

Announcement

Reptile and Amphibian workshop at Croc Bank and Agumbe Rainforest...

Madras Crocodile Bank Trust and Hynnale Research Station will present a 4 days monsoon workshop at the Hynnale Research Station at Kuveshi.

Kuveshi has a tremendous volume and diversity of species of wild orchid and fluorescent lichens. The presence of a variety of herpetofauna proves that the biodiversity of the region is rich and the individual ecosystems are in a good state of working order. The herpetofauna includes king cobra, Indian rock python, hump nosed and Malabar pit vipers, draco and Indian monitor lizard, Malabar gliding frog and Maharashtra bush frog amongst others. The forests that surround Kuveshi, fall within the boundaries of Dandeli Tiger Reserve and are home to gaur, tigers, leopards, sambar, spotted deer, mouse deer, barking deer, sloth bear, slender loris to name but a few.



Madras Crocodile Bank Trust:- The Madras Crocodile Bank Trust (MCBT) is one of the first crocodile conservation breeding centres in Asia founded in 1976 to conserve the three species of Indian crocodilians and establish programmes for conservation, education and outreach and propagation of endangered reptiles. Our primary aim is to promote the conservation of reptiles and amphibians on the Indian subcontinent.

Hynnale Research Station:- The research base at Kuveshi is named after the Latin name of the Hump-nosed pit viper (*Hynnale hynnale*). The forest that surrounds the villages of Castle Rock and Kuveshi are the type locality of this species that is endemic to the forests of South India and Sri Lanka. The research station is a part of the Wildlife Research Station network that we are trying to establish across the Northern Western Ghats of India and is focused towards study of lesser-known fauna in the region.

This workshop is mainly to look at the monsoon flora and fauna and to introduce the techniques used to survey mainly the amphibians and reptiles and then to collate the information. The duration of this program will be 4 days (Panjim-Kuveshi-Panjim)

What to expect-

A rainforest eco system that is unique and offers vast prospects for

1. Closely observing, photographing and documenting uncommon and endemic biodiversity.
2. Participation in field surveys.
3. Learning from field ecologists and use of field equipment.
4. Treks in the wild.

And more.....

The cost of this 4 day program is Rs 15,000/-person all inclusive (program fees, accommodation, food and travel Panjim-Kuveshi-Panjim). Participants will have to make their own arrangements to reach Panjim on the morning of 11th August 2012 and to return from Panjim on 15th August 2012.

We do hope you will join us in this journey of discovery and learning and also avail of this opportunity to contribute to the conservation efforts of Madras Crocodile Bank Trust and Hynnale Research Station!

NOTE: 50% of the fees will have to be paid in advance as a registration fee. The registration fee is non refundable. Please expect long days out in the field with lot of walking.

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