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shows that it is more closely related to the sheep. Its close relative is Himalayan Tahr . Nilgiri tahr is distributed in Upper Nilgiris, Coimbatore Division, Anamalai Tiger Reserve, Kodaikanal Wildlife sanctuary, Theni Forest Division, Srivilliputhur Grizzled squirrel wildlife sanctuary and Kanyakumari Forest Division in Tamil Nadu and Eravikulam National park, Chinnar Wildlife sanctuary of Kerala. It inhabits the open montane grasslands and recent observations reveals that they are also found in dry habitats of Amaravathi and Udumalpet ranges and in between 3rd and 9th hairpin bend along the Aliyar-Valparai Road. ATR has second largest population of Nilgiri Tahr in Tamil Nadu after Mukuruthi National park.

A large *Cycas* Tree located

A big *Cycas circinalis* tree was located at Vellimudi, Ulandy range by Thiru V. Ganesan I.F.S., Field Director, ATR and his team during his field visit on 11th December 2016. This plant belongs to the family Cycadaceae and it is endemic to India. *C. circinalis* is a palm like evergreen plant belonging to Gymnosperm group of plants found in the tropical forests. It is a medium sized suckering plant growing up to 3-5 meters tall. They have not undergone much change right from its origin during Mesozoic Era and hence it is considered as living fossil. It is a dioecious plant. It takes nearly 10 years for the plant to reach sexual maturity. Cycas trees are threatened worldwide and all species in this family are listed in IUCN Red list.



The Foundation is exempted under 80G of the Income Tax Act 1961 for donations received in favour of Foundation. Those who want to contribute may contact Executive Director of Anamalai Tiger Conservation Foundation, Tamil Nadu Trust, Pollachi.

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Anamalais

Anamalai Tiger Conservation Foundation
Tamil Nadu Trust, Pollachi.



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From The Field Directors Desk.....

The Anaimalai Tiger reserve (ATR) is very rich biologically with floral, faunal and anthropological uniqueness in the Western Ghats with Himalayan faunal associates like Marten and Sahr. And plant like Rhododendron. The richness of flora, fauna, indigenous people and ecosystem services it provides for humanity qualifies this reserve as "Elephant Reserve", "Tiger Reserve", "Anthropological Reserve", "Primate Sanctuary", "Fish Sanctuary", "Wild Gene Sanctuary" (for economically important wild relatives of cultivated plants), and "Agro biodiversity Sanctuary". It plays a vital role in water security for the adjoining villages and towns and hence it qualifies as "Water Sanctuary" and enhances quality of life as very great "Oxygen Sanctuary". Conservation of Anaimalais is therefore very crucial and vital for physical, mental and spiritual well being for the humanity as a whole. Considering the significance of this reserve, an area of 36.26 square kilometer covering Kariyan shola and Grass Hills part of ATR has been declared as "World Heritage Site" during 2012 by the UNESCO.

Endemic Fishes of Anamalais

A survey initiated by V. Ganeasan I.F.S. while working as Wildlife Warden during 2001-2004 in Indira Gandhi Wildlife sanctuary (currently known as Anamalai Tiger Reserve) shows that there are more

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methods for prey base population estimation, camera trap work, human-animal conflict were demonstrated in the field by Scientists from Wildlife Institute of India, Wildlife Conservation Society and WWF India. Data analysis of prey density, camera trapping were also taught during this workshop. The workshop was attended by Thiru V. Ganesan I.F.S., Thiru A. Periyasamy I.F.S., Thiru R. Arumugam, Biologist, ATR, Thiru K. Ravichandran, Forest Range Officer, Pollachi range and Thiru Murugesan, and Forest Guard, Udumalpet range.

Botanical Explorations



The present Chief Conservator of Forests and Field Director of ATR evinced interest in explorations. During field visits he recorded wild relatives of cultivated plants, balsams, orchids etc. With the help of field staff he has identified several huge trees of rose wood, teak and Manjakadambai in Anamalai Tiger Reserve. It is proposed to create a garden of wild relatives of cultivated plants. A nursery of wild relatives of cultivated plants would also be created near this garden and the plants like wild banana, jack, mango, wild coconut etc will be sold in this nursery for the tourists who visit this garden. The photo shows Musa acuminata, a wild banana recorded in Anamalais.

Elephant Rescued from the Contour Canal in Udumalpet Range

The contour canal that runs parallel to the RF boundary has been renovated recently and the depth of the canal is approximately 7.5 meters. The canal bund on both side is also 90 degree vertical. Wildlife drink water from the canal and sometimes they fall inside the canal while drinking water. Once the animal falls inside the canal it is very difficult for them to escape because of the water velocity. On 02-10-2016, a juvenile elephant aged about 3 years fell inside the contour canal near Thirumrthimalai reservoir. The local people informed the Forest Range officer Thiru Mariyappan. A team of forest officials from Udumalpet range rushed to the spot and after about half a day's effort they rescued the juvenile elephant by breaking the contour canal bank and made a ramp for the elephant to come out. The elephant walked up through the ramp and went inside forest.



Nilgiri Tahr (*Nilgiritragus hylocrius*)



Nilgiri tahr is an endemic goat found in the Western Ghats. It is locally known as varaiyadu. It is the state animal of Tamil Nadu. Even though in physical appearance it resembles the goat but genetic analysis

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plantation can be raised from seed stock. He raised teak plantations in Mount Stuart Block, Sichali valley. He retired as Conservator, Coimbatore during 1925. He died on 12th December 1933. As per Mr. Wood's will, his mortal remains were laid to rest among the teak plantation he has raised near Mount Stuart Bungalow. Wood's grave is visited by Foresters across the country.

Capacity Building for Anti Poaching Watchers



The training programme for field staff and anti-poaching watchers on strengthening anti-poaching was inaugurated by the Field Director on 20th October-2016, when the 1st batch of training commenced. A sensitization training on Man Animal Conflict for Press and Media persons was also inaugurated by the Chief Conservator of Forests and Field Director on 22.10.2016. The training to field staff and Anti-poaching watchers was conducted in 6

batches of 4 days each from 31.10.2016 to 01.12.2016. In each batch, 50 field staff participated. Training was imparted by serving and retired forest officers, veterinarians besides STF personnel, team from WWF and Traffic India etc., It is proposed to conduct regular training programmes to the frontline staff of the department on various issues relating to Wildlife conservation on weekly basis at Attakatty Training Centre and make it a vibrant Centre.

MSTripES Training by NTCA

A training programme on the MSTripES was conducted by the NTCA in Bandipur between 29-08-2016 and 02-09-2016. The Field Director of ATR, Tiruppur Division District Forest Officer and Deputy Director, Pollachi range Forest Officer, Biologist ATR and a Guard from Udumalpet Range have attended the training. Data collection for MSTripES using mobile application was taught during this training. All data entries in the software including camera trap data, perambulation, carnivore signs, prey base sightings, man-animal conflict were taught during the training. Data collection



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than 73 species of fishes are found in Anamalai Tiger Reserve. Out of these, 6 species are new records to Anamalais. These fishes are found in the perennial streams, rivers and reservoirs found in Anamalai Tiger Reserve. There are seven reservoirs constructed across the perennial streams in Anamalai Tiger and the water is used to generate hydroelectric power, for irrigation and to supply drinking water in Coimbatore, Karur, Dindigul and Tiruppur districts, Tamil Nadu. Commercial fish farming is also practiced in these reservoirs. The list of exotic fish species stocked in these reservoirs include Tilapia, Rohu, Catla and Mirgal. Trout fish was introduced by Britishers in higher elevation streams like Konalar in the Grass hills area in Valparai Range for recreational fishing. Exotic Fishes that are reared in the reservoirs invaded into the up streams and pose a serious threat for the survival of indigenous and endemic fish species of Anamalai Tiger reserve.

New Field Director for ATR



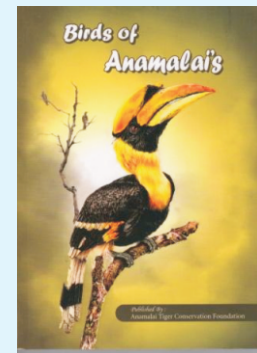
Thiru V. Ganesan I.F.S has joined as new Chief Conservator of Forests and Field Director of Anamalai Tiger Reserve on 08-08-2016 after retirement of Dr. V.T. Kandasamy I.F.S. He is a Member of Indian Forest Service (1993) borne on Tamil Nadu cadre. He has rich experience in the field of forestry and wildlife over a period of three decades including teaching and research. He has contributed to the publication like Forest History of Anamalais and several technical reports and posters on the flora and fauna of Anamalais. His interests include biodiversity conservation, conservation education, human ecology, and indigenous knowledge and tribal welfare. He wrote management plan (2007-2012) for Indira Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary and National park. He wrote the first Management plan for Megamalai Wildlife sanctuary. Before coming here

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he contributed to publications like Hall of Fame, History of Forest Management, History of Wildlife Management in Tamil Nadu. Currently he is working on the biodiversity, anthropological diversity of ATR and plans to bring out interesting publications.

Book on The Birds of Anamalai Tiger Reserve Released

There are more than 350 species of birds found in Anamalais. The list includes resident birds, winter visitors and endemic birds of Anamalais. Nearly 5 % of birds found in Anamalai Tiger Reserve are endemic to Western Ghats. A large number of Indian and foreign tourists visit Anamalais exclusively to see the birds of Anamalais and these birders look out for basic information like the seasonality of birds and their spatial locations in ATR. Hence, the Anamalai Tiger Conservation Foundation has published the book on Birds of Anamalais with details regarding birds spatial and temporal distributions in ATR with colour illustrations by Prof. Gokula, department of zoology, National College, Thiruchirapalli. The book has been authored by the then Field Director Dr. V.T. K andasamy, I.F.S. and Ms. Vidya I.F.S.



Winter Census Completed in ATR



The post-monsoon census on the herbivores, carnivores sign survey, assessment of habitat quality and vulture survey was conducted in ATR between 15-12-2016 and 22-12-2016. Volunteers from NGOs, Colleges, general public, and students participated in this census. Census teams were trained on 15-12-2016 at Attakatti training centre. The teams were provided with equipment like rangefinder, field compass and Global Positioning System (GPS). The result of the census shows that the prey animal numbers more or less remains same.

Water Augmentation for wildlife using solar power in ATR



Water availability is scarce in Anamalais during summer season for wildlife especially along the foothills of Pollachi, Udumalpet and Amaravathi ranges in Anamalai Tiger Reserve. Wildlife living in these areas enter inside agriculture land looking out for water and fodder. They also destroy agriculture crop and property during this process. In order to avoid the intrusion of wildlife into agriculture fields, waterholes have been constructed using solar powered submersible motors. Presently these waterholes have been constructed in three locations in ATR. They are located in Sethumadai in Pollachi range, Kallapuram located in Amaravathi range and Punganodai located in Udumalpet range. Wildlife using these waterholes are monitored using camera trap for 24 X 7 days. Pictures obtained in camera traps

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includes wild animals such as Sambar deer, Gaur, Elephant, Common Gangur, Leopard, Tiger, Sloth bear, Barking deer and Wild-dogs. Video clipping shows that they not only drink water from the waterhole but also feed on the lush growth of green grass around the waterhole due to increase in soil moisture around the waterhole.

A Tiger in Valparai Range died

An adult female tiger was found dead in a private tea estate in Valparai range on 14-07-2016. The major prey base for tiger is Sambar, Spotted deer, old and sick Gaur and Wild pigs and at times tigers do kill and eat animals armed with thick quills like Porcupine. Studies on the food habit of tiger and leopard by scat analysis show that they also kill and eat Porcupines. This tiger was identified as ATRT. Incidentally, this tiger's cub was also got killed while hunting a porcupine in Varattuparai, Valparai range during the year 2015 identified in ATR. The female was one of the identified tigers (ATRT 10).



Renovation of Attakatti Training centre

The Attakatti training centre was renovated with basic facilities like library, an office for Assistant Conservator of Forest who will be in-charge of the training center. Now approximately 75 people can get trained in this training centre. There is boarding and lodging facilities available for the trainees. A library is also available for the trainees for referring books and journals during the training. Hereafter all the trainings for field staffs and census training for the volunteers and guards, Watchers and Foresters in ATR will be conducted in this training centre. So far 22 trainings were conducted in this training centre and 1214 field staff and volunteers, Home Guards and Press reporters have attended these trainings.

Hugo Wood Death Anniversary Day Celebrated on 12th December 2016



Mr. Hugo Francis Andrew Wood popularly known as Hugo Wood was born on 12th June 1870. Mr. Wood was trained in Royal Indian Engineering College located in Coopers Hills between 1891 and 1893. After the training he joined as Assistant Conservator of forests in Madras Presidency. He was a pioneer in proving that teak