

Public Education Reports: World Environment Day, Wildlife Week, Refresher Courses for College Teachers, International Ozone Day

Biodiversity Awareness Programmes of Jiwaji University, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh

World Environmental Day (WED) programme was organized on 5 June 2010 by Conservation Biology Unit in School of Studies in Zoology, Jiwaji University Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh. As the theme for the WED, 2010, is Many Species, One Planet, One Future- a message of central importance for all humanity especially students about conservation and promotion of species and ecosystem was spread through various interactive programs. The program started at 10:00 am with a slogan of "Save Environment, Save Humanity". An awareness meeting was held at 2:00 pm in the Department of Zoology. Poster presentation and discussions about conservation were held by the students and Professors. A rural environmental awareness programme was organized by Jiwaji University students at Rairu Village, Madhya Pradesh. Dr. R. J. Rao addressed the gathering about conservation of wildlife, afforestation programme, proper sanitation and hygienic practices and other potential points of interest. The Educational Packets offered by the ZOO Outreach Organisation, Coimbatore were distributed among the school students of the village as well as among university students. Dr. Rao also participated in the Environmental day celebrations organised by the Madhya Pradesh Forest Department in Gwalior.

The Wildlife Week was celebrated during 3-8 October, 2010, in School of Studies in Zoology, Jiwaji University Gwalior. The week long curriculum included awareness programme, presentations, screening of documentaries, lectures by Professors and Forest officials and field visits to Gwalior Zoo and National Chambal Sanctuary. As future protectors and conservators of the biodiversity and environment, the students of Zoology and Environmental Sciences were given lectures on their duty towards nature protection.

In the inaugural day the gatherings were addressed by Prof. R. J. Rao, Prof. O. P. Agrawal and other distinguished guests. Poster of Biodiversity of threatened species of Gwalior-Chambal region and a theme poster of "Conserve biodiversity, save Planet Earth...its our only Home" were also displayed during the whole week. Two days of interactive session including group discussions among the students,



Group discussions, special lectures on wildlife conservation during wildlife week at Jiwaji University

essay and quiz competition and question-answer sessions were conducted by the wildlife researchers particularly Mr. Hari Singh and Mr. Neeladri. Field visit to the Gandhi Zoological Park, Gwalior was thought provoking as Mr. G. Parihaar, Educational Officer gave details of the local fauna and explained conservation and entertainment value of a zoo. Visit to National Chambal Sanctuary also evoked a great amount of enthusiasm and interest among the students about the biodiversity values and its threats from human interferences. During this visit, a short stay at Deori Gharial Rearing Centre, Morena, Madhya Pradesh, also provided information about *ex situ* conservation measures of Gharial and turtles. The ending day

was heartwarming to see Mr. L. K. Choudhary, CCF, Gwalior-Chambal Region and Mr. Alok Kumar, CCF and Project Director, Kuno Palpur Lion Reintroduction Project, Gwalior who took keen interest in the programme and highlighted the management programmes of Forest Department to the audience. They also answered the queries of the students, delightfully. At the end the Education Material provided by the Zoo Outreach Organisation, Coimbatore were distributed to students to make them aware of this global effort. Submitted by: **Prof. R. J. Rao, Jiwaji University, Gwalior M.P. Email: soszool@rediffmail.com**

Daily life Wildlife programme at Vonitkoppal School, Mysore

On 30 July 2010 an education programme was conducted at Vonitkoppal Government Higher Primary School. About 19 students from 5 and 6 grades were present. Many of these outstation students are from areas outside forests. About 6 of them have seen leopard and one has seen a bear when they went out to collect fuel wood. Except for A few children from Mysore, the rest had experiences of forest.

They named large mammals; large carnivores, trees; elephants, gaur, tiger, lion, leopard, when asked but when asked to name wildlife around them, they could not think of anything. At this programme they learned about millipedes, centipedes, butterflies, bats, frogs etc, as the wildlife around us. They were asked to name domesticated animals and birds, which they did, i.e., goat, sheep, dog, horse, cow, chicken, ducks etc. They were told that all our domesticated animals were wild once and over centuries have been domesticated. The ones that we have not domesticated can be considered as 'Wild'.

They were told about amphibians and why they are considered to be 'bio-indicators'. Frogs are our friends, because they eat mosquito larva and control the mosquito population, and anyone who helps us are our 'friends', thus frogs are our 'friends'. The pesticide that we use to control 'pest', pollute the water and soil both, this water drains into our natural water storage, thus polluting the whole system, and causing death of living systems in water, they were told.



Students are happy wearing masks and taking oath to save wildlife

Each one got 'Daily Life Wildlife', and very enthusiastically they went through the packet. They were told how to use it. They were asked to take a pledge of 'learning more about wildlife' and tie rakhi to each other, and wore mask and felt happy about it.

I would like to thank the students and teachers of Vonitkoppal Government Higher Primary School, Mysore, Zoo Outreach Organisation, for the materials and Nature Conservation Foundation, Mysore, for letting me do the programme, in between my office work. **Submitted by: Tanuja DH, NCF, Mysore. Email: tanujadh@gamil.com**

Education programme on Primate Pocket guides

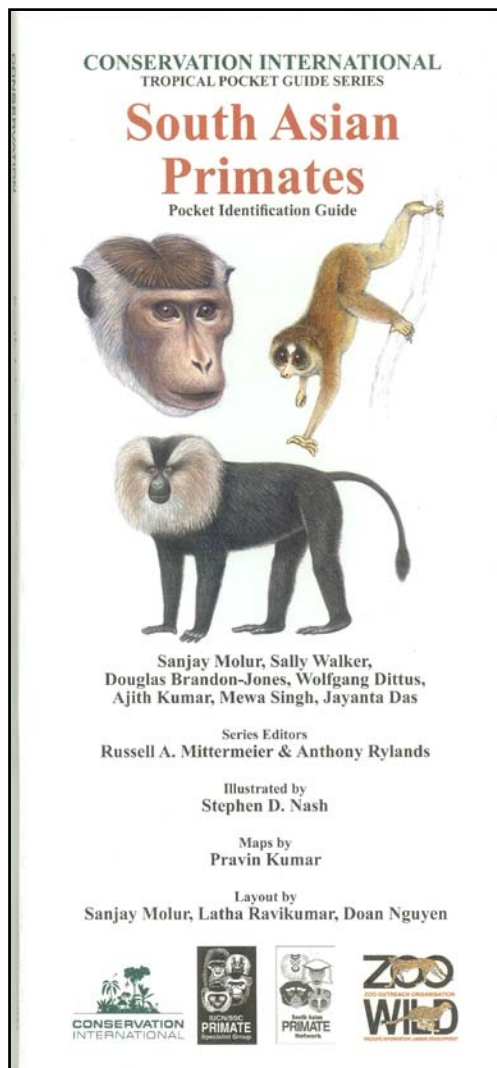
There were few activities, which were directly associated with Wildlife week and other are Refresher courses of the college teachers.

Manipur University: participants teachers 30. After the class I distributed one each to all the staff. 10 more I had to distribute to other staff at Imphal.

Orientation course for senior college teachers, at Academic staff college, Gauhati University : 64 participants. I gave college-wise 20 guides.

12th of November, we are having classes for school students and school teachers, where I will distribute, may be 50 nos. I have kept some of them for the distribution in BTC, Karbi Anglong schools where wildlife awareness campaign will be held within November.

I have given 8 nos to Science teachers, from Cachar area (Barak vally), who is expected to do wildlife awereness. I have kept few which must be put in glass frames, to be given to Assam University, Silchar, and few colleges there. I will keep you informed about the happenings. **Submitted by P. C. Bhattacharjee, Gauhati University, Assam. Email: bhatapc@sify.com**



International Ozone Day

celebrated at CSI Bishop Newbigin College of Education, Chennai on 16 October 2010

Before the teacher – trainees left for practice teaching to various schools, the college has taken much effort to give input to them in order to equip them properly. The importance of ozone, its structure, distribution etc. have been recapitulated since the participants have already studied in schools and colleges. Interactions were there about the present situations. But when they heard that many voluntary organizations had joined together to repeat the slogan on 01 January 2010 --- The Sun rises in the East The CFCs & HCFCs set in the west Everybody likes to repeat the same and listed out the day today substances they use which are harmful and the agents to deplete the ozone layer. They themselves decided to practice Refuse, Reuse, Reduce and Recycle.



Spare your car bumper to save frogs: Teacher trainers with amphibian bumper stickers. Photo by Jessie Jeyakaran

The chained environment degradation and its ill effects on Biodiversity were described focusing mainly on FROG. The free packets supplied by the Zoo Outreach Organisation were of great use as they use likewise materials for practice teaching. The 10 steps of introducing the theme and the concept were of great help starting from the tying up of rakhi. They divided among themselves according to the 10 steps and shared the matter to others with the signature campaign sheets they left the campus with a decision to spread to all the students in their respective schools.

Mrs. Chandra Santhakumar, Vice Principal presided over the function. Ms. Selva welcomed the participants and Mr. Arulnathan delivered the introductory talk. **Submitted by Jessie Jeyakaran, Chennai. Email: jessiejey@rediffmail.com**