

# **Living In Fine Environment Trust-India (LIFE Trust-India)**

**Annual Report  
2020 - 21**



## **Registered Head quarters:**

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## **Registered Trust:**

Registered No: 143/2017/BK4  
Darphen ID: TN/2018/0197493  
80G: URN - AABTL6785CF20212  
12A: URN - AABTL6785CE20214

## **Field station:**

LIFE Trust-India  
1-200-F8, Guru Colony  
Devarkulam Road  
Sivakasi – West  
Virudhunagar - 626 124, TN, India

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# From the Desk

Greetings from LIFE Trust-India Board and team members.

With great joy, I am here to inform you that we have completed four years of service to the society by which we could successfully take up and complete projects to achieve our Trust objectives though we had many barriers during this year. The first Covid 19 Pandemic case was reported on 30 January 2020 in India. We experienced a complete lockdown from March 2020 and most of our projects came to a standstill from March. The only thing we can do was to understand the Covid 19 since it was new to the present generation and another thing that we could do was to create awareness about the pandemic to the public so that they can help themselves and their family members from the virus. Social media was the only way available to exchange information. Living In Fine Environment Trust-India was involved by all means to do this with its network members in 13 project locations in Tamil Nadu close to the Western Ghats and in West Bengal. We were also able to help a few families, hostel fellows and individuals by different ways of materials support and funds to extend our hands during the Pandemic period.

The field projects were interrupted. However, the project personnel worked from home and that was a completely new way that we could adapt. Thanks to funding agencies for giving the extension of the project period. The cooperation, support and love that we received from the well-wishers of the Trust is much appreciable. We look forward to more support. We the Board members of LIFE Trust-India assure that we will always be contributing to creating an environment that will be better to live in, help the progress of the society and the nation.

**Rebecca Gnanabai**

*Managing Trustee*

# Vision and Mission



## Vision

Creating a comfortable living standard for life along with collateral sustainable development.



## Mission

To create a prosperous India by enhancing the living standards of people and by ensuring a common minimum species survival requirements and its habitat. Brining prosperity by providing empowerment and transformational change to community and to make them self reliant through sustainable practices, through partnership with government and industries.

# Trustees and advisors

## Trustees

**Mrs. Rebecca Gnanabai B.Sc., B.Ed.,**  
MANAGING TRUSTEE - Chief Executive

**Dr. L. Isaiarasu, M.Sc., M.Ed., M.Phil., Ph.D.**  
TRUSTEE - Chairman

**Mr. A. Josh, B. Tech.,**  
TRUSTEE - Executive Director

**Mrs. Josephine Regina, M.A.**  
TRUSTEE - Secretary

**Dr. B.A. Daniel, M.Sc., Ph.D.**  
TRUSTEE - Finance

## Advisors

Mr. Ramachandra Raja B.A., B.L, New Delhi.  
Mr. Pandithurai M.A., (Rtd Librarian), Madurai  
Mr. Jose Battan, Vechur, Kerala  
Dr. S. Jayabaskar MBBS., Rajapalayam

## Auditor

L. Venkatasubbu, Chartered Accountant, Coimbatore  
V. Shanmugasundaram B.Com., FCA., D.I.S.A., (ICI)  
Chartered Accountant Coimbatore



# Covid-19 awareness programme



B.G Palli, Krishnagiri  
District is a village in Northern Tamil Nadu surrounded by cultivable lands and the main occupation of the people is agriculture. During the Pandemic covid 19 period, LIFE Trust-India in collaboration with SWORD, a NGO based at Krishnagiri took part as a partner to create awareness among

the villagers, particularly women, about the pandemic disease and the preventive measures. It was attended by about 150 people and we provided snacks during the programme. The programme was presided by the district judge and the health officer.

Programme co-ordinator  
B. A. Daniel

# Educational support

Pandemic Covid 19 crippled many families at all levels of the society in particularly the youth. Kanishma, who is pursuing +2 was unable to pay her school fees because her mother, the single parent, had to close her tailoring shop, the only bread-winning profession she was practising. Her shop was closed for more than 10 months and she lost all her customers due to Covid 19. LIFE Trust-India, with the support of its well-wishers, managed to raise Rs 20,000. Kanishka paid her school fee as well as managed to buy books required for her studies. Thanks to the sponsors.

Programme co-ordinator  
Rebecca Gnanabai



# Tarantula spider research



## Project Title:

**A study to understand the pervasive threat of exploitation and trade of Indian Theraphosid spiders and to involve local community for species and habitat conservation through education**

## Project Goal

To fill-up the information gap on the prevalent exploitation and trade of Theraphosid spiders to prevent illegal trade and to bring in attitudinal change among the community in favour of species conservation.

## Objectives

- To sensitize locl communities and stakeholders and to involve them in species conservation through conservation education.
- To obtain a better understanding of the pervasive threats of exploitation and trade of Theraphosid spider.
- To address species and habitat quality decline and to promote conservation
- Dissemination of project results

## Sponsors:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Project co-ordinator

Mohamed Ashik

In 2020-21, during the third year of the project, we worked on two aspects 1. field survey to understand spider distribution and species threats, 2. trail education programmes using educational materials developed exclusively for this by the organization. However, our activities were limited and interrupted due to Covid-19 pandemic. From April 2020 we started an extensive field survey in the study area. The questionnaire survey was completed and data related to illegal spider collection and influence of socio-cultural factors on the collection of spiders and species threats. Interviews were conducted among different community representatives such as teachers, villagers (men and women), foresters, panchayat heads, poachers, and any common individual. During the survey, 1100 people were met. Detailed analysis was made from the acquired data. During the spider survey, many *Poecilotheria* spider habitats were newly recorded. Field visits were made for six months this year, as part of the project and during the project period, we travelled around 7300km covering 14 districts alongside of the Western Ghats of Tamil Nadu.



## Community

As part of the spider trade documentation survey, interviews, questionnaire surveys and meetings with village heads were conducted. This gave an insight into the perception of the people about the spider. In general, people have a perception that these spiders are deadly venomous and a spider bite can kill even an elephant, which is not true. There are also many misconceptions existing among the community about the Tiger spider.



## Research

Tiger spiders are nocturnal. Hence any observation about these spiders in the wild can be carried out only during nighttime. During the day the spider nests will be marked and the behaviour studies of the spiders are done after sunset. This project helped us to locate new distribution range of these spiders.



## Species Conservation

Habitat loss and collection from the wild are the two major threats for this species. In the recent past, intentional killing has become a threat. These spiders enter human habitations, especially the males, and they are instantly killed by the people. Through this project education activities, we create awareness not to kill them but to leave them out and let them live. Education plays a major role in the conservation of this species.

*Project co-ordinator*

Mohamed Ashik



# Educational Materials



As part of the USFWS project we designed and developed educational materials that can be used by a range of people from children to adults. These materials emphasise the basic information about these spiders, threats for the species and the need for conservation

# Education programme



After developing the education materials few trial education programmes were conducted. The first trials programme was conducted at Karur in collaboration with Psycho Trust, TN. The programme was attended by 30 youth representing different organizations from Tamil Nadu. Education materials were used to engage the participants through various activities. The active teaching method was adopted. The feedback from the programme was used to finalize the spider education materials required for this project.



# Acknowledgment

We would like to thank the following people for their generous assistance during the course of this year. Mrs & Mr. Veluchamy, Puliyangudi, TN; Mr. K. Vijayakumar, Madurai; Mr. L. Ravi Arumugham, Chennai and Gnanaguru, Chennai for their support for the educational support activities of LIFE Trust-India. Our thanks are due to Mr Nallathambi, Dharmapuri; Mr Chinnaswamy, Dharmapuri, Mr Sankar, Courtallam; Mr Suresh, Pechiparai; Mr Vignesh, Dharmapuri; Mr Jalal, Krishnagiri; Mr Murali, Dharmapuri; Mr Ramesh, Madurai; Mr D Sasikumar, Karaikal for their support during the fieldwork. We also thank Mr Thangaivel, Mr Kishore, Mr Samson Kirubaakaran, Mr Sathis and Mr Madhan for volunteering their time during LIFE Trust-India activities.



# Photo gallery



## Collaborators



Arulagam, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,  
Washington, USA



TEESTA – Jalpaiguri, West Bengal



Psycho trust, Tamil Nadu



ASIAN ELEPHANT  
S U P P O R T

Asian Elephant Support, USA



Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science  
and Higher Education for Women,  
Tamil Nadu, India



# About LIFE Trust-India

Since 2013, a group of people informally carrying out social welfare related activities in Andhra Pradesh, later in Southern Tamil Nadu and in the year 2017, the group decided to register it as a registered body. Thus, Living In Fine Environment Trust, India (LIFE Trust-India) was formally registered on 20th September 2017 under Tamil Nadu Trust Registration Act 1963. Since inception LIFE Trust-India has put efforts to achieve some of its aims and activities. The board members in consultation with advisors and experts developed project proposals that fit into the objectives of the trust Bylaws.

Aims and objectives of LIFE Trust - India are: Capacity building, Research and development, Rural development and Public health, Education and Networking.

