

SAN-IZE Education Reports

Short awareness programmes on Hoolock Gibbons for School children of Barekuri and Borgaon, Tinsukia, Assam.

After attending the conservation educators training programme at Manas National Park entitled "*Help(ing) Hoolock Gibbons hang on*" we approached Barekuri High School in the District of Tinsukia, Assam which is about 120km away from our residence, Jorhat with an objective to conduct an awareness programme for school children. It was 21 February, a sunny morning and we reached the school at 10.30 a.m. We met the school Headmaster and discussed the purpose of our visit. He was very glad when he came to know our motive. Barekuri is a native place of the Western Hoolock Gibbon. We started our programme at 11.45 a.m. and we introduced our self among the students and teaching staff. To introduce the subject, KG gave a talk about the primate distribution in Northeast India with special reference to Assam. Before the talk the concept map was drawn by Monimala Saikia on hoolock gibbon as the subject. Utilizing the training that we took at Manas a mini drama was played by the students and teachers. The subject was understood and acted well by the players. And about 160 students were educated through this programme. From Little cats to big cats, debate, poster drawing for conservation, slogan writing all these activities were performed by the students according to our instruction. At last, a concept maps was drawn again to evaluate the programme. Comparison of the pre-concept map with that of the post concept map was done by the students itself. Packets containing education materials were distributed by the Headmaster for use in the programme.

Next day i.e., on 22nd Feb 2007 another programme was held at Borgaon English High School which is situated just 3kms away from Barekuri High School. Same activities were done there also. A total of 310 students participated in it. It was a nice experience. All of them enjoyed the programme very much. They have shown positive attitude towards wildlife conservation. We can never forget the oath made by the students. They told us that they will convey the message of conservation at least to two people. **Submitted by Kumud Ghosh and Monimala Saikia, Gibbon Conservation Centre, Mariani, Jorhat, Assam.**

Nature orientation camp at Dehing-Patkai WLS

The Primate Research Centre, NE India, organised a three-day "Field orientation camp on Biodiversity Conservation with special reference to Hoolock gibbon" at the Dehing-Patkai wildlife sanctuary. The camp held at Margherita Tea Estate Club was organised in association with the Dibru-Saikhowa Wildlife Conservation Society and Margherita Tea Estate.

About 79 student participants from 2 different schools and 2 colleges from the surrounding area attended the camp. Some teachers from these education institutions also participated in the camp. At the inaugural function, Dr. Jihosuo Biswas of Primate Research Centre NE India spoke briefly on the value of conservation education and awareness among the students. The inaugural was graced by Drs. HN Sarma, Budhin Gogoi, Bharali and Mr. Anand Wats.

In the camp, the participants were taught about different aspects of biodiversity, wildlife conservation and issues

related to the hoolock gibbon ecology, conservation and threats through audio-visual aid. A few practical participatory activities to understand how nature works — like food chain, animal behaviour and adaptation were also demonstrated and performed by the participants. Some educational kits developed by Zoo Outreach Organization and WCS, USA were given to the participants.

A few nature documentaries on primates, birds and butterflies were also shown at the camp. The participants were taken to the Dehing-Patkai WLS for field observations. An essay competition on nature and a drama competition on current biodiversity crisis was held where participants demonstrated their knowledge on the issue.

Dr. Jihosuo Biswas, Anand Wats, Joynal Abedin of Dibru-Saikhowa Wildlife Conservation Society, Rajeeb Rudra Tarian of Margherita College, Rakesh Soud of Natures' Foster, and Dambaru Chetia of Barekuri High School acted as resource persons.

At the closing ceremony, SDO Margherita, J. Baruah was the chief guest and distributed certificates to the participants. The students were given an oath by Latit Chandra Sarma, a noted artist and nature lover for boosting their commitment to protect nature and natural resources. **Submitted by Jihosuo Biswas, Primate Research Centre NE India, Guwahati, Assam**

Save Hoolock Gibbons, Protect Forests, Conserve Biodiversity Magurchara Khasia Punji Primary School, Lawachara National Park

A team from Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh, Gawsia W. Chowdhury, Suprio Chakma Samia Saif and Arifur Rahman along with Md. Anwarul Islam, Chief Executive, Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh organized an education programme at Magurchara Khasia Punji Primary School, Lawachara National on 4th May 2007.

The objective of the programme was to educate children about the importance of nature and natural resources using different educational methods such as games and other activities using hoolocks as an example. A total of 51 students attended this programme.

'Hoolock Gibbons and the Living World Around Us' was the theme of the programme. All the participants received a set of education materials such as a mask, placard and Rakhi developed by Zoo Outreach Organisation, India and a poster, Billboard and a t-shirt produced by us.

To start with, an activity called 'cross the line' was played. The students were motivated through various active learning methods like playing talking with the magic feather, Build a tree, be Hoolocks, feel for the Hoolocks, songs etc. After wearing the Hoolock Mask, Hoolock Rakhi and holding the Hoolock Placards the students made the pledge "*We shall save Hoolock Gibbons, protect forests, and conserve biodiversity*". **Submitted by Gawsia W. Chowdhury, Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh, Dhaka.**

Editors note: summaries are all that is possible in the printed version due to cost and having to give space to other topics. Please check the website for the full version and the photographs.