

CBSG, South Asia and CBSG Related activities - August 2007- Oct 2008

Workshops/ Conferences conducted :



Nepal - Field Techniques (Volant and Non-Volant Small Mammals): Venue - Nepal Staff Administrative College, Kathmandu and Institute of Forestry, Pokhara. 19-24 June 2007. Sponsored by Chester Zoo, Bat Conservation International and Knowsley Safari Park. A six-day hands-on training in survey and monitoring methods for conservation research on Volant and Non-Volant small mammals was conducted. The training programme was organized by ZOO, WILD, CBSG South Asia and relevant taxon networks (CCINSA (chiroptera) and RICINSA (rodent and insectivores) hosted by NATURE, Kathmandu and Bats Friends,

Pokhara, Nepal. The didactic components of the small mammal training was covered in Kathmandu for 3 days so that many students from nearby universities could attend and an advanced component for experienced field researchers also for 3 days was conducted in Pokhara. Daily field trips to caves and other habitat for bat were organized there. Participants (42) from Nepal, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Scotland received certificates. Resource persons, Prof. Paul Racey from Aberdeen University, Mike Jordon, and Dr. Sripathi Kandula, Scientific Chair of CCINSA from Madurai Kamraj University in Tamil Nadu.

Amphibian Biodiversity Conservation Course (ABC Course) : The Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust (DWCT) ran an Amphibian Biodiversity Conservation (ABC) training in India, at Periyar from 10-16 December 2007 in collaboration with AArk committed ANSA (Amphibian Network of S. Asia, ZOO and WILD. The 7-day course was conducted in Bamboo Grove, Periyar Tiger Reserve and included 30 participants and 7 resource persons from UK and India.

Participants came from Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, Netherlands and India. Subjects ranged broadly from global and regional diversity, status, prioritization, threats, diseases, husbandry, and education to research techniques. The objective of the course was to identify and network serious amphibian biologists in various organizations of the region to be in action mode in case of emergencies like that of the Panama situation where hundreds of species of amphibians went extinct due to the debilitating effects of chytrid fungus. At the end of the course, the participants designed a poster for the guides of the Periyar Tiger reserve to use in their work and to teach visitors about amphibian diversity of the reserve. Organisers and sponsors were DWCT, DICE (University of Kent), Wildlife Institute of India, Central Zoo Authority, Amphibian Ark, CBSG South Asia, ZOO WILD and ANSA (Amphibian Network of South Asia).



Planning and bonding workshop for country partners in Educator Training in HECx for India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal

This workshop was held from 11-15 February 2008 inviting country partners of our ambitious educator training project on the topic of Human Elephant Conflict HEC but named actually Coexistence HECx It is a series of 12 workshops in four South Asian countries. It was organized by ZOO and WILD who are

in the process of designing educator training for the Project. In this meeting and in the educator training itself, CBSG tools in facilitation and conflict resolution have been and will be liberally utilized. Janaki Lenin, recent graduate of CBSG facilitation training, had her maiden experience as a facilitator at this important preparatory meeting. The planning/bonding meeting was sponsored by Elephant Family and the four-country training workshops are being sponsored by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Asian Elephant Fund and various US and European zoos as financing and training partners in the different countries.

The educator workshops, which will follow a similar format of the highly successful Teachers for Tigers and Helping Hoolock Gibbons Hang On, both sponsored several times by USFWS is a project that was more or less invited by the donor. The larger part of the Planning and Bonding workshop was devoted to brainstorming various aspects of HEC and what local people need to know in order to avoid conflict. In the workshop it was also ascertained how different approaches and chapters for each country need to be. A survey form for understanding HEC afflicted people was planned by the meeting with questions to know about their attitudes and levels of knowledge of elephants was created by the workshop and is being sponsored in all the countries by Twycross Zoo Conservation fund. The group discussions, workshop games, outings, visit to HEC villages helped ZOO/WILD staff and country partners to get socialize and bond with one another. The workshops will be held in latter 2008 and early 2009.

CBSG/ RSG Workshop & SAZARC Conference

The 8th South Asian Zoo Association for Regional Cooperation and 5th CBSG RSG meeting was conducted in February 2008 in Ahmedabad, India organized by ZOO/WILD/Kamla Nehru Zoo-AMC/Forest Dept of Gujarat/GEER Foundation, 29 Jan-6 Feb 2008. CBSG RSG meeting was conducted at GEER Foundation in Gandhinagar. There were explanations of both specialist groups followed by meaningful working groups on increasing prey base in satellite lion areas, and Gharial and Leopard conflict. The Forest Department of Gujarat and the GEER Foundation hosted and attended in good numbers. After the SAZARC meeting, the Forest Department hosted the whole group in a tour at Junagadh and Gir Forest.



The Eighth SAZARC annual conference was conducted for five days of which the whole morning and part of most afternoons consisted of training on the topic of zoo legislation. Participants were from zoos and governments of seven countries. Resource persons were from India, USA, UK and South Africa. Every country gave a presentation on where they were with zoo legislation, which was itself instructive as all countries have progressed. Of special note was the attendance of Dr. Brij Gupta of Central Zoo Authority India, who spent a whole day expertly reviewing the Indian zoo legislation scenario for the South Asian zoo participants. Indian zoo directors delivered presentations on their experience with CZA.



On the basis of the presentations, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh participants worked up an feasible action plan for their country to take the next steps, also suggesting that SAZARC could be useful to them in finalising the process. A decision was taken by the meeting that SAZARC would adopt official Standards based on the WAZA zoo improvement tool.

There were various outings including a visit to the Ahmedabad Municipality Corporation's various nature facilities. Also a singular experience was the meeting of Gujarat's dynamic Chief Minister, Shri. Narendra Modi, who took such interest in our conference and

spent one full hour speaking with us.

After the conference we were hosted on a tour to Gir Forest where everyone saw Gir lions in the wild and in captivity at the Safari Park maintained adjacent to Gir. The Participants had a wonderful discussion on Gir's management with the Conservator of Forest at the Forest Rest House over the achievements and problems of the park. The Sakkarbaug Zoo director hosted and directed our tour to Junagadh historic places including the famous ancient Ashoka Stone where Ashoka declared "abstention from killing animals, abstention from hurting living beings" thus producing the first official document on animal welfare. The conference also visited the 140 year old Sakkarbaug Zoo founded for displaced Gir Lions, and saw their amazing, beautiful and modern enclosures.

External sponsors: Chester Zoo, UK; Benindi Fund, UK; Universities Federation for Animal Welfare, UK; Thrigby Hall Wildlife Gardens, UK; Awley People and Wildlife, France; Knowsley Safari Park, UK; Apenheul Primate Park, Netherlands; Association of British Wild Animal Keepers, UK; Saint Louis Zoo, USA; Paignton Zoo, UK; Metro-Toronto Zoo, Canada; Skansen-Akvariet, Sweden. **Local Sponsors:** Forest Department of Gujarat; GEER Foundation, Gandhinagar; Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation; Indian Inovatix Ltd; Helpro Health Products Ltd; Zydus AHL; Rakesh Pharmaceuticals; Jaldhara Super Star Amusement Pvt Ltd.

INCEST -- Intensive Conservation Education Skills Training

ZOO and SANIZE (South Asian Network of International Zoo Educators) use the output of CBSG process conservation workshops and also CBSG facilitation tools extensively in developing educational materials and conducting educator training. A recent development is to invite individuals who regularly order our materials to our office for an intensive training in how to use the materials more effectively. These training modules are intended to provide educators with effective and easy-to-use teaching tools featuring a wildlife theme, which they could apply to any topic about which they need to teach. The training also provides a source of effective



activities and teaching strategies to reach children. Simple evaluation tools for assessing the efficacy of different techniques are also taught. Our objective in all these activities is to help educators improve their teaching by using active-learning techniques which produce more effective delivery and improved response from learners. Several of these workshops were conducted in the past year, each with a different target audience, style and venue. Each training had a different agenda to reflect the needs of the groups invited, as well as to serve ZOO's own needs, one of which was to test some new material. We introduced it over the 3 workshops. The training programme may revolve around a particular species, such as Sloth bear, subject for the last training. ZOO trialed a newly developed teaching guide featuring Sloth bears, sponsored by ALERTIS, Netherlands. The guide includes games, drama, mapping activity, field activities, role play, the work of conservation biologists, activities, debate, mock CAMP and PHVA exercises, evaluation and other topics.

Other projects :

South Asian Species Red List information : South Asian Species (bat, rodent, orchids, primates) Red List information compiled and given to add in a master database of all National Red Lists creating by Zoological Society of London. This online database will be launched at the World Conservation Congress in Barcelona by October 2008 and is intended to provide a focal point for National Red Listing. By making this data readily stored, managed and accessible, countries will be able to learn from each other in creating and updating Red Lists, and that this will help towards effective conservation planning.

Resuscitation of LTM, Asiatic Lion and Sloth Bear International Studbooks : CBSG South Asia has been trying to find an appropriate opportunity to revive the International Studbooks of LTM, Asiatic Lion and Sloth Bear which had been without a studbook keeper for some time. Unfortunately the perfect opportunity came just after the studbooks were cancelled by CIRCC. The international

conference conducted in Feb 08 by Central Zoo Authority entitled "India's Conservation Breeding Initiative" in New Delhi 21-24 Feb 2008. Before this meeting CBSG South Asia Convenor, S. Walker worked with people in USA and Europe who were interested in taking up the Studbooks and tried to insure their presence, even funding the airfare of one by contacting zoos which held the species. Walker and WAZA President Gordon Reid had mooted the idea of having appropriate and interested Indians take up the ISBs after some period of mentorship by these individuals and secured government permission for same. The individuals who put an application for the studbooks were Scott Carter for LTM, Neil Dorman for Asiatic Lion, and Jose Kok and Lydia Kolter for Sloth Bear. The Indian counterparts are Mysore Zoo for LTM, Sakkarbaug Zoo for Asiatic Lion and Kartick Sathyanarayan for Sloth bear. The applications were provisionally accepted the Population Management Committee of WAZA (ne CIRCC) pending the submission of a Global Species Management Plan for each species. CBSG South Asia is keeping in touch with individuals on both sides of the world to insure that this does not slip away again.

Animal release data base of South Asia

An animal release data base was begun and details were collected from various sources. So far we have about 400 recorded animal releases in the data base. A questionnaire was also sent to RSG, South Asia members, CBSG South Asia members and SAZARC to collect data on release of wild animals.

ZOOS' PRINT Magazine and Journal and ZOO ZEN : ZPM celebrates 23 years regular publication. The first monthly zoo magazine in Asia, ZOOS' PRINT includes both a magazine ZPM and a scientific journal ZPJ. The magazine containing articles on zoo management, research, education, animal behaviour, news & notes. ZPJ (taking a break since December and to be resuscitated as the Journal of Threatened Taxa) was abstracted in 26 Abstracting agencies. Both can be accessed on www.zoosprint.org. Sponsored by UFAW, Chester Zoo, advertisers and subscribers. Contact Editor, Sanjay Molur at herpinvert@gmail.org. ZOO ZEN is very practical publication of ZOO which celebrated twenty-two years regular monthly publication in August this year. It was founded along with ZOO to provide a way of sending published material to zoo personnel who could not access it easily otherwise. This past years topics have included: Reactions, a question and answer forum on crisis management in Zoos, Environmental Enrichment and "Quality of Life" articles from Animal Welfare Journal, CITES articles. Sponsored by Universities Federation for Animal Welfare and subscriptions.

Taxon Networks :

all taxon networks are based on the processes and principles of CBSG and all works done with aim of conducting conservation exercises such as Training Workshops, PHVAs and CAMPs and using CBSG facilitation, planning and conflict resolution tools to collect accurate information and solve sticky problems. The various networks are

Amphibian Network of S. Asia: ANSA was restructured in 2007 with the appointment of Dr. Karthik Vasudevan as the Scientific Chair along with Sanjay Molur, who continues as Technical/Administrative Chair of the regional network. ANSA organised a 7-day training course on Amphibian Biodiversity Conservation at Periyar Tiger Reserve, Thekkady, Kerala in collaboration with Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, Kerala Forest Department and Periyar Foundation.

In August 2007 ANSA participated in the AArk education programme distributing a set of educational materials for distribution to education partners in the region in partnership with ZOO/WILD and SANIZE. In addition, our family of networks made a great effort for the Amphibian Ark programmes, both for locally celebrated programmes as well as all of those which were suggested by AArk central coordinators. AArk Central suggested programmes : a great splash was made with India and four other S. Asian countries organizing AArk Leapfrog programmes for New Years. Special materials were made and distributed by post and camera ready copy. Later, AArk Five for Frogs was converted to Amphibian Summer Alert by the South Asian branch and a new batch of materials were created and distributed with the idea of helping thousands of people get exposed to the message with a small handout with practical value, a bookmark cum sticker. This proved very successful and is being repeated for the rest of YOTF. **AArk Signature campaign : AArk South Asia at this writing 24 August 08 are WAY ahead of other regions and even the entire world ... that is W.A.Y. ahead. Yay ! us ! We are soooooooooo great !**



Mysore Zoo, 2008)

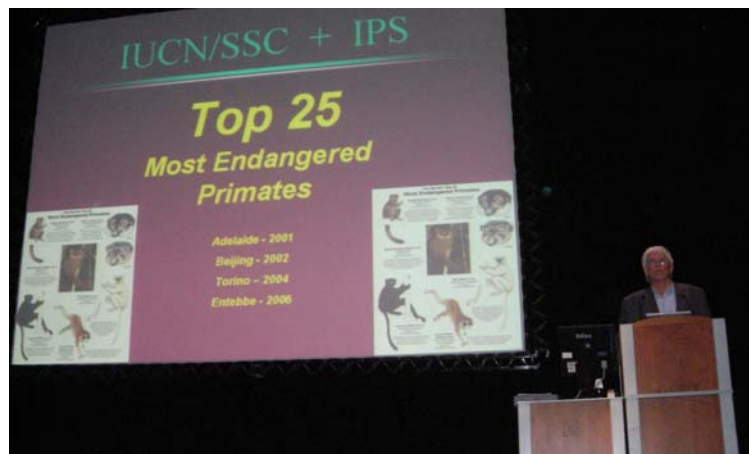
National Global programmes converted to AArk : Wildlife Week, (Oct 07), Indian Animal Welfare Fortnightly (Jan 08), World Environment day (June 08) and other individual function days were a platform for various-sized programs, including the biggest conservation education event in India again, Wildlife Week Oct 08. Thanks to Sea World Conservation Fund we made hundreds of AArk caps to attract attention, increase awareness and go along with AArk literature. Thanks to Sea World programme we will be able to cover more of South Asia with more of our attractive learning materials in the rest of YOTF 08 and beyond. *(Photo, Students programme entertain and educate foreign visitors, Photo*

South Asian Reptile Network: This network is under restructuring with activities planned in 2008. Sanjay Molur, Convenor of the Network was invited to the Intl. Herp congress in Brazil where he helped with an Action Planning process for readying regions for handling chitrid outbreaks.

Primate Specialist Group IUCN SSC South Asian Primate Network - PSG SAPN

PSG SAPN has developed and distributed the education materials based on the South Asia Primate CAMP of 2002 and the Hoolock Gibbon PHVA of 2006. In the last year we brought out a Primate Guide for Teachers and Students, a CD for zoo graphics, Monkey Manners packets featuring resolution of conflict between humans and free-ranging monkeys) translated into vernacular languages, and South Asian Primate Pocket Guide using CI's pocket guide model. A follow up course, of the six Teacher Training Workshops for HG held January 2007, was held at Assam Forest School, Jalukbari, Guwahati 29-30 Oct 2007 and at Kaziranga NP, Assam, 1-2 Nov 2007. It was attended by teachers, forest rangers and NGO's who attended earlier courses. South Asian Primate Network Website updated www.southasianprimatenetwork.org. PSG SAPN is continuously circulating current primate related news and articles as well as granting and job opportunities from various sources to South Asian primate network members.

S. Walker and S. Molur participated in IPS Conference in Edinburgh and presented three papers, 2 on Primate Education using our famous **Conservation Networking Model** at an education seminar before the conference and during the conference, "Mind your Monkey Manners : People/Primate Conflict in India and "Importance of and challenges to status assessments of South Asian primates and its impact on prioritization". Also Sally, Sanjay and South Asians from North East India (Jayantha Das, Dilip Chetra, Rekha Medi) led a successful initiative to retain Hoolock gibbon on the World's 25 Most Endangered Primate Species for another two year period, 2008-20010, a prestigious project of Primate SG and IPS.



A Translocation Training workshop funded by USFWS, Chester Zoo and Knowsley Safari Park, focused on small, wild, isolated, doomed populations of Hoolock Gibbons for Indian Hoolock bearing states and Bangladesh is scheduled for mid. Sept.08 at the Assam Forest Training School, Guwahati, Assam, 15-19 September 08. Organised by RSG, South Asia, CBSG South Asia, ZOO, WILD, Forest Department of Assam and Wildlife Areas Development and Welfare Trust, Primate Research Centre, NE and Gibbon Conservation Centre, NE. Resource persons are Cecilia Kierulff, David Chivers, Pritpal

Soorae, Gautam Narayan, and others yet to be confirmed. Invitees are foresters and field biologists North Eastern States holding hoolock Gibbon and Bangladesh.

CCINSA - Bat Network : CCINSA maintains Chiroptera conservation experts, educators and enthusiasts as a community in the region by producing a Newsletter, Directory, occasional mailings, organisation of lobbying, training, travel, bat related web sites such as www.Pterocount.org, www.southasiantaxa, and bat network and publications in www.zooreach.org and www.zoosprint.org web sites. CCINSA is sponsored by Bat Conservation International and Chester Zoo. A training in field was described above and two training workshops in educational techniques to be conducted in August-September in Nepal. Directory of CCINSA members was updated and additional educational material designed.

RICINSA – Rodent and Insectivore Network – rodents and insectivores were well covered in the six-day training for survey and conservation of bats and rodents which was described in the earlier part of this report. The RICINSA directory was updated with new members. The Threatened Taxa Monitoring System website includes illustrations of South Asian rodents. A newsletter is pending.

Bat and Rodent - Small Mammal Project for IUCN: ZOO/WILD has been given responsibility to complete the Red List accounts for small mammals of South Asia from IUCN, Switzerland. ZOO/WILD/CBSG South Asia conducted CAMP workshops for bats and small mammals in 1997 for India under the auspices of the Biodiversity Conservation Prioritisation Project BCPP and again in 2002 for bats under our own auspices and then in 2004 for IUCN SSC's Global Mammal Assessment for South Asia.

Invertebrate networks: The Invertebrate network ICINSA has several subnetworks, e.g. Pollinator network with over 40 members from South Asia and a newly formed Network on Aquatic invertebrates. The members of these subnetworks receive support in terms of literature on their specialty and they publish their research findings in ZOOS PRINT Journal. The network also continued its field works on the distribution studies of theraphosid spiders in India. Also a project to develop a teaching manual on climate change featuring challenges of invertebrates. Published the *web edition of IPNSA directory*. Updated the IPNSA directory for 2007 and added new members to the network. These networks are supported by the Invertebrate Conservation Centre, London Zoo.

Educator Network SAN-IZE

South Asian Network for International Zoo Educators IZE conducted two Refresher Courses in Assam as a follow up of the Hoolock Gibbon workshop held in February 2007, an educators workshop on Teachers for Tigers at Nepal, Planning and bonding workshop for the USFWS project on Getting along with Asian Elephants at Coimbatore, Three Intensive Conservation Educator Skills Training workshop at Coimbatore were organized. ZOO compiled its best educational material in a CD which contains booklets, manuals, articles, education programmes reports, guidelines, powerpoint presentations, packets, posters etc. which will be useful to conservation educators, particularly in South Asian region. ZOO provided several theme packets to zoos, NGO's, museums and forest department personnel; totally we supplied close to 100,000 items to 120 institutions during various events this year.

Major events for coming year:

- Twelve educator training workshops on Human Elephant Coexistence HECx to be held in Nepal, Bangladesh, and India.
- Annual CBSG RSG South Asian Network Meetings, Feb. 09, Sri Lanka
- SAZARC South Asian Zoo Association Meeting, Feb. 09, Sri Lanka. Theme: Fine tuning Zoo legislation; Zoo Inspections. Sri Lanka
- PHVA for Sri Lankan Elephant
- Training in MIKE's Systematic Monitoring of Sri Lankan elephants using Dung DNA
- IUCN Assessments of fresh water biodiversity in Western Ghats and in Eastern Himalaya
- Darwin Red List Training Initiative, Cambodia

Book

Walker, S. & S. Molur (Compiler/Editor) 2007. Guide to South Asian Primates for Teachers and Students of All Ages. Zoo Outreach Organisation, PSG South Asia and WILD, Coimbatore, India

CD's & Compendiums

South Asian Primates, 2007. NEW Education Tools for teaching about South Asian Primates. Walker, S. Ed.

Educational Manual, 2007. Tools and Techniques for Zoo Education, Walker, S. Editor/Compiler. ZOO/SANIZE.



Report of the workshop series on "Conservation Education for North East Indian Hoolock Gibbon" S Walker, B.A. Daniel, R. Marimuthu and Latha G. Ravikumar 2007.

Newsletters

BatNet Newsletter 2007. Newsletter CCINSA Volume 8, No. 1-2, Jan-Dec 2007, Sally Walker and Sanjay Molur (Editors)
BatNet Newsletter 2008. Newsletter CCINSA, Volume 9, No. 1, Jan-July 2008, Sally Walker and Sanjay Molur (Editors)
Frog Leg 2007. Newsletter of the Amphibian Network of South Asia ,No.13, December 2007. Sanjay Molur, Karthikeyan Vasudevan (Editors)
Reptile Rap 2008. Newsletter of the South Asian Reptile Network, No. 8, January 2008. Sanjay Molur, Sally Walker and R.J. Rao (Editors)
CBSG South Asia News, South, January 2008. Sanjay Molur and Sally Walker (Editors)
Reintro Reduex 2008. RSG, South Asia, January 2008. Sanjay Molur and Sally Walker (Editors)

Other teaching materials

Asian Monkey Colouring Book. ZOO/SAPN, PSG.
South Asian Bats Colouring Book. Zoo Outreach Organisation/CCINSA.
ZOO 2008, South Asian Fruit Bats. Poster Set, Zoo Outreach Organisation, Coimbatore, 13 items
Pocket Guide for South Asian Primates. ZOO/WILD developed this pocket guide for CI and it is going to printed by them soon.
- Mind your Monkey Manners Education Packet in English, Hindi and Tamil Zoo Outreach Organisation, 2007
- Monkey Manners Drama Kit. Zoo Outreach Organisation, 2007 -
- Bats. Education Packet, ZOO 08 - Chiroptera Drama Kit. ZOO 08 .
- Amphibian Ark. Education Packet, ZOO 08
- Admire all Amphibians -- Frogs are Fabulous, Education Packet. ZOO 08
- Frogs Rock! On the Amphibian Ark! , Education Packet. ZOO 08

Travel

Sally Walker

-- Intl Conference on "India's Conservation Breeding Initiative" 21-24th Feb 2008, CZA, New Delhi,
-- CBSG Steering committee, WAZA CPM & Meeting of WAZA Drafting Committee, April 2008
-- Intl Primatological Society XXII Congress, Edinburgh, Scotland (3-8th August 2008)
-- Translocation Training ref. W. Hoolock Gibbon, Sept. 08, Guwahati Assam

Sanjay Molur

-Amphibian Biodiversity Conservation (ABC), Periyar Tiger Reserve, Kerala, 10-16 Dec 2007
-1st SERC school in Herpetology from 27 Dec -08 Jan 08, North Orissa University
- 1st International Wildlife Reintroduction Conference to be held from April 15-16, 2008 in Chicago.
- CBSG Mid-year meeting held in Bern, Switzerland on 12 -13 April 2008
- International Reintroduction meeting held in Chicago on 15--16 April 2008
- Biodiversity Assessment Sub Committee Meeting and workshops. Gland, Switzerland, 7-11 July 2008
- Intl Primatological Society XXII Congress, Edinburgh, Scotland (3-8th August 2008)
- Intl. Herpetological Congress, August, Brazil
-- Translocation Training ref. W. Hoolock Gibbon, Sept. 08, Guwahati Assam
- World Conservation Congress, IUCN World Congress, September, Spain

Daniel and Marimuthu

-Advanced Technique Refresher Course Assam Forest School, Jalukbari, Guwahati 29-30 Oct and Kaziranga NP, Assam, 1-2 Nov 2007
-Meteorological station, Adayaar, Chennai - to climate change project, 6-8 November 2007
-Amphibian Biodiversity Conservation (ABC) at the Periyar Tiger Reserve, Kerala, 15 December 2007
-Three day training programme for Educators' (Samrakshan Trust-NE) on wildlife education, Meghalaya, 3-5 Nov 2007
- Training in Field Techniques of Volant and Non-Volant Small Mammals, Nepal, 19-24 June 07
- CBSG RSG SAZARC – February 2008
- Chiroptera and Amphibian educator Training, Pokhara & Kathmandu, Nepal August 2008
- Daniel will attend 2nd Asian Lepidoptera Conservation Symposium, Nov 08 in Penang, Malaysia.