

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 Director
Ramsar Small Grants Fund
for Wetland Conservation
and Wise Use (SGF)
Ramsar Office
Rue Mauverney 28
1196 Gland
Switzerland

Dear Sir,

Our organization has been working for wetland conservation since 1988 in the Indian sub-continent. We had so far carried out a survey of wetlands of the Gangetic plain and Bhutan, established a Peoples' Sanctuary for wintering Blacknecked cranes in a floodplain of a river in Arunachal Pradesh, carried out research on management of tropical wetlands and at present we are working on the restoration of two wetlands.

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 irrigation and power projects (which work includes wetland conservation) and actually carrying out improvement measures in the vicinity of some dams. So far over 700 engineer-officers have taken advantage of our training programmes. (They 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 which contains a river flood plain and adjacent wetlands affords ample opportunities to understand the wetland eco-system 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 photos 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 considered for funding under SGF for wetland conservation. If there is any format for application, please send it to us. Depending on the size of the grant available, one or more of the following may be considered for funding: (contd. on page 2)

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- 1) Cost of Laboratory equipment,
computer-printer, accessories,
software etc. \$12,000/-
- 2) Scholarships to candidates \$ 3,500/- per annum for 3 yrs
- 3) Rent for premises, furniture
& fixtures, transport and
overhead expenses \$ 6,000/- per annum for 3 yrs

To introduce myself I may state that I was elected to the Board of IWRB in 1981 and served on it till 1992 as coordinator for Anser indicus in their Goose Research Group. I am at present a member of the Executive Committee of Bombay Natural History Society and an Advisor to the International Crane Foundation, WI, USA.

Thanking you in anticipation and awaiting your communication,

Yours sincerely,

Prakash Gole.

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

A project proposal with its executive summary and

A set of photographs of the proposed site.