

BNHS teaches Daily Life Wildlife on World Environment Day

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The education unit of the Bombay Natural History Society ordered the Daily Life Wildlife Conservation and Welfare Kits from Zoo Outreach Organisation for their Environment Awareness Workshop at the Nature Information Centre, Sanjay Gandhi National Park, Borivali East, Mumbai on Sunday, 5th June 2005, World Environment Day

The collaborators and participants included Maharashtra State Secondary & Higher Secondary Board, New Mumbai Division. Chief Guest: Dr. Manoj Patariya, Director, National Council for Science & Technology Communications, Department of Science & Technology Communications, Govt. of India. Guest of Honour: Mr. C.D. Kotwal, Deputy Education Inspector, West Zone, Mumbai.

The goal in conducting the workshop was to spread awareness about the non-formal methods those are used at Nature Information Centre to impart environment education, and their objectives,— to make the teachers realise the importance of Environment Education. (EE), — to make them aware of the various non-formal methods of imparting EE; to raise awareness of the flora and fauna of the Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP) and its relationship with the citizens of Mumbai, and to understand the role of Sanjay Gandhi National Park and NIC in EE.

The way we utilised the items in the packet is as follows :
Know your Wildlife Welfare ABCs : The teachers were asked to think about the wild animals they commonly see in their daily life and were made to fill the blanks in the pamphlet such as D for Dragonfly, E for Eagle and so on. This was followed by a small discussion on how these animals play an important role in urban ecosystem and how they face a threat from humans.

Langur Mask: The teachers were asked to wear the masks and asked to enact the social life of Langur. A discussion was carried out on the structure of social groups of Langur. The status of Langur and other primates was elaborated.

Protect Primates Booklet: The teachers were divided into 4 groups and each group was named after a primate and asked to list out the characteristics of the primate. Referring to the pamphlet a discussion on the primates and terms such as **“Vulnerable”**, **“Endangered”** and **“Critically Endangered”** was carried out.

My Daily-life Wildlife Invertebrate Stamp Album: The teachers were asked to read the instructions, clues, cut the stamps and paste them to prepare their Invertebrate stamp album. The teachers then understood their characteristics, their types and their ecological importance.

Frog Talk: A few teachers were made to enact some animals like tiger, elephant, deer, frog etc. talking with each other about how humans pose a danger to their survival in front of the other teachers. As a result, the teachers understood how the animals were killed mercilessly by humans — decorative articles, medicines etc.

“Put yourself in their Place” Stickers and Posters: The teachers were explained how these can help raise awareness about cruelty to Zoo animals and how they can display it near caged animals in the zoo.

The Participants feedback about the material: The teachers appreciated the amount of material provided to them, which gave lot of information as well as helped in doing lot of new activities.

Acknowledgement: Bombay Natural History Society is extremely grateful to Zoo Outreach Organisation, which readily made the material available which could be distributed among the teachers. We extend our thanks to the funding agency for making this material available free of cost.

Animal Welfare Fortnightly with ALL-ED 06

ALL-ED 06, announced in November ZPM, is an initiative to increase the number of people teaching conservation related subjects in South Asia. The World Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Strategy and its vision will be our guide. In particular, using partnerships with other organisations, institutions, departments, disciplines, etc. to get our conservation work done will be highlighted.

Everyone will be affected by the disasters which follow from NOT turning the tide **towards** conservation of natural resources. Those disasters will make the disasters we are currently seeing all over the world look tame. It is us literate people who have contributed to over-use of natural resources far more than villagers or tribals. We need to make up for that by learning what to do now and teaching others like us.

We need to convince people who are overconsuming to change their behaviour in favour of conservation. Effective education — carried out by people who are committed to conservation — involves engaging others who are not aware. We need to think and act responsibly for conservation so we can serve as an example to others. Here are some of our themes for 2006.

Why Zoos ? — *Objective:* to explain the role of zoos in a conservation context, highlighting education, research and (the right kind of) breeding.

Don't try this at home ! — *Objective:* to explain why people (including zoo people) should NOT capture or purchase wild animals as pets or for exhibition or release captive animals into wild areas (or the city).

Problem Primates — *Objective:* to highlight the need to stop encouraging primates to stay in cities by feeding them for spiritual reasons or just for fun, by leaving uncovered garbage, by leaving kitchen windows open, etc.

When Man and Animal conflict — *Objective :* to educate people about a variety of conflict situations and what they can do to avoid them or resolve them without endangering either the animals or themselves.

If you have ideas of how to illustrate these themes that you believe would be effective, submit your ideas to ZOO / SANIZE. If we use them we will credit you lavishly.