

## **Gaur In My Garden**

The film 'Gaur in My Garden' looks at human-animal interactions and conflicts arising in Kotagiri, Nilgiris- one of the key biodiversity hotspots in India. The Gaur or the Indian Bison is on the IUCN red list of threatened species and is endangered under the Indian Wildlife Protection Act.

India has the largest population of the Gaur in the wild. It is estimated at about 23500. Isolated in three pockets - the Northeast, Central India and the Western Ghats the numbers are on the decline. No contiguous pocket exceeds a population of more than 2000. The Gaur is a large mammal and like the elephant has a long gestation period of eight to nine months, giving birth to one calf most of the time. The current Gaur numbers indicate a survival on the edge.

The Nilgiris forests and grasslands are important habitats for the Gaur. The film aims to bring attention to the Gaur or the Indian Bison - through documentation of its unusual encounters with humans in Kotagiri.