

Foreword

Of all the tribal societies in India and rest of the world, the Sentinelese, whose population is estimated to be about 50 presently are perhaps the most isolated and hence untouched culturally and biologically. They are true hunter and gatherers who live in the island of North Sentinel, only a few hours boat journey from Port Blair in South Andaman. The Sentinelese have been highly suspicious of the outsiders and do not like entrance of people from the outside world to their territory. However, occasionally official parties have paid visits with gift of Coconut, iron pieces etc, which has been accepted by them if dropped at a safe distance from where they may stand. Because of the reason of minimal interaction with this community over the years, we have very limited insight into their social identity, language, social organisation etc. Whatever has been assessed has been done on the basis of inputs gathered by the experts during their short visits to the island.

The present report is an effort to bring into fore the problems faced by the community, basic idea of which emanates from the descriptions on the subject in various books and articles by the subject experts. I have also attempted to suggest certain remedial measures to overcome the instant situation