



UNION INTERNATIONALE POUR LA CONSERVATION DE LA NATURE ET DE SES RESSOURCES
INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

COMMISSION DE LA SAUVEGARDE DES ESPÈCES - SPECIES SURVIVAL COMMISSION

Dr. Virendra Kumar
Consultant (Botanist)
Planning Commission
New Delhi 110001
INDIA

14 March 1984

Dear Dr. Kumar,

Preparations are underway for the launching of the IUCN/WWF Plants Programme and Campaign early in 1984. This, I feel, is recognition at last for the vital role that the plant kingdom plays in all conservation efforts.

Knowing of your activities in this field, I am writing now to ask if you would be willing to serve on the Indian Sub-Continent Plant Specialist Group of the Species Survival Commission under the Chairmanship of Dr. M.P. Nayar. I fully endorse his recommendation that you become a member of this Group and it gives me great pleasure therefore to be able to extend this invitation to you.

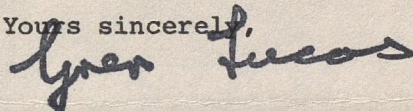
For many years there have been in the Species Survival Commission of IUCN up to 60-plus animal Specialist Groups of various sizes and description. All plant work was co-ordinated for SSC by its Threatened Plants Committee working through informal subgroupings. It is now appropriate to expand some of these geographic sub-committees and taxonomic groups into fully fledged Specialist Groups. At this moment, I am hoping to form about 15 such Groups, ranging from Cactus, Cycads and Orchids Specialist Groups to an Island Group as well as Australasian, European, Indian and similar geographic groups.

Specialist Group members are asked to advise the Commission, through their Group Chairman, on conservation matters relating to their field of competence and to gather information for the Red Data Books or other special reports. Most of the work of the Groups is carried out by correspondence, although it may be necessary or desirable to arrange a meeting of a Group from time to time. Group members receive the SSC Newsletter, the last two issues of which are being sent under separate cover.

Members are appointed for a period of three years and may be re-appointed when the Commission is re-constituted at each of the triennial General Assemblies of IUCN. As the next General Assembly is this coming November, your initial period of service will only be for a few months. However, I believe that the conservation problems are ever-growing and that we cannot wait until November to create these Plant Specialist Groups.

I very much hope you will feel able to accept this invitation to serve on the Indian Sub-Continent Plant Specialist Group until November and, we would hope, for a further three years after the General Assembly.

Yours sincerely,



Greg Lucas
Chairman
Species Survival Commission

cc:
Dr. M.P. Nayar
Joint Director
Botanical survey of India
Botanic Garden, P.O.
Howrah 711103
INDIA

DR VIRENDRA KUMAR
Consultant (Hill Areas)
Room No.243, Planning Commission
Yojana Bavan, New Delhi-110 001
INDIA.

March 28, 1984

Dear Mr Gren Lucas,

Thank you very much for asking me to be the member of the Indian Sub-Continent Plant Specialist Group of the Species Survival Commission. I am happy to accept this privileged position. I shall get in contact with the Chairman Dr M.P.Nayar, for preparing the programme to assess the Indian situation of the floristic elements which are under pressure and need immediate plans for safeguard. It is a difficult task, keeping in view the enlarged scenario of population pressure tampering with the vegetation cover for one or the other reason. Besides the taxonomic network is also not very efficiently developed so far.

However, there is a growing awareness among various government circles who plan and promote development and also the people. What we need most is the building of a network of trained and knowledgeable people who may be able to identify the taxa under threat and assess its significance. To highlight the uniqueness of a taxon is a specialist's job, which again is a task more difficult than its Animal counterpart. Therefore, I accept your offer with a deep sense of humility, but the challenge and the responsibility inherent to it would help various members of the group strive with the best of their abilities, knowledge and the information flow from all those who love Nature.

With my best wishes.

Sincerely Yours,


(VIRENDRA KUMAR)

Mr Gren Lucas
Chairman
Species Survival Commission
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cc:
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