

Name of ENVIS Centre : **ENVIS Centre on “Faunal Biodiversity”**

Host Organisation : **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Kolkata**

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Year of Establishment : **1993**

About Host Organisation

The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) was established on 1st July, 1916 to promote survey, exploration and research leading to the advancement in our knowledge of the various aspects of the exceptionally rich animal life of the erstwhile 'British Indian Empire'. Initially the Survey acquired the zoological collections of more than a century old from the former museum (1814-1875) of the Asiatic Society of Bengal and the Zoological Section of the Indian Museum (1875-1916) in Calcutta. The Survey has so far established sixteen Regional and Field Stations, and has developed into a major National Institution. It functions as the guardian of the National Zoological Collections, containing over a million identified specimens from all animal groups - Protozoa to Mammals. Extensive and intensive field explorations are undertaken by the Survey in different parts of the country for the studies of faunistics, systematic zoology, animal ecology, wild-life, zoogeography, animal behaviour, animal population and marine fauna. ZSI also holds Conferences and Symposia, Training Courses, Workshops and Colloquia. The ZSI publishes Journals containing result of researches carried out in the organization and outside in the field of animal taxonomy, ecology and zoogeography.



Activities of the Centre

To collect, collate and computerise data on taxonomic diversity and ecology of different animal groups of this country from Protozoa to Mammalia with ultimate objectives of building up a repository and dissemination of information speedily to the users.

The specific activities of the Centre are to :-

- Develop an application software for storage, retrieval and dissemination of data on some selected parameters pertaining to Faunal Biodiversity.
- Computerise data of 80 species of Vertebrates listed in Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1992 and all the genera of butterflies belonging to the family Lycaenidae occurring in India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh.
- Computerise around 1.5 lakh data on species diversity of different animal groups from Protozoa to Mammalia, which are being continuously stored in specimen registers of ZSI since its establishment in 1916.
- Use of Geographic Information System (GIS) Software for state fauna mapping.
- Bring out publications of Faunal diversity in India.

ENVIS Publications

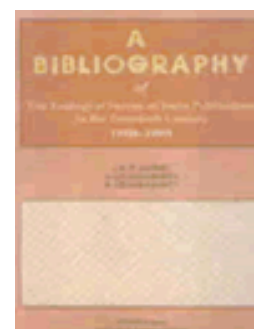
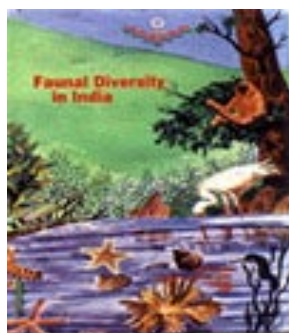
○ ENVIS Newsletter

- ◇ ENVIS newsletter is being published regularly on yearly basis since 1993 which provides information on faunal biodiversity of the country, emphasising current status of endangered animal species, biodiversity richness of significant protected areas and significant ecosystems.



○ Publications

A number of Books, Status Reports and Bibliographies have been published by the Centre. Following publications have been brought out so far they are also available on CD ROM :



◆ **Books**

- ◆ **Faunal Diversity In India** by Alfred, JRB, Das, AK and Sanyal, AK (eds) 1998, i-viii, 495 Pages. The book provides updated information on biological diversity, endemism, value, threats and conservation strategies of Protista (Protozoa) and all animal groups (Porifera to Mammalia) occurring in India through 57 articles written by concerned experts.
- ◆ **Ecosystems of India** by Alfred, JRB, Das, AK and Sanyal, AK (eds) 2001, 410 Pages. The publication incorporates 18 articles on selected Indian Ecosystems and their biological diversity, threats and conservation. The articles cover all major natural habitats of India, namely, forests, grasslands, deserts, wetlands (including estuaries), mangroves, coral reefs and marine as well as geographical features like mountains and islands. Also two significant biogeographical regions of the country, namely, Western Ghats and Deccan Peninsula, several biotic provinces like Trans-Himalaya, Northwest-Himalaya, Western Himalaya and Eastern Himalaya as well as one important eco-region, the Eastern Ghats, are also dealt with.
- ◆ **A Bibliography of the Zoological Survey of India Publications in the Twentieth Century (1916-1999)** by Alfred, JRB, Chakraborty, S and Chakraborty, R, 2000, i-viii, 255 Pages. The publication incorporates 4600 bibliographic references on taxonomy, systematics, ecology, and zoogeography of all animal groups from Protozoa to Mammalia. For the convenience of the users, the references are chronologically arranged under 103 higher taxa (Phylum/Class/Order).

Services

○ **Abstracting Services**

- ◆ The service is being currently provided and will be continued as a printed version. Around 5000 bibliographic references on animal biodiversity and ecology have been stored for catering service to the users.

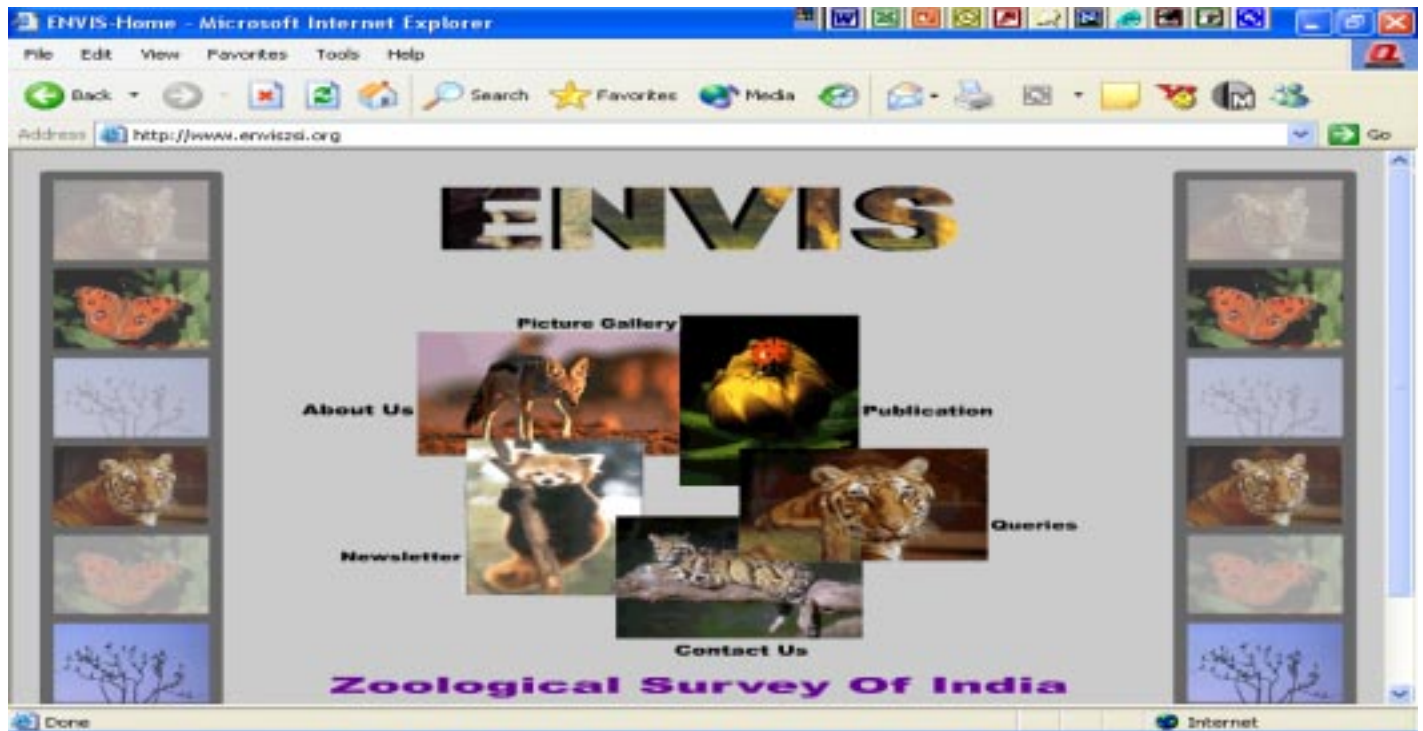
○ **Query Answer Services**

- ◆ Query response service is being provided and will continue. They also respond to queries

around 100 in a year in the form of published reports, extracts and other unpublished information.

ZSI Website (<http://www.enviszsi.org>)

- The website contains Newsletters and archives containing back issues from 2000, Publications of the Centre, Picture Gallery, Query form, etc.



Future Plan

- Updation of data on faunal diversity available in ZSI specimen registers, species card index and printed documents in the ENVIS database.
- Collection of faunal diversity in different protected areas and current data on endangered animal species will be updated in the database with regional languages.
- The Centre will develop State Faunal Database and website, biodiversity mapping through Geographic Information System (GIS), and publish a pictorial handbook.