

## World Environment Day (WED) 2016 Reports

### World Environment Day at Corporation HSS (Boys) Ramanathapuram, Coimbatore

World Environment Day is an international day observed by United Nations and run by United Nation's Environment Programme *UNEP*. It is celebrated throughout the world on 5 June encouraging worldwide awareness and action for the protection of our environment. It serves as people's day for doing something to save our mother earth. Every year, WED is organized around a theme that focuses attention on a particularly pressing environmental concern. WED 2016 is themed on the illegal trade in wildlife under the slogan 'Go Wild for Life'.

To commemorate the day, a programme was arranged at Corporation HSS (Boys) school linked to this year's theme "Go Wild for Life-Zero tolerance for



**N. Balusamy, Headmaster (left) presenting handbills to the public**

compassionate to wild animals "Do not to kill them for meat" or "adhere zero tolerance for illegal wildlife trafficking". They also distributed handbill to the public, which has information do, and not to do for protecting biodiversity.

Later about 30 eco-club and NCC students were selected and they had an awareness programme pertaining to this year's theme. The students were told about WED's history, objectives, hosting country in brief and about its theme very sumptuously. Some of the local examples of wild species, which are under illegal wildlife trade either for meat or trade, were given. They are sand boa, corals, star tortoise, pangolin, sea cucumber, sea horse, tarantulas, butterflies, orchids, elephants, rhino, sloth bear, peacock, deer, hare etc., If they happen to see or hear these wild animals are poached for wildlife trade, they were requested to report the crime to local police or forest department. Thereafter more information on tiger trade was given. Tiger body parts such as bones and meat



**Sakthivel, Councillor flagging off the march**

illegal wildlife trafficking". Illegal wildlife trafficking is one of the major threats to biodiversity loss and driving the species to brink of extinction. This endangers species such as elephants, tigers, rhinos, deer, peacock, sea turtles, hornbills, pangolins, a variety of invertebrates, orchids and wooded trees. The objective of the event was explained to understand these conservation problems and roping them in the process of species conservation.

Sakthivel the local ward councillor, inaugurated the event by flagging off the procession. Nearly 300 students and teachers joined the rally. He also presented cloth shopping bags, and cloth school bags to the students that are supplied by Department of Environment, Tamil Nadu encouraging them not to use plastic or other nylon materials. The march went around the main roads encircling the school and the students shouting various environmental awareness messages to passerby people to heed including



**Go wild for Life - awareness programme on illegal tiger trade**

used in Chinese traditional medicine and skin is used as a decorative item and it fetches lots of money in international black market. Further added that, because of ruthless poaching the tiger population in India decimated to 2226 according to 2014 census and still it is 70% of world tiger population. The speaking of tiger and other wild animal body parts has medicinal value is totally irrational and it doesn't have any scientific proof and asked them to refute it whenever they hear it and inform this to others. Their role in conserving India's National Animal was highlighted. They raised several questions on wildlife trade and most of their doubts were cleared on the spot.

Eventually, the students were provided with ZOO developed tiger masks, they wore them with joy and zeal and made a commitment that they "'Go Wild for Life' forever". My sincere thanks to Headmaster and other teachers for arranging this event.

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### **World Environmental Day 2016 celebrations at Chennai schools, Tamil Nadu, India**

#### **Murray Rabindra Matriculation School**

The WED was celebrated at Murray Rabindra school which is situated at Pudupakkam, Kancheepuram District. The students of 3rd to 6th standards were assembled together along with their parents. Jessie Jeyakaran, the resource person for this event, started the WED programme introducing this year's theme. "Go Wild for Wildlife-Zero tolerance for illegal Wildlife Trade". She interacted with the students and encouraged them to talk about the different wildlife



**Session on "Against wildlife trade" materials developed by ZOO**

they know about. The children gave examples of wild animals like tigers, lions, elephants, monkeys etc. Jessie Jeyakaran told them that lesser known animals such as butterflies, frogs and plants like orchids, ferns are also wildlife. She then explained to the students about the people who are into wildlife trade and how they kill wild animals just to sell them or sell their body parts.

Wildlife trade is done for various purposes such as - meat, medicines, jewelry, clothing, accessories, decorations, pets, entertainment, and scientific research. She told the students that bones, claws, horns, antlers, tusks, hair/fur/skins of animals are used to make jewelry, clothing, and accessories. She also added that some wild animals are kept as pet animals at home. All these are wrong as it works against the laws.

In the next session she distributed booklets 'Against wildlife trade' supplied by Zoo Outreach Organization and explained to the students. They were asked to color the butterfly and do the 'match the following' in the booklet. The younger students wore masks of elephants, butterflies and village people and forest



**Participants and resource persons of the programme**

**Table: Animals are in trade**

S. No	Animals in trade	Body parts	Purpose
1	Elephant	Tusk-Ivory Tail hair Skin	Curious, Ornaments Golden Rings (For good Luck), Shoes
2	Tiger	Skin + Nails	Decorative Purpose, Ornaments
3	Lion	Skin + Nails	Decorative Purpose, Ornaments
4	Snow Leopard	Skin	Decoration
5	Rhino	Horn	Handles for dagger, Button
6	Deer	Horn, Skin	Decoration
7	Snakes, Crocodiles	Skin	Handbags, Shoes, Belt
8	Frog	Body	Food
9	Tortoise Crocodiles	Meat	Food, Medicines
10	Monkey	Meat	Food, Entertainment
11	Peacock	Feather, Flesh	Decoration, Food, GoodLuck, Charm
12	Parakeet	Feathers	Decorative Item
13	Love Birds	Feathers	Decorative Item
14	Munia	Flesh	Food
15	ButterFly		Decoration
16	Whale		Codliveroil
17	Corals		Jewellery
18	Seashells	Shells	Door Curtain, Wall Hanging, Ornaments

officer.

This helped the students to understand better. After this session the program was summed up with a request to all parents and students not to purchase goods made out of parts of wild animals and if they heard about such trade to report to the forest department.

After the session on birds using a WWF posters, Zoo booklet on Against wildlife Trade was distributed. With the help of the teachers the students the group went through the booklet and tabulated the animals and the arts used illegally with the end products. Assignments were given to colour the picture of the butterfly and the match the followings. With the



**Colouring activity from the booklet**

motto of 4 sentences the programme came to the end.

SHARE - Illegal wildlife trade information

DECIDE - Not to buy anything made from animals illegally

DOCUMENT - Gather Newspaper cutting wildlife trade

PLANT - Herb, shrub, flowering Plants to attract Butterfly

At the end we thanked all the parents for their encouragement to this program. She also thanked the Principal, teachers and students of the school. We thank Zoo Outreach Organization for providing education materials. **Submitted by: The Headmistress, Murray Rabindra Matriculation School**

**WED at Brittanica High School, Padi**

The World Environment Day was celebrated at Brittanica High school on theme Illegal Wildlife Trade. Nearly 40 National Green Corps students attended the programme. Dr. Thebold Vasigaran, Manager welcomed the Resource Person Jessie Jeyakaran who created awareness on Illegal Wildlife Trade in India specially on using birds posters developed by WWF-India. She addressed very briefly in the school assembly about this year's WED theme.

The day's programme highlighted about the Illegal Wildlife Trade on few Indian birds especially on munias, peacock, ricebird and parrots and reasons



**Teaching about illegal wildlife trade**



**Posters in use to teach about environment**

behind on trade these species were given. Munias: there are 8 species of munias found in India. They are in small size less than 10 cm with beautiful colouration, melodious calls, and easy catch-up. Parakeet: There are 12 species of parakeet in India. In which Malabar and Nicobar parakeets are endemic to India. Rose-ringed, Plum-headed, Nicobar, Himalayan, Malabar and Long-tailed parakeets are very attractive and they also illegally traded. Peacock: India's National bird Peacock is at risk too. Poaching for feathers and meat are the major reasons for their decline. Their feathers are largely collected in Rajasthan, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu. Rice bird: The yellow-breasted ricebird decline in number due to trapping for food by nets while they migrate. In India, Northeastern states, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar wherever the birds visit during migration the communities around there needs to be educated to save these birds.

All the students came to know more on the theme. Observation of birds in the campus and in their homes and collection of newspaper clippings on illegal wildlife trade were given as follow-up activity.

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**St. Paul's Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Tambaram**

World Environment Day 2016 was celebrated at St. Paul's Matriculation Higher Secondary school and about 300 students participated and benefitted. The theme ""Go Wild for Wildlife-Zero tolerance for illegal Wildlife Trade"" was highlighted by using Coimbatore based Zoo Outreach Organization's education material "Against Wildlife Trade". The author was the chief guest and resource person of the programme



**Seeking students help to curb illegal wildlife trade**



**Students enacting as frogs**

and conducted two technical sessions. Frog and other wild animals are in illegal wildlife trade were highlighted in the first session. At the second session, illegal wildlife trade on birds such as parakeet and weaverbirds were highlighted. The posters were contributed by WWF-India.

As a follow up the programme, the students were given assignments for the academic year on preparation of periodical power point presentation on the theme, collection of newspaper clippings and



**The participants with the education materials used in the sessions**

observation of birds visiting to the school campus. Rachel Joseph, Correspondent and Joseph Reginald, Director planted saplings to highlight the programme. Hannah Cecil, Principal and Vedavalli arranged and coordinated the programme. **Submitted by: Jessie Jayakaran. Email: [jessiejey@rediffmail.com](mailto:jessiejey@rediffmail.com)**

### **Wild Art of Ahmedabad – Children’s Drawing Competition**

World Environment Day (WED) was declared on 5<sup>th</sup> June 1974, by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to celebrate our Environment and draw attention towards some of its pressing concerns.

This WED, Sundarvan organized a city-based drawing competition – WILD ART OF AHMEDABAD using art as a medium to spread awareness about WED 2016 theme – “Go Wild for Life: Zero tolerance towards wildlife trade”. Our age-appropriate themes, “Who Shares the Planet with You?”, “A Wildlife Friendly Planet” and “Save our Wildlife” encouraged kids of 3 to 13 years old and their parents to really think and appreciate our wildlife. Through this medium, people meditate upon their own actions, the consequences and the steps needed to move towards a sustainable lifestyle and improve the environment. With the hope to touch many hearts, we announced this competition on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> June ‘16 at Sundarvan, the perfect place for nature-friendly events.

From tiny tots colouring away with their pastels to fresh teenagers using water colour techniques, the participants won our hearts while even the free-ranging peacocks in breeding plumage seemed to join the celebration. More than 190 children participated in the drawing competition and expressed their creativity and thoughts in beautifully unique ways. Truly mesmerising entries made it difficult to judge the winners and all participants deserve applaud and congratulations. Three prizes, in each of the three age-categories, declared in the evening of 5<sup>th</sup> June ‘16, were very aptly given as Art Stationary Vouchers and Drawing Scholarships.

We would like to extend thanks to event partners, Skyblue art activities and HET Graphics who support our cause. We owe much gratitude to our team of volunteers, Mr. Avichal Tatu, Ms. Kunj Joshi, Mr. Neel Kamal Panchal, Ms. Rutu Gandharv, Ms. Urvi Brahmabhatt, Ms. Lavina R Chhangrani, Ms. Namrata Bashani, Ms. Aditi Naresh Iyer and Mr. Yadunandan Pujara, without whose energy and charisma this event would have been incomplete. **Submitted by: S. Sivakumar, Park Manager, Jignasa Patel, Education Officer, Sundarvan & Meena Nareshwar, Senior Programme Co-ordinator, CEE. Email: [jignasa.patel@ceeindia.org](mailto:jignasa.patel@ceeindia.org)**



**Our youngest participants left us spellbound with their creativity**



**Winners of Wild art of Ahmedabad at Sundarvan**

### **Other Education report**

#### **Summers are cool at Sundarvan Zoo!**

Every year, Sundarvan conducts summer workshops for children, engaging them in various nature-appreciation, learning and conservation activities. A young mind is an empty canvas and we filled it with colours of learning and smiles. This year we introduced a “Zoo Keeper for a Day” programme which would appeal to the animal-lover in 10 to 15 year old kids! The day began with a nature trail inside Sundarvan to be familiar with the premises. Young zoo keepers enjoyed activities such as cleaning



**Making POP casts of peacock footprints at Sundarvan**



**Kids examine a tortoise shell**



**Young naturalists and mentors show us their beautiful artwork**



**Learning to make bird feeders at Sundarvan**

cages, chopping vegetables, and feeding birds like turkeys, geese, ducks, bantam hens and animals like guinea pigs and tortoises. Some of our sensitive birds and animals such as cockatiel, love birds, hedgehog, rat snakes etc. were fed by the animal keepers while participants closely observed and noted their behaviour. After a short talk on "pugmarks ~ as an art and a science", kids were encouraged to find free-ranging animal and bird footprints in the zoo and

each of them made a permanent 'plaster of Paris' cast as a memorabilia of the programme. This was followed by an interactive session about 'zoos' wherein participants understood how zoos came into existence, what role they play, how they have evolved, their need and the modern-day zoo. Later, participants interviewed the animal keepers at Sundarvan who have been handling and taking care of the animals for more than 30 years now and the questions ranged from their names, experiences, level of fear, and injuries to animal reproduction and behaviour. Successfully completing four batches in the month of May, this programme received positive feedback and tremendous support.

This summer three batches of "Young Naturalists" programme – 4 days of fun with a night stay at the zoo, were also conducted at Sundarvan for 8 to 12 year olds. Apart from close interaction with animals, the camp also focused on different groups such as birds, reptiles, aquatic animals, mammals, and insects. A hands-on, see-touch-feel module included eggs and nests of birds, skull and skin of reptiles, egg-cases and exoskeleton of insects and preserved specimen. Interactive tree watch was conducted through the park with introduction to the seed library, parts of flowers, bark, leaves, seed dispersal, pollination, germination and other concepts. The entire camp included three art activities which ranged from nature prints on t-shirts, paper-mache animals and bird-feeder making. Excited children learnt about nocturnal animals, spiders and the resting diurnal creatures, during the night trail. The thrill continued with screening of a wildlife themed movie in the night air of the amphitheatre. Mornings were all about our young naturalists spotting birds with the lists ranging from raptors like black kites and shikra to sunbirds, small minivet, coppersmith barbets and the sweet-calling oriental magpie robins. Encouraging the younger children to spend a night at Sundarvan, a green haven in the middle of the city, this programme was very well received by the members of the community.

We are grateful to our sincere volunteers, Ms. Pooja Patel, Mr. Pavan Patel, Mr. Avichal Tatu, Mr. Kunj Parmar and Ms. Kaushavi Patel who added the much required vigour to our summer workshops!

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