



NATURE'S BECKON

An Environmental Activist Group in North East India

REGISTERED UNDER THE SOCIETIES REGISTRATION ACT XXI OF 1860

Your action solicited for conservation of wildlife of Chakrashila Wildlife Sanctuary

Editors' Note : The environmental activist group from NE India, Nature's Beckon has sent round a call to arm for the Chakrashila Wildlife Sanctuary which is, according to these young activists, under threat. We think their call may be of interest to our readers. The Forest Department has its own problems in providing such infrastructure and may find the assistance of concerned readers welcome to strengthen their own case for protecting this area.

Soumyadeep Datta, Director, Nature's Beckon writes :

The only habitat of Golden Langurs exclusively in Indian territory is at Chakrashila Wildlife Sanctuary, located in the Dhubri District of Assam. Chakrashila being a virgin forest is one of the hotspot regions and provides shelters to many endangered mammals, reptiles and avifauna.

The conservation of this unique forest has been brought about by the peoples participation. It was declared as Wildlife Sanctuary in 1994, but even after the lapse of four years no step has been taken by the forest Department to develop the infrastructure for the proper administration of Chakrashila Wildlife Sanctuary. Even, there is no forest guard in this sanctuary.

Only the villagers living on the periphery of Chakrashila provide protection to this sanctuary. Because of their efforts this forest has not been destroyed, inspite of the repeated attempts of the poachers and smugglers, and the population of wildlife has been increased considerably.

Of late, taking advantage of the situation, poachers from outside have started entering inside the forest with arms and ammunition, and confrontations with the villagers have become frequent. Recently, one of the villagers was killed by the poachers.

On an earlier occasion four guns were seized from the poachers and were handed over to District authorities.

Unless, the government takes immediate steps to develop the infrastructure of Chakrashila Wildlife Sanctuary and establish range offices inside the sanctuary for its proper management and protection, illegal activities by poachers inside the Sanctuary are likely to continue.

We would earnestly request you to write to the concerned officials of Assam, at their following addresses, to take immediate steps for establishing range offices at Chakrashila Wildlife Sanctuary and to develop the proper infrastructure for the management and protection of this invaluable Wildlife Sanctuary.

Address:

Shri. Nagen Sharma,
Hon'ble Forest Minister, Govt. of Assam
Dispur, Guwahati 781 005, Assam.

Secretary to Government
Government of Assam
Secretariat
Guwahati, Assam

Copy your letters to the :
Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Assam
R. G. Baruah Road, Guwahati 781 024, Assam.

The address of Nature's Beckon is "Datta Bari" Ward No. 1, Dhubri 783 301 Phone 03662 21067 Fax 03662 20076