

ESOI's Human Animal Conflict workshop at Yercaud

Fragmentation of large private estate holdings around forest reserves and general urbanisation is causing territorial issues leading to emergence of newer fencing and compound walls in these habitats where fauna dwell in abundance. This so called development (negative) is a big obstruction to most animals travelling in their traditional routes seeking water for survival. Emergence of these obstructions leads to their retaliation in terms of breaking compound walls / fencing or attempting to jump over causing more damage to the crops in private estates.

Typically in Yercaud, a quaint hill station Tamilnadu, estate watchmen have this dangerous habit of using fireworks (rockets) to drive away wild bison from their territories. Perhaps, these bison are yet to learn road signs of our civilization. On 20th July, I spotted a bison with firework stub protruding out of its eye. Unfortunately, I could not photograph this. This perhaps was a rocket fire work used by one of the estate watchman to prevent the bison entering his territory. ESOI proposes to hold a half a day workshop in Yercaud in the month of August at the Lake Forest Hotel for planters, press and hoteliers of Yercaud. The workshop will be drawing resource persons from the Environment and Forest department and NGO experts working in the animal human conflict subjects. Bisons do offer attraction support to yercaud as a tourist destination. At least for this very selfish reason we need to preserve and care for them. I am certain that if we all could get together..we will all emerge winners and learn to respect each others ecological niche. By the way ,I am told the bison count in India is on the decline and that we are unmindful to the point of not even having taken up a national survey. Now, that gives us the reason to meet and mend our ways...eitherway.

INDeco Leisure Hotels will sponsor the hospitality of the workshop which is being done under the ECOTOURISM OF INDIA banner.

Warm Regards

Steve Borgia