

IUCN SSC South Asian Invertebrate S.G. & Invertebrate Conservation and Information Network of South Asia (ICINSA) (Activity report for the period September 2004 to May 2005)

C.A.M.P. for fresh water biodiversity of Pakistan:

A Conservation Assessment and Management Plan (C.A.M.P) workshop for Freshwater Biodiversity for Pakistan was organised by the IUCN Pakistan in association with CBSG South Asia, South Asian Invertebrate Specialist Group and Zoo Outreach Organisation from 13-17 December 2004. Apart from fish, Crustaceans (crabs), Molluscs (snails), and Odonates (dragonflies and damselflies) were assessed.

Redlist species project:

As an in house exercise with the support of the network members and as one of the fulfillment of the objectives of the South Asian Invertebrate Specialist Group we are on the process of collecting information of selected invertebrates that face threat of extinction. The objective of this project is to prioritise the threatened species and to assign a status to it utilizing the existing information about the species. The ultimate intention of this project is to include highly threatened invertebrate species in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. So far information for 20 species have been completed.

Pollinator Project:

G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development, Almora, Uttaranchal, India invited B.A. Daniel to be a member of ESG (external support group) for the GEF (PDF-B) Project "Conservation and Management of pollinators for sustainable agriculture, through an ecosystem approach". Daniel attended the second consultation workshop at New Delhi held at Indian National Science Academy from 28-29th December 2004. In continuation of this he will be supporting pollinator project in association with North Eastern India group and involve in their pollinator education project and networking.

Spider project:

With the support of the Ruffort Small Grant the project entitled 'Conservation status of Tarantulas in India with implications of harvest for international trade' is in progress. So far three papers have been published and two are in preparation. The project is underway as scheduled with focus on two main aspects, namely surveys and behavioural studies of theraphosids in India. Surveys are ongoing in Arunachal Pradesh (northeastern India) and in Coorg (Karnataka, southern India). Behavioural and population studies are being conducted in Rameshwaram, Tamil Nadu (southern India). For understanding the activity pattern of *Poecilotheria* spider, night surveys from dusk to dawn (12 hours) were conducted for 5-7 nights in Hanumavilasum temple site each in different seasons of the year in the selected areas.

To know the distribution of *P. hanumavilasumica* in Rameshwaram Island, surveys were carried out in different habitats including human settlement areas on this island.

Abundance studies were conducted through random line transects of 100m.

Conducted initial survey in North of River Bhramaputra in Arunachal Pradesh and few areas in Assam to understand presence/absence and distribution of Theraphosids and various threats to the species in the northeast. We suspect about 15 new species of Theraphosids from first two months survey in this area.

Trade related information is being compiled. Survey and monitoring of theraphosid burrows in Coorg was initiated in August 2004 and is continued on a regular basis.

ICINSA membership from Pakistan:

Involving members for ICINSA from Pakistan remained incomplete since formation of the network. Utilizing the present positive developments in this region many new members were invited to take up membership for the network. The freshwater CAMP workshop organized in association with CBSG, South Asia and ZOO helped to meet invertebrate specialists in Pakistan. During the visit to Pakistan members from institutes Quaid-I-Azam University, Islamabad; Karachi university, Karachi; University of Lahore, Lahore; Directorate of Fisheries; University of Arid Agriculture, Rawalpindi; Pakistan council of scientific and industrial research, Karachi became members of the network. ICINSA also helped the IUCN Pakistan to identify and invite invertebrate researchers for the freshwater Biodiversity workshop held at Islamabad.

Consultancy to include invertebrates in zoo education in India:

In 1995 a hands on training on invertebrate keeping was organized by ZOO with the leadership of Paul-Pearce Kelly, the Invertebrate Conservation Unit, London Zoo in South India. Since then few zoos started keeping invertebrates but show slow growth due to unforeseen reasons. Certain zoos in India, after realizing the importance of educating public about invertebrates wanted to include invertebrates in their collection and also to educate public by various other means. Mysore zoo invited B.A. Daniel to visit the zoo and to provide suggestions to include invertebrates in their education programme. It has been proposed to prepare a kit for zoos to educate about invertebrates, a project that can be adopted from the bear project done by Sally Walker, ZOO.

Revised e-book of ICINSA member directory 2005 An e-book revised version of ICINSA member directory has been published and made available for the 450+ members of the network. The directory is updated every two years. The directory of Invertebrate Pollinator Network of South Asia is in the process of its completion and it will be published by August this year.

News letter - Bugs R All:

With the support of ZSI, ZOO/CBSG, South Asia's invertebrate specialist group ICINSA published *Bugs R all* newsletter in October 2004 and the last volume was published in June 2005. **Report submitted by B.A. Daniel on 11 June 2005.**