

CONSERVATION ACTION

(659)

Conservation code for India

The Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, while launching the Conservation Strategy of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources made certain specific suggestions for Conservation, which we quote below:

"1. Officers with the right attitude should be posted in reserved forests and sanctuary areas; if possible, a special corps of such officers could be identified for duties relating to wild life and forest and environment conservation.

"2. Forest development corporations or similar agencies should be asked to take up plantations on steep hill sides, catchment areas and clear-felled forest areas so that productive forestry and protective forestry go hand in hand.

"3. A massive programme of social forestry should be taken up both under the Food for Work Programme and under other specific schemes. The waste lands in villages, all community lands, field bunds, canal bunds etc., could be clothed with fast growing species under this useful scheme.

"4. In areas where tribals depend heavily on forests for their livelihood, they should be involved in replanting the species that they are already exploiting. A scheme of

forest farming should be undertaken. Particular attention must be paid to the re-planting or fresh planting of fruit trees.

"5. The existing regulations and security arrangements in sanctuaries should be tightened. Poaching should be dealt with very severely.

"6. Intelligence machinery to detect smuggling of valuable species like red sanders and sandalwood, or of animal furs and skins must be strengthened and personal interest must be shown by top people in administration to see that such activities are ruthlessly suppressed.

"7. The system of contracting away forest areas should be replaced or modified to see that every tree felled should be replaced by the planting of at least another one if not more.

"8. Tree plantation programmes should be undertaken by schools and other institutions. Some countries have initiated a programme of a tree for every child.

"9. Serious attempts must be made to change the orientation of all persons working in the forest services and forest administration with a system of rewards and incentives for those who do to better in preserving or extending the forest areas or the wild life areas."

—*Sciencetech Bulletin*, April 1980

Present status of the Asian Two-horned Rhinoceros in the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma

sai Tract, 26°N., 96°E., altitude 1164 m, maximum 7 animals, minimum 6.

U TUN YIN

Elephant poaching and punishment in Burma

Kyemon, a state-owned Burmese language daily reported on 22nd June 1980 that a gang of 9 elephant poachers were convicted, the leader to five years' imprisonment and the remaining 8 of the gang each to three years' imprisonment on 17 June 1980 by the Nattalin Township Peoples' Court, Tharrawaddy district. The wild elephants were shot on the Pegu Yoma. Elephant tusks valued at Kyats 20,000/- were seized from the Bogyoke Market, Rangoon. The poachers were convicted under section 6(1) of the Public Properties Protection Act.

U TUN YIN

A friend who visited Shwe-daung Game Sanctuary, East Katha Sector, Burma (for description see JBNHS 52: 275-8) informed me that wildlife inside the sanctuary has been depleted to a dangerous level by organized gangs of poachers. He could not penetrate into the interior. He doubts whether there are now any rhinos inside the sanctuary.

Oliver Milton and R. Estes in their 1963 wildlife survey did not penetrate into the interior also. They estimated that there might be three animals. With the elimination of this small group, there are now according to definite information received by me only three small groups: Tumanthi Game Sanctuary, 25° 15'-25° 30'N., 95°05'-95°25'E., altitude 152-1168 m, 4 animals; Las-

Aide-memoire. Subscription to the Society falls due on 1st January each year.

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