

Minutes of the seminar on “Wildlife & Wildlife Conservation in Jharkhand”

Venue: The Hotel Capitol Hill, Main Road, Ranchi

Date: 18th October, 2011

The seminar was initiated with welcome speech by Shri A.K. Gupta, Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife & Biodiversity –cum– Member Secretary, Jharkhand Biodiversity Board, Ranchi.

Shri Gupta gave a small description about the activities undertaken by the department towards wildlife and wildlife conservation in Jharkhand. He showed some recent photographs of Tiger, Leopard (Couple) captured by Camera trap in Palamu Tiger Reserve (PTR), he also informed about the arrangement of water mode for wild animals in the National Park. The department has constructed few check dams and water structures with CAMPA fund. In Dalma Elephant Reserve, this year number of elephants was seen and about 129 head count captured in census. He also informed about several other project.

Dr. M. Raziuddin, Prof of Zoology, Vinoba Bhawe University, Hazaribag, made his presentation on Snake. He highlighted the importance of snakes, need to conserve various species of snakes. He suggested that documentation on snakes could be done which would be helpful in their conservation. He showed various slides to identify poisonous and non-poisonous snakes.

Shri Satyaprakash, President, Neo Human Foundation, Hazaribag, made his presentation on vulture conservation. He informed the status of vulture in Hazaribag, where sizeable population of vulture is found. He gave stress to make people aware about the importance of vulture. He also appealed the people not to use Diclofenac medicine for cattle as it is prohibited by the government. Instead of this, he suggested that Meloxicam may be used. Diclofenac is the main cause in decline of vulture. He showed in his presentation to identify various species of vulture. Three species of vultures, namely white backed vulture, long billed vulture (Indian vulture)

& Egyptian vulture are found in Hazaribag. He outlined various activities undertaken by his organization to make people sensitive to the cause of wildlife. He suggested banning the pack size of 30 ml of diclofenic in Jharkhand with the help of the Medicine controller. It is reported that the number of vultures is increasing in Hazaribag.

Ms. Poonam Kerketta, experts in making documentary of wildlife, especially elephant, informed that due to habitat & food destruction, there is loss in biodiversity. During her visit to Sahebgunj, she was informed by the villagers that due to Italian Bee, fruiting in the plants has not happened. She suggested to have a research on the Italian Bee and its impact on fruiting. Very little fruiting was seen by her on Karanj trees.

Dr. D. S. Srivastava, Wildlife expert & Retd Prof. of Zoology, made his presentation on the wildlife conservation in Jharkhand. He said due to lack of man-power & infrastructure in the department, the protected areas are not fully protected, there is always reporting of poaching, cattle killing near the village of sanctuaries, National Park. Posts are vacant from last 25 years. Most of the Foresters, Forest Guards are now approaching the age of 55 – 60 years. He also suggested the department to promote eco-tourism near the sanctuaries & national park areas to enhance the livelihood of the people living near, it will help in conservation of wildlife. He also suggested creating wildlife foundation on state level. He appreciated the department for some good initiative for example: formation of Jharkhand Biodiversity Board, preparation of People Biodiversity registers, documentation & monitoring in Palamu Tiger reserve, wildlife conservation plan, preparation in West Singhbhum and north Karanapura Block.

Dr. M.P. Sinha, Department of Zoology, Ranchi University made his presentation on Biodiversity Conservation – Ways & Means. He showed in his presentation about Biodiversity in this century, biodiversity & taxonomy and biodiversity in true sense. He said, since 1950 some 6,00,000 species have disappeared and nearly 40,000 more currently are threatened. The pace of extinction may increase under the weight of human consumption and pollution of natural resources and with global warming resulting in rising sea levels, on alarming proportions.

Dr. B.C. Prasad, Director, Central Tasar Research and Training Institute, Ranchi made his presentation on Conservation of Tasar Biodiversity in Jharkhand. He mainly focused his presentation on production, Tasar Biodiversity – Silkworm, ecoraces, and variations in male and female Moth and effort in their conservation. He also informed about the institution's objectives and the work done so far.

Shri Sudhansu Kumar, Department of Botany, PPK College Bundu, Ranchi, made his presentation on endangered plants of Itchagarh Hill, Ormanjhi Block, Ranchi. He informed that the Itchagarh hill is second highest hill in Jharkhand. He showed in his presentation about the importance of the flora present in the hill, some of which are now in extinction. He said that the plants are becoming endangered in this area due to over exploitation for various purposes. Peoples are freely taking the bio-resources having medicinal/ commercial values. But at the same time their over exploitation is posing great concern for the environmentalist. It requires stresses upon their sustainable use for the conservation of the biodiversity and it is high time to educate the people of the area to save this bio-resources through sustainable management.

Dr. Mahendra Prasad, Prof. & HOD, Department of Zoology, Ranchi University, thanked the organizer for inviting him. He gave five proposals which are given below:

- Honest creation of accurate database of wildlife of Jharkhand including plants
- Making biospheres reserves apart from available zoological, biological, National parks
- There is a concern of decreasing in number of crocodile in Muta, Oramanjhi, we should give all priority to protect crocodiles.
- Formation of Biological Society of Jharkhand to take care of wildlife.
- Wild approach for wildlife and mild approach for wildlife.

After the presentations, open discussion was held which was addressed by Shri. A.K. Singh, PCCF, Jharkhand. He congratulated the wildlife wing for organizing the seminar. He also informed that since last two years wildlife week is being celebrating at village level, sanctuaries, national parks to effective use of money and educated the village people. In a reply that

plants showed also be covered under wildlife, he informed the member that we have Jharkhand Biodiversity Board in place which has mandate to prepare Peoples' Biodiversity Register at panchayat level and cover all aspects of biodiversity which includes plants and animals both. He said under the board a project is running by UNDP as a pilot phase. He desired to include all the stakeholders in conservation of wildlife. He agreed to promote eco-tourism in national parks, sanctuaries, so that peoples living near protected areas get employment and help in conservation. He informed that the breeding center at Muta is not an ideal place for crocodile, it is under review.

Seminar was ended with the vote of thanks by Shri A.K. Gupta, CCF, Wildlife & Biodiversity, Jharkhand.
