

Announcements

CEE receives Global Award for 'Outstanding Service to Environmental Education'

The Centre for Environment Education (CEE) has been awarded the Global level award for its 'Outstanding Service to Environmental Education' by the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) for the year 2005. The award recognizes CEE's contribution in mainstreaming the role of education and communication for sustainable development.

The NAAEE represents one of the largest networks of environmental education (EE) organization. NAAEE is headquartered in Washington. It supports an extensive network of professionals, students and volunteers in over 55 countries across the world working in the field of EE.

The award for 'Outstanding Service to EE' was instituted by NAAEE in 1975 to promote and recognize the efforts being made by individuals and organizations in the field of EE. These awards are constituted at the local, regional as well as the global levels. The last recipient for the global award was WWF, in 2001.

Besides its extensive work in India, CEE's programmes have been offered internationally too. CEE has been invited by other countries to provide its expertise and experience towards setting up their EE programmes. CEE's training programmes have catered to professionals from about 25 countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Today CEE is helping 24 countries in Asia to develop their communication strategies under the Montreal Protocol. Also, CEE has been working closely with several international agencies like IUCN-The World Conservation Union, UNEP, UNESCO, the US Fish and Wildlife Services, and the World Resources Institute, etc.

The award aptly recognizes CEE's contribution at a very relevant time—beginning of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. The award would be presented to CEE at NAAEE's 34th Annual Conference to be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Mr. Kartikeya V. Sarabhai, the Director CEE would receive the award on October 28th, 2005.

Submitted by Praveen Prakash, praveen.prakash@ceeindia.org
Centre for Environment Education, Nehru Foundation for Development, Thaltej Tekra, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India - 380054
Phone: ++917926858002-9; Fax: ++917926858010 Email: cee@ceeindia.org; web: www.ceeindia.org

The Fourth International Colloquium on Tree Squirrels and the First Colloquium on Flying Squirrels

Second Announcement & Call for Abstracts. The Fourth International Colloquium on Tree Squirrels and the First Colloquium on Flying Squirrels are envisioned as being a meeting place for researchers with an active interest in tree and flying squirrels as model systems for evolutionary and ecological studies. It is proposed that these colloquia will act as a forum for the exchange of a wide spectrum of research ideas ranging from the ecology, life history strategies, evolutionary biology and comparative phylogenetics to the conservation biology of tree and flying squirrels. The colloquia will be held between 22-29 March 2006 in Periyar Tiger Reserve, Kerala, India.

While this will be the fourth international colloquium on tree squirrels, it will be the first colloquium on flying squirrels. It will also be the first time that these colloquia are being hosted in Asia. Themes to be covered at the Colloquia: Biogeography and Distribution, Ecology, Behavioural Ecology, Plant-animal Interactions, Population Biology, Evolutionary biology, Conservation biology, and Museum Studies and Taxonomy.

The Colloquia will be accompanied by the "Conservation Priorities

Workshop: Tree and Flying Squirrels in the Developing World", which aims to highlight the paucity of research and conservation efforts directed toward squirrels in the tropics. Themes covered at the workshop will include: Identifying priority species, the state of Science in the tropics, Forest management practices and their impacts on squirrels, and Subsistence and Commercial Hunting of Squirrels. We also propose to include a session on the techniques of surveying both diurnal and nocturnal squirrels during the Workshop. Please find details of abstract submission and registration on our website, <http://www.squirrelcolloquia.co.in>, or <http://www.iisc.ernet.in/nias/itsc.htm>.

The colloquia will be officially hosted by the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore, India. For further details please visit our websites or contact Nandini R. at nandinirajamani@yahoo.co.in

Submitted by Nandini Rajamani.

Announcement of new Co-Chairs for IUCN/SSC Asian Elephant Specialist Group

Holly T. Dublin, Chair of the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC), has invited Ajay Desai and Simon Hedges to serve as interim Co-Chairs of the Asian Elephant Specialist Group (AsESG). This means that the Group will not have a single Chair as before - but will be shared by these two persons. The IUCN process of appointments is a formal and timeconsuming one; with all Chairs and members being appointed or reappointed in the new quadrennium. The Specialist Group Chair invitations are now complete, and so the process of (re)appointing the AsESG's members can begin.

The Chairs have stated that a major task for the AsESG is to help mould and guide decisions and policies affecting elephant conservation by providing sound scientific information and advice. The SSC has charged the group with delivering the following objectives over the coming year:

1. Establishing a new, revitalized AsESG membership;
2. Establish a regular dialogue with the new membership including timely updates in Species, SSC's E-Bulletin, or through a dedicated AsESG publication or website;
3. Providing support and motivation for the members of the AsESG to stimulate their technical input and activity to new and ongoing activities in support of the conservation of Asian elephants, including providing technical support to the upcoming Asian Elephant Range States meeting;
4. Revise and complete an updated version of the Asian Elephant Action Plan;
5. Achieve agreement within the AsESG on plans and priority actions for the Group;
6. Help identify sources of long-term funding support for the core functions of the AsESG;
7. Other actions deemed necessary to build the capacity of the AsESG and its members in South and South East Asia.

The new Chairs see working with the range State governments to effect better conservation for Asian elephants as a particularly high priority for the group, recognizing that the group's advice would be most acceptable if it originates from and has the neutrality of an IUCN Specialist Group behind it. This necessitates that the group be a purely neutral body whose members do not have any vested interests driving their decision-making. The group will also focus on providing technical support and practical solutions to conservation problems and on increasing the range states' capacities to manage their elephant populations.