

# *Sahyadri Nisarga Mitra , Chiplun*

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## ★ Annual Report 2007 - 2008 ★

### ★★ Turtle ★★



We started *Marine Turtle Conservation Project* 6 years back, first time in Maharashtra. In this year we have undertaken conservation and protection work at 30 villages of Coastal Maharashtra and arranged awareness campaign on entire Coastline.

Total 159 nests were protected and more than 3000 hatchlings were released during this year. In last 6 years total 371 nests were protected and more than 13000 hatchlings were released safely into the Sea.

Since last 3 years we have been giving Turtle Friend Award (Kasav Mitra Puraskar) for individuals or organizations that have done outstanding work in turtle conservation. This year's (2008) award went to Dr. Ramdas Mahajan from



Kolthare, Tal. Dapoli, Dist. Ratnagiri. Also "Sagari Kasav" book translated in Gujarathi Language by Mr. Parthiv Sanghavi was published.



Last 2 years we have been organizing turtle festival at Velas, Tal. Mandangad, Dist. Ratnagiri jointly with the forest department and grampanchayat Velas. The main aim of this festival is to get more involvement of local people in turtle conservation

project. Our attempt is to increase the income of local people by getting them to participate in this festival. Nature lovers, tourists had gathered from various parts of Maharashtra and neighboring states. Nearly 250 visitors comprising of housewives, school and college students, doctors, engineers, journalists, photographers, social workers, nature researchers, teachers etc attended the festival this year.

'Kasav Chashak' cricket tournament was also arranged at Velas and Kolthare. There was very good involvement from the young generation.



## ☆☆ White-Rumped Vulture ☆☆



For last five years we are working on *White-Rumped Vulture*. The population of this species has declined throughout the world by 95% and the reason for this is said to be Diclofenac. In our study at Anjarla we found scarcity of food to the nesting vultures and false incubation by 40%. We started to collect dead animals from 40 villages in the area and kept them in fenced areas near the breeding colonies. The vultures feed on these and the results are positive. Success rate increased from 13% to 40% and false incubation rate came down from 58% to 16%. Fledging rate was 9 chicks from 22 nests compared to 2 chicks from 12 nests last year. In next breeding season we are going to replicate this activity in 4 places, if funds become available.

## ☆☆ Mangrove ☆☆

In this year we also worked on a *Mangrove Project*. We arranged slide shows, lectures, film shows, and photograph and poster exhibitions in coastal villages of Dabhol creek. In this programme 25 ZP primary schools and 5 high schools participated. We also



organized painting competition for school students at Dabhol and Kolthare in Ratnagiri district. A village meeting was organized at Anjarla on the subject of Mangrove Ecology System to create awareness.

**☆☆ Awards received by the organization in the year  
2007 - 2008**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Award given by</b>	<b>Awarded To</b>	<b>Date</b>
1	Prani-Pakshee Sahaayak Puraskar	Radhabai Hardikar Pranjat Mangal Sanstha	Bhau Katdare	28 Oct 2007
2	Jiwala Gaurav Puraskar	Jiwala Super Market	Bhau Katdare	25 Dec 2007
3	Vasundhara Mitra	Vasundhara International Film Festival, Pune	Bhau Katdare	March 2008



After 5 years of follow-up Maharashtra forest department accepted our proposal regarding conservation of Marine Turtles and Vultures. Two district level training programmes were conducted by SNM for Ratnagiri and Raigad District Forest Department staff. Lectures, slide shows and film shows were arranged in different places regarding Marine Turtle Conservation Programme.

**☆☆ Plans for Year 2008 - 2009 ☆☆**

- 1) Vulture conservation centers with food supply at 4 places.
- 2) Marine Turtle Conservation on entire coastline of Maharashtra and actual protection at minimum 50 places.
- 3) In-situ conservation of Marine Turtles at 10 places.
- 4) Student Nature Club.
- 5) Awareness programmes on Mangroves.

We are whole heartedly thankful to all the donors and well-wishers of SNM. We are also thankful to all NGOs and individuals for their kind support in our activities.