

NGO NEWS

The world would never be the same without butterflies and so if you care, write to: Dr. Virender Singh, Co ordinator, Friends of Butterflies B-1/297 Janakapuri, New Delhi-110058

An NGO exclusively devoted to the Western Ghats called **Western Ghats Information Network (Wing)** has been functioning from Madurai in Tamilnadu for quite sometime. Wing intends

Wing

to focus on the environmental and ecological problems of Western ghats. There are several NGO's, conservationists, individual researchers, research institutions working on projects for the conservation and study of Western ghats but very little information is exchanged between the groups. Wing intends to network all of these individuals through a newsletter called **WESTERN GHATS ALIVE** which would be a useful resource for both scientists and the general public. The newsletter is not yet ready for circulation but will contain reports on major conservation activities around the Western ghats with focus on endemic flora and fauna.

Some of the objectives of Wing is

- to raise awareness of biodiversity in Western ghats
- to establish a regional and global network linking people with common interest in Western ghats
- to make available accurate and up to date information relevant to better understanding of Western ghats.
- to provide a resource for environmental/ conservation education and for use by other media.

For further details contact: Western Ghats Information Network, 29, Jadamuni Koil Street, Madurai 625 001, Tamilnadu, S. India



One of the earliest inhabitants of our earth, symbol of a healthy environment, and one of the delicate and beautiful creations of nature - butterflies are fast disappearing from their environments. The illicit trade, habitat destruction and unsustainable collection by scientists over the years are some of the major reasons for their rapid

disappearance. **Friends of Butterflies** an NGO based in Delhi has taken up the cause of fighting to save butterflies.

Butterflies should be left free in nature to be enjoyed and not pinned up as specimens on boards of mindless collectors - says this NGO. They are encouraging people to start saving butterflies of their own gardens and convert them into protected areas. They want to eliminate the trade in butterflies in conjunction with others institutions and individuals that feel similarly. Friends of butterflies will also shortly bring out a newsletter on their activities and also butterfly conservation news.

Earth Conservation Organisation (ECO), is a new born NGO which is a voluntary student organisation. ECO is made of very serious, dedicated group of youngsters who are committed to conservation particularly wildlife. The organisation wants to broaden its horizons to address other conservation issues besides wildlife but being relatively new in the field and also stumbling over the initial organisational problems, they have decided to confine their activities to wildlife only. Their policy is to look at a problem from a global socio-environmental perspective. The organisation produces materials like hand-made cards, T-shirts etc and also supports itself with limited membership fees.

This NGO is very determined to prove its worth and if the initial enthusiasm and energy continues they may offer valuable assistance to the Indian wildlife and conservation field.

For further details contact : Anirban Dutta Gupta, 40/B Broad street, Calcutta 700 019, West Bengal, India



DNA technology and DNA finger printing is a recent development in the field of Cellular and Molecular biology. This technology utilises the information contained in the DNA for several practical purposes such as solving crime and civil matters, identifying plant, in wildlife conservation and in zoos to identify the blood lines and genetic purity and animal stock, identifying cell lines, and detection prevention and treatment of diseases etc.

Scientists from Centre for Cellular Molecular Biology and also other DNA scientists have joined hands to form an **Association for the promotion of DNA fingerprinting and other DNA technologies** to promote and to avail this technology to those that require it. Some other objectives of the Association is to:

- to standardise and also provide guidelines for quality assurance, proficiency testing and accreditation of laboratory methods
- to arrange technical audit in the area of DNA finger printing and related technologies
- to issue proficiency certificates to practitioners of DNA finger printing and other related technologies on the basis of certain criteria
- to hold seminars, workshops and training programmes to promote the techniques and further the objectives of the Association.
- to provide consultancy and expert opinion in the field of DNA finger printing and other DNA technologies to laboratories, the bar, courts etc

For membership details please contact: Dr. Lalji Singh, Secretary, Association for Promotion of DNA Finger Printing and other DNA technologies, C/o Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Habshiguda, Hyderabad 500 007.