

# NEW Education Tools for teaching about South Asian Primate's Guide for Teachers and Students and a CD for zoo graphics

Primates in South Asia have been well studied. Conservation Assessment and Management Plan CAMP 2002 workshop, held in Coimbatore, India collected a good deal of current information on population, distribution, threats, status, protection, and other data, which is pertinent to primate conservation. Also recorded in the CAMP Database at the workshop is biological information on their habits (food and social preference, habitat (forest type), habitat status, Niche (micro-habitat), diet, etc. The South Asian CAMP Report collected all this information into one volume which included individual data tables, regional distribution tables (locality by locality), and analysis. The working group discussions held are also included in the Report as well as participant information with photos of the field biologists who study primates in the region. The CAMP workshop refers to the workshop process developed by the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group of IUCN SSC. CBSG has conducted CAMPs and other science based workshops leading to dynamic conservation action around the world, and has also taught people in the different regions to conduct their own exercises. Hence CBSG, South Asia organised and conducted the South Asian Primate CAMP. The assessments of each taxa were used by the IUCN Red List committee and the Global Mammal Assessment GMA to determine individual primate status globally.

One of the working groups discussed public education for primates and came out with detailed recommendations. Zoo Outreach Organisation, which later came to represent the Primate Specialist Group in South Asia, was cited in context of education and given several suggestions. After workshop ZOO/CBSG, South Asia too these and other working group suggestions very seriously and set about implementing what could be done immediately and has been chipping away at the recommendations since.

Thanks to the Margot Marsh Biodiversity Fund and Appenheul Primate Park for major grants, another two recommendations could be tackled and completed recently. One is a layman-level guide to primates which provides recently updated information from the CAMP Report in a format and style that can be used by teachers and students. In addition to the basic information, a short section for each primate on "what you can do" gives teachers and students ideas for further thinking about and acting for primates.

Introductory information for each of the groups : macaque, gibbon, langur, and loris has been given before each section on these taxa.

This information and the form in which it is given makes it useful for zoo signage which is another of

the projects undertaken by ZOO. A CD is underway which will give South Asian, and any zoos holding South Asian primates, ready reference material for signage. Regional maps for distribution of groups are also included.

The guide includes a scientific quality colour illustration of each and every one of the 46 species and subspecies and the CD also holds the images in an easily accessible form, which can be used by zoos and educators for spreading useful knowledge about primates and their status. The illustrations and information are free for use by anyone who will credit artist, author and organisation and is using the items for promotion of primates, not personal profit.

If a zoo holds South Asian primates and is certain of their exact identification, they will have everything they need to create accurate and effective signage for their enclosures as well as information for educating the public in other ways.

These items are available now. Each zoo holding primates will get a copy of the book and the CD free of cost. Members of the South Asian Primate Network will get one copy as well as active members of ZOO/SANIZE educator network. All others will be able to order one copy for cost of postage and a handling fee. They will be used in ZOO/SANIZE educator training workshops and in other activities to promote and protect South Asian Primates.

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