carinatus

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8. Update of presence, absence and population in PAs in progress of freshwater species assessed during the 2010-11 conducted by IUCN Freshwater Biodiversity Unit and ZOO with funding from CEPF to understand protected area effectiveness.

#### Challenges:

To approach the central and state fisheries departments and work with them to better conserve freshwater taxa

To develop a policy to conserve freshwater taxa keeping in mind all the various values and the relevant stakeholders contributing to these values



To include freshwater taxa into the Indian Wildlife Protection Act based on all the values

To ensure that freshwater taxa are a part of the management plan and working plans of protected areas and non-protected areas and regular monitoring of these precious ecosystems

To set a listing process for the Indian Wildlife Protection Act based on sound rationale To curb the rampant aquarium trade and stop the import of exotic species and export of native species





Dragonfly (male) Rhyothemis variegata



Local Fisherfolk are an integral part of conservation planning and action



Periyar Hill Trout Lepidopygopsis typus, CR Species endemic to Periyar Tiger Reserve

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### **Invertebrate Projects**

IUCN SSC South Asian Invertebrate Specialist Group SAsISG and ZOO/CBSG Invertebrate Conservation and Information Network of South Asia ICINSA

Dr. BA Daniel appointed again to serve as Co-Chair of the South Asian Invertebrate Specialist Group for the quadrennial period 2013-16.

### **2012-13 Updates**

Assessment of butterflies of South Asia: On-going. A project to collate and create baseline information on butterflies of South Asia has been initiated in July 2012 with the support of Mohamed bin Zyed Conservation Fund. Collated data on about 600 spp. of butterflies from 6 families.

The objective of the project is to assess all butterflies of South Asia and to develop an action plan. This is a project of IUCN SSC South Asian Invertebrate SG / ZOO to fulfil SSC strategic plan for the year 2013-16.

Designed and published education materials for pollinator conservation.

CEPF project on The Western Ghats Freshwater Biodiversity Conservation – on going. This project is a follow-up activity of Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund CEPF funded status assessments of freshwater ecosystems in Western Ghats, India. As part of this, a three-day trainers training on Freshwater Biodiversity Conservation Education Training was conducted by WILD/ZOO at Coimbatore inviting selected educators from five States (Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Goa and Maharashtra) of the Western Ghats. This CEPF sponsored project is the follow up of the Western Ghats Freshwater Biodiversity Assessment report published by ZOO/IUCN Biodiversity Unit in 2011. Before this trainers training workshop a brainstorming meeting, 09-12 Aug 2012 at ZOO, Coimbatore to test the developed education materials for the trainers training programme.

Invited new members for the IUCN SSC South Asian Invertebrate Specialist Group.

Liaised with other SGs in promoting the work of SAsISG.

Initiated a project to collage species information of millipedes of India. Involved a PG student from Bharathiar University to compile basic information on millipedes. Daniel worked on creating baseline information on Millipedes of India.

Planned Invertebrate pollinator conservation training and education workshop in collaboration with Xerces Society, USA, Bharathiar University and Tamil Nadu Agricultural University. The workshop will be conducted at Coimbatore from 3-5 June 2013. The education materials are designed and will be made available during



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the workshop. Columbus Zoo and Chester Zoo are the major sponsors of this project. ICINSA is collaboration with ZSL planned to conduct mosquito surveillance project. Awaiting for the traps to set up the project at Anaikatti, Coimbatore.

### **Challenges**

Gaps in data on various butterfly species to aid assessment.

Winning the hearts of the experts to share information

Promoting concept of invertebrate conservation at political, layman level.

Influencing political will towards invertebrate conservation.
Update of species/habitat information.

Quality of information. Fundraising.

### **Future Goals**

Complete assessment of all South Asian butterfly species on time.

To initiate and assess millipedes and selected spiders of South Asia

Strengthen sub network: Freshwater Invertebrates.



Conference on freshwater invertebrates of South Asia.







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### **ZOO's Educator Network ZEN**

### Education update 2012-2013

### **Animal Welfare Fortnightly AWF Celebration 2013**

Printed 1000 posters on ABC-Biodiversity and reached 1000 people through 18 Institutions

### **Promoted International Vulture Awareness Day 2012 in South Asia**

Printed 1000 vulture education kits and reached out 1000 people through 17 institutions.

### 58th Wildlife Week WLW Celebration

40 institutions and educators took part through ZEN network in the WLW that help to reach out people and educate them in the subject of Pollinators, Animal Welfare, Bats and Vultures.

This year The Chiroptera Conservation and Information Network of South Asia *CCINSA* is a group of bat specialists and enthusiasts hosted by Zoo Outreach Organisation. For the Indian 58 Wildlife Week, the most popular event of India, we developed the bat education kit themed "End of Year of the Bat Threats remain.." with the generous sponsorship of Chester Zoo, UK and Bat Conservation International, USA. The packet item includes a book let of bats truths ad untruths, a placard, a bookmark,

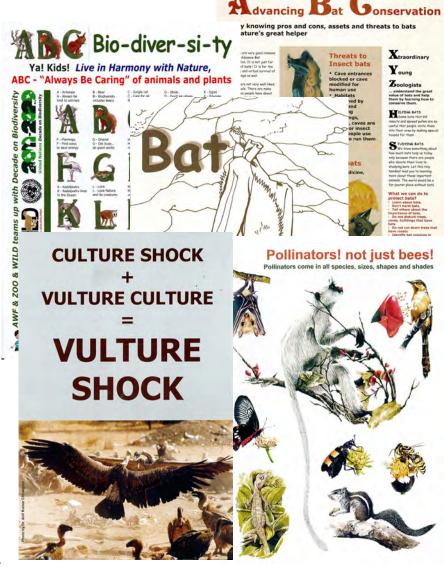
rakhi (wristband) and a colourful sticker. The 12 pages booklet has answers for all the myths people have on bats. The bookmark has information on true facts about bats. Detailed and illustrated reports on the Wildlife Week bat education programme were generated and published in ZOOS' PRINT. We printed 2000 education kits and in which 1495 were distributed to 31 organisers for wildlife week.

The remaining packets we keep for

upcoming events.

Universities Federation for Animal Welfare, UK sponsored to print Daily life Wildlife education packets for India's popular event, the 58<sup>th</sup> Indian Wildlife Week. Of these **1235** packets were supplied to **27** organizers to create awareness among their participants about the local wildlife, which they see, in their day-to-day life.

ZOO developed pollinator education packets entitled "Pollinators! not just bees " and a colour poster sponsored by Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, USA. Two thousand packets and posters were printed for distribution. The objective of the education kit is to make people aware that there are both invertebrate and vertebrate pollinators.



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Moths, bees, beetles, flies, wasps and butterflies are invertebrate pollinators and bats, rodents, shrews, primates birds, reptiles are vertebrate pollinators. Of the **2000** packets and posters, **1735** were distributed to organizers and participants for Wildlife Week

International Vulture Awareness Day was celebrated around the world on 1 September to highlight vulture conservation and awareness. International Vulture Awareness Day IVAD was celebrated in South Asia by a number of zoos and breeding centres, which feature vultures. Zoo Outreach Organisation contacted all the vulture holding institutions informing them of International Vulture Awareness Day. ZOO also created a South Asia-appropriate education packet for institutions holding these beleaguered birds to use in conducting programmes for visitors and students. We printed 2000 copies of vulture education kits and sponsored by Conservation Breeding Specialist Group, USA. The packets were distributed to 46 institutions during International Vulture Awareness Day 58th Wildlife Week.

Human Elephant Coexistence *HECx* educator Workshops - Rajapalayam, Nilgiri and Wayanad. Trained 120 educators trained through 3 HECx workshops.

**HECx School programs in Kerala -** Jawahar Navodhya Vidyalaya, Lakkidi, Wayanad and Silent Valley MRS, Attappady

Reached about 160 school children in HEC areas of Wayanad and Attappady to promote Human elephant Coexistence HECx.

### Pollinator education programme

Developed a poster and education materials for the pollinators highlighting more on non-insect pollinators

### Western Ghats biodiversity assessment follow up education project

Raised funds to develop education materials to promote freshwater biodiversity conservation in Western Ghats

Developed a teaching manual and posters on freshwater biodiversity conservation in Western Ghats

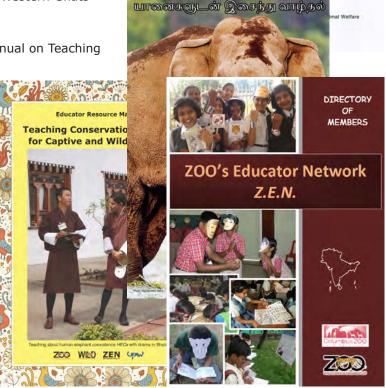
Freshwater Biodiversity Conservation Education Training Workshop conducted in Coimbatore and 16 educators from Western Ghats states participated.

Developed and distributed Educator resource manual on Teaching

Conservation Welfare for captive and wild

animals.





Wildlife Welfare

in Daily Life

CHW COZ

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### South Asia Office of the IUCN Freshwater Fish Specialist Group (IUCN-FFSG) & Freshwater Fish Conservation Network of South Asia (FFCNSA)

Freshwater Fish Specialist Group (FFSG) was initiated in 2004 and managed jointly by the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC)/Wetland International (WI). The IUCN-FFSG has a mission of achieving conservation and sustainable use of freshwater fishes and their habitats through generating and disseminating sound scientific knowledge, creating widespread awareness of their values and influencing decision making process at all levels. The IUCN-FFSG is based at Chester Zoo, North of England Zoological Society in Chester,

United Kingdom, with Prof. Gordon McGregor Reid as the Chair and Dr. Katalin Csatadi as the Program Officer.

FFSG has 19 regions world wide, with the activities of each region being coordinated by a Chair or Co-Chairs. K. Remadevi, Retired Scientist of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) served as the First Chair of the South Asia region from 2004 to 2012.

As a result of the growing interest and increased need for awareness, capacity building and research concerning freshwater biodiversity in the South Asia region, a regional office of the IUCN-FFSG was set up at the Zoo Outreach Organization (ZOO) in Coimbatore in October 2012. The South Asia Office has also initiated the Freshwater Fish Conservation Network of South Asia (FFCNSA). Apart from identifying and coordinating a network of ichthyologists who will work together to raise the profile for freshwater fish conservation in this region, some of the proposed activities of the FFSG South Asia and FFCNSA include: i) updating species pages and assessments of the conservation status of newly described species in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (in collaboration with the IUCN FBU, Cambridge); ii) organizing training programs and workshops in fish taxonomy and systematics as well as other topics relevant to the objectives of the IUCN-FFSG; iii) publishing a half yearly newsletter and iv) developing education and outreach materials relevant to freshwater biodiversity conservation.

Waikhom Vishwanath, Professor of Life Sciences at the University of Manipur, Imphal, Manipur, India and Rajeev Raghavan, Researcher at the Conservation Research Group, St. Albert's College, Kochi, Kerala, India have been appointed the Co-Chairs to the South Asia Region for the Quadrennium 2013-2016.

More information including details of membership to the FFCNSA and future activities of the South Asia FFSG office

will be posted here shortly. For any information please contact











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### Western Ghats Biodiversity Open Collaborative Information System Project

Create an open-access, web-based portal on the biodiversity and ecosystem service values of the Western Ghats, populated and maintained by an active community of data-holders. Leverage Web 2.0 technologies to facilitate a transformation in data availability that facilitates mainstreaming of biodiversity into development sectors, empowers citizen engagement in public policy development, and fosters citizen science initiatives by amateur naturalists. Zoo



Outreach Organisation collaborates with the French Institute of Pondicherry for the collection and the curation of the scientific data.

### 2012 Update:

Bat species in Western Ghats (Distribution and maps) Non-Volant mammals in Western Ghats (Distribution and maps) Primates of Western Ghats (Distribution and maps) Aquatic plants of Western Ghats (Distribution and maps)

### **Future goals:**

2013.

Fishes of Western Ghats Molluscs of Western Ghats Dragonfly of Western Ghats Amphibians of Western Ghats

### **WAZA's UN Decade on Biodiversity Projects**

As part of the UN Decade on Biodiversity, WAZA has set up a 3-year multi-institution project to understand more about what visitors to zoos and aquariums worldwide understand and appreciate by the term 'biodiversity'. The project will focus on animal species, as this is the strength of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums community. Throughout this project a tagline "Biodiversity is us" will be used. This slogan is like a golden thread leading through all the tools developed and used in this project. It is the signature of the communication part of the project. The WAZA project has two parts: 1. Education tools to be developed by WAZA team (of WAZA's selection) and 2. a survey to a) understand awareness about biodiversity on a global scale and also to b) understand whether the tools that we will offer are recognized by the visitors. Survey: Chester Zoo, UK together with some external experts of the US and Europe have designed a set of questionnaires. The survey using these questionnaires has to be done before and after the tools are used in the zoo. The first survey has been initiated at Mysore zoo in September 2012 and will end at April



World Association of Zoos and Aquariums | WAZA United for Conservation

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### Conserving the Himalayan Grey Langur, Semnopithecus ajax, an Endangered, endemic species of primate.

The Himalayan Grey Langur project, an initiative funded and supported by Rufford Small Grants, Conservation Leadership Program's Future Conservationist Award, and Mohamed Bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund began field studies in May, 2012 in Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh. The project has now completed its first phase of baseline surveys in Chamba, in view of establishing a participatory conservation and management practice in the region for the Endangered Himalayan Grey Langur, *Semnopithecus ajax*.

**Goal**: The goal of the project is to establish holistic conservation for the little known, endemic and Endangered Himalayan Grey Langur through participatory conservation in Chamba, Himachal Pradesh.

**Baseline surveys**: Since its description in 1928 by Reginald Innes Pocock, the Himalayan Grey Langur has remained virtually unknown (Pocock, 1928; Groves & Molur, 2008). A countable number of studies that claim to be of the Himalayan Grey Langur are largely unsubstantiated on the taxonomy front failing to establish

the specific identity of the primate in question (Sayers et al, 2008; Minhas et al 2012). Absence of credible information on the Langur distribution, biology, habitat and conservation threats sound brewing trouble for the langur. Himalayan Grey Langur project works to establish credible data on the Langur through rigorous scientific field studies. On-foot surveys to locate and map langur localities coupled with community surveys to understand socio-economy and livelihoods as factors that influence the Langur's viability help in building a credible understanding of the Langur's status in its type locality. The information is crucial in formulating any conservation strategy for the Langur in the region.

Foot surveys and community surveys began in early May of 2012 and since covered a significant number of sites, across the seven district blocks of Chamba district. Langurs were sighted in 30 of these sites and in cases where they weren't sighted first hand, their presence/absence confirmed through community interviews. Structured community interviews that help understand human-langur relationship are administered in local languages and dialects and have brought many conservation issues of serious concern to the forefront.





Field Survey, Lakkarmandi, Chamba

Activity Report

(01 April 2012-31 March 2013)



Leaping Himalayan Langur at Gajnoi, Chamba



**Community Survey at Durgund, Chamba** 

Taxonomy: The taxonomy of the Himalayan Langurs have for long been a puzzle lending any conservation initiative unviable. (Bishop, 1979; Karanth et al, 2008). The Himalayan Langur Project works to decode the puzzle through rigorous taxonomic studies in collaboration with Indian Institute of Science. Scat samples are collected for DNA studies on the langurs during surveys, where available, to understand the taxonomic status of these primates. This will aid in developing a species specific conservation plan for the langurs.

**Conservation Education and** Outreach: In line with its goal of setting up holistic conservation in the region, the project will deliver conservation education and outreach programs in selected sites in Chamba. The program will effectively focus on sensitizing the population of the presence of an endemic and Endangered species like the Himalayan Grey Langur and in garnering support for the same. This will lay the foundation for a future participatory conservation and conservation monitoring initiative in the region.

### Forthcoming activities:

The project is hoping to expand its activities in Chamba to study the distribution, biology, behavior and biogeography of the Himalayan Langurs.

Collaborations are underway with potential stakeholders, other wildlife researchers and Himalayan Langur specialists working elsewhere in the Himalayan stretch to aid in comparative and corroborative research and understanding.

The project is seeking to raise more funds to expand its activities in the region and to establish a viable community involved conservation initiative in the region.







**Activity Report** 

(01 April 2012-31 March 2013)

### Evaluation and impact of chytridiomycosis on the endemic, highly threatened amphibians of the Western Ghats

The Western Ghats is a stretch of 1600 Km² land and is one of the richest amphibian hotspots of the 34-biodiversity hotspots of the world with 182 described species and several more under description.

As per the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species Categories and Criteria more than 43% of the species are threatened with extinction (16 Critically Endangered, 28 Endangered and 16 Vulnerable).

Most of the threatened species are highly restricted in their distribution with most of them found in less than five locations and facing several threats from habitat loss and decline in quality of habitat due to changes in land use and other human influenced activities.

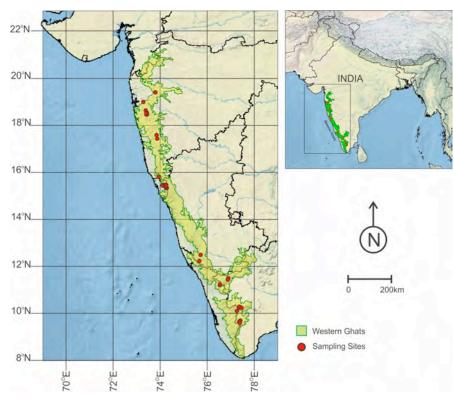


Figure 1| Sampling locations along the Western Ghats of India.

### The probability of chytrid entering

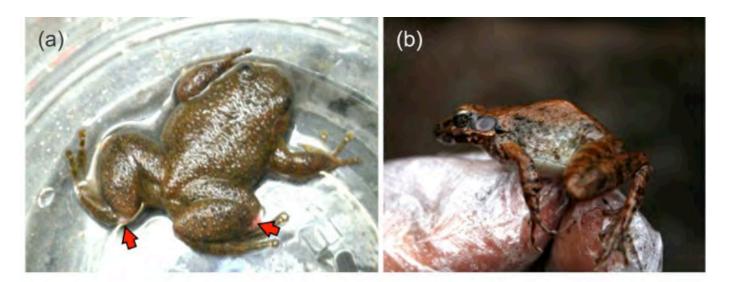
the Western Ghats is greater now than in the last year or before as there have been recent evidences of the African Clawed Frog *Xenopus laevis* entering the country through the aquarium trade. Several instances of wanton release of this frog into the wild have been reported in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala parts of the Western Ghats (A. Padhye pers. comm.) in the last one-year. Since the species is imported from captive stocks, the provenance is unknown and therefore poses a very high threat to the native amphibians of the Western Ghats.



Swab collection. (a) Role division between the two sample collectors. (b) Swabs were collected from both the ventral and dorsal surface of the specimen.

**Activity Report** 

(01 April 2012-31 March 2013)



*Nyctibatrachus humayuni* (a) and *Indirana leithii* (b) from Harishchandragad. Note the skin sloughing in *Nyctibatrachus*.

Presently, there is deficiency of information on the diseases, which affect amphibian populations within the Western Ghats preventing diseases as a major threat to amphibian populations.

### **Detecting Chytridiomycosis in the Western Ghats.**

What is Chytridiomycosis?

It is a fungal disease that is threatening more than 200 species of amphibians.

Pathogen: Amphibian Chytrid fungus (Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis).

Possible Vector: African Clawed Frog (*Xenopus laevis*); American Bull Frog (*Lithobates catesbianus*) and *Tomistoma sp.* 

### **Project Objectives:**

Identification of populations of amphibians affected by Chytridiomycosis

Standardising a non – invasive field sampling protocol.

Standardise lab protocols for rapid analysis of Chytrid swabs.

Formulate a policy document to aid the control of trade in exotic amphibians.

Formulate a Conservation Action Plan to save affected populations.

### On - Going Work:

Field surveys have been conducted in 19 locations across the Western Ghats and about 300 samples are underway for processing at IISER, Pune.

#### **Future Goals:**

Develop *In situ* and *Ex situ* strategies for conservation of affected populations. Conduct outreach programs on the ill-effects of exotic pet trade to the commons.

#### **Challenges:**

In situ mitigation of fungal infections.

Implementation of the policy on import of exotic amphibians into the country.

Donors: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USA; IISER is helping in lab infrastruce and chemicals and recently WILD got one more grant from Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund which will be used to continue the work and establish a monitoring protocol. San Diego Zoo helped in kind initially with respect to supplying swabs and plasmid.





**Activity Report** 

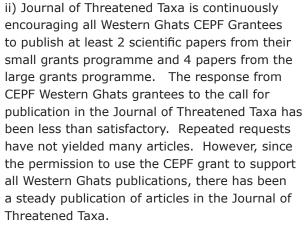
(01 April 2012-31 March 2013)

### Enhancing knowledge about the conservation status of globally threatened species in the Western Ghats, with a particular emphasis on reptiles

The project's main aims are to assess the global conservation status of all 265 reptile species found in the Western Ghats, compile detailed information on each species and make the results freely available through the IUCN Red List site and other online portals. Solicit and publish articles on Western Ghats biodiversity in

an open-access, peer-reviewed journal, provide tutoring to authors and disseminate widely among key stakeholders.

i) By March 2011 WILD had organised the 5 day Global Reptile Assessment for Western Ghats Reptiles utilizing the CAMP process as well as other tools. Current year post workshop, the reviewed documents are once again sent to selected experts from the workshops to edit for consistency, english and standardization. The WILD and IUCN reptile assessment has checked the database and maps and ratified it for public release. Distribution maps are released as JPEG images on iucn site. Soon the database and maps available on public domain. The final report is under preparation. Awaiting for the Red List Authority Focal Point Comment to finalise the report.



Till now JoTT published 41 articles (Till now totally 623 pages) with a special theme "Western Ghats". WILD also encouraging all participants, collaborators andorganizers to reach out to the important stakeholders in their areas to follow up on the actions needed and identified by the project.







The latest version of IUCN's Red list of Threatened Species with global assessments containing supporting data and IUCN Red List categories for all Western Ghats endemic reptiles will be made available freely on the IUCN Red List web site http://www.iucnredlist.org and also in WILD/ZOO's South Asian Threatened Taxa Monitoring System site http://www.southasiantaxa.org



**Activity Report** 

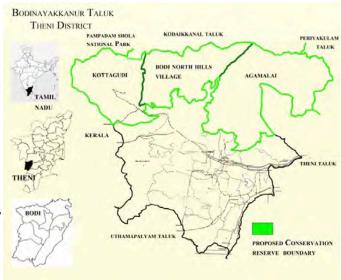
(01 April 2012-31 March 2013)

### **Establishing Community Conservation Reserves in the Anamalai Corridor**

CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM

This project proposes to set up Community Reserves and Conservation Reserves in the Anamalai Corridor (Theni and Palni Hills) to integrate local communities into biodiversity conservation. The management at existing reserves will be assessed, reserve management plans will be prepared for nominated reserves through the participation of multiple key stakeholders and a suitable reserve management committee will be identified.

Multi-stakeholder surveys were conducted at existing community and conservation reserves across Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu to understand existing management and interaction between stakeholders. Following this we pursued to understand issues around Agamalai, Kurangani, Kukkal and Kumbakarai, four potential community and conservation reserve sites in the Theni-Palni Hills. Forest Department officials,



Map of the proposed Theni Conservation Reserve in Bodinayakkanur Taluk, Theni District, Tamil Nadu





Panchayat, plantation owners, indigenous and non-indigenous communities have been introduced to the project, its goals and objectives and social surveys have been undertaken with them to understand local livelihood, biodiversity and socio-political issues in detail. Following this, workshops/meetings were conducted with the stakeholders at three sites for further nomination as Conservation Reserves. In relation to this, Panchayat and Local Community Support Letters, and a draft proposal of the Theni Conservation Reserve were formulated. These documents were then submitted to the Tamil Nadu State Government and Forest Department to recommend the proposed sites as a Conservation Reserve.

### Herpetofaunal utilization among the indigenous people of the Kerala region of Western Ghats

This project aims to determine the type and extent that herpetofauna contribute to the diet and income of the indigenous people and; their hunting strategies and motives. Interviews have been completed in all the proposed forest areas in the Central and Southern Circle. The study was then extended to cover all the Forest Circles in the state of Kerala. Surveys have been completed in Olavakode and Northern Circles. One last survey remains to be undertaken at the High Range Circle after which, data analysis will be initiated.

**Activity Report** 

(01 April 2012-31 March 2013)

### **Indian Theraphosid Project**

The only grant this year was from the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund for Documenting the diversity, distribution and status of primitive spiders (Mygalomorph) in north-east India. Surveys were conducted in Mizoram, Tripura, Nagaland, Manipur, West Bengal and Assam. High diversity of mygalomorphs was found in Mizoram and Tripura. Many interesting new records and new species have been recorded from these areas. Soon these species records will be published in international peer-reviewed journal.

We visited Sadiya in Assam, where incidence of spider bite had happened in May 2012 and found that it was very much the case of media hyped. Both the persons who died were not sure what had bitten as it was dark in the night and they suspected that it was a spider as they saw spider in the nearby area. And much of the story was created by media. Result of which, locals killed all the spiders in their neighborhood (approx.. 200 individuals) and when we went for the survey, we did not find a single spider. And this year there has been no report of these spiders from the village, which means that most of the spider were killed and remaining are highly threatened. We tried to educate local people that these spiders are not fatal to human being and explained them tarantula behavior and mating season. In case they see tarantula in their house or nearby, they can collect

it a jar and release it in nearby wooded area. But fear in the mind of local people have set in so much that it is necessary to carry out long term monitoring of these spiders as well as educating the locals in Sadiya and nearby areas.





### **Publications**

During the year 2012-2013, four papers were published on spiders and one is in press. List of papers is given below:

- 1. Gupta, N., M. Ganeshkumar, S.K. Das and **M. Siliwal**. (2013). Three new species of *Idiops* Perty, 1833 (Araneae: Idiopidae) from India. *Zootaxa* 3635(3):237-250.
- 2. Gupta, N. and M. Siliwal (2013). A Checklist of Spiders (Arachnida: Araneae) of Wildlife Institute of India Campus, Dehradun, Uttarakhand, India. *Indian Journal of Arachnology* 1(2): 73-91.
- 3. Siliwal, M. N. Gupta and R. Raven. (2012). A new genus of the family Theraphosidae (Araneae: Mygalomorphae) with description of three new species from the Western Ghats of Karnataka, India. *Journal of Threatened Taxa* 4(14): 3233–3254.
- 4. Kananbala, A., K. Manoj, M. Bhubaneshwari, A.Binarani and M. Siliwal (2012). The first report *Latrodectus elegans* (Araneae: Theridiidae) from India. *Journal of Threatened Taxa*. 4(7):2718-2722.

#### **Outreach Activity**

Helping CEPF Project 'Developing the need based Environmental Educational material for Uttara Kannada' of Dr. B.S. Somashekar, Green India Trust in developing education material on spiders of Uttara Kannada in vernacular language.

### Conferences

Received the travel grant from Peter Jaeger, Senckenberg Forschungsintitut Und Naturmuseum, Frankfurt to participate and present a paper in Symposium on "Spiders of the Greater Mekong Region" held in Pakse,

**Activity Report** 

(01 April 2012-31 March 2013)

Champasak, Laos from 12th to 15th November 2012. Presented paper entitled "Mygalomorphs of India: An Overview".

### **Invited talks**

Conducted a day workshop on '**Identification techniques of spiders**' in the Young Ecological Talk and Interact (YETI) at Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, India from 5-7 December 2012.

Given plenary talks on '**Spider taxonomy - Basics**' and '**How to write taxonomy paper**' in a National Symposium cum Workshop on Spider with special reference to agroecosystem at Department of Zoology, S.G.B. Amravati University, Amravati, Maharashtra, India from 1-4 December 2012.

### Future plan of action

- Identification of mygalomorph spiders collected from northeast India will be carried out and information will be published in peer-reviewed journals.
- A final report will be submitted to the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund on completion of the project.
- Reports will be also submitted to various forest departments in the northeast India from which we had got permission to carry out the surveys.
- Proposals for generating funds will be written and submitted to different funding agencies in India and abroad.

### Assessing the Status and Distribution of Large Mammals in Highwayy Mountains and Its Environs, Southern Western Ghats

We have carried out a study on status and distribution of mammals in the landscape between 2011 and 2012. The entire landscape was gridded (4 sq.km) on the map and each grid was sampled for the presence-absence of the mammals by walking on pre-determined paths. During this all the sighted animals were recorded, droppings on trail was recorded with species identity, and also animals presence was recorded using their unique secondary signs foot print, den characters, sprints and scratch marks on the tree. A total of about 285.5 km length were walked for the survey. Since all the animals cannot be recorded during the day walk and also using sign survey, we also surveyed for the detection of animals during the night by flashing the light by walking on the pre-determined paths or using a motor vehicle by driving slowly and flashing the light on either side of the forest. During this all the animals detected were recorded with species identity. Further, analysis on occupancy with the above set of data will reveal the spatial distribution of major animals.



CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM PARTNERSHIP FUND





**Activity Report** 

(01 April 2012-31 March 2013)

A study on population status, mapping and quantitative assessment of available habitat of Western Hoolock Gibbon in Langlakso-Mikir Hills-Koliyoni and Borjuri-Jungthung-Western Mikir Hills landscape, Assam, India.

**Goal:** Conserving Langlakso - Mikir Hills - Kalyoni and Borjuri - Junthung-Western Mikir Hills forest complexes focusing on Western Hoolock Gibbons as flagship species.

### **Objectives**

- I. To know the population and habitat structure of Western Hoolock Gibbons in two landscapes. Research:
- II. To map the available habitat and generate digital database layer of different habitat category in GIS environment. Conservation:
- III. To evaluate the threats.
- IV. To initiate an extensive conservation education and awareness campaign to reach community members and earn the confidence of the local communities towards conservation.

### Specific project activities:

- 1. Capacity building of different stakeholders on gibbon population estimation techniques.
- 2. Field survey for Gibbon population and habitat estimation in two priority complex.
- 3. Habitat assessment and mapping.
- 4. extensive community education and outreach program.
- 5. Preparing / conducting Strategic Planning Workshop for preparation of Gibbon Management Plan for these priority complexes as follow-up action.

### **Conclusion and Recommendation**

- i) A separate full-fledged wildlife division should be established under KAC with headquarter at Manja or Diphu to exclusively look after the wildlife management with proper man power and facility.
- ii) At least two Forest Range Offices one each at Haldibari and Sammelanso should be established and existing Bokolia, Parkupahar and Silonojan Range should be converted in to Wildlife Range for proper monitoring and management of these forest complexes.
- iii) Better infrastructural facilities such as vehicles, motor bike and modern fire arms should be provided to the field staffs.
- iv) Proper training and equipments should be provided to the frontline forest staff to monitor and manage wildlife.
- v) Relocation of villages within the protected areas and halting further
- deterioration of habitat should be carried out immediately particularly in East and North Karbi Anglong WLS.
- vi) Local community should be encouraged to participate in the management process.
- vii) Conservation education and public awareness program should be conducted in all the educational institutions as well as community level in the district.
- viii) Long term monitoring of Hoolock gibbon population and study of Socio-ecological and behavioral aspect is also essential.





**Activity Report** 

(01 April 2012-31 March 2013)

### **Networks**

ZOO and WILD hosts the following networks and continue circulating current notices, news, articles, funding and other opportunities to all network members in the regional. Each network directory is updated and uploaded on zooreach.org website. Currently there are ~\$1600 members.

Conservation Breeding Specialist Group, South Asia

South Asian Zoo Association for Regional Cooperation SAZARC

**ZOO's Educator Network** 

Chiroptera Conservation and Information Network of South Asia

Rodentia & Insectivora Network

Reintroduction Specialist Group, South Asia

Primate Network, South Asia

Invertebrate Specialist Group, South Asia

Amphibian Network

Reptile Network

Climate Change Network

Freshwater Fish Specialist Group (IUCN-FFSG) & Freshwater Fish Conservation Network of South Asia (FFCNSA)

#### Newsletter published in the year 2012

Small Mammal Newsletter – Vol. 4, no. 2, December 2012.

http://www.zoosprint.org/ZoosPrintNewsLetter/ SMM 4 2 Dec 2012.pdf

Reptile Rap Newsletter – No. 15, January 2013 http://www.zoosprint.org/ZoosPrintNewsLetter/ Reptile%20Rap 15 Jan 13.pdf

Bugs R All Newsletter – No. 19, December 2012 http://www.zoosprint.org/ZoosPrintNewsLetter/ Bugs R all December 12.pdf

Frogs Leg Newsletter – No. 18, December 2012 http://www.zoosprint.org/ZoosPrintNewsLetter/Frog%20 leg\_18\_2012.pdf

ZOO/CBSG South Asia is planning to have a Bat Conservation Training Workshop in Afghanisatan or Bangladesh in 2013.

**ZOO/CBSG South Asia organizing an Invertebrate Pollinator Workshops in Coimbatore by June 2013.** 













**Activity Report** 

(01 April 2012-31 March 2013)

### **ZOOS' PRINT Magazine**

This year ZOOS' PRINT Magazine starts its 27th year of regular monthly publication. ZOO's PRINT is a feature magazine with practical and "do-able" technical articles in it. ZOOS' PRINT was meant for practice and growth of "freshers" in zoos and wildlife. It publishes articles enabling improvement of aspects of zoo management and to promote communication and cooperation between zoos. In 2003 the magazine split into two parts, magazine and journal. ZOOS' PRINT Journal had a good run and became so popular with zoo and wildlife academics, that it morphed into a genuine journal in its own right, Journal of Threatened Taxa (JoTT) with an international profile and following and a very high class standard. Sally Walker, Founder and Editor



### The Journal of Threatened Taxa (JoTT) on-line peer reviewed **Journal**

The Journal of Threatened Taxa (JoTT) is a monthly (aiming to be more frequent), online, open access, free access, peer-reviewed journal on wildlife, conservation, taxonomy, ecology and all aspects contributing to the science and action thereof. The objective of **JoTT** is to publish timely, articles of importance for promoting conservation and encouraging wildlife studies in the biodiversity-rich countries of the world. The lag time after final acceptance of manuscripts from January 2009 will be two months or less depending on the completeness (in content and format) of submissions by authors and timely returns of the galley proofs. For more information visit www. threatenedtaxa.org.

### In the year of 2012:

In the year of 2013: (April 2012 – March 2013) Number of articles published - 167 articles Number of issues - April 2012 to March 2013 -- 17 issues Total number of pages - 2481 to 3992 -- 1512pp Number of Western Ghats article published -- 19 articles

#### Special/additional publications:

1. Key Biodiversity Area Special Series 4(8): 2733-2844 [8 articles] | Date of publication 26 August 2012

### **Monographs**:

- 2. Butterflies of the Garo Hills of Meghalaya, northeastern India: their diversity and conservation -- Krushnamegh Kunte, Sanjay Sondhi, Bensen M. Sangma, Rohan Lovalekar, Kedar Tokekar & Gaurav Agavekar
- 3. Foliicolous fungi of Silent Valley National Park, Kerala, India
- --V.B. Hosagoudar & M.C. Riju
- 4. Eight new species of Pseudophilautus (Amphibia: Anura: Rhacophoridae) from Sripada World Heritage Site (Peak Wilderness), a local amphibian hotspot in Sri Lanka
- --L.J. Mendis Wickramasinghe, Dulan Ranga Vidanapathirana, M.D. Gehan Rajeev, S. Chathuranga Ariyarathne, A.W. Amila Chanaka, L.L. Dharshana Priyantha, Imesh Nuwan Bandara & Nethu Wickramasinghe,









Activity Report
(01 April 2012-31 March 2013)

### **ZOO/WILD Staff participation in various other meetings**

- Sally Walker attended the CBSG WAZA annual Mid-Year meetings, held in Argentina, April
   2012 and ran a session of the Conservation Welfare Task for in CBSG. Participated in all topics at WAZA promoting my special interests, e.g., dysfunctional zoos, etc. Accompanied WAZA President and Executive Officer to Wildlife Office and discussed animal exchange and transportation.
- Sally Walker was invited to give the first participant presentation at the second "Ivy Zoo" Symposium, May 15-17, 2012 in Budapest, Hungary. She presented on an ongoing research project, e.g. what seems to have been the first "biodiversity project" in the world, which led to a small menagerie/zoo in Barrackpore, a military cantonment near Calcutta which influenced Stamford Raffles and the London Zoo as well as the Calcutta Zoo.
- B.A. Daniel attended the Symposium on Developing a Regional Response to the Conservation of South Asia's Critically Endangered Vulture species, at Indian Habitat Centre, New Delhi, 03-04 May 2012. May 2012 – Daniel – Vulture Field visit, Thengumarada, 11 May 2012
- Sanjay Molur and Priyanka Iyer participated in the FRLHT Redlist Committee (Medicinal Plants policy meeting) meeting, Bangalore, Karnataka, June 2012
- **Sally Walker** visited Bangladesh in June 2012 to investigate information that Dhaka Zoo was getting animals from South Asia without proper protocols and found it to be true.
- **Sally Walker** was invited to Nepal in June 2012 to attend a meeting of all the zoos in Nepal which would decide whether to create a national zoo association.
- Sanjay Molur attended and facilitated the IUCN/SSC Lemur Red-listing and Conservation Planning workshop, Antananarivo, Madagascar, 9-14 July 2012
- **B.A. Daniel and R. Marimuthu** participated in the HEC Public Hearing, Karnataka organized by Elephant Task Force, India, Bangalore, 17-18 June 2012
- Sally Walker participated WAZA council and Committee chair meeting, Leipzig, 13-18 August 2012
- **B.A. Daniel** attended the 21<sup>st</sup> International Zoo & Aquarium Educators Conference, Chester, UK from 28 Aug 1 Sep 2012. Theme: Changing Hearts, Minds and Ultimately Behaviours
- **R. Marimuthu** participated the 4<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Zoo Keeping, Singapore, 09-13 September 2012. Presentation: Zoo Keepers in Conservation Education
- **Sally Walker** attended the Annual Conference of the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG) and World Association for Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) to be held in Melbourne,
- 03-12 October 2012
- Sanjay Molur and Priyanka Iyer participated the 11th meeting of the conference of the parties to the Convension on Biological Diversity (COP11) held at Hyderabad and organized a side event for the Alliance for Zero Extinction on 17 Oct 2012.
- Sanjay Molur was invited to AZE Steering Committee meeting held in Washington, USA, 25 October 2012
- **Sanjay Molur** participated the Brainstorming meeting to plan a National consultation on Rare, Endangered and Threatened (RET) species National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai, 08 Nov 2012.
- R. Brawin Kumar participated Student Conference Conservation Science 2012 held at Bangalore.
- Sally Walker attended as a resource person at the First Arabian Zoo and Aquarium Meeting commenced in Al Ain on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2012. The meeting was hosted by Al Ain Zoo. Over 30 delegates from several Arab countries, including UAE, Qatar, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Jordan and Bahrain attended the meeting, to discuss possible collaborations on initiatives associated with raising standards associated with animal husbandry and welfare, joint research initiatives, breeding, education, conservation projects, and funding opportunities.
- Sanjay Molur and Priyanka Iyer participated in Save the Western Ghats Conclave, Mahabaleshwar, Maharashtra, 30 November – 2 December 2012
- Priyanka Iyer, Keerthi Krutha, Poornima and Brawin Kumar participated in the International Biodiversity Meeting, Indian Institute of Science, Malleswaram, Bangalore, Karnataka, 10-12 December 2012
- **Sally Walker** and **Sanjay Molur** attended the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group Regional Network meeting held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, 1-3 March 2013.

**Activity Report** 

(01 April 2012-31 March 2013)

### **Thanks to our Donors**

(for the period 01 April 2012 through 31 March 2013)





























### Thanks to ZOO / WILD staff

(for the period 01 April 2012 through 31 March 2013)

#### **Zoo Outreach Organisation**

Sally R Walker, Managing Trustee/Chief Executive Director R.V. Sanjay Molur, Executive Director

G. Lathadevi, Finance and Administrative Director

B.A. Daniel, Scientists

- R. Marimuthu, Education Officer
- R. Pravin Kumar, Database Manager
- K. Geetha, Executive Accounts & Admin
- S. Radhika, Executive Accounts & Admin
- G. Arul Jagadish, Senior Office Assistant
- K. Raveendran, Office Assistant
- S. Saroja, Office Assistant
- R. Brawin Kumar, Researcher, Western Ghats portal project
- S. Deepa, Researcher, Western Ghats portal project
- V. Priyanka Iyer, Researcher, Freshwater Legislation project
- V. Poornima, Research Assistant, Butterfly Assessment project
- K. Anitha, Researcher, Western Ghats Portal project
- S. Padma, Research Assistant, Western Ghats Portal project
- S. Raghavan, Research Assistant, Western Ghats Portal project

### **Wildlife Information Liaison Development Society**

- B. Ravichandran, Editorial Assistant, Journal of Threatened Taxa
- S. Keerthikrutha, Researcher, Amphibian Chytrid project
- S. Martina Anandam, Researcher, Himalayan Grey Langur survey project
- P. Vishal Ahuja, Researcher, Himalayan Grey Langur survey project
- Tariq Ahemd Shah, Researcher, Himalayan Grey Langur survey project Jihosuo Biswas, Researcher, MMBF Hoolock project
- G. Srinivas, Research Associate, Highwavy Mammals project
- S. Babu, Research Associate, Highwavy Mammals project
- P.K. Arun Kumar, Research Associate, Community Conservation Reserves project
- M. Cyndia Sincliar, Research Associate, Community Conservation Reserves project
- Revathi Pandya, Research Associate, Community Conservation Reserve project
- P. Manju Siliwal, Research Associate, Spider survey project
- Sethu Parvathy, Research Assistant, MCBT project





