



SIKKIM STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD

GIST OF ACTIVITIES for 2006-2010

The Sikkim State Biodiversity Board (SSBB) was notified in March 2006 with its own Act and Rules called "Sikkim State Biological Diversity Rules, 2006" under Chairmanship of Hon. Chief Minister of Sikkim. Upon receipt of fund for infrastructure from NBA in 2008, SSBB was enabled to establish office in the Biodiversity Cell, Research, Extension and Education Circle of the Department of Forest, Environment & Wildlife Management, Government of Sikkim at Forest Secretariat Annexe Building, Deorali, Gangtok. **[Budget: Rs. 10 lakhs over 4 years]**

- **Wall and desk Calendars for 2009 titled "Winged Wonders: Butterflies of Sikkim"** depicting 64 species in respective families. These were widely disseminated especially to schools throughout the state and all relevant institutions, as also eco-tourism institutions such as Travel Agents Association of Sikkim (TAAS).
- **Capacity building programmes**, workshops, sensitization, awareness and training related to biodiversity of Sikkim and conservation issues with local Environmental NGOs and other departments, media, etc.
- **Published two field guides** with detailed colour photographs in collaboration with BSI. Both books were released during Forest Centenary closing on December 2009 and International Rhododendron Festival & Conference in March-April 2010 by Hon. Chief Minister of Sikkim Dr. Pawan Chamling.
 1. **'Mushrooms of Sikkim-1: Barsey Rhododendron Sanctuary'** (ISBN: 978-81-909680-0-3) by Dr. Kanad Das
 2. **'Ferns and Fern-Allies of Sikkim'** ISBN: (978-81-909680-1-0) by Dr. B. S. Kholia.
- **Collection and compilation** of all past/ongoing research studies on biodiversity in Sikkim underway.
- **Collaboration with environmental NGOs** TMI-India and Society for Better Environment in programs for mass awareness regarding Biodiversity, Access and Benefit Sharing and its sustainable use at Khamdong, Singtam, Central Pendam & surrounding villages and small local committees formed.
- Database creation of Biodiversity underway and all Range Officers given task of **checking the Nepali translation of Peoples' BD Register Draft**, by Dr. Ghanashyam Sharma through Member Secretary SBB.
- **Celebration of International Biodiversity Day 2009** involving Forest, Agri/Horti/Flori Dept, Sikkim Anti-Rabies and Animal health Association (SARAH) Division of the Department of Animal husbandry, Livestock, Fisheries and Veterinary Services (AHLF&VS), EDCs and some local NGOs highlighting Invasive Alien Species including stray/feral dogs and role of government departments and individuals or institutions in their management and control.
- **Facilitated 10 local researchers** enrolment in Bioresources Research project of ATREE/NCBS, Bangalore
- **Compiled, edited and published Forest Centenary Souvenir: 1909-2009**
- **Organized two major Forest Centenary Mobile Photo Exhibitions at Saramsa, East Sikkim and Yumthang, North Sikkim** in collaboration with Namgyal Institute of tibetology's Dr. Anna Balikci-Denjongpa, Anthropologist.
- **Assisted with recognition of Centennial Butterfly Scarce Jester *Symbrenthia silana* and Centennial Tree White Cherry.**
- **Heritage Trees:** Assisted in publicizing search in Sikkim
- Compiled lists of **Threatened Species of Flora and Fauna** with help of local experts.
- **Published book 'Biodiversity of Raj Bhavan** (ISBN: 978-81-909680-2-7; full colour hard-bound)
- **Bird Tourism Charter release in Sikkim through Dr. Asad Rahmani, Director BNHS** among local eco-tourism entrepreneurs, students and NGOs;
- **Facilitated Meetings with visiting scientists** (Birds: Dr. Farah Ishtiaq, Dr. Chris Bowden; Butterflies: Dr. Krushnamegh Kunte, Dr. Deepa Agashe) and Sikkim Govt. College staff and students
- **International Year of Biodiversity (IYB 2010):** One-species-per-day in local media, the first initiative in the country for mass awareness and publicity.