

To
The Chief Wildlife Warden
Andaman & Nicobar Islands
Port Blair.

9/3/95
Camp. Port Blair

Dear Sir,

SACOM has undertaken a long-term project 'A study on the ecology, status and conservation perspectives of certain rare and endemic avifauna of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands'. Between December 1992 and April 1994, we assessed the status and conservation of the Nicobar Megapode in particular and the endemic avifauna of the Nicobar islands in general. Five copies of the report emanating from that survey is enclosed.

We now intend to survey the Nicobar islands for the Andaman grey rumped scittlet Aerodramus fuciphagus with the objectives of locating, enumerating and assessing the size of nesting colonies of Aerodramus fuciphagus, in the Nicobar group of islands. The study is funded in part by the Min. of Env. and in part by WWF India.

The survey is to last for about 2 months, from 9th March 1995 to 15th ~~March~~ May 1995. We request you to please grant us permission to undertake the survey and give us the support that has proved so invaluable to our previous work.

Thanking you
Yours sincerely
Ravi Sankaran.

Dr. R. SANKARAN,
SCIENTIST, DIVISION OF AVIAN ECOLOGY.

M. S. SWAMINATHAN RESEARCH FOUNDATION

M. S. SWAMINATHAN

Chairman

MSS/VS/2258

11 March 1995

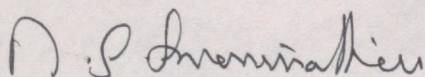
Dr. R. Sankaran
Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology
and Natural History
Kalampalayam PO
Coimbatore 641 010

Dear Dr. Sankaran,

I thank you very much for your kind letter of 7 March enclosing your report on the Nicobar megapode and other endemic avifauna of the Nicobar Islands. This is an extremely valuable report and has been prepared very well. Please do keep me on your mailing list. I am bringing the report to the attention of Mr. John Joseph and Dr. Ranjit Daniels.

With warm personal regards,

Yours sincerely,



M.S. Swaminathan

cc: Mr. John Joseph & Dr. Ranjit Daniels

CENTRE FOR HERPETOLOGY

MADRAS CROCODILE BANK TRUST



March 11, 1995.

To,
Dr. Ravi Shankaran,
Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History,
Kalampalayan P.O., Coimbatore 641 010, T.N.

Dear Ravi,

Thanks for your letter of March 7 and the copy of the megapode report, which I am just getting into. It has data on forests and islands which will come of use in my work too.

I am still working on the material collected during my last trip to the islands, and several new species of amphibians and reptiles have been identified, the descriptions of which are being prepared for publication. The reptile biogeography book has been accepted for publication by Krieger Publications in Florida and should be out later this year. I am just back from a trip to France, where I helped organize a turtle conference (to be held near Nice in July). Also spent about a week at the Paris Museum, where I examined Asian material and gave a talk on the herpetology of Borneo. I also have a project in Sri Lanka, and leave for a fortnight's field work next month.

Let me know how your domestic and professional life goes. If you see Bhupathy around the corridors, give him my regards and ask him if he plans on attending the turtle congress at Gonfaron (I could send him the conference material).

Best wishes,

Indraneil Das

CENTRE OF WILDLIFE & ORNITHOLOGY
ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY, ALIGARH-202 002 (India)

Phones : 2511266 } 318
 2521521 }
 2918983 }



Department of Botany
University of Delhi
Delhi-110007, India

20 March 1995

Dr R. Sankaran
Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology
and Natural History
Kalampalayam P.O.
Coimbatore - 641010

Dear Dr Sankaran:

Thank you very much for your letter dated 07 March 1995 and for the copy of your excellent report on the Status and Conservation of the Nicobar Megapode and other Endemic Avifauna of the Nicobar Islands. I welcome such studies. I am keenly interested in the plant communities used by avifauna. Such studies involving plant communities and avifauna would provide the basis for understanding ecosystem dynamics and function which in turn result in the effective management of protected areas. Keeping this in view I proposed a massive project on the Andaman and Nicobar group of Islands. Once the proposal is accepted, we will do some collaborative research on Andamans. I congratulate you for producing a nice document on Megapodes.

With regards:

Sincerely

C. R. Babu
C.R. Babu

CENTRE OF WILDLIFE & ORNITHOLOGY
ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY, ALIGARH--202 002 (India)

Ref: 126/95/GEP

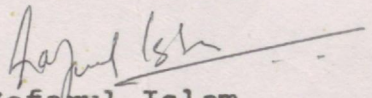
March 21, 1995

To,
Dr. R. Sankaran,
SACON,
Coimbatore

Dear Dr. Sankaran,

Dr. Rehmani is not well these days. He wants to convey thanks to you for sending him your report on the Megapode.

Yours sincerely


Zafarul Islam

Centre for Environment Education

Nehru Foundation for Development, Thaltej Tekra, Ahmedabad 380 054
Phone: 442642, 442651 Gram: PARYAVARAN Telex: 121-6779 CEE IN Fax: 91-272-420242

No. V/928/95

21 March 1995

Dr. R. Sankaran
Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and
Natural History
Kalampalayam P.O.
COIMBATORE - 641 010

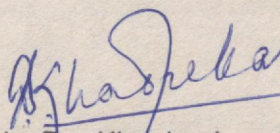
Dear Dr. Sankaran,

Thank you for the copy of your report on "The Nicobar Megapode and other Endemic Avifauna of the Nicobar Islands: Status and Conservation". We found a wealth of information, attractively and lucidly presented, in its forty-odd pages. The conservation issues raised are indeed critical and need to be addressed in the highest policy-making fora.

We are happy to add the report to our Library collection, and would like to acquire more copies. Please let us know the price so that we can make the necessary arrangements for placing an order.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,


Vivek S. Khadpekar
Programme Co-ordinator

World Headquarters

Rue Mauverney 28

CH-1196 Gland

Switzerland

Tel.: ++4122-9990001

Fax: ++4122-9990002

Telex: 419624 iucn ch

IUCN

The World Conservation Union

Dr R. Sankaran
Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and
Natural History
Kalampalayam P.O.
Coimbatore 641 010
INDIA

Ref: SSG/B18

22 March 1995

Dear Dr Sankaran,

Many thanks for your letter of 7 March with a copy of your excellent report on the Nicobar megapode and other endemic bird species in these islands. You have carried out some excellent work, and we are most grateful for your sending us a copy.

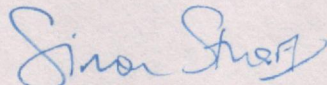
As you may or may not know, we have a Megapode Specialist Group within the IUCN Species Survival Commission. If you have not already done so, I encourage you to send a copy to the Chair, who is:

Dr Rene Dekker
Curator of Birds
Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum
Postbus 9517
2300 RA Leiden
THE NETHERLANDS
Tel:31/71/143844
Fax:31/71/133344

We look forward to receiving further reports from SACON in due course.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely



Simon N. Stuart
Head
Species Survival Programme

cc: Rene Dekker

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
N A T I O N A A L
A T U U R H I S T O R I S C H M U S E U M

Dr. Ravi Sankaran
Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology
and Natural History
Kalampalayam P.O.
COIMBATORE 641 010
INDIA

LEIDEN, 22 March 1995

Dear Ravi,

Thank you for very much for your beautiful report which I received yesterday. Congratulations. I can't wait to read it. I already enjoyed the beautiful pictures on the cover and inside. As soon as I have finished reading it, I will send you my reactions, knowing that you will be away to the Nicobars for some time. I will also send you my list of birds observed while on Great Nicobar because it will add a few things to your list. I have always wanted to publish it, but never found enough time. Your report is an excellent publication to link it to.

Your letter asks for some comments. First of all, I have *never* received the letter or the copy of your paper which has been accepted by Biological Conservation. Something must have gone wrong in the mail. I knew that you were working on Lesser Frlicans. Dr. Vijayan told me at the BirdLife Conference in Germany last August. It was very nice meeting her. Please give her my regards.

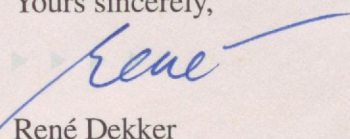
About funds: I suggest that you ask the World Pheasant Association (WPA) in the UK for a (small) donation (they do not have much, but it is worth asking for £500). I will certainly support your request, which does not seem to be too difficult because a) the Nicobar Megapode has been included in the WPA/BirdLife/IUCN *Megapode Action Plan* which will be published shortly (and send to you directly), indicating research/conservation priorities and b) I do a lot for WPA and they will certainly follow my suggestion when I ask them to support your and SACON's work. The address is: K. Howman, World Pheasant Association, P.O. Box 5, Lower Basildon, Reading RG8 9PF, United Kingdom.

Finally, I would like to ask you for permission to publish the summary of your report on page iv for the May issue of the Megapode Newsletter. Furthermore, I would like to promote your report in the Newsletter as well. Is it possible for readers to purchase it from SACON? In that case, how much should it cost, including mailing, and to where should the money be send in which currency?

Hope you have a good and successful time in the Nicobars again.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,


René Dekker

23/3/95
Camp. Campbell Bay

To
Mr. T. Nandjod
A.C.F. Wildlife
Campbell Bay

Dear Sir,

My current assignment in the Nicobar group of islands is to assess the status of the Andaman grey-rumped swiftlet. In this regard, I will be surveying the area between Navy Dera and Murray point between 24th March and 1st April, and Little Nicobar and outlying islands between 4th April and 12th April. I request you to please provide with me with a boat so as to enable me to do the survey effectively for the following dates

24th March - 26th March :- Navy Dera and drop at Trinkut Bay

1st April - pick up at Navy Dera

4th April - 12th April :- Little Nicobar and outlying islands.

Thanking you

Yours sincerely

Ravi Sankaran

Scientist

Division of Avian Ecology.

PARIRAKSHAK

A NON-GOVERNMENTAL AND ~~NA~~ POLITICAL ORGANISATION
DEDICATED TO SAVE ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

OFFICE
GANDHINAGAR, CAMPBELL BAY-744302
ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS

REGD. No. 89/95

Ref. :

C/5/95

Date : 27th Mar '95.

President
Capt. VRN Setty (Retd)

To
Shri Ravi Shanker, Scientist
Salim Ali Centre
Kalampalayam
Coimbatore - 041 010

Dear Ravi Shanker,

Whole of PARIRAKSHAK family is joining me in conveying our thanks and gratitude to Mrs & Mr Ravi Shanker for your visit and lively participation in the informal discussion on Environmental matters concerning Great Nicobar Island. We drew wealth of information and valuable suggestions and above all inspiration from you. All that will be useful for healthy growth of this infant Organisation.

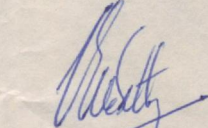
It is very typical of you to become a member of this Organisation instantly and also make a generous contribution.

We request you, Sir, to be an Advisor to PARIRAKSHAK on Avifauna. Kindly make it convenient to communicate your consent in this regard.

We are all looking forward for your valuable advice and support.

With best wishes and thanks to Mrs. & Mr. Ravi Shanker.

Sincerely yours,


(SETTY)

Andaman and Nicobar Islands Environmental Team
CENTRE FOR HERPETOLOGY



Ravi Sankaran
Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology
and Natural History
Kalampalayam P.O.
Coimbatore 641 010
Tamil Nadu

March 28, 1995

Dear Ravi,

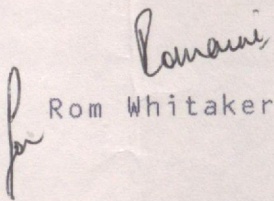
Thanks very much for the Nicobar megapode report which I read with great interest. Firstly, it is good to know that the megapodes are not in immediate danger, though it's evident that the influx of labour from Andamans will create much hunting pressure.

The report is comprehensive and certainly the best status and conservation report to emerge from the Bay Islands - congratulations!

The Endemic Avifauna section of the report is very welcome and makes the report useful as a ready reference.

We are certainly with you in your concerns for the future of the Nicobars. To this end, could I suggest that SACON, in addition to its research work, do occasional specific symposia or at least high-powered get togethers wherein conservation priorities and strategies can be discussed and acted upon. In this case, we should have a concerted plan of action in the event of the Free Port and dry dock ideas being resurrected. Hope to communicate with you further on this.

All the best!


Rom Whitaker

MADRAS CROCODILE BANK TRUST

Mainland Office : Post Bag No. 4, Mamallapuram-603 104, Tamil Nadu, South India. Fax : 91-44-491-0910, 91-4113-2511
Andaman Base : A. N. E. T., Wandoor P.O., Via Port Blair - 744103 ANDAMANS. Fax : 0093192 - 20038

29 March, 1995

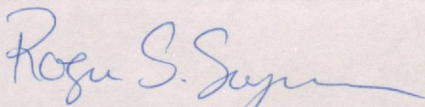
Dr. R. Sankaran
Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History
Kalampalayam P.O.
Coimbatore - 641 010
India

Dear Dr. Sankaran,

Thank you very much for sending me the copy of your report on the Nicobar megapode. It is of great interest. I am saddened to see the destruction of these unique birds and their habitats. I hope to have the opportunity to visit the Islands and to see that your fine work is followed up by strict conservation measures.

During the next three years, I hope to have the opportunity to go to Sumatra for some biological work. During that time, it may also be possible for me to visit the islands. Do you intend to carry out any more research there? It might be valuable for us to meet and combine resources. In any case, I will be asking for you advice.

Sincerely yours,



Roger S. Seymour
Associate Professor



Wellbrook Court
Girton Road
Cambridge CB3 0NA UK
Tel +44 (0)1223 277318
Fax +44 (0)1223 277200
E-mail: birdlife@gn.apc.org

Dr Ravi Sankaran
SACON
Kalampalayam P.O.
Coimbatore 641 010
INDIA

29/1/S/RDB
mc

12 April 1995

NICOBAR REPORT

Dear Ravi,

Thank you very much for your letter of 7 March, and the enclosed report on the Nicobar Megapode and other endemic avifauna. It looks excellent, and I look forward to studying it in more detail.

It was good to meet you at the workshop in Coimbatore, and have a chance to discuss your work on the Nicobar islands and elsewhere. I hope that your new fieldwork there is going well.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike".

Mike Crosby,
Research Officer (Asia Programme)



WWF World Wide Fund For Nature-India

विश्व प्रकृति निधि, भारत

Samar Singh
Secretary General

WWF - INDIA
Secretariat (Delhi)

P. O. Box 3058
172-B, Lodi Estate
New Delhi - 110 003
Phone: 4633473 (Direct)
Fax : 91-11-4626837

April 15, 1995

Dear Dr. Sankaran,

Thank you very much for a copy of the report "The Nicobar megapode and other endemic avifauna of the Nicobar Islands. I have read it with considerable interest and must congratulate you and your team for the comprehensive coverage as well as the very useful information contained in the report. I have no doubt that it will serve a very useful purpose for all those who are interested and involved in the conservation of this unique and precious part of our country.

You are perhaps aware that under the Biodiversity 'Hotspots' Conservation Programme, WWF India is now in the process of extending its work on the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. A copy of our action plan in this regard is enclosed for your information. Needless to add that we would keep you associated and also build into our programme activities the various points and concerns mentioned in the report sent by you. If you have any comments or suggestions on the action plan, please feel free to write to me.

With regards,

Yours sincerely

Mr. R. Sankaran,
Scientist,
Division of Avian Ecology,
Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology
and Natural History,
Kalampalayam P.O.,
Coimbatore 641 010.

(Samar Singh)

Encl: a/a

TRUSTEES

Dr M.S. Swaminathan, President
Mr S.P. Godrej, Vice-President
Dr Ashok Khosla
Dr Amrita Patel
Mr S.S. Ramachandra Raja
Mr G.M.S. Mann

Lt Gen Baljit Singh, AVSM, VSM (Retd)
Dr Dhruvajyoti Ghosh
Mr D.M. Sukthankar
Mr R. Rajamani
Justice Leila Seth
Mr A.K. Mahindra

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION IN THE ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

The activities proposed for biodiversity conservation in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, listed below, have been prioritised into first and second priority. Part of the basis for such prioritisation is the time and resources required. Activities requiring a long time for completion and/or a large amount of resources, which are unlikely to be available in the near future, have been listed as second priority. In terms of their importance, however, all the proposed activities are critical.

FIRST PRIORITY

1. Monitoring of Biodiversity "Hot Spots" in the A&N Islands

The Problem

Though the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are one of the most valuable biodiversity areas in India, and also among the most fragile, there is little monitoring of the state of the environment of these Islands. Perhaps till a few years ago such monitoring was not considered essential due to the small population (approximately 600,000) and ignorance about the biodiversity value of the area. However, despite the small population, activities related to forestry, fisheries, tourism, industry, shipping, construction work, among others, are seriously threatening the environment. There are also threats from poachers and from the illegal fishing activities of boats coming from the neighbouring countries.

Current activities

The Forest Department minimally monitors some of the national parks and sanctuaries, but has little staff and resources for this work. The Society for Andaman and Nicobar Ecology (SANE) is periodically monitoring a few of the protected areas.

Existing gaps

Despite these efforts, there is no systematic monitoring of either a prioritised list of the most valuable and vulnerable biodiversity areas or of those pressures most destructive to biodiversity.

Objectives of the WWF India project

It is proposed to build up a monitoring network of non-government organisations and interested individuals in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, with support from national NGOs. This network would identify and prioritise biodiversity areas and issues, and would operate a

monitoring schedule with optimal use of the resources available. It would monitor critical biological, social and management parameters for each of the prioritised protected areas. The information collected through the monitoring network would help in understanding and conserving the biodiversity of these areas and in ensuring timely and appropriate interventions.

Implementation mechanism

The monitoring network would be co-ordinated through the proposed WWF India field office at Port Blair and would involve local NGOs and individuals as also national NGOs. The activities would be designed and coordinated through an Advisory Committee of concerned and informed persons and use, wherever necessary, consultants for specific technical tasks.

Targets

It is proposed to prioritise five protected areas in the first year, to develop a monitoring schedule and format, and to begin to apply the format and schedule to two of the five selected areas. In the second year the monitoring format and schedule will be modified, if necessary, on the basis of the first years experience, and applied to the remaining three areas. In the third year the monitoring network will be extended to another three areas.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The activity would be monitored every six months against specific goals identified for each phase. It would be reviewed after two years on the basis of system design and operationalisation, and on the basis of the data and results it produces.

2. Environment Impact Assessment of Forest Management Practices

The Problem

The Andaman & Nicobar Islands have very rich tropical rain forests. These are currently being exploited for industrial and commercial use and are being subjected to various other pressures. This is resulting in a loss of forest cover in some areas and a change in the natural vegetation in many others. Deforestation is also resulting in soil erosion which is negatively affecting the marine ecosystems, especially the coral reefs.

Current activities

There is currently no effort at assessing the environmental impact of forestry practices in the Islands.

Existing gaps

As above

Objectives of the WWF India project

It is proposed to assess the impact, on biodiversity, of current forest management practices, with the help of the Forest Department and other expert institutions. Efforts will also be made to evolve forest management systems more sensitive to the biodiversity of these islands.

Implementation mechanism

A multi-disciplinary team of experts both from within and outside the government would be set up to assess the impact.

Targets

A preliminary report would be ready after the first year and a final report at the end of 18 months.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The progress of the assessment would be reviewed every six months.

3. Action Plan for Coral Reefs

The Problem

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands have among the richest coral reefs in India. In recent times these coral reefs have been subjected to various pressures, including destruction due to tourist activities, siltation and pollution. Corals are also being used as construction material.

Current activities

There is no action plan to conserve the coral reefs in the Islands.

Existing gaps

As above.

Objectives of the WWF India project

It is proposed to develop an action plan for the conservation of coral reefs in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Baseline information about the more vulnerable coral reefs would also be collected and a system operationalised by which these areas can be closely watched with the help of the earlier described monitoring network.

Implementation mechanism

A multi-disciplinary team of experts would be charged with the responsibility of developing the action plan. A separate but related activity of collecting baseline data would be operationalised through selected scientific institutions and NGOs.

Targets

The action plan should be ready within 18 months, with an interim report after a year. Baseline data would be collected over three years, with interim reports each year.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The progress of the action plan and of baseline data collection would be monitored every six months.

4. Wildlife Protected Areas Management Plans

The Problem

There are 102 National Parks and Sanctuaries in these Islands. However, most of these do not have management plans. Whereas many of these are uninhabited and free from human pressure, some of them require to be managed effectively.

Current activities

Most of the protected areas in the Islands do not have management plans. The few plans that exist are outdated or inadequate.

Existing gaps

Apart from the general lack of management plans, there is also little scientific input into the planning process. No models or clear guidelines exist for the preparation of management plans, especially in terms of the special requirements for the marine areas.

Objectives of the WWF India project

It is proposed to develop management plans for three selected national parks and sanctuaries, in collaboration with the Wildlife Wing of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Forest Department, and with the involvement of interested NGOs and other appropriate expertise. These three areas would, as far as possible, represent different types of habitat and management issues. The process of developing management plans for these areas would not only help train the local officials in management planning but also make available, at the end, model plans which could be used as paradigms for the remaining areas. In the process, the local officers and NGOs would also get access to literature and information relevant to their needs and develop an ability to work together in the planning process.

Implementation mechanism

A planning team would be set up for each of the selected areas. They would be linked up with appropriate institutional and individual expertise. Wherever required, specific issues will be addressed by consultants.

Targets

It is expected to take 18 months to prepare a management plan. In the first year, the planning exercise would be initiated for two areas. Another area would be started in the second year.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The planning process would be reviewed every six months. At the end of 12 months the plan would be sent to independent experts for comments and assessment.

5. Ethno Biological Investigations

The Problem

Tribal communities living in these Islands have significant knowledge about medicinal and other human uses of the plants and animals found on the Islands. However, much of this information is being lost due to the advent of modern medicine and lifestyles.

Current activities

The Anthropological Survey of India (ASI) has been studying the tribes in these Islands and has, along with other information, been collecting some information on ethnobiology.

Existing gaps

There is hardly any work being done, apart from the general survey by the ASI, on the ethnobiology of these Islands. Some information was earlier collected by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, as a part of their national ethnobiological survey. However, there was no follow up. At present, no focussed effort to record and conserve ethnobiological information and practices exists.

Objectives of the WWF India project

It is proposed to investigate and record ethnobiological information and to develop a system by which ethnobiological practices can be conserved.

Implementation mechanism

The ethnobiological study would be conducted by an expert team set up for the purpose. Based on the information gathered as a part of this study, an action plan for conserving ethnobiological practices would be developed. Appropriate consultancy inputs would be identified.

Targets

The ethnobiological study would stretch over the three years, and perhaps even beyond, with an interim report each year. However after the first year, based on the findings, an action plan for conservation of relevant practices would be developed and implemented. In each subsequent year the action plan would be expanded, based on the additional information collected.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The study would be reviewed each year, on the basis of the yearly reports. The ethnobiological practices conservation plan would be reviewed every six months after initiation.

SECOND PRIORITY

6. Fauna/Flora Survey for the Nicobar Islands.

The Problem

The Andaman & Nicobar islands are among the richest areas in the country in terms of biological diversity. Despite this, the flora and fauna of many of the Islands have still not been surveyed. This is especially true of the Nicobar group of Islands.

Current activities

The Botanical (BSI) and Zoological (ZSI) Surveys of India are regularly documenting fauna and flora species around the country. They each have a regional office in the Islands.

Existing gaps

Despite the work of the Botanical and Zoological Surveys, large areas remain un-surveyed. Given the workplans of these two organisations, and the resources available with them, it would take many years before they would even begin to work on most of the Nicobar Islands. However, with the coming into force of the Convention on Biological Diversity, it has become critical to complete surveys as soon as possible.

Objectives of the WWF India project

It is proposed to assist the Botanical and Zoological Surveys of India, with the involvement of other scientific institutions within

and outside the government, to carry out a survey of the fauna and flora in the Nicobar Islands.

Implementation mechanism

The surveys will be conducted by teams comprising of BSI\ZSI scientists and representatives of NGOs and other scientific institutions. The Defence Forces would be associated to provide logistical support, where possible.

Targets

The surveys will continue through the three years, and perhaps even after. The specific targets will be identified after a preliminary survey in the first half of the first year.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The activity would be reviewed every year.

7. Sustainable Development Plan

The Problem

These islands offer a unique opportunity for implementing a path of development that is environmentally and socially sustainable. Some effort to this end has been made by the Island Development Authority, which has initiated various studies and reports on different aspects of sustainability. Unfortunately, there has been inadequate follow up to these studies and an effort needs to be made to develop, based on these and other studies, an integrated plan for the sustainable development of these Islands.

Current activities

Though some years back (1987-89) there was an effort to develop such a plan, this was never completed and, at present, there is no ongoing activity to this end.

Existing gaps

As above.

Objectives of the WWF India project

It is proposed to act as a catalyst to start up this work again and to channelise the expertise that is required to develop such a plan. Based on the studies and reports already completed and the additional information collected for the purpose, a draft plan would be developed.

Implementation mechanism

It is proposed to initiate this work in collaboration with the Planning Commission, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Andaman and Nicobar Administration, and various other expert institutions. A planning team would be set up to coordinate this work and expert

institutions and individuals would be given specific tasks to perform.

Targets

The preparation of the plan would be done in phases. The first phase would be to review existing information and to develop the framework for the plan (six months). The second phase would involve the collection of additional information, preparation of sectoral plans and identification of critical issues (one year). The third phase would involve integration of sectoral plans into a consolidated plan (one year).

Monitoring and Evaluation

The activity would be reviewed after every six months.

PROPOSED BUDGET (In US\$)

Budget Heads	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
1. Cost of Project Office (Salary, Rent, Travel, Equipment etc.)	10,000	8,000	8,000
2. Cost of Documentation Centre	3,500	2,500	1,500
3. Small Grants for Projects	33,000	80,000	80,000
4. WWF Coordination Expense	3,500	9,500	10,500
Total	50,000	100,000	100,000

28 April 1995

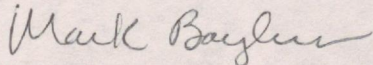
Mr. R. Sankaran
Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology & Natural History
Kalampalayam PO
Coimbatore 641010
INDIA

Dear Dr. R. Sankaran,

I recently read a segment of your paper on the distribution, status and conservation of the Nicobar Megapode (*Megapodius nicobarensis*) in *Biological Conservation* 72 (1995):17-25.

I am currently working on the natural history and ecology of the Water Monitor Lizard (*Varanus salvator*) or the Kabarogoya. I would be most interested if you happen to see any of these animals on Nicobar Islands, their feces or regions where they are common upon these islands? I would be more than happy to pay for copies of any notes, photographs or slides you may have of these animals, their habitat in your studies of the Megapode on Nicobar Islands or adjacent regions. If you can refer me to anyone else who may be able to help me, I would welcome it. I do know of Madras Crocodile Bank in Madras and of my friend Brij Gupta in Coimbatore. I hope your day is a pleasant one, and Thank you very much for your time and help...

Sincerely yours,



Mark Bayless
1406 Holly St.
Berkeley, CA 94703 USA

7 June 1995

To
Dr R.W.R.J Dekker
Nationaal Museum Natuurhistorisch
2300 RA Leiden
Postbank 733000
The Netherlands

Dear Rene,

I was once again in the Nicobars for a little over two months looking at the edible nest swiftlet, and only got back a couple of days ago. The situation is very grim for that species with perhaps 85 - 95 % loss of population having already occurred due to extensive nest harvesting over the last few years.

Though I was not specifically looking for megapodes this time, I could not resist examining the mounds I came across or slipping into the forest to watch or listen to them whenever the opportunity arose! I have been given to understand that the project has finally been sanctioned (!) and am now keen to begin ecological studies on the megapode.

You are welcome to publish my report in whatever form you see fit in the megapode newsletter. I have very few copies of the report left, but if there is sufficient demand for them, I am sure we can print some more. I am unsure as to what it would cost but inclusive of postage should be Rs 175-200 (US \$ 6-7). Alternately, the Megapode Specialist group can make available a small grant to print about 150 copies which would cost about Rs 12500 (about US \$ 400) and then circulate the report *gratis* to all interested people and libraries.

I will be writing to WPA shortly for funds, and will send you a copy of the proposal as soon as it is ready.

Please find enclosed a reprint of the paper on the status of the megapode.

With best wishes
Yours sincerely



R Sankaran

ps. Just received the copy of the Megapode Action Plan - Thanks.

7/6/95

To
Dr G.H. Adler
Dept. of Biology & Microbiology
University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh
Oshkosh, WI 54901, USA

Dear Dr Adler

Please find enclosed a reprint of my article 'Distribution, Status and Conservation of the Nicobar Megapode *Megapodius nicobariensis* that appeared in Biological Conservation.

With best wishes
Yours Sincerely

R Sankran.

7 June 1995

To
Rom Whitaker
MCBT
Post Bag No 4.
Mamallapuram 603 104.

Dear Rom,

I just got back from the Nicobar islands where I looked at the impact of nest collection on the edible nest swiftlet *Aerodramus fuciphagus*. The situation is grim with perhaps 85 - 95 % loss of population having already occurred due to extensive nest harvesting over the last few years.

A symposia / workshop regarding the conservation of the A & N islands is certainly a much needed one. ZSI apparently plans to conduct a seminar this winter on the A & N islands, and a meeting / workshop of interested conservationists with experience in the islands either immediately prior to or subsequent to that seminar will be of great use. I will see if this can be formalised. Hope to communicate further with you on this.

With best wishes
Yours sincerely



R Sankaran

7 June 1995

To
Mr Mark Bayless
1406 Holly St.
Berkeley, CA 94703 USA

Dear Mr Bayless,

My apologies for this delay in replying to you, but I only just got back from the Nicobar islands. Regarding the information that you asked about the water monitor lizard:

1. Distribution: All Nicobar islands excepting Chaura and small outlying islands in the great Nicobar Group.

2. Sightings: Fairly common, I probably sighted this animal between 50 and 75 times. Most animals however are quite small (< 2-3 ft) and larger animals (> 5 ft) were seen less than 8-10 times. This is probably because they are hunted quite extensively for meat.

3. Faeces: Not seen.

4. Regions where common (Habitat?): They apparently are more often met with in the forest well away from water (most islands in the Nicobar group have very little or only seasonal surface water), though on a few occasions, disturbed animals took to water, one of which hid at the bottom of a pool for over 5-6 minutes (I got bored and moved off!).

5. Photographs. Enclosed is a slide of a large monitor (> 4 ft) on the megapode mound, in lieu of which you could send me film (preferably Kodakchrome 64 ASA process prepaid which is neither available nor can be processed in India). They extensively burrow into megapode mounds to prey on eggs and probably to lay their own as well (please refer to enclosed reprint).

I do hope this is of use.

With best wishes
Yours sincerely



R Sankaran



Principal Officer, Conservator of Forests

Andaman & Nicobar Islands

7 June 1995

To
Dr R.S. Seymour
Associate Professor
Zoology Department
The University of Adelaide
Adelaide, South Australia 5005

Dear Dr Seymour,

I just got back from the Nicobar islands where I looked at the impact of nest collection on the edible nest swiftlet *Aerodramus fuciphagus*. The situation is grim with perhaps 85 - 95 % loss of population having already occurred due to extensive nest harvesting over the last few years.

I hope to shortly commence ecological studies of the Nicobar megapode, with the major thrust areas being heat generation sources and variations between types of mounds and social organisation. I certainly think that it would be useful for us to combine resources and look forward to communicating further with you.

With best wishes
Yours sincerely

R Sankaran

7 June 1995

To
Mr Samar Singh
Secretary General
World Wide Fund for Nature
172-B Lodi Estate
New Delhi 110 003

Dear Sir,

I just got back from the Nicobar islands where I looked at the status of the edible nest swiftlet *Aerodramus fuciphagus*, a study that was funded by WWF through TRAFFIC India. The situation is grim with perhaps 85-95% loss of population having already occurred due to extensive nest harvesting over the last few years. I will be sending a detailed report shortly.

I find the document 'Biodiversity conservation in the Andaman & Nicobar islands -Proposed activities' fairly comprehensive. I would like to suggest the inclusion of the following under the First Priority.

1. Development of a framework for Tourism

The problem is that the A & N islands are encouraging tourism in a very big way, and it appears that no area / island / beach is inviolate, some of which may threaten tribal lifestyles and flora and fauna, particularly nesting turtles. A strict framework needs to be defined, identifying islands or areas that can be opened to tourism, and the kind of infrastructure development that can be done.


2. Trade in animal products

There is an enormous and unregulated trade in animal products particularly shell, shark, sea cucumber, edible nest swiftlet and red corals, and perhaps many more. This has to be very high on priority as existing populations have apparently been decimated due to the trade. Areas that need to be addressed could include working out a framework for the sustainable exploitation of these resources based on harvest limits.

My only criticism is about 'Monitoring of biodiversity Hot Spots in the A & N islands'. I find this vague, and it needs to be well defined. Care needs to be taken to ensure that culturally and ecologically sensitive areas are not deluged by nature enthusiasts, something that is akin to excessive tourism!

It is heartening to see WWF taking a keen interest in the A & N islands, at a time when the islands are particularly vulnerable to the forces of unconstrained development. I will be happy to associate with and support your activities in any way that I can.

With best wishes
Yours sincerely


R Sankaran



Wellbrook Court
Girton Road
Cambridge CB3 0NA UK
Tel +44 223 277318
Fax +44 223 277200

Ravi Sankaran
SACON
Kalampalayam
P.O. Coimbatore - 641 010
INDIA

22/IN/1
RPC/rpc

15 June 1994

THREAT TO GREAT NICOBAR ISLAND

Dear Mr. Sankaran,

In response to your letter of 11 January 1994 informing BirdLife of the progress of the proposal to build a Free Port on Great Nicobar Island, I have been investigating the impact such a development would have.

I would greatly appreciate some clarification of how great a threat you believe the proposed development to be, especially with regard to the threatened and endemic bird species present.

In a previous letter to Richard Grimmett (of 27 December 1993) you suggested that Shell was a primary mover in the project. Shell, however, deny any involvement or knowledge of the project, and there have been no recent press releases in the UK regarding any developments in the Nicobar Islands. I would, therefore, be most grateful if you could send me any further details you are aware of, so that BirdLife can take the appropriate action.

Thank you very much for your help.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "RC", written over a horizontal line.

Robert Clay
Volunteer to the Asia Division



C. P. OBERAI, IFS

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests

&

Secretary

Environment and Forests

Phone : 21321 (O)

21260 (R)

Fax No. : 03192 - 30113

Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Port Blair 744102

D. O. No. F7(L-I)/8

^{23rd}
Dated 22 June 1995

Dear Mr Sankaran,

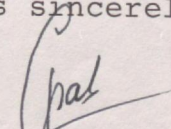
I have gone through your letter of 16 June 1995 regarding survey of edible-nest swiftlet in the Nicobar Group of Islands.

Your letter reveals many startling facts on which our department should take action immediately. We are keen that these species should prosper well in these islands.

I shall be happy to have your report so that I may advise Chief Wild Life Warden and other officers to take required action in the matter. We also have to seek cooperation of the general public, other departments, defence forces and village heads to see that the population of swiftlets does not fall down.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,


(C P Oberai)

Dr. R Sankaran,
Scientist,
Division of Avian Ecology,
Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology
and Natural History,
Kalampalayam P.O.,
Coimbatore - 641 010,
INDIA.



Wellbrook Court
Girton Road
Cambridge CB3 0NA UK
Tel +44 223 277318
Fax +44 223 277200

Dr Ravi Sankaran
SACON
Kalampalayam P.O.
Coimbatore 641 010
INDIA

29/1/S/BTW
MC

11 July 1994

REVIEW OF DRAFT *BIRDS TO WATCH* TEXTS FOR INDIA

Dear Ravi,

Thank you very much for your letter of 14 June, and the extremely helpful information and comments on the birds species endemic to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. It was very reassuring to learn that the natural habitats on these island groups remain largely pristine, and that many of the species which we provisionally listed as threatened are better treated as near-threatened or "safe / low risk".

We decided to draft texts for these species because there seemed to be very little published recent information available on their status. Since then, we have received a copy of your report on the Nicobar Scrubfowl survey, and had therefore already learned that habitat remains largely intact in most of the Nicobar Islands, and that you recorded many of the endemic species in the course of your work.

I agree that we should list most of the endemic Andaman and Nicobar species as near-threatened. The only ones which I think we should still include as threatened are:

1. Nicobar Scrubfowl: the results of your survey suggest that the minimum total population may be below 10,000 mature individuals, and that a combination of threats (localised habitat destruction, hunting for food and egg collecting) are likely to be causing a continuing population decline. This population size (<10,000) and the inferred rate of decline trigger criterion C1, so it still qualifies as "Vulnerable", even though it is clearly not under immediate threat of extinction.
2. Andaman Crane: there seem to be very few recent records of this species, which could conceivably be rather specific in its habitat requirements and therefore have a low total population and be vulnerable to localised threats. As a precautionary measure, this should be included until better information is available.

International Council for Bird Preservation
Registered Charity No. 286211

President: Donal C. O'Brien Jr • Chairman: Mats Segnestam • Director-General: Christoph Imboden

3. Narcondam Hornbill.
4. Nicobar Bulbul: the apparent population decline which you noted in parts of its very small range qualifies this species as threatened.

Please let me know as soon as possible if you disagree strongly with any of the above, so that we can make further amendments before the book is published (note that we go to press in early August). This edition of *Birds to watch* will be presented as a candidate list for the forthcoming Asian Red Data Book Programme, which will allow a comprehensive compilation of the data on these species and a more considered judgement on whether they are truly globally threatened. We look forward to working with yourself and your colleagues at SACON on this exciting new project.

I mentioned your recent work on the Nicobars to Nigel Collar, the editor of the BirdLife journal, *Bird Conservation International*, who expressed an interest in publishing a paper on the status of the Nicobar endemic species, or of the Nicobar Scrubfowl. If you are interested, please contact Nigel directly. It would also be interesting to know who has done similar work in the Andamans, as there seems to be a similar lack of published recent information from there.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Mike Crosby

Mike Crosby,
Research Officer (Asia Programme)

M. DAVID OVEN**HEAD MAN OF TAPONG VILL
NANCOWRY ISLAND Po. Kamorta-744303**

Ref No:

Date 18 Jul 95

Dear Ravi

Received your loving letter on 16 Jul 95 is regarding me about all support and help extend by my side during your stay at my poor village Nancowry thank a lot for my praise, here I convey your thank to all of my friends and families.

Next message is this I wish to know about what you have taken some pieces of roots is it really (CHANIAN) or some other is it costly thing or not? Please convey me about its used and I'll ready to collect more and more till you return here in our island. Once again I would like request you if it is possible to bring (TYPEWRITTING MACHINE) of a small size I'll be really appreciated if you could do the needful here. I am arrange and ready for payment as well as possible. hope for you return to our island again. I'll be very warmly well come you. Many, many thanks by my side to you, May the good Lord bless you and bless your work all day long till we meet again.

with best wishes to you and your family

Yours Sincerely,
M. David Oven



SOCIETY FOR ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ECOLOGY

Post Box No. 63, Port Blair-744101

A & N Islands

21st July, 1995.

Dear Dr. Sankaran,

After receiving your letter dated 16th June, '95 regarding the status of the edible-nest swiftlet in the Nicobar Islands, I had been waiting anxiously for a copy of your report before initiating any action. Since the report did not reach me so far, I decided to write to you because postal service here is notorious. Please ensure mailing me a copy by Speed Post at your earliest convenience.

Incase your full report is not yet ready, I would appreciate receiving a brief outline to enable us to initiate some positive action.

Edible-nest swiftlets are not generally visible even in the coastal stretches of Andaman today. But I remember that even in late sixties, they used to nest even in the Govt. House (now RAJ NIWAS) and were very common even at Port Blair.

We would, naturally welcome your study in the Andamans and would render all possible assistance. Kindly feel free to call upon our services whenever you feel the need.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(SAMIR ACHARYA).

To.

Dr. R. Sankaran,
Scientist,
Division of Avian Ecology,
Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology & Natural History,
Kalampalayam P.O.,
Coimbatore-641 010.

31 July, 1995

To
Mr Kishore Rao, IFS
Joint Director (WL)
Ministry of Environment & Forests
Paryavaran Bhavan, C.G.O. Complex
Lodi Road, New Delhi 110003

Dear Sir,

I am sorry for this delay in writing to you. Our computers had crashed, and I was unable to retrieve information concerning issues that we had discussed. My research on the endemic avifauna of the Nicobar islands has established the need for an improvement in the protected area network of the island group. Two issues need to be addressed at the earliest.

Priority 1: Redesigning the Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve.

The core areas of the Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve are inadequate because: (1) they do not cover all undisturbed and contiguous forests of the Nicobar islands; (2) they have left the southern tip, the single largest stretch of flat coastal forest which is very important for the Nicobar Megapode unprotected; (3) a broad stretch of pristine forest, critical to the Shompen (a schedule tribe) has been left unprotected between the two National Parks. The Buffer zone of this Biosphere reserve is also not functional. It lies in pristine forests that are not used by man, and hence defeating the very purpose of buffer zones in Biosphere Reserves, which are to be areas of multiple use.

A proposal for the redesigned Biosphere Reserve is enclosed. I propose a single core area on Great Nicobar, the Great Nicobar National Park, excluding all inhabited areas (buffer zone), and covering all undisturbed and pristine forests. Inherent to this is the acquisition of 2000 acres of land that belongs to the Indian Airforce at Indira Point. I have been given to understand that the Airforce are no longer interested in this area, and are going to / have given it up. This area is ecologically much too important to be put to any use other than the conservation of Biodiversity. Equally important is the inclusion of the central portion of Great Nicobar, between the two existing National Parks into the core area. The East West road passes through this area, and any further demographic or policy changes in Great Nicobar will result in pressures along this road. The forests of the central portion of Great Nicobar are pristine, and must be given National park status.

Priority 2: The Nancowry Biosphere Reserve.

The Nancowry sub-group has its own unique flora and fauna. With respect to endemic avifauna, it is the most important group in the Nicobar islands and deserves protection. However, the islands in the group are small, all of which are populated and protecting the area adequately will be a challenging task. Ratchall, Camorta, Nancowry and Tillanchong are four islands in this group where core areas can be established (see enclosure).

The biological uniqueness of the Nicobar islands need no emphasis. I'm deeply concerned that unless adequate legislature is enacted, the biological wealth of the Nicobars is threatened, particularly at a time when monetary gains apparently overrides every other consideration. I am convinced that the future of Nicobar's biodiversity lies in the planning of a protected area that encompasses all remainign pristine forests.

With best wishes
Yours sincerely



R Sankaran
Scientist
Div. of Avian Ecology

31 July, 1995.

To
Mr Valmik Thappar
19, Kautilya Marg
New Delhi 21

Dear Valmik,

I am sorry for this delay in writing to you. Our computers had crashed, and I was unable to retrieve information concerning issues that we had discussed. My research on the endemic avifauna of the Nicobar islands has established the need for an improvement in the protected area network of the island group. My research has also revealed excessive levels of trade in certain species of fauna.

Priority 1: Redesigning the Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve.

The core areas of the Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve are inadequate because: (1) they do not cover all undisturbed and contiguous forests of the Nicobar islands; (2) they have left the southern tip, the single largest stretch of flat coastal forest which is very important for the Nicobar Megapode unprotected; (3) a broad stretch of pristine forest, critical to the Shompen (a Scheule tribe) has been left unprotected between the two National Parks. The Buffer zone of this Biosphere reserve is also not functional. It lies in pristine forests that are not used by man, and hence defeating the very purpose of buffer zones in Biosphere Reserves, which are to be areas of multiple use.

A proposal for the redesigned Biosphere Reserve is enclosed. I propose a single core area on Great Nicobar, the Great Nicobar National Park, excluding all inhabited areas (buffer zone), and covering all undisturbed and pristine forests. Inherent to this is the acquisition of 2000 acres of land that belongs to the Indian Airforce at Indira Point. I have been given to understand that the Airforce are no longer interested in this area, and are going to / have given it up. This area is ecologically much too important to be put to any use other than the conservation of Biodiversity. Equally important is the inclusion of the central portion of Great Nicobar, between the two existing National Parks into the core area. The East West road passes through this area, and any further demographic or policy changes in Great Nicobar will result in pressures along this road. The forests of the central portion of Great Nicobar are pristine, and must be given National park status.

Priority 2: The Nancowry Biosphere Reserve.

The Nancowry sub-group has its own unique flora and fauna. With respect to endemic avifauna, it is the most important group in the Nicobar islands and deserves protection. However, the islands in the group are small, all of which are populated and protecting the area adequately will be a challenging task. Katchall, Camorta, Nancowry and Tillanchong are four islands in this group where core areas can be established (see enclosure).

The biological uniqueness of the Nicobar islands need no emphasis. I'm deeply

concerned that unless adequate legislature is enacted, the biological wealth of the Nicobars is threatened, particularly at a time when monetary gains apparently overrides every other consideration. I am convinced that the future of Nicobar's biodiversity lies in the planning of a protected area that encompasses all remaining pristine forests.

Priority 3:

I am enclosing an abstract of relevant sections of a report that is under preparation on the 'Impact of nest collection on the edible nest swiftlet in the Nicobar group of islands'.

The highlights are:

1. If the situation in the Nicobar islands are indicative, then in the Andaman & Nicobar islands the decline due to nest collection in population of the Edible-nest swiftlet is to the tune of 75% or more.
2. Nest collection is excessive and unconstrained, is carried out irrespective of time of breeding season and no population of the swiftlet is exempt from collection pressures. Location of colonies (cliff faces) makes protection of nesting colonies extremely difficult.
3. Under the present circumstances, nest collection in the Andaman & Nicobar islands cannot be regulated on a sustainable basis.

Based on my study I recommend

1. The swiftlets (*Collocalia* and *Aerodramus*) are brought under the Wildlife Protection Act either in Schedule II or Schedule I immediately.
2. As all trade in swiftlet nests are by the passenger ships proper checking (similar to customs at airports) needs to be carried out on a regular and sustained basis at all ports. This will effectively regulate trade in other animal products as well.

After my survey, I have begun considering the Edible-nest Swiftlet as one of India's most severely exploited and most neglected species, and am extremely pleased to see that the Ministry is contemplating action to conserve this species. I would be delighted to assist you in any other way I can. I will be sending copies of my report as soon as it is ready, hopefully by mid September.

Priority 4:

I am also deeply concerned about the exploitation of certain marine species, namely sharks, seacucumbers and shells such as *Tockus*, *Nautilus* and *Turbo*. As with the edible-nest swiftlet harvest is uncontrolled and excessive and populations have visibly or are reported to have declined significantly everywhere. While these species can be utilised in a sustainable manner, the existing and projected exploitation levels are much too high for existing populations to sustain it. There is an immediate need for a total ban on the collection and trade in these species in the Andaman & Nicobar islands.

I urge you to initiate necessary action at Delhi to ensure that the immense biological wealth of the Andaman & Nicobar islands receive the protection that they deserve. I would be delighted to assist you in any other way I can.

With best wishes
Yours sincerely



R Sankaran
Scientist
Div. of Avian Ecology

To
Dr Shekhar Singh
c/o WWF-India (Secretariat)
172 B Lodi Estate
New Delhi

1 August, 1995

Dear Sir,

I am sorry for this delay in writing to you. Our computers had crashed, and I was unable to retrieve information concerning issues that we had discussed. My research on the endemic avifauna of the Nicobar islands has established the need for an improvement in the protected area network of the island group. My research has also revealed excessive levels of trade in certain species of fauna.

Priority 1: Redesigning the Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve.

The core areas of the Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve are inadequate because: (1) they do not cover all undisturbed and contiguous forests of the Nicobar islands; (2) they have left the southern tip, the single largest stretch of flat coastal forest which is very important for the Nicobar Megapode unprotected; (3) a broad stretch of pristine forest, critical to the Shompen (a schedule tribe) has been left unprotected between the two National Parks. The Buffer zone of this Biosphere reserve is also not functional. It lies in pristine forests that are not used by man, and hence defeating the very purpose of buffer zones in Biosphere Reserves, which are to be areas of multiple use.

A proposal for the redesigned Biosphere Reserve is enclosed. I propose a single core area on Great Nicobar, the Great Nicobar National Park, excluding all inhabited areas (buffer zone), and covering all undisturbed and pristine forests. Inherent to this is the acquisition of 2000 acres of land that belongs to the Indian Airforce at Indira Point. I have been given to understand that the Airforce are no longer interested in this area, and are going to / have given it up. This area is ecologically much too important to be put to any use other than the conservation of Biodiversity. Equally important is the inclusion of the central portion of Great Nicobar, between the two existing National Parks into the core area. The East West road passes through this area, and any further demographic or policy changes in Great Nicobar will result in pressures along this road. The forests of the central portion of Great Nicobar are pristine, and must be given National park status.

Priority 2: The Nancowry Biosphere Reserve.

The Nancowry sub-group has its own unique flora and fauna. With respect to endemic avifauna, it is the most important group in the Nicobar islands and deserves protection. However, the islands in the group are small, all of which are populated and protecting the area adequately will be a challenging task. Katchall, Camorta, Nancowry and Tillanchong are four islands in this group where core areas can be established (see enclosure).

The biological uniqueness of the Nicobar islands need no emphasis. I'm deeply concerned that unless adequate legislature is enacted, the biological wealth of the Nicobars is threatened, particularly at a time when monetary gains apparently overrides every other consideration. I am convinced that the future of Nicobar's biodiversity lies in the planning of a protected area that encompasses all remaining pristine forests.

The biological uniqueness of the Nicobar islands need no emphasis. I'm deeply concerned that unless adequate legislature is enacted, the biological wealth of the Nicobars is threatened, particularly at a time when monetary gains apparently overrides every other consideration. I am convinced that the future of Nicobar's biodiversity lies in the planning of a protected area that encompasses all remainign pristine forests.

Priority 3:

I am enclosing an abstract of relevant sections of a report that is under preparation on the 'Impact of nest collection on the edible nest swiftlet in the Nicobar group of islands'.

The highlights are:

1. If the situation in the Nicobar islands are indicative, then in the Andaman & Nicobar islands the decline due to nest collection in population of the Edible-nest swiftlet is to the tune of 75% or more.
2. Nest collection is excessive and unconstrained, is carried out irrespective of time of breeding season and no population of the swiftlet is exempt from collection pressures. Location of colonies (cliff faces) makes protection of nesting colonies extremely difficult.
3. Under the present circumstances, nest collection in the Andaman & Nicobar islands cannot be regulated on a sustainable basis.

Based on my study I recommend


1. The swiftlets (*Collocalia* and *Aerodramus*) are brought under the Wildlife Protection Act either in Schedule II or Schedule I immediately.
2. As all trade in swiftlet nests are by the passenger ships proper checking (similar to customs at airports) needs to be carried out on a regular and sustained basis at all ports. This will effectively regulate trade in other animal products as well.

After my survey, I have begun considering the Edible-nest Swiftlet as one of India's most severely exploited and most neglected species, and am extremely pleased to see that the Ministry is contemplating action to conserve this species. I would be delighted to assist you in any other way I can. I will be sending copies of my report as soon as it is ready, hopefully by mid September.

Priority 4:

I am also deeply concerned about the exploitation of certain marine species, namely sharks, seacucmbers and shells such as Tockus, Nautilus and Turbo. As with the edible-nest swiftlet harvest is uncontrolled and excessive and populations have visibly or are reported to have declined significantly everywhere. While these species can be utilised in a sustainable manner, the existing and projected exploitation levels are much too high for existing populations to sustain it. There is an immediate need for a total ban on the collection and trade in these species in the Andaman & Nicobar islands.

With best wishes
Yours sincerely


R Sankaran
Scientist

The biological uniqueness of the Nicobar islands need no emphasis. I'm deeply concerned that unless adequate legislature is enacted, the biological wealth of the Nicobars is threatened, particularly at a time when monetary gains apparently overrides every other consideration. I am convinced that the future of Nicobar's biodiversity lies in the planning of a protected area that encompasses all remainign pristine forests.

Priority 3:

I am enclosing an abstract of relevant sections of a report that is under preparation on the 'Impact of nest collection on the edible nest swiftlet in the Nicobar group of islands'.

The highlights are:

1. If the situation in the Nicobar islands are indicative, then in the Andaman & Nicobar islands the decline due to nest collection in population of the Edible-nest swiftlet is to the tune of 75% or more.

ion is excessive and unconstrained, is carried out irrespective

NATIONAL **M**USEUM
ATUURHISTORISCH **USEUM**
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Dr. Ravi Sankaran
Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology
and Natural History
Kalampalayam P.O.
COIMBATORE 641 010
INDIA

LEIDEN, 29 August 1995

Dear Ravi,

Thank you for letter of July 28th and sorry for the delay in answering, but it is the holiday season in Holland.

Congratulations on the grant for your megapode project. That really is good news. You have a great opportunity to study in more detail one of the members of the fascinating megapode family. I will be in the UK next month at a meeting of the World Pheasant Association. I will discuss your request with Keith Howman and see what I can do for you.

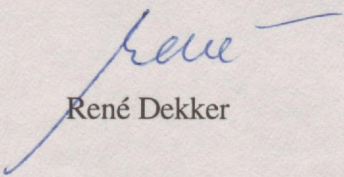
Can you make a short summary (or may I summarize) your proposal *A study of the breeding ecology of the Nicobar Megapode Megapodius nicobariensis* for the next Megapode Newsletter under the heading 'Project Updates'? You must have received the latest Newsletter (Vol. 9 (1), May 1995) to see what the contents is and how long (or better how short) these summaries are. I think your proposal should be summarize there to inform our readers of your plans.

Finally, as promised long ago, you will find my checklist of the birds I saw on Great Nicobar, including some seabirds on my way to and from it. I hope it is useful. If you have questions, please ask, or if there is something you can explain to me regarding the notes I have added, I am eager to hear them.

All the best with the preparation for your work.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,


René Dekker

5 September, 1995

To
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
Andaman & Nicobar Forest Department
Port Blair
Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Dear Sir,

Our Project on the endemic avifauna of the Andaman & Nicobar islands has finally been sanctioned (a 2 year delay!), and our next phase of work will be to study the ecology of the megapode and the Andaman teal in detail. I hope to return to the Andaman & Nicobar islands in the first week of November.

Just while my report on the Edible-nest Swiftlet was being finalised, our computers crashed. A two week delay in getting it functional again resulted in my schedules having gone completely awry. I left Coimbatore on the 1st of August, on a one month tour of western India, in connection with our efforts to conserve the Lesser Florican, and I'm afraid that the final report of the swiftlet survey will be ready only around the 10-15 of September.

With best wishes
Yours sincerely

R Sankaran

5 September, 1995

To
The Chief Wildlife Warden
Andaman & Nicobar Forest Department
Port Blair
Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Dear Sir,

Trust that you had an excellent study tour of U.K. Our Project on the endemic avifauna of the Andaman & Nicobar islands has finally been sanctioned (a 2 year delay!), and our next phase of work will be to study the ecology of the megapode and the Andaman teal in detail. I hope to return to the Andaman & Nicobar islands in the first week of November.

Just while my report on the Edible-nest Swiftlet was being finalised, our computers crashed. A two week delay in getting it functional again resulted in my schedules having gone completely awry. I left Coimbatore on the 1st of August, on a one month tour of western India, in connection with our efforts to conserve the Lesser Florican, and I'm afraid that the final report of the swiftlet survey will be ready only around the 10-15 of September.

With best wishes
Yours sincerely

R Sankaran

8 September 1995

Equipment requirements for the the Andaman & Nicobar Bird Project

The following equipment are required for the Andaman & Nicobar bird project, and have been budgeted and sanctioned in the Project. Director may please give approval for calling of quotations / placing of orders for the same.

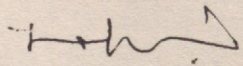
Within India purchase

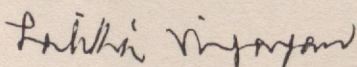
Snos	Item	Specification	Nos.	Approx cost
1.	Muffle Furnace	100x100x225 mm	1	7750
2.	Max-min thermometre		2	
3.	Hair hygrometre		2	
4.	Raingauge		2	
5.	Stopwatch		2	
6.	Tally counter		2	
7.	Dissection set		2	

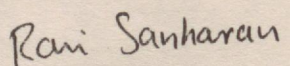
Equipment to be imported

Sno	Specifications	Model	Cat. nos	Nos.	\$/p	Total
1.	Compass & clinometre	MC-1D	37166	2	34.95	69.90
2.	Rangefinder 15-180m	620	38983	2	89.95	179.90
3.	Vernier calipers	31-415-3	59591	2	66.00	132.00
4.	Lux metre		92524	2	119.00	275.50
	Carrying case		92525	2	15.00	
	9V Battery		02179	2	3.50	
5.	Binoculars (Pentax 8x42 Roofprism)		91407	2	279.00	558.00
6.	Leupold spotting scope 20x 50mm		61090	1	498.50	498.50
7.	Tripod		91115	1	99.25	99.25
8.	Pesola Balance					380.85
	a. 50g x 0.5 g	120K	93536	2	39.95	
	b. 100g x 1 g	130K	93537	2	39.95	
	c. 500g x 5g	145K	93539	2	39.95	
	d. 1kg x 10g	160K	93540	2	36.95	
	e. 2.5kg x 50g	175K	93551	2	31.25	
	f. Replacement hook		93552	5	0.95	

Total US \$2193.90 or Rs 72398.70


Principal Investigator




Co-investigator

8 September 1995

Division of Avian Ecology

The following equipment are to be included in the pass book for free import.

Equipment to be imported from available funds

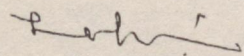
Sno	Specifications	Model	Nos.	\$/p	Total	Rupees
1.	Compass & clinometre	MC-1D	2	34.95	69.90	2306.70
2.	Rangefinder 15-180m	620	2	89.95	179.90	5936.70
3.	Vernier calipers	31-415-3	2	66.00	132.00	4356.00
4.	Lux metre		2	119.00	275.50	9091.50
	Carrying case		2	15.00		
	9V Battery		2	3.50		
5.	Binoculars (Pentax 8x42 Roofprism)		2	279.00	558.00	18414.00
6.	Leupold spotting scope 20x 50mm		1	498.50	498.50	16450.50
7.	Tripod		1	99.25	99.25	3275.25
8.	Pesola Balance				380.85	12568.05
	a. 50g x 0.5 g	120K	2	39.95	79.90	
	b. 100g x 1 g	130K	2	39.95	79.90	
	c. 500g x 5g	145K	2	39.95	79.90	
	d. 1kg x 10g	160K	2	36.95	73.90	
	e. 2.5kg x 50g	175K	2	31.25	62.50	
	f. Replacement hook		5	0.95	4.75	
9.	Sound recording equipment					42000.00
						Rs 114398.70

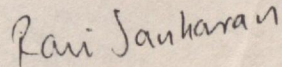
Equipment to be imported from funds yet to be secured

10.	Soil-respirometre with temperature probes		1			200000.00
11.	Radiotelemetry receiver & 9 collars		1			100000.00
						300000.00

Total 414398.70
Add 10% 41149.87

Total value of equipment to be imported (to nearest 1000) 456000.00


Principal Scientist

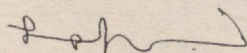

Scientist

8 September 1995

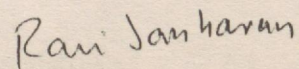
Field Book requirements for the the Andaman & Nicobar Bird Project

Two copies each of the following books are required for the field identification of birds and other fauna for two field stations in the Andaman & Nicobar islands. Director may please approve the purchase of the same.

1. Ali, S. & Ripley, S.D. 1987. Handbook of the birds of India & Pakistan. Compact Edition. Oxford Univ. Press.
2. Prater, S.H. 1971. The book of Indian animals. BNHS.
3. Daniel, J.C. 1989. The book of Indian reptiles. BNHS.
4. Whittaker, R. 1978. Common Indian Snakes.
5. King, B.F., Dickinson, E.C. & Woodcock, M.U. 1975. A field guide to the birds of south-east Asia. Collins, London.
6. Bhushan, B. et al. 1993. A field guide to the waterfowl of Asia. Asian Wetland Bureau.



Principal Investigator



Co-investigator

17 September 1995

To
Dr Vibhu Prakash
Bombay natural History Society
Shaheed Bhagat Singh Road
Opp. Lion Gate
Bombay 23

Dear Vibhu,

We have commenced a long term project to study the endemic avifauna of the Nicobar islands, of which the Nicobar Megapode is a target species.

We plan to study in detail, the mound dynamics of the Nicobar Megapode and more particularly, mound fidelity, territories in relation to mound position and number of pairs that share mounds. To achieve our objectives, we intend colour marking our study birds for individual identification.

I write this letter to you with the request that the BNHS may please loan our project 10 mist nets so as to enable us to trap our study birds. These nets will be returned and/or replaced as soon as we have colour marked all the birds that need to study. I would be extremely grateful if these could reach us by about the middle of October as I hope to leave for the Nicobar islands by the 1st of November.

Trust all is well with you.

Thanking you
Yours sincerely

R Sankaran

20 September 1995

To
The Director
SACON

Through the Principal Scientist
Div. of Avian Ecology

Sub: Participation of co-investigator in the selection of JRF in the Andaman & Nicobar bird project.

Dear Sir,

I wish to participate in the interview of JRFs in the Andaman & Nicobar bird project. I believe that I should be play a role in the selection of candidates because:

1. My first assignment after joining SACON in August 1992 was to prepare the project proposal for the Andaman & Nicobar endemic bird project. I have been deeply involved in all aspects of this project, and have already done a considerable amount of field work for this. Since so much has been invested by me in the project, I believe that not only must I be involved in every stage of the project, but that I must have some say in who should work as JRF in the project.
2. As the project in the Andaman & Nicobar islands will entail up to 6 or 7 months of field work, and as I will be not only closely interacting with the JRFs, but that they will also be living with ^{the} them, I believe that I should have some say in who the JRFs will be.

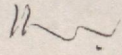
With these in mind, I request you to permit me to participate in the selection of JRFs for my project.

Thanking you
Yours sincerely

Ravi Sankaran

R Sankaran
Scientist
Div. of Avian Ecology

Director may please advise


20/9/95.

28 September 1994

To
Mr Mike Crosby
Birdlife International
Wellbrook Court, Girton Road
Cambridge CB3 0NA, U.K.

Dear Mike,

I saw your letter dated 11 July only on getting back recently from a status survey of the lesser florican.

1. The Nicobar scrub fowl. Vulnerable is certainly preferable to endangered, not because of its population size which I believe to be satisfactory but because the biology of this species (and group) makes it particularly sensitive to man.

2. Andaman crane. I am against the classification of a species as threatened solely because there is no information on it. There are very few recent records simply because there has been barely any birding done in the Andamans!

3. Narcondam hornbill. My major reservation in the criteria to define status is that species whose population size has apparently remained unchanged, or who have not been in any way influenced by man also warrant classification as endangered, when the criteria are applied. A good example is the Narcondam hornbill which is known to be common on Narcondam (Hume late 1800s, Osmaston early 1900s, Hussain 1970s & Vibhu Prakash 1993), with a probable population size of 400 birds. Narcondam is pristine, barely inhabited, no agriculture or forestry, and the goats are already being cleared out (most of which are not free ranging). Narcondam is a sanctuary and there is little possibility of a change in land use in the foreseeable future. The hornbill can become extinct, presently, if the volcano erupts, or some other such act of god takes place; clearly human intervention is currently unnecessary.

Classifying a species as endangered simply based on its numbers or degree of its range restriction is necessary, provided a) there has been reduction in numbers due to man and b) that numbers / rarity or localisation is not an inherent biological or bio-geographical characteristic of the species. A species naturally rare and whose habitat is largely intact cannot be ranked equal to a species endangered by human acts. I believe that an endangered species is one where conservation action is imperative to ensure its survival.

4. Nicobar bulbul. Threatened is appropriate.

I have also just received a letter dated 30 April 1993, enclosing a draft on the Assam Plains from you! Anyway, I could not have helped you there as Hussain must have mistakenly mixed up between me and Gautam Narayan, who is currently with the Jersey Wildlife Trust. He would be a good person to comment on drafts on that region.

With best wishes
Yours sincerely

R Sankaran

4 December 1995

To
The Director
SACON

Through the Principal Scientist (Avian Ecology)


Dear Sir,

I have requested an advance of Rs 79,000/- for conducting the field work of two projects (a) Andaman & Nicobar Bird Project and (b) Edible-nest Swiftlet Project. I have requested this amount as there are considerable postal delays in mail reaching Great Nicobar island, making receipt of funds in an instalment basis impractical, particularly as the bulk of the funds will be required by early February.

As SACON does not have an account in Campbell Bay, I may please be permitted to operate the finances required for field work through my account at Port Blair and Campbell Bay.

Submitted to the Director for approval.

Thanking you
Yours sincerely


R Sankaran
Scientist (Div. of Avian Ecology)

4 December 1995


To
The Principal Scientist (Avian Ecology)
SACON

Dear Madam,

I have booked my flight to Port Blair on 7th December, to commence field work on the Andaman & Nicobar Bird project. The ship tickets for the Research Scholars have been booked for 5th December. There is a need for urgency to depart as we are already late in the commencement of field studies, and there is a considerable amount of work to be done to establish data collection.

I will therefore not be able to remain at SACON for the internal assessment on 10 & 11 December, as doing so will cause considerable delays in the commencement of the study. However, if there are any clarifications raised during the assessment, I can answer those through correspondence.

Thanking you
Yours sincerely


R Sankaran
Scientist (Div. of Avian Ecology)

5 December 1995

To the Director
SACON

Through the Principal Scientist

Dear Sir,

As per the clarifications required regarding advance for the study tour of Andaman & Nicobar islands please note:

1. The expenditures envisaged.

Flight Port Blair - Madras	4500/-
Local conveyance	1000/-
Inter-island ship	1000/-
Hiring of boat for swiftlet survey	52000/-
DA	5000/-
Technical assistants / local assistants and incentives to nest collectors	10000/-
Other projects costs (stationary, consumable etc.)	5000/-
	<hr/>
Total	79000/-

2. Necessity of the advance.


The advance requested will be used for conducting two projects (a) Andaman & Nicobar Bird Project and (b) Edible-nest Swiftlet Project. As the second instalment of the Andaman & Nicobar bird project has not yet been received by us, the funds of the Edible-nest Swiftlet project will be used temporarily to commence field work for the Andaman & Nicobar bird Project. Apart from the funds necessary for establishing field stations and commencing field work (about Rs 15,000 to 20,000/-), a working advance of Rs 10,000/- for each Research Scholar is necessary in order to do field work and pay the local assistants. The study of harvest and nesting patterns of swiftlets will be done between December and February for which boat and local assistant will have to be hired which will cost approximately Rs 10,000. Thus between December and February it is expected that there will be an expenditure of between Rs 40,000/- and 50,000/-. In February, the swiftlet survey of the Andaman islands will commence, for which about Rs 50,000/- to Rs 60,000/- will be required.

As there are considerable postal delays in mail reaching Great Nicobar island, often over a month, this makes receipt of funds on a monthly basis impractical. Thus an adequate advance is important in the Andaman & Nicobar islands to ensure smooth functioning of the project due to the remoteness of the study areas.

3. To ensure security, the advance may be carried in the form of Travellers Cheques.

Submitted to the Director for approval.

Thanking you
Yours sincerely


R Sankaran
Scientist (Div. of Avian Ecology)

14/12/1995
Camp:Port Blair

To
The Chief Wildlife Warden,
A & N Forest Department,
Port Blair.

Dear Sir,

Our Institute has been granted a long-term project - 'A Study on the Ecology, Status and Conservation Perspective of certain rare endemic avifauna of the A & N Islands'. The study is wholly funded by the Ministry of Environment and Forest, Government of India and is for three years. The objectives of the study are:-

1. To assess the status of endemic avifauna in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and to identify taxa which are rare, threatened or endangered.
2. To study the ecology of the Nicobar Megapode, Narcondam Hornbill and the Andaman Teal.
3. To prepare a conservation management plan for rare endemic avifauna of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

So far we have done exhaustive survey of the Nicobar Islands between December 1992 to May 1995. The second phase we wish to study the ecology of the Nicobar Megapode and the Andaman Teal. Based on our earlier surveys we identified two sites where both populations of the target species are high and there is adequate logistic support. The sites are Kokeon forest camp, Great Nicobar for Nicobar Megapode and Interview Islands Forest Camp for the Andaman Teal. 6

We request you to please grant us permission to study the ecology of the Nicobar Megapode and Andaman Teal from December 1995 onwards and permit us to stay at the above mentioned camps to carry out our Research Project.

-: 2 :-

Our Research Team is comprised of the following individuals:

1. Dr.(Mrs.) Lalitha Vijayan, Principal Scientist
2. Dr. R. Sankaran, Scientist
3. Mr. K. Sivakumar, JRF - To study Megapods
4. Mr. R. Sakthivel, JRF - To study Andaman Teal

that
I trust/the support and logistic help that we have received in the past will be continued so as to enable us to successfully to complete our research study.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,

Ravi Sankaran
(Dr. R. SANKARAN)

14-12-1995.

FIELD EQUIPMENT

1. Zed Maximum. Min Thermometer with magnet. (1 no)
2. Fisher Air Hygrometer (1 no).
3. Rain Gauge (1 no).
4. Mist Nets (7 nos).
5. Binocular (Pentax). (1 no).
6. Ranging meter (1 no).
7. Compass x clinometer (1 no).
8. ~~Moss~~ Rings (A F 501-600, G 301-400, J). (4 nos).
9. Rastec sac (1 no)
10. Lux meter (1 no).
11. Measuring tape (2 m). (1 no).

H. E. U

Above mentioned field equipments (11 items) I received from Dr. R. Sanbheran, for field work.

Yours faithfully,

K. Sirabuen.

14/12/95.

Date: 14.12.95

Place: PORT BLAIR.

STATIONARY & BOOKS:

1. Collins Field Guide - (1 no).
2. Indian Reptiles - (1 no).
3. Writing Pad - 1
4. Diary - 1
5. Spiral note book - 2
6. Paper -
7. Ball Point Pen - 4
8. Pencil - 5
9. Erasing rubber - 1
10. office cover - 20 nos.
11. Pin & clips -
12. Polythene covers - 200 gm.
13. Files - 3
14. Marker pen - 1
15. Writing Pad - 1
16. Small bag - 1
17. Mosquito net - 1
18. Paper punch - 1
19. Scissors - 1
20. Staplers - 1
21. Scale - 1

These are (21 items) the things I received from
Dr. R. Sankar, for my field work.

Yours faithfully,
K. Srabman.

STATIONARY & BOOKS

14-12-1995.

① Field Guide [Collins]	-	1
② Common Indian Snakes [Romulus Whitaker]	-	1
③ The book of Indian Reptiles	-	1
④ Field Bag	-	1
⑤ Writing Pad	-	1
⑥ Diary	-	1
⑦ Spiral note book	-	1
⑧ Paper (Punch)	-	2
⑨ Ballpoint Pen	-	1
⑩ Erasing Rubber	-	4
⑪ Office Cover	-	1
⑫ Pin & clips	-	30
⑬ Polythene covers	-	
⑭ Files	-	250 gms
⑮ Marker Pen	-	3
⑯ Scissors	-	1
⑰ Stapler	-	1
⑱ Scale	-	1

Four & half July

R. SAKTHIVEL

[R. SAKTHIVEL]

FIELD EQUIPMENTS

14-12-1995.

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|---|---|
| ① | MAX - MIN THERMOMETER ZEAL | — | 1 |
| ② | HYGROMETER [Fischer] | — | 1 |
| ③ | LUX METER [Digital Instrument] | — | 1 |
| ④ | BINOCULAR | — | 1 |
| ⑤ | FIELD COMPASS [Suunto] | — | 1 |
| ⑥ | Ranging meter | — | 1 |
| ⑦ | Measuring tape [30 m] | — | 1 |
| ⑧ | " " [2 m] | — | 1 |
| ⑨ | Rain gauge | — | 1 |
| ⑩ | Rock See | — | 1 |

Yours faithfully,
R. Sathivel
(R. SATHIVEL)

18/12/1995
Camp, Mayabunder

To
The D.C.F. [w.c. II]
Mayabunder
A & M Islands

Dear Sir,

I had hoped that you would be in Mayabunder and that I would be able to discuss our project with you in detail. We have a project funded by M.O.E. to study the endemic avifauna of the Islands. Our target species are Andaman teal & Nicobar megapode for which we have two research scholars who will study the ecology of these species over the next three years. I have placed Mr. Saktivel^(our SPF) on interview island to study the teals there. Dr. (Mrs.) Lalitha Vijayan under whose supervision Mr. Saktivel is working will be here in the last week of December / 1st week of January, and will apprise you further in person. I am proceeding to Campbell Bay to establish a field station and commence research on the megapode.

I have heard about your academic bent of mind and interests in all things wild from other researchers who have worked in this area. It is therefore doubly a pity that I missed you, but hope to meet you in the 1st week of March when I will be coming back to Mayabunder. I trust that we will receive all necessary support and guidance from you - which is both essential and crucial to our research programme.

Please find enclosed a copy of my report on Swiftlets which will give you an idea of the kind of surveys that we undertake.

With best wishes,
Ravi Sanharan.

Dr. R. SANKARAN
SCIENTIST (SD)

Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology & Natural History (SACON),
Kalampalayam P.O. Coimbatore 641 010

Two Junior Research Fellows (JRFs) are required for a three year project 'A study on the ecology, status and conservation perspectives of rare and endemic avifauna of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands'.

Qualifications : M.Sc. I/II class (minimum 55% marks) In Zoology/Wildlife Biology/Ecology/Environmental Science.

Emoluments: Consolidated, Rs.2500/- + HRA

Selection Procedures : The JRFs will be selected based on a written examination and an Interview to be held at Coimbatore. Application on plain paper should reach the Principal Investigator of the project, SACON, within 15 days of this advertisement, with the following details : 1. Name
2. Nationality 3. Age & Date of Birth 4. Address for correspondence
5. Educational qualifications including school leaving certificate, University or board, subjects, marks in percentage or grade
6. Experience 7. Signature of candidate
8. Passport size photograph signed at the back.