

# Workshop on Managing, Monitoring, and Utilizing *Lantana camara* in Reserve Forest and Protected Areas

January 3, 2009

Venue: *Aranya Bhavan*, Karnataka Forest Department, Bangalore

## Joint recommendations from the workshop on Managing, Monitoring, and Utilizing *Lantana camara* in Reserve forest and protected areas on January 3, 2009

Karnataka Forest Department, in collaboration with the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), organized a workshop on Managing, Monitoring and Utilizing *Lantana camara* in Reserve forest and protected areas on January 3, 2009 in Aranya Bhavan, Bangalore. The workshop provided an overview of the three themes and witnessed active participation from forest officers working in different protected areas in Karnataka. Through these deliberations, forest officers and scientists generated useful discussions on managing this important invasive plant to develop a few key recommendations.

The recommendations and action points are as follows:

1. **Institutionalize short- and medium-term monitoring of for important invasive species in critical ecosystems such as protected areas.** Such monitoring can be done in a collaborative mode involving the Karnataka Forest Department and research institutions like ATREE. To begin with, the following protected areas have been short-listed for initiating such monitoring activities on a pilot scale:
  - a. Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple Wildlife Sanctuary
  - b. Rajiv Gandhi (Nagarahole) National Park
  - c. Bandipur Tiger Reserve
  - d. Bhadra Tiger Reserve
  - e. Anshi-Dandeli Tiger Reserve
2. **Conduct periodic rapid assessment of invasive species (“Invasive Census”) in protected areas for wildlife habitat management and project it using a Geographical Information System (GIS) platform.** Results from these periodic rapid assessment studies of invasive species could be incorporated into the Karnataka Forest Department’s working plan and wildlife habitat management plan as a mandatory process.

3. **Evolve best practices for invasive species control in protected areas based on adaptive management approaches** in pilot, experimental-scale studies. The results from such pilot studies focussing on important invasive species should be critically evaluated prior to scaling up to other protected areas
  
4. **Active programs to manage invasive species should encourage the utilization of invasive species by forest-dependent communities** for their livelihood needs wherever possible. The Forest Department will make the necessary provisions to enable this link between management and local livelihoods.