



Sahyadri Nisarga Mitra, Chiplun.

Annual Report - 2008-2009

Sahyadri Nisarga Mitra (SNM) successfully completed the year 2008-09 Projects. Kasav Mitra Mandal a livelihood and conservation together first programmed in India for turtle through UNDP, Prestigious Sanctuary RBS Wildlife Service Award to Bhau Katdare are the highlights of the year.



Our Mission

Nature conservation through field protection, awareness, education and scientific based action.

Turtle :-

We have started Marine Turtle Conservation Project 7 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 155 nests were protected and more than 7884 hatchlings were released during this year. In last 7 years total 530 nests were protected and more than 25000 hatchlings were released safely into the Sea.

Turtle Festival :-

This year Turtle Festival was arranged twice in the Velas 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 income of local people by getting them participated in this festival. On 22nd March 2009 and 26th April 2009, nature lovers and tourists descended at the site from various parts of Maharashtra and even neighbouring states.

Turtle hatchlings were released into the sea, initiated by the chief guests. A debate was held amongst tourists and SNM members on the Turtle conservation movement. Some more hatchlings were released during the afternoon session. At night, visitors enjoyed viewing 3 films – Kasava Tuzyachsathi, a second one was So Cool Programme episodes in which – Bhau Katdare's interview regarding SNM's work and Marine Turtle Conservation taken by Hindi Film Actress Sonali Kulkarni and "Eak Hote Kasav" - a film produced and presented by D. Santosh of Panvel. The release of hatchlings into the sea was again carried out in the morning and evening on second day i.e. 23rd March 2009. Also organised SNM second phase of Turtle Festival on 26th April. Mrs. Mukharjee Madam, Sahyadri Channel's News Chief Editor was present as a Chief Guest.

Nearly 1000 visitors comprising of housewives school and college students, doctors, engineers, journalists, photographers, social workers, nature researchers, teachers etc have attended the festival this year.

3 Mahila Bachat Gats, 3 Youth Groups, 15 local villagers were earned money from stalls of seasonal fruits and their own home products and homely accommodation for boarding and lodging. By this transaction they have earned Rs. 50,000/- within 2 days of this years Turtle Festival.





UNDP, GEF, SGP, CEE Central Project

This is the second year of UNDP, GEF, SGP, CEE Central project - Marine Turtle conservation and awareness through community participation in Maharashtra. Under this project following programmes were undertaken in project villages.

Publication of book on Marine Turtle Conservation and Protection :-

2nd edition of marathi version book Marine Turtle – Conservation and Protection (Mr. Ram Mone and Mr. Bhau Katdare) was published by Mr. Balwant Barve, Trustee, Barve Charitable Trust, Pune.



DVD :-

Publication of DVD :-

A DVD Kasava Tuzyachsathi regarding Marine Turtle Conservation and Protection was published by leading Actress Amruta Subhash.



Kasav Mitra Mandal, Velas :-

Livelihood and Conservation together :-

With the active involvement of a group of locals formed 'Kasav Mitra Mandal' at Velas which is one of our project villages. They provide lodging and boarding facilities to tourists and spare small amount from each transaction as a Marine Turtle Conservation Fund. This fund is utilised for Marine turtle conservation activity in village. Kasav Mitra Mandal at Velas is unique at it's own throughout the country.

Kasav Mitra Mandal has provided Rs. 13,000/- towards Marine Turtle Conservation Fund during 2 days of this years Turtle Festival.



Marine Turtle Knowledge Information Centre (MTKIC) :-

We have developed Marine Turtle Knowledge Information Centre (MTKIC) at Velas. This centre is developed in 20 X 20 size hall in small shade. Entire life cycle of marine turtles have been displayed on the panels using good quality photographs and detail information. The visit to the centre is free.

Turtle Friend Award :-

4th Turtle Friend Award was announced to Mr. Jayant D. Kanade of Maral, for his outstanding work in Marine Turtle Conservation and was issued by the chief guest Actress Amruta Subhash. The Award includes Rs. 5000/- , Trophy & Certificate.



Student Mela :-

We arranged one day Student Mela in 4 project villages namely Dabhol, Kolthare, Kelshi and Anjarla to create awareness amongst students about nature conservation and protection. To create awareness amongst students with the help of lectures, slide show, film shows. Total 916 students attended Student Mela in all above 4 project villages.



Teachers Training :-

Two teachers training programmes were organised. One was in Kutarekar Vidyalay, Panchanadi and second one in Kelshi. To aware the teachers about Turtle conservation project, awareness regarding protection and conservation of biodiversity, mangrove conservation, environment education were the main subjects focused during the programme. Those subjects were discussed with the help of slide show, lecture and film show. Total 142 teachers and non-teachers attended training. They were from Dabhol, Panchanadi, Kolthare, Chikhalgaon, Terevayangani, Agar Vayangani, Onanavase, Ade, Virsai, Velvi, Mandivali, Anjarla, Kelshi schools.



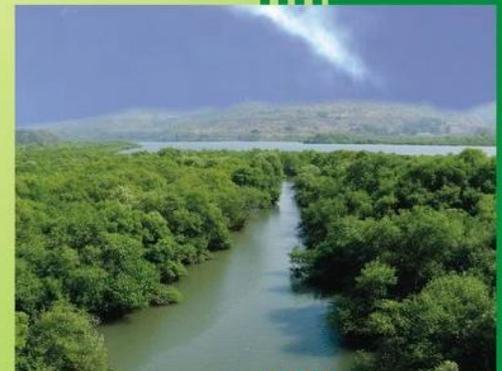
School Nature Club :-

We are promoting the schools form School Nature Clubs comprising of mainly students. Such clubs are visited by us periodically to arrange nature trails and arranged film-shows, slide-shows, lectures, essay and drawing competition to create awareness amongst the students. This year total 451 Schools were attended & 489 Programmes were arranged which benefited to 62000 students in the district.



Mangrove :-

In this year we have worked on **Mangrove Project** with the help of BNHS. We have arranged slide shows, lectures, film show, photograph and poster exhibitions in 140 schools in coastal Villages and 22614 students have attended the same.



White-rumped Vulture :-



Last five years we are working on White-rumped Vulture *Gyps bengalensis* which is classified as critically endangered species. The population is declining by 95 % throughout the India. We have observed false incubation and scarcity of food in Anjarla breeding colony. We arranged feeding to Vultures resulted in 24 % increase in breeding success.

Shri. Shantilal Pokarna Charitable Trust Project :-

Conservation of Marine Turtles on coastal villages of Raigad district.
Project Villages :- 1. Harihareshwar, 2. Maral, 3. Diveagar
Actual protection of turtle nests with the help of locals, awareness programmes, eco-clubs were the programmes in the project.
Successfully protected 55 nests having 6368 eggs in it. Released 2724 hatchlings into the sea.
We have successfully arranged awareness programmes and School Nature Clubs activity in and around project villages. Also arranged training workshops for the volunteers.

Awards and Presentations :-

- "Sanctuary RBS Wildlife Service Award 2008" has been awarded to our secretary Bhau Katdare for his outstanding work through SNM Nature Conservation, he also awarded Konkan Bhushan and Sahajeevan, State level Awards.
- On 15 August 08 Bhau Katdare was interviewed on SAAM Marathi Channel in their opening ceremony celebration. Highlight of this program was Turtle conservation project.
- On 4 October 08 Bhau Katdare gave presentation on "Turtle conservation project on Maharashtra coast" during wild life week celebration programme organised by Forest department.
- On 18 November 08 Bhau Katdare participated in the programme "Phone In" on Aakashvani.
- On 21 December 08 all SNM members were called for interview by All India Radio to discuss on Turtle Protection on Maharashtra Coast, Vulture Project and other projects.
- IBN Lokmat had invited Bhau Katdare for interview.
- Bhau Katdare, SNM Secretary, was honored as President of 22nd Maharashtra Pakshi Mitra Sammelan, at Nandur Madhyameshwar, Nasik.
- Two training programmes were organised at Velas and in Diveagar.
- We have taken 6 workshops in project villages.

We are stepping ahead due to your steadfast support. We are whole heartedly thankful to all the donors, well-wishers of SNM. We also thankful to all NGO's, individuals for kind support in our activities. Thanks !

Proposed Projects :-

- 1) Permanent Marine Turtle Rehabilitation and Research Centre at Velas, Dist.:- Ratnagiri.
- 2) Nature Education Centre.
- 3) Vulture Conservation Centre.
- 4) To locate and protect Indian Swiftlet's breeding colonies in India.
- 5) School Nature Club link in entire Konkan.
- 6) Publication of CD / DVD of flora and fauna.

Fortunately India has rich biodiversity, but looking towards increasing threats to this heavenly gift, it is required to undertake conservation work immediately before its too late. We try our level best but our efforts are limited. Your any kind support will be helpful to step up our work.



SNM Nature Conservation Fund

Rs. 25,00,000/-

Members of SNM contributed Rupees One Lakh and founded this fund. All interest earned on this fund will be used for implementation of different Biodiversity Conservation Projects.



Donate to this fund and help to save our biodiversity

(Exemption under 80G)

You may send cheque or directly deposit in our bank account and inform us accordingly.

Bank : Bank of India, Chiplun, **A/c Name :** Sahyadri Nisarga Mitra,
A/c No. 141110110000077

SAHYADRI NISARGA MITRA, CHIPLUN

Near Laxminarayan Temple, At & Post & Tal.:- Chiplun, Dist.:- Ratnagiri, Maharashtra Pin - 415 605. Tel.: (02355) 253030. **Bhau Katdare :** 9423831700,

Vijay Mahabal : 9423049203, **Jayant Kanade :** (02355) 237105.

E-mail : snmcpn@rediffmail.com, sahyadricpn@gmail.com

Website : www.snmcpn.org

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