

Chairman

Vice Admiral M. P. Awati  
PVSM, VrC

Director

Prakash Gole

## Ecological Society

1/B Abhimanashree Society  
Off Pashan Road  
Pune 411008  
Telephone : (0212) 350408

March 24, 1997

The Cultural Attache  
Embassy of the Netherlands  
6/50F Shantipath, Chanakyapuri,  
New Delhi 110 021

Dear Sir/Madam,

Our organization has been working for nature conservation since 1982. The work involved ecological surveys, restoration of forest and wetlands, setting up of Peoples' Sanctuaries to protect wild birds and training programmes for government officials, university students and laymen. The accompanying brochure and a note on the Ecological Society give information about the work and persons involved in doing it.

Since 1989 we are closely working with the Irrigation Department (the dam builders) of the Government of Maharashtra, imparting training to their engineer-officers in improving the environmental value of their projects. We have also carried out environmental improvement measures on some of their projects. So far over 700 engineer-officers have taken advantage of our training programmes. (These are organized in close collaboration with the Engineering Staff College of Government of Maharashtra).

We now plan to enlarge this training activity to include candidates from other government departments, post graduate students from universities and representatives of NGOs working for nature conservation. We propose to set up a training centre in the vicinity of a major dam project. The site contains a river flood plain and adjacent wetlands with forest and grass-covered hills in the background. It offers ample opportunities to understand the nature of different eco-systems and carry out relevant research and practical work. The Govt. of Maharashtra have expressed willingness to make certain facilities available to the proposed training centre. The enclosed project proposal and a set of photographs of the site will give you an idea of what we wish to do and develop.

May I request you to consider if this project proposal can be supported under any of the programmes of the Embassy? If there is any format for application, please send it to us. Depending on the size of the funds available, one or more of the following may be considered for funding:

- 1) Cost of Laboratory equipment,  
Computer-printers, accessories,  
software etc.

\$12,000/-

(contd. on page-2)

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|---|--------------------------------|
| 2) Scholarships to candidates   | \$3,500/- per annum for 3 yrs. |
| 3) Rent for premises, furniture<br>& fixtures, transport and<br>overhead expenses | \$6,000/- per annum for 3 yrs. |

To introduce myself I may state that I was elected to the Board of International Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Bureau, U. K. in 1981 and served on it till 1992 as coordinator of Anser indicus on their Goose research group. I am at present a member of the Board of Advisors of the International Crane Foundation, WI, USA and a member of the Executive Committee of Bombay Natural History Society, Mumbai.

I am writing this letter on the advice of my friend and fellow crane researcher drs J. A. van der Ven formerly the Agricultural Counsellor in the Netherland's Embassy in Moscow.

Thanking you in anticipation and awaiting your communication,

Yours sincerely,

Prakash Gole.

Copy to: Agricultural Counsellor, Embassy of the Netherlands, New Delhi.

Encl.: Brochure and an account of the Ecological Society & its work and personnel;

A project proposal with its executive summary and

A set of photographs of the proposed site.