



Fish processing and marketing is the main job of women fisher folk of the coastal region.

vehicle and arms from the Forest Department needs to be formed to check the fish landing centre regularly. Permanent posting of forest department personnel in the Vizhinjam harbour is urgently required to save several hundreds of sea turtles in this region. State Fisheries Departments are requested to monitor the fishing activities of mechanized boats, which are always violating the fishing zone earmarked for indigenous fishermen. This could prevent them from catching and selling sea turtles instead of fishes. **Contact:** ksivakumar@wii.gov.in

Initiative

A Unique Conservation Education Model in Sepahijala Wildlife Sanctuary

- Atul K. Gupta and
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The Forest Department, Government of Tripura, under the guidance of Shri M. A. Khan, IFS, PCCF & Chief Wildlife Warden, conceived, developed and displayed a unique model for dissemination of conservation education to the visitors in Sepahijala Wildlife Sanctuary (SWLS),

Tripura. The SWLS is a small (19.2 km²), yet, biodiversity rich, one of the four wildlife sanctuaries in Tripura. This unique conservation education programme is attracting practically every visitor entering SWLS irrespective to their age, sex and Nationality.

"We too have right to live" is the main theme of this audio-visual model in which a group of animals (from India and abroad) form a Committee and organize first ever International Wild Animal Conference in SWLS. A total of 22 animal species participate in this conference for airing their views on the issues related to their own survival and also for the conservation of the overall biodiversity on the earth planet. The lion is unanimously elected as the Chairperson of the Committee during the conference and Phayre's langur (langur) as Member-Secretary, who also steers the conference. Other participants include, Hornbill, Cobra, Elephant, Tiger, Jackal, Chital, Sarus crane, Rabbit, Wild boar, etc. from India and Kangaroo, Zebra and Giraffe from abroad. The langur invites Elephant, Kangaroo, Chital, Zebra, Jackal, Hornbill, Tiger, and Cobra one by one, who present their views on the status of their own survival and on the overall biodiversity conservation scenario in the face of wanton destruction perpetuated by humans for their own economic benefit.

The langur, while inviting the different speakers, also narrates briefly about the scientific name, distribution, behaviour, ecology, and other vital statistics related with the given speaker, which helps visitors to educate themselves on different animal species. Each animal speaker justifies his presence as one of the useful components within the entire ecosystem and more so



'Animal Conference in Sepahijala WLS Tripura'

their importance for the very survival and welfare of the human race itself. As helpless and harmless animals compared to all pervasive and powerful human beings, the animals fail to comprehend the hostile and savagery attitude of humans towards them. Each speaker urges for restoration of fast depleting basic survival resources of food, cover, and water, which are being lost rapidly due to over-exploitation by the humans, much beyond the carrying capacity. One after the other, all the animal speakers express their concern over the rapacious nature of humans, which is not only causing extinction of certain species from across the globe, but pushing entire civilization on the brink of destruction. Overall, the animals are of the view that just because they do not have the voting rights, the human race is not attaching much importance to their causes and concerns and, therefore, appeal for voting rights so that their plea for just and equitable survival is also honoured. While concluding, the lion as chairperson presses for five demands: to foster an environment of man-animal cooperation and mutual respect for each other's basic needs; to increase the areas under the protected area network so that more and more animals can find their physical habitat jurisdiction is able to meet their entire ecological needs; to have

Welcome Guests

- 25 students of B.V.Sc. & A.H. from Rajiv Gandhi College of Veterinary & Animal Sciences, Pondicherry on January 10, 2005
- 30 Forest Guard Trainees from Pinjore (Haryana) on January 13, 2005
- 10 students of M.Sc. from Mizoram University, Aizawal on January 15-16, 2005
- A team of two masters and 30 cadets from RIMC, Dehradun on January 28, 2005
- A group of Forest Ranger Trainees of Eastern Forest Rangers College, Kurseong on February 1, 2005
- A group of 11 IFS officers of 20 years of service from IGNFA on January 27, 2005
- A group of trainees from SFS College, Dehradun on January 17, 2005
- Three batches of about 35 students of B.Tech. (Biotechnology) and M.Sc. from Shoolini Institute of Life Sciences and Business Management, Solan (H.P.) during February 9-11, 2005
- A group of Foresters (Trainees) from Chitner, J&K on February 9-11, 2005
- 30 IFS Officers of 1987 Batch from IGNFA on February 17, 2005
- 30 Forest Guard (Trainees) from Forestry Training Centre, Sundernagar (H.P.) on February 21, 2005
- A group of Forest staff of Yamuna Circle, Chakarata Forest Division, Kalsi on February 21, 2005
- 7 students of H.N.B.G.U., Srinagar Garhwal on March 16, 2005
- 20 teachers of Welham Girls' School, Dehradun on March 22, 2005
- A group of 25 community members living in the vicinity of GHNP (H.P.) on March 28, 2005