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Key Achievements and Contributions:

• Reviving Indigenous Fish Species:

Spearheaded efforts to revive the endangered 'manjakoori' species in Sasthamcotta Lake, classified as vulnerable on the IUCN Red List. Collaborated with local authorities to establish hatcheries aimed at conserving and increasing the population of this indigenous species.

• Breakthrough in Captive Breeding:

Led successful research on the captive breeding of threatened Indian ornamental fish species, achieving global recognition in the ornamental fish market. These efforts have elevated the potential of seedling exports in the international ornamental fish trade.

• Standardizing Artificial Breeding Techniques:

Developed and standardized breeding protocols for barb fish under the Kuruva Paral project. Fish breeders for this project were sourced from critical ecological zones such as Idamalayar and Bhoothathankettu, highlighting conservation-focused practices.

• Enhancing Reservoir Fish Production (UNDP Partnership):

Led a project in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to enhance reservoir fish production in the Munnar landscape. This initiative focused on creating livelihood opportunities for tribal communities through the development of aquaculture practices for native fish species, contributing to sustainable fisheries and community empowerment.

• Empowering Tribal Communities:

Coordinated the ₹52-lakh KUFOS project to enhance the production of local fish

species in mountain regions. This initiative was designed to boost the livelihoods of tribal communities while conserving native aquatic biodiversity.

Plans afoot to revive 'manjakoori' in Sasthamcotta Lake

The fish, which has 'vulnerable' status in IUCN Red List, was ranched at the Ramsar site last month and fishers reported its consistent presence since then. Kollam district panchayat plans to start a hatchery near the lake to conserve the indigenous species

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Kufos succeed in captive breeding of threatened Indian ornamental fish •••••

Unrighted - Sentember 21, 2023 at 09-13 AM

The rare species fetches around \$3 per fish seedling in the international ornamental fish market

Kufos scientists standardise techniques for artificial breeding of barb fish

 $Breeders \, for \, the \, Kuruva \, Paral \, project \, were \, collected \, from \, Idamalayar \, and \, Bhoothathankettu$

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KUFOS project to breed local fish species in mountain regions

The $\P52$ -lakh project aims to increase production of indigenous fish species to improve the livelihood of tribespeople

