CHIROPTERA C.A.M.P.

Hey ! Did you know there are 130 different species of bats which occur in South Asia?

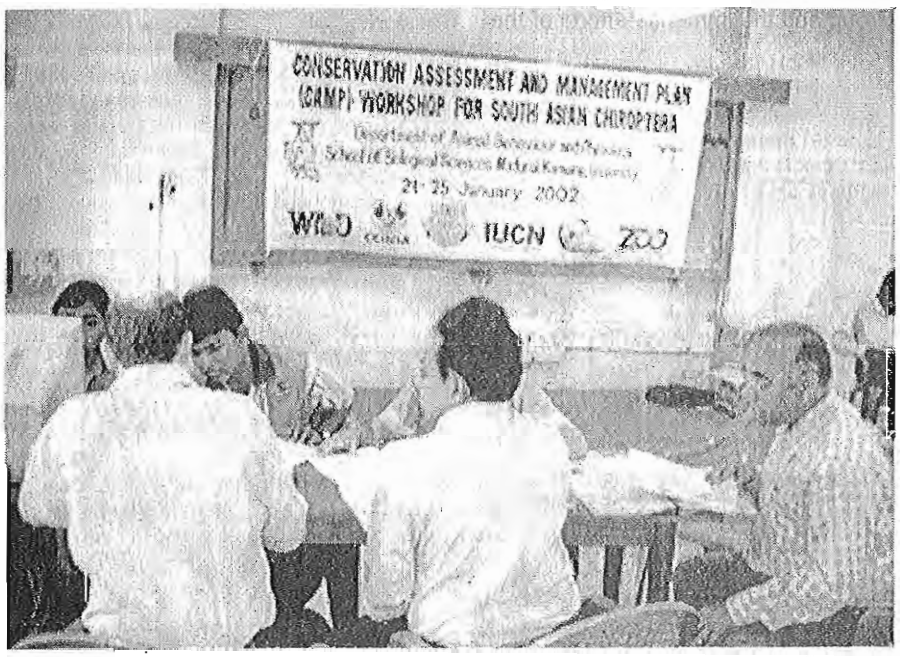
Further, did you know there are as many as 70 bat specialists in South Asia ... yes! 70 people who study bats as their main occupation.

Fifty of these 70 bat specialists gathered in Madurai, Tamil Nadu at the Department of Animal Behaviour and Physiology, School of Biological Studies, Madurai Kamaraj University on 21 - 25 March 2002 to part with much of the information they had collected on bats during much of their career.

Inaugural -- Sanjay Molur, Red List Advisor (standing as M.C.); Sally Walker ZOO & CCINSA; J. C. Daniel, BNHS; Tony Hutson (Co-Chair IUCN Chiroptera Specialist Group), Paul Bates (author of Bats of the Indian Subcontinent); G. Marimuthu (Head of Department of Animal Behaviour, MKU and Scientific Chair, CCINSA; and Dr. Sripathi Kandula, MKU.

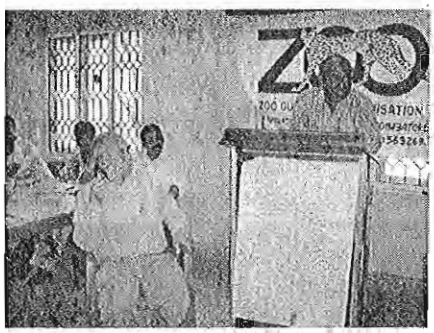
The occasion was a CAMP, a Conservation Assessment and Management Plan Workshop for Chiroptera of South Asia. The workshop was almost three years in planning and preparation. This CAMP Workshop followed an earlier exercise by the same name -- for all Indian mammals -- in 1997 under the auspices of the Biodiversity Conservation Prioritisation Project. At this workshop in 1997, six bat specialists assessed 102 species of Indian bats. More than 50% were assessed as Data Deficient. A few were not assessed as there was uncertainty about their validity. Clearly more information and experts were required urgently.

The Working Group on bats at this workshop recommended that a network of bat field researchers should be started and that recommendation led to CCINSA, the Chiroptera Conservation and Information Network of South Asia. CCINSA is hosted by Zoo Outreach Organisation which organised the BCPP CAMP Workshops. ZOO, a specialist in networking, knew what the lacunae were and what to do. First a sponsor for the network was required and the Chester Zoological Gardens of United Kingdom came to the rescue.

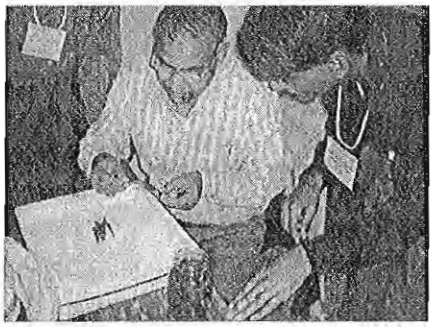


Working Groups discuss every aspect of the population, distribution, habitat, etc. of every taxon while the information is recorded both on printed sheets and in a special database developed for CAMP workshops.

ZOO began by writing a host of letters to colleges, universities, institutes, individuals to collect bat experts. Slowly the group grew from a few to over 70. Then a variety of tasks were assigned to the new members, the first of which was to find out how many of the Data Deficient species had been studied by the network members and to encourage them to take up these studies. Another project was to distribute a "handbook" or notebook of bat information for researchers to use as a handy field notebook to keep information. A newsletter was established, and in no time it was filled with many articles and notes by members.



Marimuthu reports on Bats' problems in temples



Y.P. Sinha, ZSI taxonomist, identifies species for a participant.

A training course in field techniques and taxonomy was organised with a well-known bat researcher, taxonomist and biologist leading it, e.g. Dr. Paul Bates. Also at this workshop, the IUCN Red List Criteria and Categories and the CAMP Process were explained to participants. Other projects pulled the group together, so that when the Chiroptera CAMP was announced, there was a wonderful response. Members of CCINSA were ready to share their knowledge for the good of bat species.

In a CAMP Workshop, the Agenda is very simple.
Day One
1. Inaugural (as short as possible)
2. Instructions about IUCN Red List Criteria and Categories, CAMP Process and in filling in Taxon Data Sheets
3. Organisation - consensual agreement of what and how to proceed
4. Working Groups
5. Plenary
Working Groups and on and on till ...
Day Five
6. Special Issue Working Groups
7. Personal commitments
8. Final Plenary
9. Closing ceremony

In a CAMP workshop, people work. It is engaging, exciting, exhausting, irritating, ... it seems it will never end.

Finally, all conflicts gets resolved; all species get assessed and categorised and you have a product. A list of species with their IUCN Red List Category, a key to the criteria on which the assessment was based and a big stack of Taxon Data Sheets which will be compiled into a Report. The Recommendations of Special Issue Working Groups and Personal Commitments are added. The final result is enough information for a management plan for a taxon group. Academics and specialists know how they should invest their energy for the next few years for the conservation of species. Wildlife agencies and biodiversity strategists can use the Report for their management efforts.

The list of species on the next page is a Draft. Some of the status designations may change when the Draft Report is reviewed. It gives a good picture of the number and diversity of one of the largest taxon groups in the Mammal Order -- bats make up about 25% of mammalian diversity in India and perhaps the same in South Asia as a whole.

Thanks to a new CAMP computer programme called the CAMP Data Entry Programme, developed by the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group and the immense efforts of the ZOO data entry flying squad (Padma Priya, Binu Priya, Latha Ravi Kumar and Hanneke de Boer), participants were able to take home a 300 page Draft Report right from the workshop. Already copies have started coming back with corrections and additions. In a few weeks a final report will be ready. The list of species, status and criteria will be submitted to the Red List Authority and used in the 2003 Red List of Threatened Animals. Previously the IUCN Red List was a mysterious and vague concept. Now, it is a practical tool that can be used at many levels. It is through the CAMP Process that field biologists from far flung regions can contribute directly and incisively the to IUCN Red List for the first time.

Finally, Tony Hutson, Co-Chair of the IUCN SSC Chiroptera Specialist Group led a very nice meeting of the Chiroptera Specialist Group, South Asia and CCINSA. Many suggestions and recommendations were made and discussed and paved the way for the Special Issue Working Groups which were organised later.

Plenary session to review work and get a consensus of participants

DRAFT List of Chiroptera of South Asia

(Do not quote -- a few changes in category might take place)

Common name	Scientific name	Category
Endemic		
Sombre's bat	*Eptesicus tatei*	DD
Khajuria's Leaf-nosed bat	*Hipposideros durgadasi*	EN
Fulvous Leaf-nosed bat	*Hipposideros fulvus*	LC
Kolar Leaf-nosed bat	*Hipposideros hypophyllus*	EN
Kelaart's Leaf-nosed bat	*Hipposideros lankadiva*	LC
Schneider's Leaf-nosed bat	*Hipposideros speoris*	LC
Salim Ali's Fruit bat	*Latidens salimalii*	EN
Peter's Tube-nosed bat	*Murina grisea*	DD
Kashmir Cave Bat	*Myotis longipes*	NT
Mandeli's Mouse-eared bat	*Myotis sicarius*	NT
Mountain Noctule	*Nyctalus montanus*	NT
Wroughton's Free-tailed bat	*Otomops wroughtoni*	CR
(no common name)	*Pipistrellus anthonyi*	DD
Dormer's bat	*Pipistrellus dormeri*	LC
(no common name)	*Pipistrellus jofferi*	DD
Andaman Horse-shoe bat	*Rhinolophus cognatus*	VU
Lesser Woolly Horse-shoe bat	*Rhinolophus beddomei*	NT
Mitratus Horse-shoe bat	*Rhinolophus mitratus*	DD
Desert Yellow bat	*Scotoecus pallidus*	NT
Non Endemic		
Eastern Barbastelle	*Barbastella leucomelas*	NT
Tail-less Leaf-nosed bat	*Coleops frithii*	NT
(no common name)	*Craseonycteris thonglongyai*	CR
Lesser Dog-faced fruit bat	*Cynopterus brachyotis*	LC
Short-nosed (Indian) fruit bat	*Cynopterus sphinx*	LC
(no common name)	*Emballonura monticola*	DD
Dawn (Cave fruit) bat	*Eonycteris spelaea*	LC
Botta's Serotine	*Eptesicus bottae*	DD
(no common name)	*Eptesicus gobiensis*	DD
Sind Serotine bat	*Eptesicus nasutus*	DD
Thick-eared bat	*Eptesicus pachyotis*	DD
Thick-eared bat	*Eptesicus serotinus*	NT
(no common name)	*Eudiscopus denticulus*	EN
(no common name)	*Gilschropus tylophus*	DD
Hairy-winged bat	*HarpiocephaluAs harpia*	LC
Hairy-winged bat	*Harpiocephalus mordax*	DD
(no common name)	*Hesperoptenus blandfordi*	DD
Tickell's bat	*Hesperoptenus tickelli*	LC
Great Himalayan leaf-nosed bat	*Hipposideros armiger*	LC
Dusky Leaf-nosed bat	*Hipposideros ater*	LC
Least Leaf-nosed bat	*Hipposideros cineraceus*	NT
Diadem Leaf-nosed bat	*Hipposideros diadema*	VU
Cantor's Leaf-nosed bat	*Hipposideros galeritus*	NT
Horsfield's Leaf-nosed bat	*Hipposideros larvatus*	LC
Andersen's Leaf-nosed bat	*Hipposideros pomona*	LC
Great Evening bat	*Ia io*	EN
Hardwicke's Forest bat	*Kerivoula hardwickii*	NT
Papillose bat	*Kerivoula papillosa*	DD
Painted bat	*Kerivoula picta*	LC
Hill Long-tongued Fruit bat	*Macroglossus sobrinus*	LC
Indian False vampire	*Megaderma lyra*	LC
Lesser False vampire	*Megaderma spasma*	LC
(no common name)	*Megaerops niphanae*	NT
Nicobar Long-fingered bat	*Miniopterus pusillus*	VU
Schreiber's Long-fingered bat	*Miniopterus schreibersi*	LC
(no common name)	*Mlnopterus magnater*	VU
Little Tube-nosed bat	*Murina aurata*	NT
Round-eared Tube-nosed bat	*Murina cyclotis*	NT
Hutton's Tube-nosed bat	*Murina huttoni*	LC
Greater Tube-nosed bat	*Murina leucogaster*	DD
Scully's Tube-nosed bat	*Murina tubinaris*	NT
Hairy-Faced bat	*Myotis annectans*	NT
Lesser Mouse-eared bat	*Myotis blythii*	VU
(no common name)	*Myotis csorbai*	DD
Daubenton's bat	*Myotis daubentoni*	EN

Common name	Scientific name	Category
(no common name)	*Myotis emarginatus*	NE
Hodgson's bat	*Myotis formosus*	LC
Van Hasselt's bat	*Myotis hasseltii*	LC
Horsfield's bat	*Myotis horsfeldii*	LC
Burmese Whiskered bat	*Myotis montivagus*	VU
Nepalese Whiskered bat	*Myotis muricola*	LC
Whiskered bat	*Myotis mystacinus*	VU
Himalayan Whiskered bat	*Myotis siligorensis*	LC
Hairy-armed bat	*Nyctalus leisleri*	EN
Noctule	*Nyctalus noctula*	LC
Hemprich's Long-eared bat	*Otonycteris hemprichii*	LC
Rohu's bat	*Philetor brachypterus*	VU
(no common name)	*Pipistrelius lophurus*	DD
(no common name)	*Pipistrellus abramus*	DD
Chocolate pipistrelle	*Pipistrellus affinis*	NT
Cadornae's Pipistrelle bat	*Pipistrellus cadornae*	NT
Kelaart's Pipistrelle	*Pipistrellus ceylonicus*	LC
Black Gilded pipistrelle	*Pipistrellus circumdatus*	LC
Coromandel Pipistrelle	*Pipistrellus coromandra*	LC
Javan Pipistrelle	*Pipistrellus javanicus*	LC
Paternal Pipistrelle	*Pipistrellus paterculus*	LC
Common Pipistrelle	*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*	LC
Savii's Pipistrelle	*Pipistrellus savii*	NT
Indian Pygmy bat	*Pipistrellus tenuis*	LC
Brown Big-eared bat	*Plecotus auritus*	NT
Grey Long-eared bat	*Plecotus austriacus*	NT
Nicobar Flying fox	*Pteropus faunulus*	EN
Indian Flying fox	*Pteropus giganteus*	LC
Island Flying fox	*Pteropus hypomelanus*	EN
Blyth'd Flying fox	*Pteropus melanotus*	VU
Large Flying Fox	*Pteropus vampyrus*	EN
Intermediate Horse-shoe bat	*Rhinolophus affinis*	LC
Blasius' Horse-shoe bat	*Rhinolophus blasii*	NT
Greater Horse-shoe bat	*Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*	LC
Lesser Horse-shoe bat	*Rhinolophus hipposideros*	VU
Blyth's Horse-shoe bat	*Rhinolophus lepidus*	LC
Woolly Horse-shoe bat	*Rhinolophus luctus*	NT
Big-eared Horse-shoe bat	*Rhinolophus macrotis*	VU
Pearson's Horse-shoe bat	*Rhinolophus pearsonii*	LC
Least Horse-shoe bat	*Rhinolophus pusillus*	LC
Rufous Horse-shoe bat	*Rhinolophus rouxii*	LC
(no common name)	*Rhinolophus sinicus*	LC
Chestnut Horse-shoe bat	*Rhinolophus subbadius*	VU
Trefoil Horse-shoe bat	*Rhinolophus trifoliatus*	NT
Asian Horse-shoe bat	*Rhinolophus yunanensis*	LC
Hardwick's Fruit bat	*Rhinopoma hardwickii*	LC
Greater Mouse-tailed bat	*Rhinopoma microphyllum*	LC
Small Mouse-tailed bat	*Rhinopoma muscatellum*	NT
Egyptian Fruit bat	*Rousettus aegypticus*	VU
Fulvous Fruit bat	*Rousettus leschenaulti*	LC
Harlequin bat	*Scotomanes ornatus*	LC
Asiatic Greater Yellow House bat	*Scotophilus heathii*	LC
Asiatic Lesser Yellow House bat	*Scotophilus kuhlii*	LC
Blandford's fruit bat	*Sphaerias blanfordi*	LC
Egyptian bat	*Tadarida aegyptiaca*	LC
Wrinkle-lipped Free-tailed bat	*Tadarida plicata*	LC
European Free-tailed bat	*Tadarida teniotis*	ne
Long-winged Tomb bat	*Taphozous longimanus*	LC
Black-bearded Tomb bat	*Taphozous melanopogan*	LC
Naked Rumped tomb bat	*Taphozous nudiventris*	LC
Egyptian Tomb bat	*Taphozous perforatus*	LC
Pouch-bearing bat	*Taphozous saccolaimus*	LC
Theobald's bat	*Taphozous theobaldi*	VU
Persian Trident bat	*Triaenops persicus*	DD
Bamboo bat	*Tylonycteris pachypus*	LC
Particoloured bat	*Vespertilio murinus*	NT