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Forest Department banks on native wisdom of Muthuvan tribe for Nilgiri Tahr conservation

October 17, 2023 09:21 pm | Updated 09:21 pm IST - COIMBATORE

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The Department will sensitise them to the importance of Nilgiri Tahr, involve them in estimation works and conserve the habitats of the animal, which prefers montane grasslands, with steep and rocky terrains at an altitude between 300 and 2,600 metres above sea level.

At present, members of the tribe collect non-timber forest products (NTFP) from forest areas including tahr habitats. The Department will educate them on collecting NTFPs like wild honey from tahr habitats without causing disturbance to them.

Muthavan tribesmen from ATR took part in the Nilgiri Tahr Day workshop which was held under the theme 'A holistic approach towards community based conservation of Nilgiri Tahr' in Coimbatore on Tuesday. Senior officials from the Forest Department, conservationists, biologists, **members of the project team**, representatives from various non-governmental organisations and students took part.

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