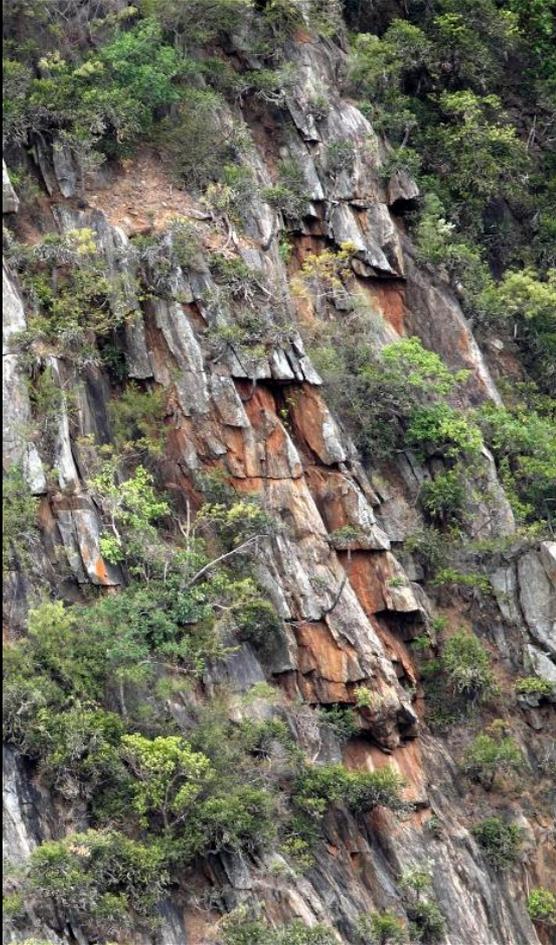


**Sri Lanka Department of Wildlife
Conservation Study Tour
22 Aug. – 1 Sept. 2012**



**Organized by
Asian Nature Conservation Foundation
Bangalore - India**

Schedule



22 nd Aug – Arrival

23 rd Aug – Lecture Sessions at IISC Bangalore

24 th Aug – Lecture Sessions at IISC Bangalore

25 th Aug – Field Visit to Bandipur National Park

26 th Aug – Bandipur National Park

27 th Aug – Field Visit to BRT Tiger Reserve

28 th Aug – BRT Tiger Reserve

29 th Aug – Dep. To Chennai

30 th Aug – Chennai

31 st Aug – Field Visit to Madras Crocodile Bank Trust

1 st Sept - Departure

Details of Lectures

23 rd August 2012



1. Protected Area Management in India by Dr. M.H.Swaminathan.
2. People's Participation in PA management by Dr. Nitin Rai.
3. Birds in India's Protected Areas by Dr.M.B.Krishna
4. Elephant Conservation and Human – Elephant Conflict Management by Mr. Ajai Misra.
5. Understanding and Alleviating Conflict between Endangered Species and the Rural Poor by Dr. M.D.Madhusudan

Details of Lectures

24 th August 2012



1. Ecology and Management of the Asian Elephant by Dr. R.Sukumar.
2. Film Screening – Elephant Days and Nights.
3. GIS/Remote Sensing Applications in PA Management by Dr. Narendran & Dr. Avinash.
4. Eco – Tourism Development and Management by Mr. Anur Reddy IFS.
5. Management of Large Carnivores by Dr. Ravi Chellam.
6. Developing Conservation Technologies by Mr. G.V.Srinivas.

The Lecture Sessions



Bandipur National Park



A Window into
Protected Area
Management and its
Challenges in
Karnataka India.

Managing and Mitigating Human Elephant Conflict



The Sri Lankan officials were shown the various mitigation measures and strategies adopted by the Managers of the Bandipur National Park to effectively tackle this sensitive issue .

The management and maintenance of Fences and trenches were discussed on site.



Anti – Poaching Measures



The participants were then taken into the Park to visit anti – poaching camps located in strategic and vulnerable areas.



Participants interacting with the personnel manning the Anti – poaching Camps and discussing the importance of having women guards as most of the time the people who illegally enter the Park to graze cattle or collect firewood are women.



Interaction with the Field Director – Bandipur National Park.



The Field Director Mr. Pushkar gave a presentation on the Park and the challenges faced by his team in its management. This was followed by an interactive session with the participants.

Visit to Gopalaswamy Betta



The participants were taken to Gopalaswamy Betta and Temple which is a place of historic and religious importance in the Park. The role played by temples in the protection of forested landscapes in ancient times was explained to them.



Birds Eye View of the Landscape



It also offered a bird's eye view of the landscape .



Importance of corridors .



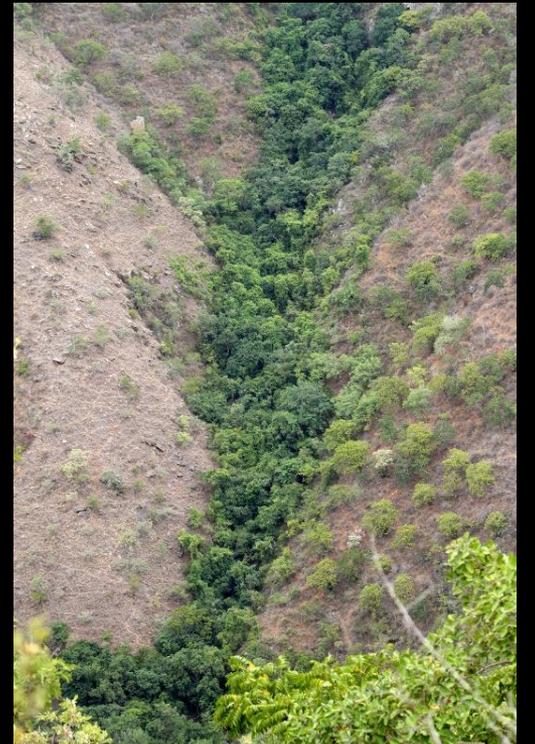
The importance of securing corridors or narrow strips of land connecting larger habitats to facilitate the movement of large mammals like elephants were discussed on site. The participants were shown one such corridor recently secured by the Karnataka Forest Department.



The Moyar Gorge



This particular corridor runs parallel to the Moyar Gorge which acts as a natural barrier to the movement of elephants between the Bandipur National Park and the Madumalai Wildlife Sanctuary. The importance of this corridor was brought starkly to light by a visit to this formidable natural barrier.



The Political Dimension.



The participants interacting with the Forest Minister of Karnataka Mr. CP Yogeshwara, who briefed them on the political dimensions of Protected Area Management.

Some of the wildlife sighted in Bandipur during the tour.





The only cat sighted , much to the disappointment of the participants.



B.R.T Tiger Reserve.



B.R.T Tiger Reserve is located at the cross roads of the Western Ghats and the Eastern Ghats landscape and is an important ecological bridge that provides much needed safe passage to wildlife between these two major bio-geographical realms. Interesting bio-diversity mosaics and peculiarities make B.R.T a treasure trove of bio-diversity.

A Walkthrough



On the evening of their arrival the participants were given an opportunity to walk through a part of the reserve and to get a feel of this unique landscape.



An Interesting Encounter



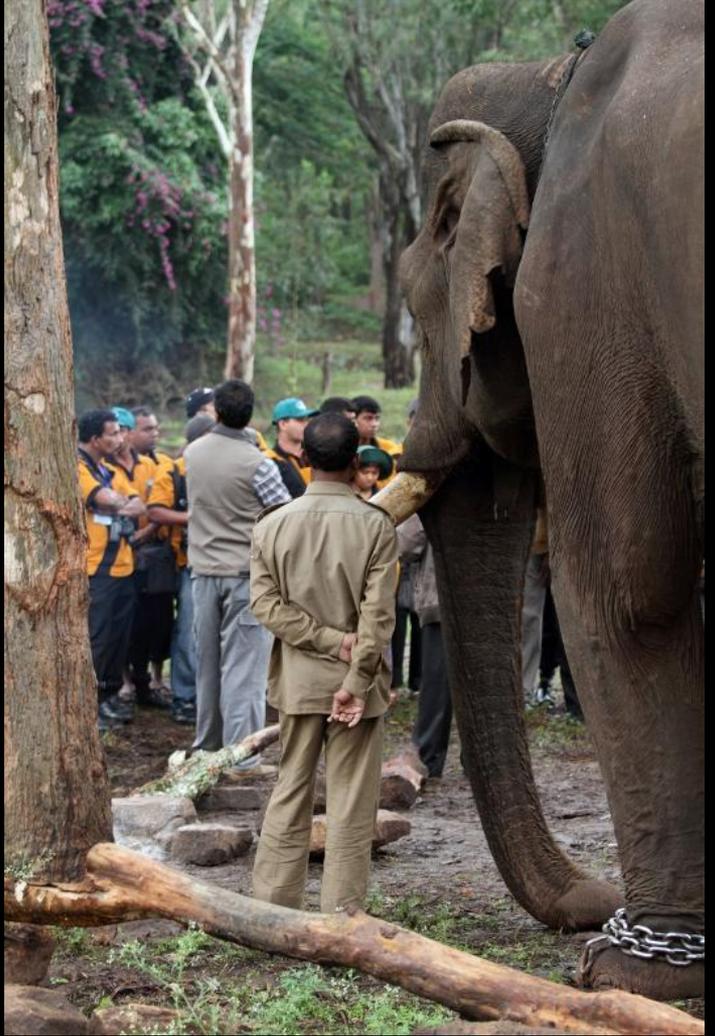
During the walkthrough we had an encounter with a sub-adult bull elephant. Much to the surprise of the participants the bull did not display any sign of aggression towards us. This led to an interesting discussion on the behavior of elephants in secure and disturbed landscapes.



Captive Elephant Management.



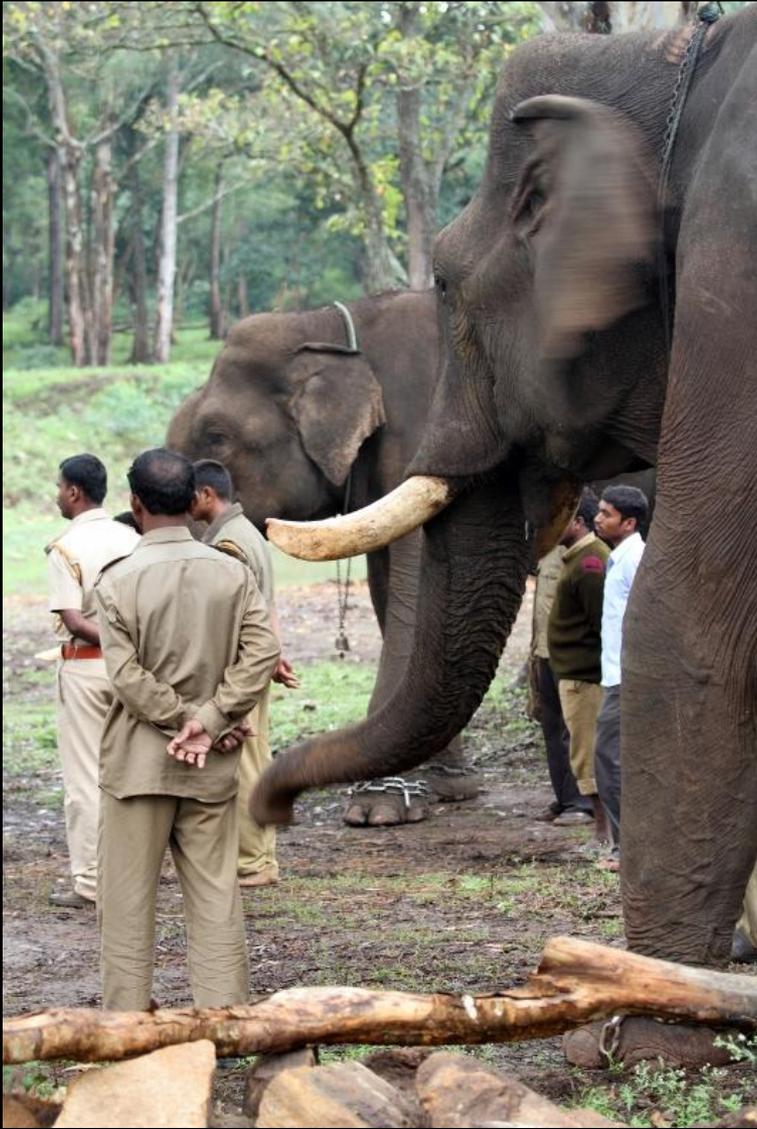
The principals and practices of captive elephant management and welfare as well as the role of captive elephants in Protected Area management , ceremonial duties and in the mitigation of human – elephant conflict were discussed .



Mahouts and their importance.

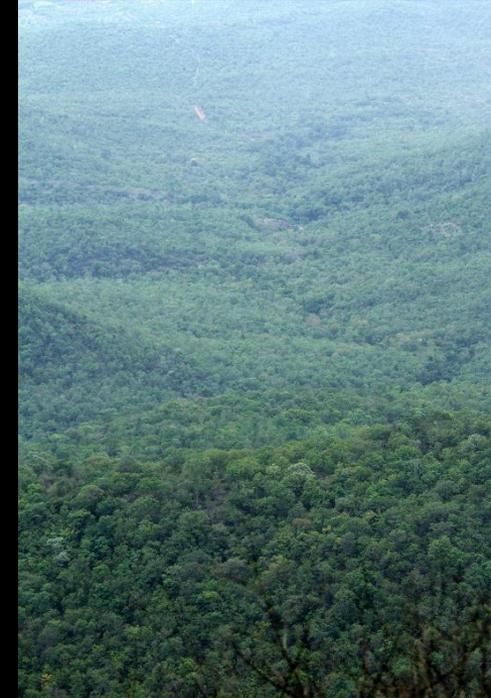


The vital role that mahout play in the management of captive elephants and the importance of mahout welfare as an essential component of captive elephant management & welfare was discussed in depth.

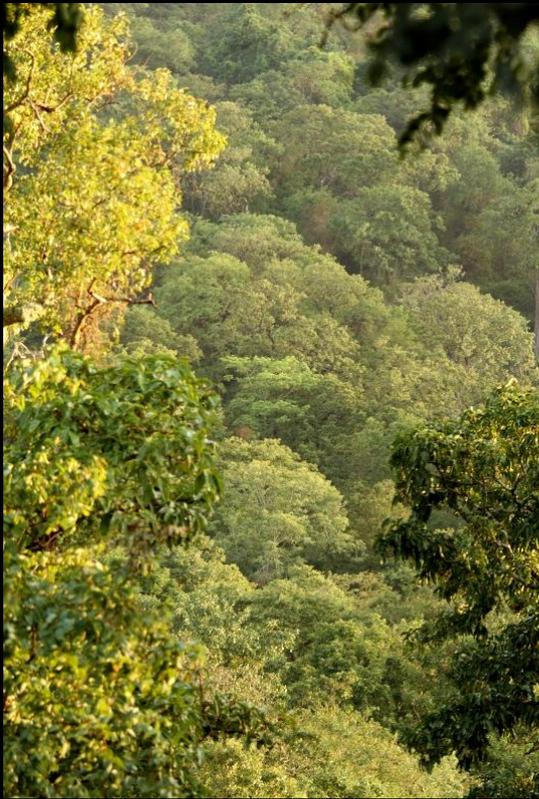


The close bond that exist between an elephant and its mahout could be clearly seen by all.

Into the Park



The next morning the participants were given a short tour of the park by the Range Forest Officer Mr. Khan who explained the various measures taken for prevention of soil erosion , management of waterholes and the maintenance of patrolling roads in high rainfall areas. This was followed by a visit to the Biligiri Ranganatha Temple, from which the park takes its name , for a bird's eye view of the landscape.



Interaction with the Field Director , B.R.T. Tiger Reserve.



The participants were given a presentation by the Field Director Mr. Vijay Mohan Raj who is also a well known wildlife photographer.

People in Parks



The B.R.T. Tiger Reserve has an indigenous tribe called the Sholigas (Shola – forest; iga – belonging to) , who have been living in these forests since ancient times and continue to do so. They are an integral part of the forest and have an intricate understanding of its flora and fauna.

Interaction with Sholigas.



The participants were taken to one Sholiga settlement located in the Park and they got an opportunity to interact with them and learn about the various measures taken by the Karnataka Forest Department for their welfare .



The participants thoroughly enjoyed their visit to the two parks.



Mysore and the train to Chennai.

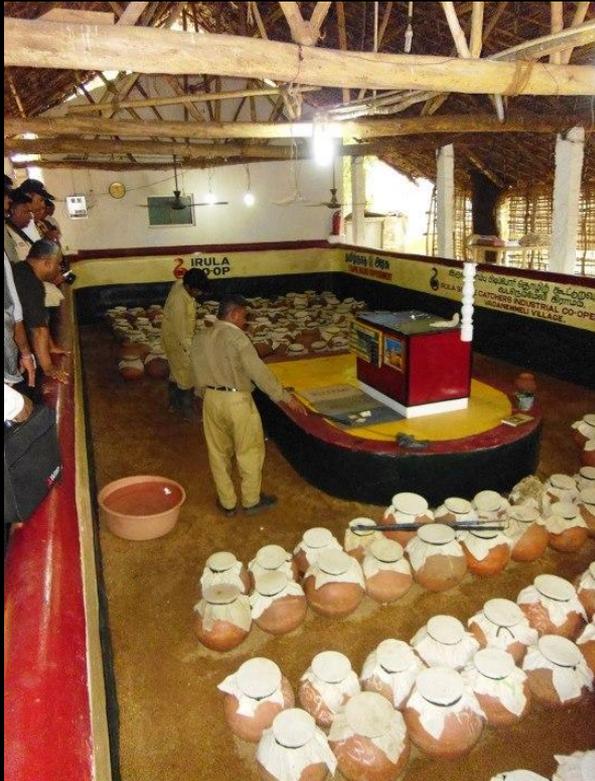


The participants then proceeded to Mysore city for a bit of local sightseeing before boarding the train to Chennai from Bangalore.

Madras Crocodile Bank Trust.



Irula Co – operative.



The MCBT houses the Irula co-operative which is run by the Tamil Nadu Govt. Here the Irulas (a tribe that specializes in handling snakes) extract snake venom from captured snakes before releasing them back into the wild. The venom is used for the manufacture of anti – snake venom.



The participants were given a guided tour of the MCBT facility and briefed about their experience with captive breeding of crocodiles . An interactive session was then conducted with an emphasis on the mitigation of Human – Crocodile conflict and the procedures to be adopted while capturing and translocation .



Award of Certificates



At the end of the day ,at the Madras Crocodile Bank Trust , the participants were awarded certificates in a simple ceremony for successfully completing the Study Tour.

The Participants



A group photograph of the participants taken during the field visit with accompanying ANCF personnel.

The End.



On 1 st September 2012 the participants departed for Colombo.