



Listen to the Sherlock Holmes of wildlife at BNHS

Dr Samuel Wasser to conduct a public lecture on wildlife trafficking on June 21

Mumbai: 19th June: A serious conservation problem, wildlife trade is known to threaten the survival of a lot of species in turn having a negative effect on the viability of wildlife population. Fondly known as the Sherlock Holmes of wildlife trade, Dr Samuel Wasser has relentlessly worked to investigate wildlife trafficking through non-invasive methods. A conservation biologist, professor and research scientist by profession, Dr Wasser shall be addressing conservation enthusiasts at the Bombay Natural History Society in a public lecture on combating wildlife trafficking on Friday, June 21 at 6:00 PM. His visit to Mumbai is an initiative of the U.S. Consulate General in Mumbai.

Dr. Samuel Wasser holds the endowed chair in Conservation Biology at the University of Washington, where he is a Professor in the Department of Biology and Director of the Center for Conservation Biology. He is acknowledged worldwide for developing non-invasive tools for monitoring human impacts on wildlife. Professor Wasser pioneered methods to measure the abundance, distribution and physiological condition of wildlife from their faeces, relying on detection dogs to locate these samples over large wilderness areas. He used elephant dung to assemble a DNA reference map of elephants across Africa, which is now widely used to determine the geographic origins of poached ivory. The work has earned him the nickname “the Guru of Doo Doo.”

Dr. Wasser has been able to identify elephant poaching hotspots by this kind of DNA referencing. This work has led to prosecutions of major transnational ivory traffickers and nurtured key collaborations with the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime, INTERPOL, US Homeland Security Investigations, the Task Force on Combating Wildlife Trafficking, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Department of State and wildlife authorities in numerous source and transit countries across Africa and Asia.

Grab this opportunity to listen to Dr. Wasser sharing his experiences and his work, along with a chance to interact with him at the BNHS Hornbill House.

Details in a nutshell:

What: Lecture on combating wildlife trafficking

When: Friday, 21st June 2019

Time: 6:00 PM

Where: BNHS Hornbill House

--- Bilwada Kale-Baxi,
Consultant Public Relations Officer