

## INDIA PROJECT FOR ANIMALS AND NATURE

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**Press release**  
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### **Nigel Otter to be felicitated with the prestigious 'Karmaveer Puraskar'**

**Ooty, Nilgiris Tamil Nadu, Nov 2008:** Nigel Otter –the Ooty born activist for animal welfare and nature conservation is all set to receive an award for his commendable work in the field of social service after having been nominated for the awards which has been accepted and shortlisted.

Nigel Otter will be felicitated the coveted '**Karmaveer Puraskar**' award on the 26<sup>th</sup> of November in New Delhi at the exclusive awards function which is a part of "iCONGO's RIGHT every WRONG conclave" a national forum for social justice and citizen action where various social justice issues are discussed by very eminent and concerned citizens. This year the theme is electoral reforms and is led by former Statesman Mr. Vasant Sathe, Former Election Commissioners Mr. Krishnamurthy and Mr. James Lyngdoh and other serving bureaucrats and civil society champions.

The '**Karmaveer Puraskar**' is a national award for **Social Justice & Citizen Action**. The award is instituted by **iCONGO – Indian Confederation of NGOs** – the people sector association- in partnership with government, business, media, civil society and other sectors and leading global and national organisations which over the years include institutions like TISS, BCCI, NASSCOM FOUNDATION, PHDCCI, CMS, RAI, UNMC, UNODC, The art of

living, UNDP, World Bank, UNFPA, GTZ, WOTR, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, NDTV, Business World, Outlook and various others.

KARMAVEER PURASKAAR was created in 2006 by the people sector through iCONGO to recognize only **individual citizens** from all sectors (media, corporate, government, civil society, performing arts, professionals who have been pivotal for “being and leading the change” beyond their personal daily lives and business as usual by being committed on individual levels to work for social justice issues with proactive citizen action. The awards are given to individuals from various sectors for their contribution to promote social justice through citizen action. The basic philosophy of the awards is based on Gandhiji’s “**Be the change you want to see in the world**” and given to citizens who go beyond being apathetic and believe in doing their bit for social justice and know that it is “**better to light a candle than to curse the darkness**”. Past awardees include living legends and some eminent citizens like Verghese Kurien, Anu Aga, James Michael Lyngdoh, Vikram Akula, M. S. Swaminathan, Alyque Padamsee. More details are on **[www.righteverywrong.com](http://www.righteverywrong.com)**

Nigel Otter is a true citizen with high moral values towards justice and equity in the society. He doesn’t just believe in better world but he actually makes the world better every day through his actions. Nigel believes that every act counts and that every single individual can make a difference if they really want. He is an outstanding example of that himself, working unselfishly for the cause of animals and nature, never leaving an unjustified issue not attended. He believes in that by helping animals and preserving forest you also help humans. He wants to facilitate sustainable development where people, livestock and wildlife can co-exist and dreams about increased public awareness among the rural poor in the importance of wildlife and forest conservation. He would like to teach the people alternative ways for better income so that they would not need to exploit the forest wealth.

Nigel is also the Managing Trustee of Nilgiris based NGO India Project for Animals and Nature ([www.indiapan.org](http://www.indiapan.org)) which works on various fields of animal

welfare, e.g. arranging Animal Birth Control cum anti-rabies vaccination camps, running a shelter for injured and abandoned animals and providing emergency veterinary care and preventive animal health care for the livestock of the rural people in the Masinagudi-Mudumalai area.

We congratulate Nigel for possessing the conviction and compassion to stand up, speak out and lead the change with his diplomatic manners and faith in “doing the right thing”. The management of iCONGO, which has selected his nomination after thorough due diligence based on the process created by the international HR audit firm MERCER and Grant Thornton said that they were glad to have found a true champion of social justice issues in Nigel and wish that more and more individuals on the grass-root level become involved in addressing social justice issues and being the change and role models for other citizens to follow. Nigel has proved and excelled as a Citizen Action showing that if one decides to walk the talk and do their bit for social justice, besides living our own personal lives, as a husband and a father of two in his case, and day to day business, India will truly become the best nation and democracy in the world with humane , just and responsible citizens.