The youngsters of Chenchu tribe have been successfully roped in by the WWF-India and Amrabad Tiger Reserve authorities to evolve as nature guides.

Thirty five Chenchus with native intelligence about forests and flora and fauna have been trained as nature guides in conducting nature trails for visitors. Their services have been utilised by both the WWF-India and Forest department.

A two-day refresher workshop was conducted for them at Mannanur of Amrabad in Nagarkurnool district on June 19 and 20 by the WWF-India Hyderabad Office and Amrabad Tiger Reserve (ATR) under the aegis of Telangana State Forest Department. Experts from hospitality management, language trainers, wildlife experts conducted sessions for the Chenchu youth.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests P.K. Jha has said that the Amrabad Tiger Reserve has excellent scenic locations and the Chenchus being the local tribal community have a sound knowledge about the locations as well as the plants and animals. The department would also utilise the services of trained guides in the tourist circuits and safaris that were being developed by the department, he said.

State Director, Hyderabad Office, WWF-India, Farida Tampal said that the WWF would continue these capacity building programmes for the Chenchus and help them get a sustainable source of income. Among the 35 trainees, there are three Chenchu women, she said.

Special training
Additional PCCF and In-charge Chief Wildlife Warden Munindra and Field Director, ATR, Vinod Kumar interacted with the trainees and explained to them that the services of nature guides would be utilised on rotation basis. Some of the guides would also be taught driving to drive Safari vehicles. An avid bird watcher and a language trainer J.V.D. Moorty conducted sessions on enhancing English language vocabulary through on-field sessions. Hospitality trainer Shanthi conducted a session on speaking and presentation skills, English vocabulary while interacting with visitors. Mr. Mohd Abdul Rasheed conducted a session on survival skills and basic first aid. The sessions also included history and geology of the Amrabad Tiger Reserve, flora identification and indirect wildlife signs.

Chenchu youth as tourist guides

Selected youth trained to serve as Nature Guides in tourist circuits and safaris

JVD Moorty training the Chenchus on birdwatching.

* BY ARRANGEMENT