

NGO PROFILE

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SAHYADRI NATURE FOUNDATION

NGO a very word surrounded by different notions by different people from different walks of life. It is condemned by establishments on the grounds of transparency, accountability and feasibility. But there is also a line of thinking that there is more transparency, accountability and feasibility will come in the work of establishments due to NGOs because they represent the people. Then the debate goes on...

The open hearted people are those who always keep their consciousness free for new thoughts, insights, and frame of references. There is irreversible harm has happened with our environment including land, water and those primitive tribes depended over forest resources. To address the land issues from 'man animal conflict' stand point the present organization is working. An organization dedicated for sustainable development and nature conservation in the villages of Western Ghats especially around Sahyadri Tiger Reserve. This will certainly prove a great resource for those who find interest in wildlife and those too who want to work with them in Western Ghat of Maharashtra.

Details of the Organization

Year of Establishment	: 2012-2013
Registration No	: F25578so
Aim	: To see a well balanced growth of wildlife in harmony with human settlements.
Mission	: Nurturing Nature for Future
Objective	: Sustainable rural development and Nature Conservation through peoples participation.

Area of Work:

Geographically, Sahyadri Nature Foundation decided to work in the area of Western Ghat of Maharashtra. The 741.22 km² (286.19 sq mi) Sahyadri Tiger Reserve, including all of Chandoli National Park and Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary was declared by The National Tiger Conservation Authority as a Project Tiger reserve on May 21, 2007. The Sahyadri Tiger Reserve was then estimated to have nine tigers and 66 leopards. Chandoli National Park is located near the Chandoli Dam between longitudes 73°40' and 73°53' E and latitudes 17°03' and 17°20'N near Sangli in Western Maharashtra. It is located at the junction of Sangli District, Kolhapur District, Satara District and Ratnagiri District. It lies between the Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary and Radhanagri Wildlife Sanctuary and forms the southern part of the Sahyadri Tiger Reserve.

Achievements

- From last two years Sahyadri Nature Foundation worked on identifying the issues of human animal conflicts in the western ghat and trying to point out how can best be addressed these issues with the help of Government, wildlife department and local people's participation.
- Sahyadri Nature Foundation is continuously in touch with the people observing every single issue happening in the region either with people, their crops or animal. It has come up with good amount of data systematically compiled by the organization.
- At present NGO is working on rural tourism development around koyana wildlife sanctuary with the help of people's participation in 4 villages. It is based on the humanistic philosophy that people have every right to choose their destiny. It is found that people of these villages are not ready to give their land or leave the place. They are attached to the

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region in such a way that they are not ready to move. Sahyadri Nature Foundation respect every decision made by local people.

Future Plans

- In the process of very development, it is presumed that some collateral damage going to take place in other words somebody has to pay for the price for development. And history witnessed that only indigent people paid such price for development which has proved no help for them. Therefore standing still with the people who don't want to give up their land and leave the place. Sahyadri Nature Foundation will provide every possible support to people's voices.
- Sahyadri Nature Foundation has a belief that without government support and collaboration working in peace will be a mirage. Then it has developed a communication with govt. and collaborating with tourism development department to establish the tourism business where the local people can find revenue opportunities. It has processed already to make necessary memorandum of association with government departments.
- Sahyadri Nature Foundation will set up a training centre. Where the local people will be given necessary trainings especially the peasants and women to empower them through tourism business.
- Establishing a resource centre where all the information about the western ghat, its resources, its wildlife, government documents, important court verdicts, various aids etc. will be made available to everyone who shows interest to hand with the Sahyadri Nature Foundation. It is believed that people are interested in this very issue but they lack in

information, resource, organization, association and plan of action. This resource center will be instrumental for everyone who wants to work in this area no matter who and how far one is, it will provide every possible support.

- Developing tourist places/ spots important to see the greenery of ghat, wildlife, sanctuary with necessary precautions. This process has already in progress and government department is taking active part in developing tourist places to boost tourism.
- Through resource centre, Sahyadri Nature Foundation will disseminate small papers based on the lived experiences of people leaving in western ghat and experiences of people working in western ghat. As source of awareness and literature, gradually all stakeholders viz., institutes and organizations will be made convinced to visit western ghat, Sahyadri Tiger Reserve and Sahyadri Nature Foundation.
- Presently the Sahyadri Nature Foundation takes up four villages for empowerment. It proved helpful; the same experiment will be expanded to other villages too with the help of participatory rural appraisals.

For Further Contact

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