

## IUCN SSC South Asian Invertebrate Specialist Group / ICINSA Network meeting

The Invertebrate Conservation and Information Network of South Asia (ICINSA) is a network activity started in the year 1995 that is hosted by Zoo Outreach Organisation, Coimbatore, India. The objective of ICINSA is to promote invertebrate conservation (*in situ* and *ex situ*) in South Asian countries (Bhutan, Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) through networking invertebrate specialists, conducting training programmes and workshops, species assessment and education. At present ICINSA has about 500 members from 6 South Asian countries with no representatives from Maldives.

ICINSA was the inspiration for and is the driver of the IUCN SSC South Asian Invertebrate Specialist Group, which is Chaired by Dr. B.A. Daniel and Dr. T.N. Ananthakrishnan and hosted by Zoo Outreach Organisation. The network provides a means for getting to know invertebrate specialists and assessing their potential contribution before inviting for the SSC Specialist Group. Two years ago ICINSA helped Bangladesh organize a national invertebrate working group coordinated by IUCN, which is part of ICINSA. Last year ICINSA, CBSG, South Asia and ZOO led a CAMP Training workshop in IUCN Bangladesh and has been steadily increasing membership in that country.

### Sri Lanka Chapter:

ICINSA and SAISG organized a short meeting on 5th December 2003 at National Zoo, Dehiwala, inviting few invertebrate specialists with an aim to form a chapter of ICINSA in Sri Lanka that will ultimately lead to formation of a national level network with a local coordinator. The following people participated in the meeting.

### List of participants on 5th December 2003.

Y.N.A. Jayatungo, University of Colombo  
R.K. Sriyani Dias, University of Kelaniya  
N. Pallewatta, University of Colombo  
Preethi Randeniya, University of Colombo  
L.P. Jayantha, National Zoo  
Ganga Wijesinghe, National Zoo  
Nadun Kushan, National Zoo  
Dammika Malasinghe, National Zoo



B.A. Daniel explains the way the network works to interested invertebrate workers.

Renuka Bandaranayaka, National Zoo  
Md. Abdur Razzaque Mia, Bangladesh  
B.A. Daniel, Coordinator, ICINSA, ZOO  
Sanjay Molur, Zoo Outreach Organisation  
Sally Walker, Zoo Outreach Organisation

In the meeting, the coordinator/convenor of ICINSA, B.A. Daniel, Scientist, Zoo Outreach Organisation gave a 10 minutes presentation about history of invertebrate network activities in South Asia and explained the need for a national level network in Sri Lanka owing to numerical domination of invertebrates.

After a brief discussion and clarification about the network activity and its mode of functioning the participants suggested spreading the idea of forming a national network at Sri Lanka large and then forming a network involving interested invertebrate specialists of Sri Lanka. It was greatly appreciated by all of participants. Ms. N. Pallewatta agreed to do the initiatives and reach Sri Lankan invertebrate specialists through email until the responsibility is handed over to an identified institute or individual.



Sri Lankan entomologists listen to Daniel relate the progress of the South Asian Invertebrate Specialist Group



### Invertebrate Pollinator Network of South Asia

A project of S Asian ISG and ICINSA

Collaborators: CES/IISc, ZOO and WILD

