

## **Project Update: October 2005**

We have completed the entire annual cycle of the study on this species of which fewer than 50 survive in Ladakh at present. Numerous interesting findings about the species, other sympatric species and local use by humans have been documented. The report of this year's study, combined with our previous work in the area is being compiled as a report that should be ready and printed in about a month or so. You will be happy to learn that we had a detailed workshop with the state Wildlife Department officials in Ladakh where we briefed them about our findings. They found them very useful and have conveyed a commitment to continue work with us in the area. We also had a preliminary consultation with the local community in Hanle (our study site) where we discussed opportunities of jointly saving the species.

One important issue that has emerged is that most people living in the area, especially the Government officers and the large numbers of defence forces are completely unaware of the precarious situation in which this species exists at present. While some don't even know how the gazelle looks, others do hunt them, maybe many a times ignorant of the status of the species.

The Army has a fast turnover rate of 3-6 month postings at these border areas and we need a constant means of making them aware of the status of gazelle. We have thus devised a small table-top 'brochure' on the gazelle that we will distribute to them periodically. We considered many media for spreading awareness, but decided upon this that will be displayed on the table and will be a source of reminder to not only the officers, but to all visitors. The 'poster' is about 5X8 inches and is mounted in an acrylic holder. There is printed matter on both sides.

