**CONSERVATION OF NATIONAL BIRD OF INDIA**

Peafowl has been declared as the national bird of India in 1963. Peafowls are found in entire peninsula. As it is found prevailingly in whole India, it is apt that it is our national bird. These birds are generally found in forest, desert grasslands and decdous forests and besides the water resources. Our project site is Thoothukudi district, Tamilnadu India. Here prosopis (Thorny trees) dense semidry thorny forests are seen. Peafowls are found in plenty. Generally peafowls are omnivorous they feed plant parts, seeds & fruits, insects &repitileans. These birds rapidly go down in number because

1. Poachers kill the birds for the purpose of feathers and oils.

2. As the birds destroy crops, they are poisoned and killed by agricultural community.

3.Thorny prosopis forests are now levelled to become domestic flats by Real Estate owners/Builders.

In Phesant family male is called as peacock, and the female is called as peahen. These birds have been listed in schedule I. In wild life protection Act 1972, these species are already in legal protection, but these peafowls are being destroyed continually. Hence it is our bounden duty to protect this National bird from its destruction. Thus project activities are planned in many ways. Naturally the awareness about the national bird among the community especially agricultural/Poachers will be awaken thro street theatre/seminar/IEC Materials.

To save endangered national bird peacock Govt. has banned trade of its feathers. Envt. minister expressed concern that the demand for the feathers outstrips the supply leading to rampant poaching of the birds for the purpose of their feathers. To initiate the action the ministry of proposed amend section 43 (3) and 44 of the wild life protection act 1972 which relative to transfer and sale of peacock feather. But the act allows domestic trade in feathers for articles that these are naturally shed. The present amendment avoids / blocks the killing by catching thro various traps / nets and with arrows / guns. This act also prohibits the exporting the peacock feathers.

Peacock also being called peafowl is a healthy and vibrantly colored birds belong to the pheasant namely is also the natural bird of India. The peacock flaunts a gleaming blue Breast and neck and a spectular bronze freen train of around zoo elongated feathers. It is capable of extending its tall erect live far as ostentatious display. The male peacock is mostly known for the long train of elongated upper tall convert feathers. That resembles colorful eyespots. The train covers almost 60% of the total body length. Along with the large wing species the tall makes life.

Generally male species are taller broader in heightens lengthly in growth (200-225cm) females are generally short (90-100cm). In size and colour of the Peacock varies according to its habitations.

**SANCTUARIES :**

In India, some for peacocks separate sanctuaries have been situated a Bankapura and Adichunchanagiri in Karnataka. Because of the large percentage Govt.of India has formed larger sanctuaries in the above two sites. In every sanctuary more than 1000 national birds are present . In our South Tamilnadu, National birds are found larger in number.

**CULTURE :**

In our Indian culture about Peacock many of the Hindu Religious ethics and myths have been written in language sanskrit, In this language peacock is called as “ Mayura”. When we discern the meaning of the name “My” means “ Killer” (Killer of snakes). This flying bird is always found related the God and Goddes of Hinduism. Especially Peacock is the prominent vehicle of Lord Muruga & also associated with his father Lord Shiva.

**ETHOLOGY :**

Among the peacock, males dispayed the features in a specialized manner, these feathers are meant as tail. This tail is blackish brown in colour and short in the beginning. During the second year of feathers begin to grow. For the complete growth of feathers it takes 4 to 5 years.

Usually peacocks produce the peculiar type of sound, this sound exceeds during breeding season. The peacocks provide this loud sound to the protection from predators. Generally peacocks are living in the dense / dry forests, and pigens tall trees / hill areas. In our project site, Peacocks are very much associated with the prosopis trees dry forests. In different locations when survey is taken it is found the male & female population ratio is vary either 1:2 / 2:1.

**CONSERVATION PRACTICES:**

In our project district, the Poachers are mainly abundanty found. They are illegally smuggling the forest birds / mainly eggs. Fortunately, both our central and state Govts. have offered the opportunity thro soft loans / subsidys to perform mainly entrepreneur activities instead of pouching . But among the community, the desire of getting peacock feathers is found prevalent.

Govt. must ban the peacock feathers trade in temples / bus terminals. If it is stopped we can avoid destruction of species.

In our project area crops / fieds are eaten by peacock. Because of this in some places ( in Ottapdaram and Vilathikulam taluks of Thoothukudi district) by poinsonous food they are killed. To avoid this “Grains damage compensation subsidy” can be announced especially in peacock predominant area thro agricultural department.

In order to reduce poaches habits, forest officials divert their attitude by providing enough counseling and suitable entrepreneurship trainings / soft loan/ subsidy for their better livelihood.

Creating the “ small natural habit” mainly water cement tanks / tubs/ sumps. It must be made in the predominant roosting sites.

Birds living in majority level at sites of real estate. Investment must be prohibited by Govt. Town plan officials. (By this way migration of birds into this town and in domestic areas can be avoided).

**PROJECT ACTIVITIES:**

“Peacock Protection Force (PPF)” is formed by project team , agricultural community, students and forest officials and wild life crime bereau officials..

In every three month (quarter) “ Brain storm session (BSS)” must be convened with the active participation of Govt. Forest officials, Town plan officials NGO”s ornithologists, bird watch clubs / farmers association / Nabard bank and Lead bank officials.

Peacock Environment education campaign (PEEC) must be convened for farmers clubs / associations / for every months (12 PEEC for 1 year)

* Arrange the inter action meet with Govt. Forest officials/ “ Wild life crime bereau officials” and the local Agricultural community.
* Extension of wild life crime control bereau enforcement in Thoothukudi district. (Already available at Ramanathapuram district for Gulf of manner coral Islands).

This PEEC peacock in the roosting sites school children/ and also committee (farmers kids) (12 PEEC school x 12 community)

For peacock counseling programme and livelihood training programme must be convened for poachers at quarter (12 counselling sessions x 4 livelihood trainings) and also interaction shall be arranged between poachers and Bankers for providing soft loan.

Building / Errecting / Developing “Small natural habitats” for cement tanks / tubs sumps for water at roosting sites.

**PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE ON BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION / ENVIRONMENTAL PROMOTION / NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PROJECT**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| YEAR | Financial assistance by / through | Target Group | Programme | Achievements |
| 1998 | UNDP thro MSSRF | Fishermen | Coral reef islands conservation.  Participatory Rural appraisal at 21 coral reef depended villages | |  | | --- | | - 21 PRA done | | - Need / Problem identified | |
| 1998- 1999 | Govt. of India, Ministry of Environment & MSSRF | Fishermen | National Environmental awareness camp (NEAC) | Minor projects |
| 2007- 2013 | Govt. of India, Marine Product Export Development Authority (MPEDA), Net Fish | Fishermen | Marine conservation, Safety & Hygienic – programmes | Minor projects |
| 1999 | UNDP thro MSSRF | Coastal community | Release of fishermen awareness quarterly journal | 4 Journal released per year |
| 2001 | UNDP thro MSSRF | Coastal community | Coral reef islands conservation- Community mobilization for Implementation of implantation for Artificial reef and setup of Fishery Bi products industry | 2 Federation register for 2 projects |
| 2007 | UNDP thro GOMBRT | Coastal community | Coral reef islands conservation Participatory Rural appraisal at 21 coral reef depended villages | |  | | --- | | - 21 PRA done | | - Need / Problem identified | |
| 2008 – 2009 | Sterlite Industries | Community | Clean and Green project | - District level Mother NGO for 10 implementing NGO's 100 scavengers trained |
| 2009 | UNDP, Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve Trust (GOMBRT) | School awareness | Coral reef islands conservation Awareness Programme | - 5 schools - 500 students awareness created |
| 2013 | Global Giving | Conservation Bats | Conservation of Bats in the International year of Bats | - Bats roosting places conserved |
| 2013 | Better place | Conservation of coral reef | Coral reef conservation continuous training done | Coral reef conserved |
| 2013 | World Bank through Govt of Tamilnadu ( Department of Forest) | Tamilnadu bio diversity and Greening Prjoect (TBGP ) | Awarness PRA and cultural group and Tree plantation | Planted 50, 000 trees sapplings |
| 2013 - 2014 | Govt of India through Govt of Tamilnadu TWAD - CCDU - HRD | Natrural Resource Management | Natural resources ( Drinking water conservation) Conducting awareness for drinking water to PRI, VWSC and Community | Drinking water Conserved |
| 2014 | Govt of Tamilnadu through Department of Environment | Natrural Resource Management | Anti plastic Camps | Awareness created |

**PROJECT PERIOD : 1 YEAR ( AUG 2014 TO JULY 2015)**

**BUDGET**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| S.no | Activities | Target community/Site | Indian money | U.S.Dollar |
| 1. | Formation of Peacock protection Force (PFF) | Project team , Agri. community , students, Forest / wild officials | 15000 | 250 |
| 2. | Brain storm session (BSS) 1 for each quarter (3 months) 4 prog | Farmers,forest officials,Ornitholigists,Bankers | 60000 | 1000 |
| 3. | Peacock Envt.education camps (PEEC) (12 camps) | Famers, Students | 15000 | 250 |
| 4. | Counselling session for Poachers (24 serious) | Poachers | 30000 | 500 |
| 5. | Alternative livelihood training for Poachers | Poachers | 60000 | 1000 |
| 6. | Creation of small natural habitat in roosting sites | Peacock roosting site | 300000 | 5000 |
| 7. | Awareness thro street theatre programme (Rs.5000 x 12 programes) | Farmers,Students | 60000 | 1000 |
| 8. | Awareness thro IEC materials | Farmers.Students | 30000 | 500 |
| 9. | Lobby with Agri.officials for Grain damage compensation subsidy | Farmers | 30000 | 500 |
| **Total** | | | **6,00,000** | **10,000** |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S.no** | **Activities** | **Breakup** | **Indian money** | **U.S.Dollar** |
| 1. | Formation of Peacock protection Force (PFF) | $25 for formation of peacock protection force | 15000 | 250 |
| 2. | Brain storm session (BSS) 1 for each quarter (3 months) 4 prog | $50 for conducting brain storm session | 60000 | 1000 |
| 3. | Peacock Envt.education camps (PEEC) | $15 to give peacock envt. education camp | 15000 | 250 |
| 4. | Counselling session for poachers | $10 to give counseling session for poachers | 30000 | 500 |
| 5. | Alternative livelihood training for poachers | $75 will train poachers for alternative livelihood | 60000 | 1000 |
| 6. | Creation of small natural habitant in roosting sites | $150 to create small natural habitant in roosting sites | 300000 | 5000 |
| 7. | Awareness thro street theatre programme | &100 to give awareness thro street theatre prog | 60000 | 1000 |
| 8. | Awareness thro IEC materials | $20 to print awareness materials | 30000 | 500 |
| 9. | Lobby with Agri. officials for Grain damage compensation subsidy | $30 for Lobby with agri. officials for Grain damage compensation subsidy | 30000 | 500 |
| **Total** | | | **6,00,000** | **10,000** |