

NEWS FROM THE MADRAS SNAKE PARK  
AND MADRAS CROCODILE BANK

The Snake Park was asked to catch and take away a pair of king cobras that were regularly seen in a shola at the Balanoor Tea and Rubber Estate in Chickmagalur district. Members of the Park, including Chockalingam, an experienced Irula, spent six days searching for the snakes but were unsuccessful.

The photographer Jehangir Guzdar was at the Snake Park and Crocodile Bank, covering various aspects of the two organizations. Some of his photographs will be used to publicize the Bank which still draws only about 1000 visitors a week.

Jan Nedved, a good friend of the Snake Park, sent a parcel of African, American and South American snakes for display at the Park. These are all doing well in new enclosures near the entrance.

Satish Bhaskar spent two and a half months (September-November) in the Laccadive Islands, Indian Ocean, on behalf of the Snake Park. His comprehensive report will help evaluate the status of sea turtles, dugongs and other marine life in the islands and attempt an assesment of the impact of tourism.

At the invitation of the Wildlife and Nature Protection Society of Ceylon, the Director and his wife were six weeks in Sri Lanka (Ceylon) in order to observe the present status of the mugger and estuarine crocodiles.

Visitors to the Crocodile Bank during September to December included the American ambassador Dr Robert Goheen, the Inspector General of Forests, and the Union Minister for Tourism, Mr Kaushik.

Jeff Power, from St Olaf's University in Minnesota, is at the Crocodile Bank for three months. He is assisting in many aspects of the care and maintenance of the crocodiles including data recording, marking and measuring crocodiles and necropsies.

The IUCN/SSC Crocodile Specialist Group meeting will be held in February at the Madras Crocodile Bank.

The windmill at the Crocodile Bank has been installed. It operates a six inch piston pump to draw water from a bore well and will be the main water supply for the Bank.



