

Management Training at the ITC Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust last spring and selected "Population Decline in the Golden Langur : Is it Time to run the PHVA" for his project for fulfillment of Diploma in the course. In his project Jihosuo described the plight of the Golden Langur and ran a simulation model using VORTEX.

Golden Langur (*Trachypithecus geei*) is known only on adjacent borders of India and Bhutan and no other locality or country. The seven recognised sub-populations consist of from about 50 up to 4000 individuals or an estimated 5000 individuals in both countries together. Forest destruction, leading to fragmentation and degradation of habitat for this species which, along with political unrest in India, account for its reported decline in numbers and in distribution. The South Asian Primate CAMP Workshop 2002 recommended that there should be a coordinated effort to manage all the small isolated populations so they can breed with other populations to maximize genetic diversity. The species was assessed as Endangered in the CAMP and is listed as Endangered in the 2004 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

In the former IUCN Policy Statement on Captive Breeding which was revised relatively recently, it was stated that management actions such as captive breeding should be undertaken while populations were still in thousands rather than waiting until the species is on its last legs, so to speak.

In this case, when compared to the Hoolock Gibbon, Golden Langur is in good shape ! But what if a PHVA workshop had been conducted for Hoolock Gibbon twenty years ago, when some forests still stood between the dozens of tiny isolated populations, and predicted what we know to be true today. In point of fact, the best use of a PHVA is probably as Biswas has envisioned it ... to be done while there is still time to act meaningfully ! Jihosuo has requested CBSG, South Asia to assist him in organising a PHVA and we will do so if he can get the Forest Department of Assam in India on board. Management of small populations should begin before they are too small to save, which may well be the case with Hoolock Gibbon, without very intensive man management indeed. Watch this page.

An overview of the book-Mohan pyare ka safed Dastavej

Anonymous

Mohan pyare ka safed Dastavej is a narrative in Hindi on the life of 'Mohan' the first white tiger to be captured live and put into captivity and later on who went on to become the progenitor of present white tiger population in zoos worldwide.

Author Jugnu Shardey a keen wild lifer and a veteran Hindi journalist has utilised all his creativity in writing this book which can be noted from the first page of the book itself.

Some of the important features of the book are:-
The author has addressed Mohan as the Ambassador for the Tiger species in general and has put before the readers, what contribution this animal has in protection of the ecosystem and overall biodiversity in general. The author has touched upon the current issues like conservation of forests, Project Tiger its success and failures, role of zoos and lastly the interdependence of forests, animals and mankind. He has through his narration has tried to draw the attention of the common masses and the policy makers for ensuring the longterm conservation of the Tigers and the Biodiversity of our country.

The language used is so simple that hardcore scientific materials like the studbook information, which I believe cannot be deciphered by a common man, has been narrated in such a way that even a small school kid can understand the pedigree details produced in the book and of course the total pedigree chart of Mohan and his descendants.

The illustrations used in the book and the overall layout is very eye catching, which I am sure will attract readers from all age classes. It is a must read book for all, even who do not have much command over the Hindi language.



This book has been published by M/s Rainbow Publishers and each copy is priced at Rs.100 (paperback) and Rs.200 for Hand bound. Interested readers can procure it directly from them by placing orders at rainbow_p@vsnl.net