

Zoo and Wildlife Education in South Asia

Wildlife Week Programme by Zoological Survey of India, Kozhikode, Kerala

ZSI, Kozhikode, as a part of its Wildlife Week 2009 celebration organised a quiz on 'Biodiversity of India' and also a debate on 'Conservation Vs. Development' on 6 October 2009. Thirty eight students from nineteen High schools of Calicut participated in the quiz followed by debate session. Twenty six students from 13



schools presented their solid views on the environmental impacts of hydroelectric projects and also on the various aspects of ecotourism. Many vital points like the necessity for banning the use of plastics in forests and the need to avoid the feeding of wild animals were debated in depth. In between, there were some special moments of merry making, when 'The Daily life Wildlife' packets, supplied to us by the Zoo Outreach Organisation, Coimbatore and South Asian Network of the International Zoo Educators Association- SAN-IZE, were handed over to the students. They were very enthusiastic and glad to wear the cute colourful butterfly masks and rakhies. They were also quite eager to browse through the small animal booklet enclosed in the packet. A few informative brochures on Indian wildlife and some attractive animal stickers, developed by WGRC/ZSI, Kozhikode were also distributed to the students. Prizes and certificates were distributed to the winning teams. We thank the crew at Zoo Outreach Organisation, Coimbatore for collaborating with us in making this event a memorable one. **Submitted by C. Radhakrishnan, ZSI, Kozhikode, Kerala. Email: radhakrishnan.zsi@gmail.com**

Wildlife awareness programme for forestry students at Kamareddy, Andhra Pradesh

Bringing awareness in youth is utmost need and important to protect our Wildlife and Environment in the present day situation. I conducted one such awareness programme on 5 September 2009 at

Government Arts and Science College, Kamareddy, Nizambad. A total of 112 students participated. Wildlife film show on Climate change was screened. Zoo Outreach Organisation's Ele-kit, Sloth Bear, Monkey Manners education kits were used in the programme. The packet materials meticulously



explained to the students. All the students wore the time clock on their hands and wore masks of bear, monkey and elephant and took an oath to protect wildlife and environment. The students were very happy as it was different programme which was first of its kind. I am very thankful to Zoo Outreach Organisation for providing me educational kits for successful programme. **Submitted by Shaik Hussain, SRF, LaCONES-CCMB, Hydrebad, AP. Email: indianwildlifeprotector@gmail.com**

Wildlife Week celebration by K.N.P. Nature club, Shirwal, Maharashtra

KNP Nature Club celebrated wildlife week from 1 to 7 October 2009. On the first day a lecture on 'Primates of India' by Kapil Jaikar was given on the different primate species found here and their importance in the ecosystem and how to tackle man-monkey conflict. The lecture ended with distribution of Pocket Guides of Primates of India, supplied by Zoo Outreach Organisation. The 100 students participated in the event and really enjoyed the lecture and appreciated the pocket guide.

On the following days, talks about Global warming, climate change and a short but interesting presentation on butterflies of India were given. An interactive session on common local birds was held and students were taken to Veer Dam for field ornithology. One of the students presented a lecture on Biodiversity of the Western Ghats. On the last day, and on the occasion of World Habitat Day, the KNP Nature Club was officially inaugurated. **Submitted by Kapil Pandurang Jaikar, KNP Nature Club, Shirwal, Maharashtra. Email: kapilvet@gmail.com**

Two Reports on Climate Change, Save Biodiversity and the Amphibian Crisis

Report 1: Moving from Words to action

Participants: Rani Meyyammai G.H.S. School & Sri. RKM Sarada Vidyalaya Model HSS.

The day's programme began with an introduction of the current environmental situation. Participants responded by adding points on pollution, deforestation, ozone layer depletion, global warming and climate change. The programme leader and reporter then used a chart to illustrate meteorological Centres and their location in India and their work. She differentiated between temperature, weather and climate and also explained with the weather chart prepared from the weather report printed in the Hindu. Educational packets on 'Living with Climate Change' developed by Zoo Outreach Organisation were distributed to teachers. The packet includes a mask on air, cyclone, thunder, green house gas guardian, green house gas ghost



along with a rakhi, two game boards on weather protection and gales. This explains self-protection and wind based on the speed as in Beaufort Scale. Guidelines in order to

generate a behavioural shift in green house gas control was also explained and instructions were given. Evaluation sheets on climate change were circulated among the students.

As 2010 is International Year of Biodiversity, Amphibians dominated programmes undertaken by students for the past one year. It was nice to hear the signature campaign from friends, relatives, neighbours and fellow students besides estimating the number of frogs on campus and in backyards.

Awareness created by role play and cultural activities for general public and recycling of paper and the paper bags for distribution to the nearby shops. New educational packets sponsored by Zoo Outreach



Organisation were distributed. These featured a title "All frogs are amphibians, but all amphibians are not frogs" and included an amphibian crisis calendar, car stickers, etc. The year's experience was based on sensitization and creation of awareness so they will enter 2010 by "Moving From Words to Action".

Report 2: Frogs at Sathya Matriculation Hr. Sec. School, Chennai

Ten students who have undergone training during World Environment Day 2009 at Adayar Poonga, Chennai made efforts to create awareness in this crisis. They shared with fellow students at school assembly and displayed posters and educational materials near the school gate which have attracted many parents and general public. They collected newspaper cuttings on the topic and on Environmental degradation and take care of saplings supplied on World Environment Day. They have submitted signature campaign sheets.

Before entering into the second level of Count Down 2010 the students were taken to the Regional Centre of Meteorology at Chennai on 30th Nov' 09 to know more about Climate Change. As many students are willing to carry out the project the number has increased from 10 to 30. Dr. Y.E.A. Raja, Deputy Director General of Meteorology welcomed the participants, explaining the centre and their work in recording the data and sending it out to rest of the country. Programme leader introduced the day's programme and its relationship to Countdown 2010 Save Biodiversity, as well as sponsoring organisations like ZOO, WILD. Other lectures on Observational methods, Modern observing system, Climate of India, Climate change were delivered by scientists at the centre with participants learning much about the topic. There were question and answer session following each lecture and pamphlets on Indian Meteorology centre were distributed to all students.

Students learned to differentiate between temperature, weather, and climate. The day's programme came to an end with a vote of thanks proposed by Ranjit and programme leader explaining a project of collecting the weather chart published in Hindu newspaper and fixing it on the respective date in a calendar besides filling the chart in CD 2010 calendar. Each student will record minimum and maximum temperature, average and total rainfall in one city in a note book.

The new educational packets developed by Zoo Outreach Organisation and sponsored by Sea World, Florida and described in Report 1 were distributed. The ten steps were implemented and these students also began "Moving from Words to Action". **Submitted by Ms. Jessie Jayakaran, Chennai, Tamil Nadu. E-mail: jessiejey@rediffmail.com**

Report of workshop on Monkey Manners programme

Modern Education Society's Secondary School, Nasik organised a workshop on 'Monkey Manners' with the materials of Zoo Outreach Organisation.

On 01 December 2009 the workshop was inaugurated by the Principal Mrs. Gaidhani in the presence of other staff. After welcome, Mr. Anil Mali well-known wildlife photographer & nature expert gave information about 'monkey manners' workshop, difference between macaque & langurs and local monkey problems.

The students of W.W.F. Nature Club and 'Harit sena club' performed dramas to give information about monkeys which highlighted creation of man/monkey conflict resolution by attitudinal and behavioural change. They showed various Do's and Don't's of monkey manners.



After these students were given monkey manners packets and they wore masks and made calls like monkeys. Students hold placards too. The girls tied rakhi to the boys which give the message about conservation of monkeys. Amphibian crisis countdown 2010 poster and calendar were also given to the guests and students. Students enjoyed the dramas and request for another workshop of this kind. **Submitted by Headmistress, Modern Education Society's Secondary School, Old Cidco, Nasik, Maharashtra.**

Report of workshop on 'Daily life Wildlife' workshop by NEST Nature Club

NEST Nature Club-Nasik organised Daily life Wildlife workshop in Nutan Prathmic Vidhyalaya on 24 November 2009. Fifty students were participated.



In the inaugural Mr. Suresh Tadage, Principal and School Committee members were participated. At first the girls tied the rakhi to the boys. Then the guest gave the masks to the students and the students were very happy receiving from them. Next Mr. Anil Ratilal Mali taught about animal welfare by pointing out how we should be kind to the little animals we encounter every day. Thanks to Zoo Outreach Organisation and other sponsors for the materials. **Submitted by Ojas Mali, 'NEST' Nature Club, Nasik, Maharashtra.**

Re-visiting Government Primary School, Mysore

My visit to Government Primary School, at Jayalakshmipuram took place a very long time after the first programme, which was about amphibians. The school had re-opened after a month long Dasara vacation. The students had come back refreshed. The students were asked what they did during their vacation. Some said they visited their relatives, others, other places, and some were excited about seeing elephants in the Dasara procession, as well as in the zoo. There were 20 students from 4th and 5th grade. I asked the students what was "wildlife" and what they saw around them that was "wildlife". They replied 'none', so I asked again, what made 'wildlife'. They replied with lion, tigers, elephants, crocodile and so



on. They then were told that not only these big mammals and reptiles made up wildlife, but wildlife

is all around them in their everyday life -- wildlife like butterflies, centipedes, bats, frogs and toads, stray monkeys, snakes etc, all make up "wildlife". "How many of you catch butterflies and dragonflies?", I asked, and all the hands went up. They told that they tied a thread to the dragonfly, let it fly and pull back the thread. Why? It was fun, they thought. I asked if they would like to be tied and pulled like that. It is not right to torture animals, I said.

Some students revealed that they kill snakes, some for food. Others said they killed bats also for consumption. They said they did not, however, kill amphibians for food after the Amphibian programme that was given at the last programme we had together.

I gave them the 'Daily life Wildlife' packets from ZOO. The children went through the materials after which they tied the wrist bracelet or rakhi to one another, making a promise to learn more about wildlife around them. They wore the mask in their packet and pretended to be butterflies. They promised to plant more plants and trees in their garden and to attract butterflies and other small insects.



I thank Zoo Outreach Organisation, Coimbatore for the colourful and interesting materials, and the children, teachers and Head Mistress, Government Primary School, Jayalakshimpuram for the opportunity to use the materials. **Submitted by Tanuja DH, Mysore, Karnataka. Emails : tanujadh@gmail.com, tanudh@yahoo.co.in**

ZOO ZEN Special Issue on Visitor Behaviour

Zoo Outreach Organisation has always taken a great interest in Visitor Behaviour, creating teaching modules and materials to use in convincing visitors not to tease and torment animals and even catching school children early to establish good habits in them. March/April issue of ZOO ZEN features articles about Visitor Behaviour at the zoo. Kumaragurubaran has written an article on the basis of his M.Sc. thesis in 1992. Dr. Venugopal and his co-authors wrote articles about visitor behavior at the LTM enclosure in 1993 and at the Asiatic Lion enclosure in 1994.

Krishnakumar, then Director of the Arignar Anna Zoological Park wrote two articles with N. Baskar, one of his education officers about how the zoo's student corp helped curtail entry of plastic at the zoo and another about behavioural and attitudinal change toward protecting zoo animals. Rajendran, S., P.C. Saseendran and R. Chitra co authored two articles about visitor behavior at primate enclosures and later about the ethology of teasing both in the Thrissur Zoo. Rajeev, R.M.T. also wrote about plastic and its destructive qualities in the zoo.

All of those articles are a sample by Indians about Indian zoos. The next few articles are by educators from foreign countries. Stephen Bitgood *et al* discussed how to control public feeding by visitors, and Donald Thompson *et al* discussed the control of littering. Valerie Thompson, the well known environmental enrichment expert has written about Non-compliant behavior in San Diego Zoo. Bitgood, who is a doyen of visitor studies of zoos and museums also features with an article about the misconceptions of Do-Not-Feed signs. This is a popular topic: Charles Wilson also wrote about Public Feeding of animal in Bitgood's Journal. Be sure and read the delightful article by Florence Bramley suggesting the use of humour in eliciting cooperation from visitors.

The issue ends with two power point presentations by Sally Walker written in the early part of this decade (probably) one entitled simply Visitor Behaviour and the other UFAW Wildlife Welfare Presentation. If these presentations appeal to you, we will send them to you for your use as Power points via email (free) or on a CD (for cost of postage).

