

TOWARDS AN ' EXOTIC FISH ' FREE PERIYAR TIGER RESERVE



Removal of African catfish in the Periyar Tiger Reserve

The waters of the Periyar Tiger Reserve harbour unique assemblages of evolutionary distinct and globally endangered freshwater fish, including eight endemic species. Eight species of fish found in PTR are found nowhere else in the world. Yet, they are fighting for survival as their only remaining habitats are threatened by several stressors of which biological invasion is the most significant one. Four species of exotic fish currently occur in the PTR and their populations are increasing like never before. Unless, urgent conservation plans are put in place we may lose the eight endemic species forever.

The Conservation Research Group (CRG) at St. Alberts College, Kochi is launching the first ever mass removal of this exotic species through public participation at the Periyar Tiger Reserve on 29th and 30th April 2013 as an initial step towards an 'exotic fish' free PTR.

