



Conservation Project for “Python” extinctive specie in District Sialkot, Punjab



Prepared by
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1. Project Number: 50039601
2. Project Title: Conservation Project for “Python” extinctive species in District Sialkot, Punjab.

3. Project Executants

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4. Project Duration (in months): Three Months
a) Starting Date: May 2006
b) Ending Date: July 2006

5. Project Budget: Fifty thousand

Project Objectives

- To take appropriate measures to save this extincting species from the face of earth.
- Awareness about the python in the community (in order to make it clear that its harmless, humble and it cant bite).
- To educate people about the difference between the venomous snakes and the python.
- To inform people that it is beneficial and helpful for the farmers in keeping the balance of reptile’s population.
- To specially focus the children in schools to make them friendly with the python as they are the future stake holders.
- To capture the living pythons and to shift them away from the community in the suitable environment.
- Training to the farmers about the safe handling of python.



A Introduction

The world has a reason to be worried and to be as much careful as possible. Not only the climatic change is warning us but also the result of our own stupidities, unawareness and insufficient knowledge is proving to be a warning. It could be supposed that the extinction of certain creatures and species in the world is because of the climatic change as well as because of our social and cultural mistakes. Maybe many of us do not know that the extinction of the species not only causes disturbance in the ecological system of the world but through it the ecological system is losing its balance. Social Anthropology of the Great Britain had said one thing important for the society and that is change in one institution of the society causes the change in all institutions of the society and we have been warned many times by the environmentalists of Germany that the extinction of one species has its negative effect on the whole of the ecological system. Pakistan as a primitive society still has not developed the mechanisms to see the interrelation between social institution and interlink of ecological system. We the researchers knowing the facts related with the possible extinction of a special kind of snake have conducted empirical research.

Human beings have an ambivalent relation to animals. We like animals but at the same time we are afraid of them. The dreadful dreams of the Pakistan children are related with the snake. To see a snake in dream is considered as seeing of an enemy. All Pakistanis educated or uneducated know that all snakes are not dangerous and poisonous. But because of our lacking of the scientific knowledge we feel ourselves obliged to kill snake whenever we see them. Under such conditions the aim of the project is to extend the awareness among people about the interrelation of the extinction of the species and ecological system.

The kind of snake which is in danger of being extinct is Python Molurus. This special kind of Python is not poisonous and it is important for human beings because of its eating of mice which are dangerous not only for eating wheat but also because of spreading certain diseases. South Asia has suffered because of



many plagues which were spreaded by mice. One theory of the development of capitalism is that the sub continent tended less toward capitalism because wheat of the feudal lords was eaten by mice.

B. Empirical Research

Python is found in Marsh lands, which is the area around Sialkot, Punjab. We conducted our research in Bijwat, Head Maralla and in some other small towns near the Indian border and water channels which coming form India. We applied the method of unstructured interviews in order to get information on Python and know people, views on the specie. We also tried to make people aware of the fact that Python instead of being dangerous is useful for them.

C. Information got through Research

We found Bajwat and Marala a place, where we could get information on the specie which is aimed to be conserved.

As human mind has made the whole development because of its ability to categorize all what human beings have in the world people of Bajwat categorize Python in three categories:

1. Sangani
2. Banse
3. Pather

We unfortunately could not come to know whether these three categories are related with three kinds of Python or three different names have been given to the same kind of Python. It could be supposed that these three names have been given to Python because of different postures of Python. As the observers of Python know that it sometimes roles itself quite systematically like Punjabi women role straw to make plates and stops making any movement. In this posture it looks like a stone.

Bajwat is on the bank of river which flows form Jammu, India in Pakistan. Pakistan because of the brutality of nature experiences a lot of economical loss



which Pakistan faces because of heavy rains in Monsoon. Many bridges in Pakistan are damaged because of these heavy rains. The same happened in the last Monsoon with bridge of Bajwat. So we had to take a boat in order to cross of river instead of walking on the bridge.

We conducted our research in Bajwat because according to the information of the people Bajwat offers the chance of finding the Python. The people of Bajwat told us that might have chance of finding some Pythons in chuck border 85. In fact according to the local people this chuck 85 offers the most chances to find Pythons. Unfortunately as we areached the chuck 85 we saw the whole area of the chuck filled with quagmire because of the rains in Monsoon. Because of the quagmire it had got more difficult to find a Python. Before we crossed the river in Bajwat one kilometer away from the bridge we came to know some people who told that two Pythons were found fighting with each other seven days before. The story of the people encouraged us and we left for the chuck. Investigation in the chuck 85 confirmed the story which we heard in Bajwat. We were told that two Pythons were seen from 350 people and the size of Pythons was not less than 15 feet. According to the people they were of the color of dust. We reached the place where Pythons were seen but we did not find anything expect stones.

“The construction of Chilagahen (places for meditation and intensive worship) on the shrine of Pir Goge is like this that we could suppose them the refuge for the Pythons.

The people in this area believe that somebody is smelled by a snake or is inflicted of an evil eye then that person must present the shrine of Pir Goge either a snake of clay or plastic. If a snake is presented to shrine by the person smelled by a snake then he is not disturbed by the snake again. As a matter of fact the shrine of the Pir Goge is playing a big role for the survival of the specie Python. Because after presenting Pir Goge the artificial snake’s people smelled by the snake neither kills neither it nor they are afraid of them. Sometimes people catch the real Pythons and leave them on the shrine of Pir Goge sahib.



Our research shows that there is the possibility of the existence of Pythons as well as of Molurus. According to the belief of people Pythons exist everywhere in their area. According to their believes related with Python if this snake lives for long time then it has the strength to eat even human beings it could be concluded that the people of the area are afraid of Pythons and tend to kill them whenever they encounter them. Only 40 % of the people are aware of the fact that this special kind of snake is not harm full for human beings. They know that it is not a poisonous snake. Python is also known among these people a snake which eats frogs. As we could not observe Pythons in the area we can not say which kind of Python exists in the marsh land of the Punjab. The people of marchland have their categorize which most probably could not serve our scientific aims. Python is actually observable in the days of the flood in the river. We started with our research after monsoon so even if they still exist we were not able to see them.

Another town near Sialkot in which we conducted research on Python is known as Bhimber. In this town also we interviewed people on Python and made an effect to make them aware of the fact that Python is not a dangerous kind of snakes. In Bhimber also we did not get a chance to see a Python. The people of the area however told us about the existence of Python in their area. Many of them told us that whenever they see a Python they kill it. People do not know that Python is a friend of our environment. People informed us that Pythons exist in their forest “zero line”. As we hoped to get some information on Python from the snake charmer we talked to them. They told us that Pythons exist in Kot Jhamar and Bhimber. One of the snake charmer is related with the zoo in Head Marala. The snake charmers catch Pythons and sell them twenty to twenty five thousand rupees to the zoo. Some people informed us that they have not seen Pythons in the last four or five years.

We really have tried best to find Pythons and observe them but unfortunately in spit of our effort. We could not find them. We also fixed camps near to the water bodies together with the native experts of Pythons. But supposedly because of dryness of the water bodies they did not appear there.



D. Conclusion

Description of the people made clear that Python exist in the marshland of the Punjab, though people have not seen it for four or five years. This shows clearly that Python are getting less in the area. Blind urbanization of the whole of the Punjab and especially of marshland is very near to extinct the species which are really important for our environment. Keeping in views the scientific research on Python we have to work for the conversation of Python as well as other specie which are important for environment.

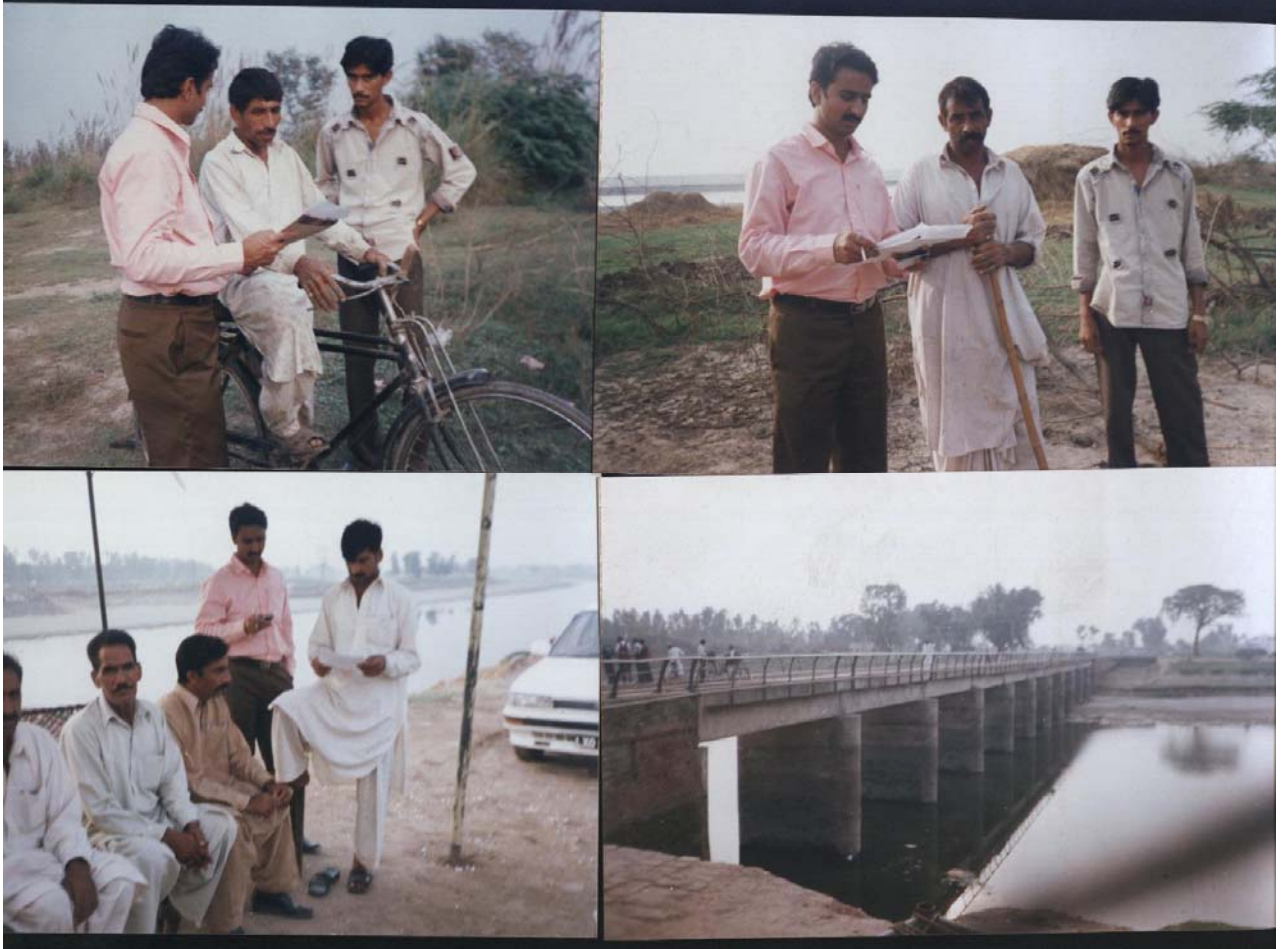
E. Suggestions

Python and other related species have been making our environment secure for unknown periods. For the sake of a balanced environment we have to make these species secure. So we suggest here:

1. carry on this project for next year to increase awareness among people live near the water bodies, channels and marshland for the importance of these species
2. To work together with India for the secure of these species. These species are found in the border area of India and Pakistan. We have come to know that India is already working for the conservation of these species. Why should not we get benefit the research and practical work of our neighbors country.
3. WWF-Lahore should establish a separate wing for Python molorous conservation activities, from there other research can get and give information about the specific specie.

Important note:

We are going to send you a project design which is important to make Python as secure as possible, you would get it within two weeks.



Equipment Status Report

To carry out the research study, we have purchased following things and all are in good condition to carry out further research study on Python.

Python trapping equipments:

1. PVC Tube trap
2. Cage hook, made of 1/4" aluminum
3. Cloth bag
4. Trapping sticks .