Training Workshop on the Conservation Assessment and Management Plan Workshop Process for Invertebrates

IUCN Bangladesh Country Office, Dhaka, 10-11 October 2002

Introduction

Invertebrates are the numerically dominant group which form about 97% of all 1.4 million described animal species. Now, scientists have estimated that about 30 million more species are yet to be described, out of which most of them will be invertebrates. Invertebrates play an important role in the ecosystem as pollinators and recyclers, as well as occupying a key position in food chains. In addition to this, they have a vital economic, scientific and cultural value. It has been established that many of the invertebrates show high levels of endemism and thousands of species are confined to small, fragmented areas. Though some invertebrate groups have been studied extensively, the status of many of the well-studied invertebrates in the wild are not known.

Bangladesh, which has a total area of 1,47,570 sq km, is regarded as one of the largest deltas of South Asia and, as such, is rich in biodiversity. It has a broad range of ecosystem types that include tropical evergreen forests, moist deciduous forests, mangrove forests, riparian and coastal wetlands, and the littoral, sub-littoral and benthic communities of the Indian Ocean. Over 50% of Bangladesh constitutes wetlands. Most of the vertebrates and plants of Bangladesh are well-documented which is evident by the IUCN publications on Red Data books of threatened animals such as amphibians, reptiles, fish, mammals and birds, and plants. The status of invertebrates is not known at all although the importance of invertebrates is well understood.

Professor Mahmudul Amin during inauguration

The Bangladesh National Network for Conservation of Invertebrates (BNCI) hosted by the IUCN Bangladesh County Office is involved in promoting invertebrate conservation activities in Bangladesh since its formation in December 2001. The BNCI is an extended activity of ICINSA which is one of the networks of Z.O.O. and W.I.L.D. The BNCI identified the need for a training on C.A.M.P. process to its members in order to prioritise invertebrate species for necessary conservation initiatives.

Therefore, a training workshop on Conservation Assessment and Management Plan (C.A.M.P.) for invertebrates was organised from 10-11th October 2002 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The two-day programme was organised by the IUCN SSC South Asian Invertebrate Specialist Group in collaboration with BNCI, IUCN Bangladesh Country office, IUCN Asia, CBSG South Asia, Invertebrate Conservation and Information Network of South Asia (ICINSA), ZOO and WILD. The workshop was hosted by and conducted at the IUCN Bangladesh Country office.

A section of the participants

The objective of the two-day Conservation Assessment and Management Plan (C.A.M.P) training workshop was to get invertebrate conservation community acquainted with the C.A.M.P. process and to train in the use of IUCN Red List categories and criteria. The programme was attended by 31 scientists from Bangladesh and one from Pakistan, including invertebrate field biologists, university teachers and students, members from ministries and representatives from selected NGO's.

A C.A.M.P. is a workshop "process" developed by the IUCN SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG). The workshop provides a method for listing species up-to-date with the aid of taxonomists and field experts from many different institutions of the country, region and even the world. C.A.M.P. workshops also provide an opportunity for currently working field biologists to input directly into the IUCN Red List for the species they study. For an electronic copy of the C.A.M.P. Philosophy and procedure, send an email to <icinsa@vsnl.net>.

C.A.M.P. training workshop

The coordinator of BNCI, Dr. Anisuzzaman Khan, Senior programme officer, IUCN office, Dhaka welcomed the

participants and the resource persons, Sanjay Molur, Red List Advisor, and B.A. Daniel, Co-chair, South Asian Invertebrate Specialist Group and handed over the session to the chief guest, Dr. Mahmudul Amin, Professor of Zoology, Dhaka University who talked about the importance and need for such programmes to meet the present day problems in species conservation. He also mentioned the activities of BNCI and ICINSA and inaugurated the workshop.

CAMP training components

The two-day CAMP training programme had the following four major components:

- **Lecture sessions:** Presentations to know the invertebrate diversity of the country, examples from invertebrate species assessment around the world, examples from India on national and regional species assessments from vertebrates and plants, Bangladesh experience on species assessments, Invertebrate assessments in India: Soil and mangrove invertebrates, Conservation Assessment and Management Plan workshop process.
- **Archetype:** IUCN Red List categories and criteria with an exercise in filling TDS
- **Group exercise:** Forming working groups and species assessment
- **Report:** Group report and plenary

DAY 1

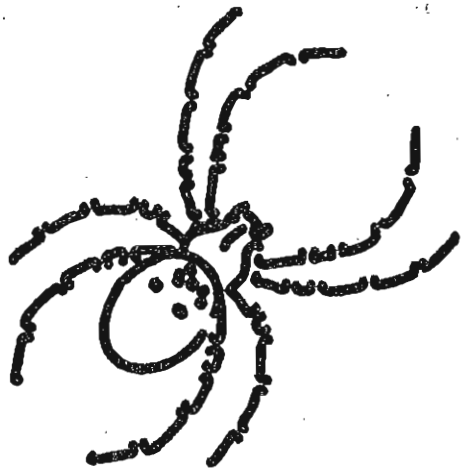
Lecture session: The first day of the workshop included mostly lectures to understand the problems and status of invertebrates in Bangladesh and to know about the C.A.M.P. process. Dr. Shafique Haider Chowdhury, Professor of Zoology (Rtd.), Chittagong University, mentioned in his presentation about the richness of Invertebrates in Bangladesh, the population trends and threats to invertebrates mainly based on his field experience. He stressed the need for conservation initiatives for invertebrates since it has been a neglected group. He also mentioned the need to train people in taxonomy. B.A. Daniel, in his presentation, narrated Z.O.O.'s Biodiversity Conservation Priortization Project (BCPP) experience in a series of C.A.M.P.s. He also mentioned about C.A.M.P.s for invertebrates organised in India. The Bangladesh experience in species assessment and Red Listing was presented by Dr. Anisuzzaman Khan. The important component of the workshop, the C.A.M.P. process was dealt by Sanjay Molur. The second part of the presentation was delivered on the second day.

DAY 2

The second day started with a lecture by Sally Walker who joined that morning to introduce CBSG and the South Asian regional networks of CBSG and the ground rules of the CAMP workshop and other aspects.

Archetype: Sanjay Molur explained about Taxon Data Sheets (TDS) and how to fill it. The participants were asked to choose a well-studied species to take as an example to fill the TDS. After listing about 10 species, the groups finally decided to work on *Pila globosa* to fill the TDS. Assessment at the regional level was also explained. The entire exercise took about one and a half hours and at the end of the exercise, the participants were asked to divide into three groups according to their expertise and they worked in groups to pool information on three taxa for assessment.

Group exercise: The participants were divided into three groups and were asked to fill in taxon sheets for a species of their choice. Three groups of about 7-9 members, named *Apis*, spider and crab, were formed. Each group identified their facilitator, recorder and researcher. The groups worked on *Apis cerana, Heteropoda venatoria* and *Tachypleus gigas* and they took about 2 hours to complete assessing a species.

A working group filling Taxon Data Sheet

Report: At the completion of the assessment of the species, the group was asked to present the filled in TDS along with the status assessed at the regional level. Sanjay Molur analysed the data with the entire group and the status of the species suggested. As per the assessment made by the participants, the status of the assessed species are: *Apis cerana* Endangered, *Heteropoda venatoria* Least concern and *Tachypleus gigas* Near Threatened.