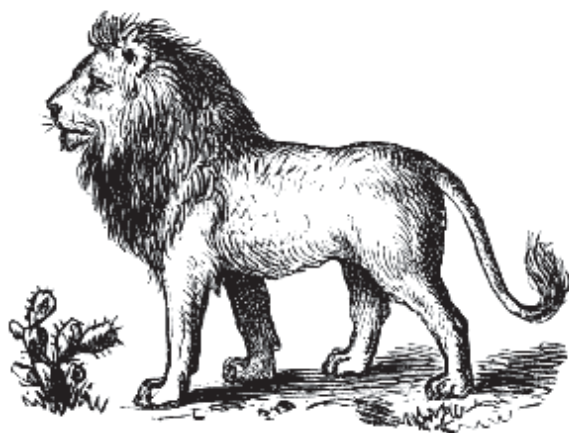




Sky Forest Youth Club

Keshod Govind Vekaria¹ and Revtubha Raijada²

Sky Forest Youth Club was founded in December 1985 to work in the field of nature education and environmental awareness programmes. They conduct a variety of activities year-round to fulfill their goals of making people aware of the importance of their natural heritage for their survival and their duty to protect it.

They carry out numerous nature education camps which are the most effective tools for environmental awareness. They have organised many of these camps in Gir Lion Sanctuary annually taking help of a very cooperative forest department. The camps help participants discover their inherent love for nature resulting in an emotional bonding with it.

Also, before any state or national election they request all major political parties to incorporate nature conservation as part of their agenda in their political manifesto. They welcome and congratulate elected candidates, informing them about environmental problems of their locality, which ensures their support whenever such issues are taken up in legislative sessions.

SFYC holds nature meetings, trekking programmes, symposia in schools and colleges, star-gazing and bird-watching programmes, snake shows, slide shows and film shows in various areas and also camping on an array of environmental issues. For the last 21 years through such efforts they have been trying to create love of nature in the hearts and minds of youngsters so that it will transform into environmental conservation in future.

It is the objective of Sky Forest Youth Club to preserve intact the environmental legacy for generations. They are unique in that they do not accept donations or raise grants for their programmes but collect need-based funds only from their active members.

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Vanishing Herds Foundation

We speak for those who cannot speak for themselves!

What is VHF doing ? Our registered office is in Ahmedabad (Gujarat State) and operational HQ is in Mumbai (Maharashtra State). Our primary focus was to secure a base in Gujarat so as to be able to launch conservation efforts to ensure long-term survival of the Asiatic Lion. Secondly, to adopt conservation measures against the alarming decrease (95%) in the population of white-backed and long-billed vultures all over the country. As a first step, we were able to purchase a 12.5 acre plot in Dudhala, adjacent to the Gir Protected Area. Our aim is to develop this plot as a research base, as well as a 'Wildlife diagnostic, treatment & rehabilitation centre' – subject to being granted the necessary permissions by the concerned authorities.

With the help of international experts and Gujarat Forest Department, our aim is to develop a first class trained team for humane retrieval of sick and injured wildlife and their young with best available equipment, treatment and eventual rehabilitation to the wild. The plot, being close to the Gir Sanctuary, would be ideal for enabling animals under treatment to be able to live in the same environmental conditions. For the moment, we have drilled a bore well, built a pump house, and put up a check-dam for rainwater harvesting. We have also invested funds in planting a few thousand endemic trees on the property.

Information from the website of Vanishing Herds Foundation, India

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