

**GOA FOREST DEPARTMENT
PRESS NOTE**

PROTECTION TO THE INDIAN BULL FROG

Each new shower of rain is welcomed with a fresh bout of calling. The unseen voice is that of the Indian Bull Frog [*Hoplobatrachus (Rana) Spp.*] which happens to be the largest of the frogs found in India. It is found all over the state and is an Integral part of the ecosystem of any pond, well or field. We usually tend to miss seeing them as they blend so well with their habitat.

It is only during these rains that the Indian Bull Frogs are poached in large numbers to satisfy the human taste buds and has been the main cause of drastic decline in their population. Killing of frogs causes an imbalance in the food chain thereby affecting the terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. Frogs mainly feed on mosquitoes and other insects thereby controlling the vectors of human diseases like Malaria, Filaria and Encephalitis.

Consumption of frogs over a period of time could trigger paralytic strokes, cancer, kidney failures and other deformities as the toxic recalcitrant residues from the agrochemicals used in the field gets biomagnified in the food chain and may get accumulated in the fat deposits of these frogs.

Offenders who trade or consume frog meat are punishable under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Indian Bull frogs are also listed in the IUCN Red List. It is therefore appealed to the general public to assist in the protection of the frogs and lend their support to the Forest Department in its endeavour to conserve the amphibians. Instances of poaching and trading of the frogs can be reported on the below mentioned contact numbers:

Round the clock: 0832- 2228772 (North Goa) / 2750246 (South Goa)

North Goa : 0832- 2229701/ 2312095

South Goa: 0832- 2756980/ 2751462

Sd/-

Chief Wildlife Warden, Goa