



November 1, 2012

Mr. Badushah
Chithralakkara House
Sulthan Batheri taluka
Waynad district
Naiketty 673592

Dear Mr. Badushah,

Congratulations! I am delighted to inform you that you have been selected to receive the *Sanctuary Wildlife Service Award 2012* for your quiet commitment towards the protection of our wilderness areas. You are the future of wildlife conservation in India. Each year we hold the *Sanctuary Wildlife Awards* to honour those who are working selflessly to protect our natural heritage. We truly admire your extraordinary dedication and determination for the cause of wildlife and nature conservation in Kerala over the past several years.

The award includes a citation and an amount of Rs. 40,000. (Rupees forty thousand only), which may be utilised in a manner you deem fit. The details of the awards will be published in the December 2012 issue of *Sanctuary Asia* and our Executive Editor, Lakshmy Raman will be in touch with you for background information, including images that do justice to your work.

The award will be presented at a ceremony on November 30 at 6:30 p.m. at the National Centre for Performing Arts (NCPA), Nariman Point, Mumbai. A thousand people are expected to attend the ceremony which will be followed by dinner on the NCPA lawns.

I would like you to ensure that you arrive in Mumbai latest by the morning of November 29, 2012 in time to attend a Press Conference at the Press Club at noon. There will be a short rehearsal on the morning November 30 at the NCPA.

In coordination with you, Ms. Sulakshana Shahade (sulakshana@sanctuaryasia.com/ +9122 9320169021) will organise your travel arrangements to arrive on the morning of November 29, 2012. We have organised a 'Meet the Press' with you at the Press Club, Mumbai at noon. There will be a short rehearsal on the morning of November 30 at the NCPA. If there are any minor changes in timings we will of course keep you informed in advance.

Warm regards,

Bittu Sahgal,
Editor, *Sanctuary Asia*

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Details Regarding Sri N Badsha of Wynad Prakruthi Samrakshna Samithi

01. N Badsha is a Wynad based activist involved in various conservation activities in Kerala. He is based in a village called Naiketti, near Sulthan Batheri Taluk of Wynad District.

Although his focus is Wynad WLS (which includes Muthunga WLS and Tholphati WLS) he is a well know figure in all over Kerala due to his conservation intervesnions. Born in 1949 in an agriculture family he studied up to SSLC and then continued the farming. N Badsha and Wynad Prakruthi Samarakshna Samithi's work has helped not only Wynad WLS, it also contributed largely to nearby Bandipura , Nagarhole and Mudumali TRS and Brahmagiri WLS.

02. The 1970 decade was one of the important mile stone for the Wynad District. Demographic growth has compelled large scale of migration from Kerala to other states. Some youth who are the victims of unemployment from Wynad District were involved in ivory poaching and sandalwood smuggling. One rough estimation was that around 1000 people are involved in these illegal business. At the same time several sandalwood factories mushroomed in Wynad District. With the increased demand for the sandalwood the smugglers started smuggling sandalwood from nearby Nagarahole and Bandipura. Several youth from Kerala lost their lives due the strict law enforcement by Karnataka Forest Department.

The involvement of hundreds of youth from the Wynad resulted in shortage of labour force for agriculture and also affected the socio -economic situation of the district. During such period N Badsha led one group of farmers who protested against the sandalwood factories. Due to public opinion against the sandalwood factories government started monitoring of the factories. In due course all these factories were shut down resulting reduced demand for the sandalwood.

03. During 1970's Kerala Forest Department used to follow destructive forest management methodologies. Around 500 acres of semi - ever green forest in Wynad district was cleared and planted with teakwood and eucalypts plants in 1976 under *Clear Felling* system. N Badusha led a successful protest against this practice and the clear felling in Reserve Forest was stopped. However Kerala Forest Department continued the *Selection Felling*. 1978 N Badusha filled on petition against the Selection Felling in Reserve Forests.

04. In 1978 N Badusha joined with others such as P K Keshvan, and formed one group called Wynad District Vana Samrakshana Samithi. One *Padayathra* was organized for fifteen days opposing Deforestation in Wynad. In 1980 Wynad Prakruthi Samrakshana Samithi was formed by N Badusha, P K Keshvan, C C Mathew and M Gangadharan.

05. 1980 Kerala Forest Department started monoculture plantations in Shola Forests of Chembara Peak, Banasura Mala, Brahmagiri Peak and Kumba Mala. N Badusha joined with farmer groups and led a protest in which people entered these shoal forests and plants such as acacia and eucalypts were removed. Kerala Forest Department arrested ten

people including N Badusha. The manipulation of shoal forests in Wynad was stopped after this.

06. There was a unofficial system of trapping wild elephants meant for taming was in practice in Kerala Forest Department. The FD staffs used a prepare pits to capture elephants. N Badusha filled writ petition in 1984 and the system was stopped.

07. In the backdrop of the drought in Wynad in 1984 Wynad Prakruthi Samrakshan Samithi started campaign regarding the Forest Fire. The relationship between Forest and water security was explained to the mass.

08. N Badusha was part of the group which opposed granite mining in the vicinity of world famous Edkal Caves in 1985. This movement succeeded in compelling government to put an end to the granite mining in that area.

09. During 1985 N Badsha led a protest against the supply of bamboo from the Wynad Forests to a paper industry based in Mavoor.

10. In 2004 some tribal groups led by firebrand tribal leader C K Janu and other entered Muthunga WLS and occupied the forests. This issue became a national level issue and government was not in a position to handle this. In that time Wynad Prakruthi Samrakshana Samithi openly opposed the moves and intentions of the tribal groups. N Badsha filled one Public Interest Petition in Kerala High Court. The Kerala High Court passed order to evict the encroachers from the WLS. Empowered by this court order Kerala Police and Forest department cleared encroachment in WLS. This is one of the major contribution of Wynad Parkruthi Samrakshan Samithi in which it succeeded in protecting the habitat of Asiatic elephant.

11. Apart from these Wynad Parkruthi Samrakshan Samithi is involved in the movement against damages caused by the eco-tourism in Muthunga and Tholpatti WLS , Chambara Peak. Kerala Forest Department is slowing acting on this issues.

12. Wynad Prakruthi Samarakshna Samithi was co-applicant in the High Court petition in Karnataka High Court seeking banning of traffic during night time in NH 212. By this Wynad Prakruthi Samarakshna Samithi was the received the warmth of the powerful transportation lobby and the Kerala Business Groups as Kerala depends entirely on Karnataka for its vegetable, and milk products. The NH 212 was the critical highway connecting Northern Kerala and Southern Karnataka.

13. Presently Wynad Prakruthi Samarakshna Samithi is involved in supporting the inhabitant's of the Wynad WLS to get relocation package. N Badsha led a group of the residents of the WLS which went to Delhi meet MOEF minister and got sanction for the relocation proposal submitted by the Kerala Government. N Badsha is also supporting the beneficiaries to actually move out of the park. Due to the efforts of Kerala Forest Department and Wynad Prakruthi Samarakshna Samithi two settlements consisting fifty families moved out of the WLS in May / June 2012.

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