

## Leap Day programme conducted with kindergartens of HLC (Headstart Learning Centre) International School, Chennai Mittal Gala\*

On the 29<sup>th</sup> of Feb 2012, Madras Crocodile Bank Trust/ Centre for Herpetology conducted a *Leap Day* amphibian awareness programme for 20 kids of lower kindergarten.

The package provided by Zoo Outreach Organization was used for the programme. The package contained:

- 1) Amphibian masks
- 2) Colouring books for distribution as prizes
- 3) South Asian amphibian poster
- 4) Sample kit on 'Frogs a part of Biodiversity'

The programme started with a power point presentation which covered topics like:

- What are amphibians? What does the word 'AMPHIBIAN' mean?
- Different kinds of amphibians. Amphibian Morphology and life cycle of a frog and adaptation with respect to their habitats
- Difference between Frogs and Toads
- How do they breathe? Why do frogs call and how?
- Why are amphibians important? Threats, why are they vanishing?
- How to save them and how can you help?

To make it fun-learning and interesting for the kids, the presentation was made very simple by adding lots of cartoons, pictures and video-clips. The presentation was based mainly on the sample kit from the package 'Frogs are part of Biodiversity'.

To ensure that every child received a complete package of items and



Children taking a frog leap to celebrate Leap Day



Global Warning- Put amphibians on the Map



Amphibian Word Search

activities, 20 **Amphibian Activity Packs** were made using material provided in the package like masks and re-producing materials like 'word search', mazes, arts and crafts from Zoo Outreach's Helping Herps booklet. Every kid got a *Global Warning*- patch to color and stick on a candy stick, idea taken from the Zoo Outreach - Amphibian Ark-2008' and 'Amphibian art and craft activities for kids'.

The children and the teachers not only enjoyed this presentation, but learnt about amphibians and why we should protect them. The program was concluded with the children wearing frog and toad masks and doing a frog leap to celebrate the Leap Day and the

cause of Amphibian Conservation. The poster on South Asian Amphibians poster was left with the teachers for the classroom and library along with 2 Amphibian Colouring books.

Madras Crocodile Bank Trust/ Centre for herpetology would like to sincerely thank The Zoo Outreach Organization and Amphibian Ark team for providing us with the Amphibian packages and all the support to make this program a fun and successful event.

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