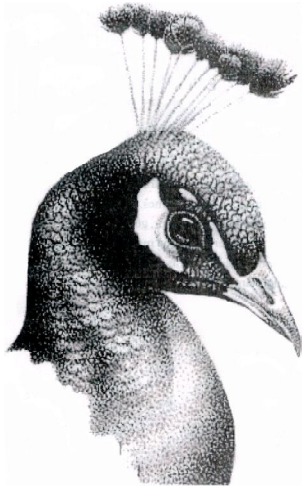
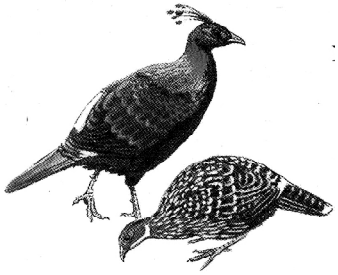
Mor

Newsletter of World Pheasant Association - India

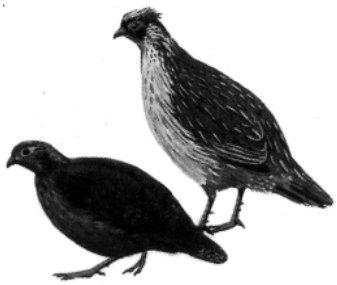


Indian Peafowl
Pavo cristatus
National Bird
&
Odisha State Bird



Himalayan Monal
Lophophorus impejanus
Uttarakhand State Bird

Western Tragopan
Tragopan melanocephalus
Himachal Pradesh State Bird



Blood Pheasant
Ithaginis cruentus
Sikkim State Bird

Blyth's Tragopan
Tragopan blythii
Nagaland State Bird

Pheasants as National & State Birds

Hume's Pheasant
Syrmaticus humiae
Manipur and Mizoram
State Bird

Mor *is the newsletter of WPA-India for private circulation. Its publication is being supported by the Duleep Matthai Nature Conservation Trust.*

Editorial

Dear Readers,

Mor wishes you a very Happy New Year 2015.

The year 2014 showed some good signs for the vulnerable Cheer pheasant in Himachal Pradesh. Thanks to the efforts of Cheer Pheasant Conservation Breeding Project at Chail which is all set to release the captive bred birds into the wild. The 'parent rearing technique' has proved to be successful in rearing endangered pheasant species in captivity.

In this issue, we are lucky to have an article on the status of Mrs. Hume's or Bar-tailed pheasant in India. This species is classified as 'near threatened' by Birdlife International because of small, declining and fragmented population. In India, it occurs in Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and perhaps Arunachal Pradesh. The ongoing project of WPA-India on the long term conservation of pheasants in Arunachal Pradesh may be able to solve this mystery. An article on the progress of this project is included in this issue. 'The Tragopan Quartet' is another informative article on the four tragopans found in India.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Duleep Matthai Nature Conservation Trust for supporting Mor last year and we hope that it will continue in coming years too..... . We hope you find this and future editions of Mor interesting and informative. It would be good to receive your comments.

Happy reading, and once again best wishes for the coming new year in 2015.

Dr. M. Shah Hussain, Hon. General Secretary, WPA-India

Photo: Yasser Arafat, Aravalli Biodiversity Park, New Delhi

Long Term Conservation of Pheasants in Western Arunachal Pradesh

The recently launched project 'Long Term Conservation of Pheasants in Western Arunachal Pradesh' taken up by WPA-India with financial support of **Duleep Matthai Nature Conservation Trust,** during November 2014 the WPA-India team successfully completed a reconnaissance trip. All initial groundwork for the study has been done and Forest Department formalities regarding obtaining permissions and related activities have been carried out. The team visited almost the entire region and selected certain areas for observation surveys. Northern Tawang, particularly Zimethang area, has been chosen for the next survey trip to be undertaken during the last part of winter. This is the time when most high altitude galliform species move down from heavy snowfall region to lower altitudes. Expectedly, Zimethang area will be favorable to observe those species during this period.

During the trip, the WPA-India team sighted and recorded about 95 species of birds and a few mammals. Pheasant species sighted was a Himalayan Monal *(Lophophorus impejanus)* just below the Tse La Pass area. The bird came out of the cover and flew away. However, Shri Ayan Banerjee could take a record shot of the individual (photo below) .

The team made a brief visit to the Eagle's Nest Wildlife Sanctuary, the only major protected area within the study area. The forest habitat within this sanctuary is particularly suited for a number of pheasant species and its altitudinal variation favors survival of different low altitude species like the Kalij and Bhutan Grey Peacock Pheasant along middle altitude and species like the Tragopans at higher altitudes. In April 2015, the WPA-India team is likely to carry out field surveys within this sanctuary.

At different places, the team communicated with the local people and discussed with them about likely present distribution and related aspects. The team also attempted to get in touch with local hunter groups. In the Arunachal Pradesh almost every interior village has hunter groups. In Buddhist dominated areas, hunting is relatively restricted. However, getting in close association with hunter groups is expected to generate valuable field information and would provide scope for future conservation oriented awareness generation.

Photo: Ayan Banerjee

Indian Peafowl at the International Ornithological Congress, Tokyo

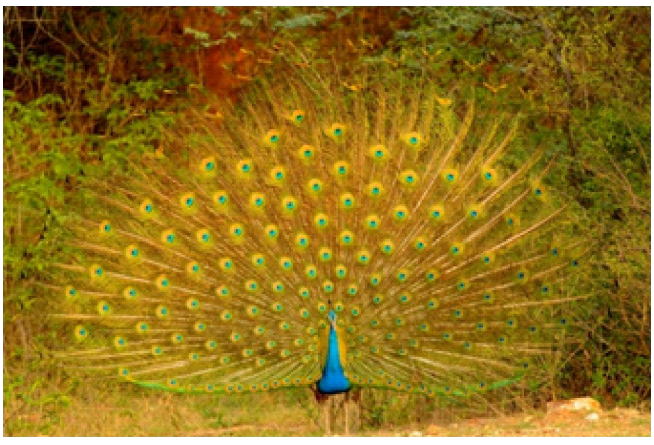
The 26th International Ornithological Congress 2014 held in Tokyo, Japan on 18-24 August 2014, was organised by the Ornithological Society of Japan. Many new research findings on the Galliform species were presented in the Congress. A total of 31 papers were presented in the form of oral and poster presentations. Most of the studies were from Asia. Other studies were from Japan, Spain, Switzerland, France, etc. From India, a poster was presented on a peafowl study in the Aravalli Biodiversity Park, New Delhi, by Aisha Sultana.

"Delhi has lost its native biodiversity over the years. To restore the vanished natural heritage of the ridge area of Delhi, Government has started restoration work and established the Aravalli Biodiversity Park. Indian Peafowl was selected for comparison in restored and unrestored areas of the park, as it is the world's largest pheasant species and the national bird of India. Six different transects of varying lengths were laid (3 in each area) and monitored twice (i.e morning and evening) for one year. A total of 789 individuals of peafowl were sighted during the period and the overall density was 2.01 individuals ha (95% CI = 0.45-3.02). The overall mean group size of peafowl was 1.25±1.07. Habitat plays an important role in the distribution of peafowl and it was found largely in high tree canopy cover, grass cover and low shrub cover. The study showed that peafowl were found in clumped population in the area and they were encountered more in restored area than unrestored area. During the study, many nests were also found but only in the restored area. Encounter of more chicks in restored area showed the preference of particular habitat by peafowl in the park. The park is surrounded by human habitations and the peafowl are facing problem of stray dogs and forced feeding by the locals. An awareness programme is required for walkers and residents in surrounding localities regarding conservation of peafowl and its habitat. Positive results clearly indicate that further restoration of unrestored area of the park will conserve the peafowl in an effective manner. Much longer term research is also necessary to understand the restoration effect on the status of the species."

Aisha Sultana[1], Vibhuti Singh[2] and M. Shah Hussain[1]

[1]Biodiversity Parks Programme, CEMDE, School of Environmental Studies, University of Delhi, Delhi

[2]University School of Environmental Management, Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, Delhi.



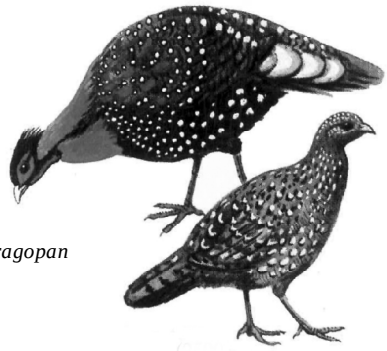
Photos: Yasser Arafat, Aravalli Biodiversity Park, New Delhi

The Tragopan Quartet

There are about 50 Pheasant species in the world, out of which 17 are found in India. Hence, India is very rich in this respect and certainly highly important for the conservation of this aspect of biological diversity. An added dimension, not well known is the fact that India is the home of four out of five *Tragopans*, which makes it the only country in the world with such amazing natural endowment. These birds are essentially Asian pheasants of the genus *Tragopan* having five distinctive species. They are all stockily built, have short and stout bills, blunt tails and look quite neat and compact. The males sport fleshy horns on their heads that become fully erect during courtship displays. For this reason, these birds are also known as 'Horned Pheasants'. In the Greek language, *Tragos* means the male goat, and *Pan* stands for a Roman mythical figure half-man / half-goat. So, the Tragopan name is derived by combining these two words. Overall, the Tragopan males are pretty looking birds, very striking in appearance, mainly on account of the bright red, scarlet or flaming orange colours that dominate the plumage and the distinct white spots that cover most parts of their bodies.

The four Tragopan species found in India are the Western Tragopan (*Tragopan melanocephalus*), Satyr Tragopan (*Tragopan satyra*), Blyth's Tragopan (*Tragopan blythii*) and Temminck's Tragopan (*Tragopan temminckii*). The fifth species of the genus is called the Cabot's Tragopan (*Tragopan caboti*), which is found only in southeast China. It is not as attractive as the four species mentioned above. Besides, while these four are essentially Himalayan birds that inhabit high altitudes ranging from about 2000 to 4000 meters, the Cabot's Tragopan prefers evergreen and mixed forests at much lower altitudes around 1400-1500 meters.

Temminck's Tragopan



Western Tragopan

Blyth's Tragopan

Satyr Tragopan

The **Western Tragopan**, as the name denotes, is a bird of the Western Himalaya. Its current range extends from the northern parts of Pakistan to Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh and Garhwal region in Uttarakhand. During summer, the bird moves up to altitudes as high as 3600 meters and in winter it descends to areas at even 1400-1500 meters. It prefers well-wooded areas having Oak and Conifer trees, along with heavy undercover, in and near precipitous mountainsides. In view of this and also because of its very wary nature, sighting of the bird is generally difficult. The female of the species is mottled brown, streaked, with white spots, and very dull as compared to the highly attractive male having blackish under- and upper-parts, contrasting with a scarlet nape, an orange-red breast, a prominent red patch around each eye, bluish horns and white spots all over the body. Another distinguishing feature of the male is its pink and purple blue bib-like throat skin that gets inflated during courtship display. Overall, the Western Tragopan is much darker than the other Tragopan species and has a very striking appearance. No wonder it is fondly called 'Jujurana' in Himachal Pradesh, which means 'King among Birds'.

There is no definite estimate of the total population of the Western Tragopan and it is clear that the population has been declining due to habitat loss and other factors. In view of this and also because of the restricted range of the species, it is listed by the experts as 'vulnerable' and hence deserves very special attention. It is also noteworthy that efforts to breed the species in captivity in India and elsewhere have met with very limited success. Only in Himachal Pradesh, some successful efforts have been made in recent years, which need to be sustained.

The **Satyr Tragopan**, also called the Crimson Horned Pheasant or Crimson Tragopan, is essentially located in the Central Himalaya, but also extends into the Eastern Himalaya. Thus, it has a fairly wide range covering the States of Uttarakhand, Sikkim, West Bengal (northern region) and Arunachal Pradesh in India as well as Nepal and Bhutan. According to seasons, it moves from around 2000 meters in winter to about 4000 meters during summer. It is considered more numerous than the other Tragopans in the country, though exact estimates of the total population are not available. The male of the species is again very attractive and distinctive in its habitat. Its neck and under-parts are bright red or crimson, the upper-parts are brownish and the numerous round white spots extend up to the tail. The bluish fleshy horns and the bib-like throat skin also stand out. The female is smaller, largely rufous-brown and lacklustre, except for the whitish spotting on the under-parts and the blue orbital skin. Captive breeding of the species has been undertaken in some European countries with some success.

The **Blyth's Tragopan** is known to have two sub-species: *Tragopan blythii blythii* found in India (Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram), China and Myanmar, and *Tragopan blythii molesworthi* found in Bhutan and perhaps some adjoining parts of Arunachal Pradesh. Both sub-species inhabit areas at altitudes ranging from 1500 to 3000 meters depending on the season and prefer steep, well-wooded terrain. However, with the habitats having shrunk or becoming fragmented over the years, the species as such has certainly become rare. Hence, it is also placed by the experts in the 'vulnerable' category and merits special attention. As with the other Tragopans, the male of the species stands out, mainly on account of its typical white-spotted orange-red plumage and bright yellow facial skin and bib-like lappets (throat skin). The under-parts are largely plain grey, which has given the bird the name of the Grey-bellied Tragopan also. The female is mostly grey brown, mottled and also has white spots and yellow orbital skin.

Nagaland has declared the Blyth's Tragopan as its State Bird. It is also noteworthy that some local communities in the State have taken the initiative of setting aside specific forest areas for the conservation of this species and these have been declared as Tragopan Sanctuaries. This is commendable and deserves all possible encouragement and support. Earlier, Nagaland was also able to achieve some success in captive breeding of these birds, but these efforts have not been sustained. The same applies to efforts made elsewhere, mostly in Europe.

Finally, the **Temminck's Tragopan**, which is found only in Arunachal Pradesh in India but has a fairly wide distribution in China and also occurs in Myanmar. It is also called the Chinese Crimson Horned Pheasant. Among the Tragopans, it is the most widespread and numerous, though its status in India is indeterminate and not much is known about the species. This is mainly on account of the remote and inaccessible terrain as well as the high altitudes, where the species occurs. Its range varies from around 4200 meters during summer to about 2000 meters in winter. In appearance, Temminck's is much like the Satyr Tragopan and, in a sense, its eastern counterpart. However, the male of Temminck's is brighter red in the upper-parts, apart from having a distinct orange collar and pale grey streak-spots from the breast downwards. Besides, its facial skin is more cobalt blue and the lappets are larger than those of other Tragopans. No doubt, the dominant feature is the white-spotted red plumage, as in most Tragopan males.

It is worth mentioning that Arunachal Pradesh has the unique distinction of being the home of three Tragopan species: Blyth's, Satyr and Temminck's. No other region in the world, the size of this state, can claim this distinction. Another totally unique feature is that within Arunachal Pradesh there is an area in the West Kameng District bordering Bhutan from where all these three species have been reported. It noteworthy that WPA-India has very recently initiated a conservation project for the pheasants in this region, with the support of the Duleep Matthai Nature Conservation Trust.

The Tragopan species have some common characteristics that are worth mentioning. For instance, they are largely arboreal, which means that they frequent trees and even nest there. Sometimes they even use the nests of other birds. In this respect, the Tragopans are rather different from the other pheasants. Another common trait relates to their diet preference. The Tragopans are essentially vegetarian and prefer seeds, grasses, leaves, berries, fruits, and other green stuff, though occasionally they also partake of small insects. Perhaps the most interesting feature concerns the courtship display of the Tragopan males. As already mentioned, the males of all the species have fleshy erectile horns on their heads and colourful bib-like throat skin or lappets. These get greatly inflated during courtship display of the male, when the bird looks somewhat like a knight in armour. The sight of the fully enlarged lappets and the horns fully erect is truly amazing and has to be seen to be believed. Interestingly, the male has to get behind some small structure, such as a small rock or boulder or a log of wood, at some distance from the female, and then, from behind that structure, the amazing show is put on to attract the female. The existence of such conditions is crucial for the successful breeding of these birds, according to Dr. John Corder, whose expertise in the subject is well recognised.

Undoubtedly, the Tragopans are very special creatures that stand in a class of their own. And, India is fortunate to have four out of a possible five species of this group of birds. All the more reason to devote the fullest care and attention to ensure their conservation for posterity.

by: Samar Singh, former President, WPA-India.

Status of Hume's Pheasant in India

Hume's Pheasant *Syrmaticus humiae* is a relatively poorly studied galliform found in the hill tracts of northeastern (NE) India, northern and western Myanmar, south-western China and northern Thailand. It has been listed as 'vulnerable' (BirdLife 2004). A bird of the hills and mountains, it is threatened by habitat loss and hunting. A survey was carried out in NE India to find out the distribution, status and threats (Choudhury 2002, 2005). This survey discovered 20 new sites for this species with additional 24 unconfirmed sites, totalling 44 against only eight sites mapped by BirdLife (2001).

In India, Hume's Pheasant occurs in Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland. The survey, however, did not cover Arunachal Pradesh and hence, the exact extent of occurrence there is still improperly known. There is only one report from Namdapha National Park. In Manipur, it is found in Ukhrul, Senapati and Churachandpur districts while there were unconfirmed reports from Chandel district. It is very rare in Barail Range and sparsely distributed in the higher hills of Churachandpur, Chandel and Tamenglong districts.

In Mizoram, the bird occurs mainly in Champhai and Saiha districts, with possibility in Lunglei and Serchhip districts. Except for Murlen and Phawngpui, others were new localities for this species. In Nagaland, recorded mainly from Phek and Tuensang districts. There were reports from Mon district also Might still occur in Kohima district (extreme eastern and southern areas) while there is also possibility of occurrence in Zunheboto district. However, it is absent or very rare in Barail Range while in the Saramati area, sparse due to dense primary forest.

The habitat where the bird occurs is hilly and mountainous. The vegetation ranged from secondary and degraded jungle with scattered trees and grass, tropical evergreen and subtropical broadleaf forests, also coniferous with good grass cover. Recorded from c. 1000 to 2700 m elevation. The total potential habitat of *humiae* in Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland is approximately 1700 km², 1300 km² and 1600 km² respectively.

Estimating the population of a bird such as Hume's Pheasant is extremely difficult. Even a guess is not possible with the existing information. Moreover, due to shooting and snaring, it is generally shy all over. The global population has been estimated at "a few thousand individuals", and the subspecies *humiae* may number as few as 1,000 (McGowan & Garson 1995). Studies in China gave some idea about possible density, at least in areas where they were 'not uncommon'. Li Xiangtao (1996) had estimated densities that ranged from 10 to 33 individuals per sq km. The minimum was 8.9 birds per sq km estimated by Lu Taichun (1991). Even if we consider only 10% or 460 km² of the potential habitat in NE India as the 'best' areas, then there may be at least 4000 birds (taking the lowest density of the Chinese studies, i.e., 8.9 per sq km) with some more in other areas (Choudhury 2005).

Habitat loss is a major threat although destruction of dense forest may not have significant impact on the status of this species but it indicates the magnitude of overall loss of habitat. The destruction of forest is mainly through felling of trees and jhum (slash-and-burn shifting cultivation) and clearance for human settlement, encroachment and developmental activities such as construction of roads. The ultimate cause is, however, the very rapid growth of human population, which doubles in every two decades!

Trapping with crude snares and shooting with guns are major threats to pheasants in NE India. In fact, snaring is the most common practice as the trapper need not pursue the birds but only sets the snare / snares in the known habitat.

Hume's Pheasant has been accorded the highest protection under the Schedule I of Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972 of India (which prohibits its killing or capture, dead or alive). Most of the villagers are, however, not aware

of this legal status. In the protected areas, the enforcement is inadequate. Hume's Pheasant is the 'state bird' of Manipur and Mizoram.

At present only four protected areas are there in the entire range of Hume's Pheasant in Nagaland (Fakim Sanctuary - very rare) and Mizoram (Murlen and Phawngpui National Parks, and Lengteng Sanctuary) covering a very insignificant, 6.5% of the total potential habitat.

New protected areas (Saramati-Fakim, 500 km² and Mt Ziphu, 50 km² in Nagaland; Shiroi, 50 km² and Anko Range, 400 km² in Manipur) and small sanctuaries (< 10 km² with support from local communities [e.g., Khonoma Tragopan Sanctuary in Nagaland] should be established near Chizami-Luzaphemi and Reguri-Lephori in Nagaland, near Kamjong and Jessami in Manipur, and near Ngur, North Diltlang and Artlang in Mizoram); extension of existing protected areas; further survey; population estimate and monitoring; control of poaching; adequate protection measures in existing sanctuaries; check of jhum and fire; and awareness and motivation of fringe villagers eco-tourism, better infrastructural facilities, research on ecology and behaviour, and massive population (human) control measures in the fringe areas are recommended.

by Dr Anwaruddin Choudhury, WPA-India Regional Representative, North-East India.

Chattbir Zoo successfully rears 7 Golden Pheasants

For the first time, the Chattbir zoo has successfully reared seven golden pheasants. While five of them are still in the care of the vets at the zoo hospital, two have been released in an enclosure for public display.

The zoo had a pair of the exotic bird, which is a native of China. "The pair laid eggs off and on, and the offspring never survived," said zoo director Manish Kumar. The vets then made certain nutritional changes in the diet of the birds after which regular egg-laying started in 2013. But hatching and survival of the chicks remained a problem.

This time, the chicks were immediately removed to the zoo hospital after hatching, and were kept in a wooden box with controlled light and heat. "The young ones of golden pheasants do not need mother's care. It is in their nature that mothers do not take care of them as they are born with open eyes and developed wings," said Dr M P Singh, a zoo vet who is a poultry pathologist.

The feed of the chicks was improved and these were kept under observation for three months. The food included boiled poultry eggs, vegetables and bird feed. Now, the chicks are four months old and the males have started developing the colour which makes them attractive. "Two of the seven chicks have started showing the features of male pheasants," said Dr Singh.

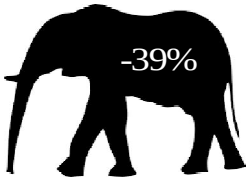
Animal manager of the zoo Harpal Singh said, "These birds are exotic and hence are very profitable when we plan animal exchange with other zoos. They have high sale value. A fully grown bird is sold for Rs 50,000 or even more."

by Japjeet Duggal, Indian Express, Chandigarh - October 13, 2014

WWF Living Planet Report 2014

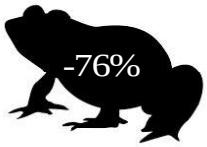
The state of the world's biodiversity appears worse than ever. The Living Planet Index (LPI), which measures trends in thousands of vertebrate species populations, shows a decline of 52 per cent between 1970 and 2010. In other words, the number of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish across the globe is, on average, about half the size it was 40 years ago. This is a much bigger decrease than has been reported previously, as a result of a new methodology which aims to be more representative of global biodiversity.

Biodiversity is declining in both temperate and tropical regions, but the decline is greater in the tropics. The 6,569 populations of 1,606 species in the temperate LPI declined by 36 per cent from 1970 to 2010. The tropical LPI shows a 56 per cent reduction in 3,811 populations of 1,638 species over the same period. Latin America shows the most dramatic decline – a fall of 83 per cent. Habitat loss and degradation, and exploitation through hunting and fishing, are the primary causes of decline. Climate change is the next most common primary threat, and is likely to put more pressure on populations in the future.



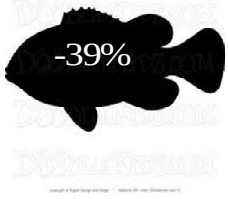
TERRESTRIAL SPECIES DECLINED BY 39 PER CENT BETWEEN 1970 AND 2010

Terrestrial LPI: Terrestrial species declined by 39 per cent between 1970 and 2010, a trend that shows no sign of slowing down. The loss of habitat to make way for human land use – particularly for agriculture, urban development and energy production – continues to be a major threat, compounded by hunting.



THE LPI FOR FRESHWATER SPECIES SHOWS AN AVERAGE DECLINE OF 76 PER CENT

Freshwater LPI: The LPI for freshwater species shows an average decline of 76 per cent. The main threats to freshwater species are habitat loss and fragmentation, pollution and invasive species. Changes to water levels and freshwater system connectivity – for example through irrigation and hydropower dams – have a major impact on freshwater habitats.



MARINE SPECIES DECLINED 39 PER CENT BETWEEN 1970 AND 2010

Marine LPI: Marine species declined 39 per cent between 1970 and 2010. The period from 1970 through to the mid-1980s experienced the steepest decline, after which there was some stability, before another recent period of decline. The steepest declines can be seen in the tropics and the Southern Ocean – species in decline include marine turtles, many sharks, and large migratory seabirds like the wandering albatross.

Source: 10th edition of WWF's Living Planet Report - a biennial publication

oU;tho g rk ge lHkh g

txy] tkuoj] tehu vkj ty bu pkj ^t^ d fcuk thou dh dYiuk Hkh lHko ughA bu lce l vktdy cMk [krjk ctcku oU;thok ij gA ckr pkg txy d vfu;f=kr nkgu dh gk] mld dkj.k l[kr ty L=kkrk dh gk ;k lhfer gkr ou {k=kk dh] mldk lcl vf/kd n"i;kko mu tkuojk ij iMrk g] tk viuh ihMk c;k ugh dj ikrA exj] /kjrh dk lcl le>nkj tho ;kuh eu"; rk bl ckr dk le> ldrk gA ,d iy d fy, oU;tho dh fprk u lgh] viuh [kkfrj rk de l de oU;thok dh ihMk t#j le>uh gkxhA D;kfd oU;i;kf.k;k d fcuk llkj dh dYiuk Hkh ugh dh tk ldrhA /kjrh ij tk tho ektn g] mudh Hkfedk ikfjfLFkfrdh pØ e lHkh i;kh ,d J[kyk d :i e c/k gA J[kyk dh lHkh dfM;k ij leku :i l iMxkA

Bhd g n'k dk fodkl pkfg, vkj fodkl dh gj xkFkk dN u dN dher t:j ekxrh gA yfdu] ml dher dk fVdkÅ cukuk Hkh eu"; dk gh dke gA n'k e djhc 30 Qhln lMd ou {k=kk e cu jgh gA bue jk"Vh; ikd g okbYMykbQ lpjh vkj foLrr :i e vU; vkjf{kr ou Hkh 'kkfey gA xkj dju okyh ckr ;g fd vf/kdrj fodkl dk; oU;i;kf.k;k dh lfo/kk dk n[kr g, ugh fd, tk jgA ;fn dgh ij ljx cu jgh rk fuek.k lLFkk dk ;g irk gkuk pkfg, fd fdruh ych o Åph ljx cukdj oU;thok dh LoPNnrk dk [kyy l cpk;k tk ldrk gA c'kd flfoy bthfu;j dk ;g ckr ekye ugh gkxhA

exj] bld fy, oU;thok ij dke dj jg lLFkkuk dh enn yh tk ldrh gA mudh fjlp] lg;kx o tVk, x, vkdMk dk bLreky dj fodkl dk fouk'kjfgr cuk;k tk ldrk gA lcl igy rk gekjh ljdkj o fo'k"kKk dk ;g le>uk gkxk fd pkjk ^t^ dk vkil e lc/k fdl rjg tMk gA vkt ck?k] xynkj] gkFkh ;k vU; fdlh tkuoj d Vu ;k okguk dh piV e vk tku ij gkgYyk rk gkrk g] exj gknl dh ihN dh vly otg dk tkuu o mld lek/kku d i;kl de gh gk ikr gA ;g Hkh de fprktud ugh fd gekjh ljdkjh lLFkkvk dk vkil e leUo; uk d cjkcj gA dkb foHkkx ikuh ij dke dj jgk g] dkb txy ij] dkb i;k"k.k fu;=k.k ijA lHkh dk edln thou dh lj{kk o ml mUur cukuk gA xkj dju okyh ckr ;g fd tc reke i;kdfrd llk/kuk dk vkil e vVV lc/k g vkj fdlh ,d llk/ku ij [krjk ink gku dk vlj nlj llk/ku ij Hkh iMrk g] rk D;k lcf/kr foHkkx vkil e leUo; cukdj dke ugh dj ldrA ljdkj dk fdlh ou {k=kk d vklikl cu jgh ifj;ktuk e ,l lLFkkuk dh enn yuh pkfg,] tk oU;thok d fy, dke djrh gkA dN le; igy i;kkue=kh ujnz eknh u dgk Fkk fd n'k dk fodkl pkfg,] yfdu i;koj.k dh dher ij ughA mudh bl ckr d ihN Hkh ;gh edln g fd fodkl ,lk gk] tk i;koj.k dk udlku u igpk,A Hkkjrh; oU;tho lLFkku dh gh ckr dj rk gekj oKkfudk u ,l reke 'kk/k dk;k dk vtke fn;k g] ftudh lLrfr;k dk vey e ykdj fodkl vkj fouk'k d chp lryu cuk;k tk ldrk gA lLFkku jk"Vh; jktekx i;kf/kdj.k dk bl rjg d dN vkdM nu ij fopkj dj jgk g] rkfd lMd ifj;ktukvk e tkuojk d i;kdfrd okl LFkyk] mud dkjhMkj vkfn dk [krjk u igpA nljh cMh ckr ;g fd ljdkjh Lrj ij oU;thok dh lj{kk d fy, cMh&cMh ;ktuk, cuh g vkj cu jgh gA yfdu] ;ktuk, rHkh lkFkd gk ik,xh] tc vke vkneh dk lg;kx Hkh ljdkj dk feyxkA gj 0;fDr dk ;g le>uk gkxk fd oU;tho Hky gh mul nj jgr g] yfdu ekuo thou d fy, mudk ftnk vkj ljf{kr jguk cgn t:jh gA c'kd ou {k=kk dh lj dj] ij mud fopj.k e ck/kd u cuA tgk rd lHko gk ou {k=kk vkj oU;thok d dkjhMkj ¼xfy;kjk½ ij dCtk u djA ykx tkuojk dk i;kdfr d lj{kd d :l e Lohdkj djx rk mudh lj{kk dh xkjVh iDdh gk tk,xhA

Mk ohch ekFkj ¼fun'kd& Hkkjrh; oU;tho lLFkku] ngjknu½] nfud tkxj.k] ub fnYyh] 5 vDVcj] 2014

Sand & Cloud

Once a silver cloud passed my way
The reckless wind blew it away
The sun pierced it through its heart
Who could rebuild a cloud from start?

The sand was cool under my feet
Drunken on waves' endless fleet
The tide came and drowned the sand
Who could reclaim it from ocean grand?

Seasons passed and robins sang
Peacocks danced with lovers' pang
Gulmohars kissed then went to sleep
Skies remained too cosmic, too deep

One day when I sat alone in a crowd
I found the once lost silver cloud
It dazzled in my loved one's eyes
A brilliant cloud in darkened skies

I discovered it again in light
The sand I'd lost to the ocean's might
It shone from trillion stars at night
The sand had sprinkled above in flight

May all you lose come back to you
With sands of time and déjà vu
May no fears cage your clouds in flight
Be it the sun's arrows or powers 'right'

2015 MUBARAK!!

Arefa Tehsin

For application form or any other purpose, contact: phone nos. 8010752143 & 9891059970, (email- wpaindia@gmail.com, address- 782, Sector – 17-A, Dwarka, New Delhi - 110078)