

## Education Reports from throughout India

### Wildlife Awareness Programmes during Wildlife Week 2008, WWF-I, M.P. & Chhattisgarh State Office

The primary focus of Wildlife Week celebration was to enhance the knowledge of wildlife among students. This was achieved by conducting competitions on wildlife & environment, involving students and teachers. WWF-I, M.P. & Chhattisgarh State Office organised various competition for different age groups of students during Wildlife Week.



Apart from these programmes, on 6 October 2008 we organised a programme on **Amphibians** in Government Middle School, Bhopal. Fifty children of age group of 8-12

years were educated about Amphibians. The children were told about the role of amphibians in ecosystems and motivated to help in conserving amphibians. Amphibian education kits (Frogs Rock! on the Amphibian Ark! & Frogs Rock Bumper sticker) obtained from Zoo Outreach Organisation was used in this programme. The children were thrilled to get the frog stickers and the frog mask. After this, a quiz competition was conducted to evaluate the knowledge of the children. The children took great interest in the programme and all the winners of the quiz competition were awarded with prize.

The second programme was organised in Nirmal Public school at Chhindwara district on 22nd October 2008. In this programme around 150 children took part. Children were educated about wildlife notably Elephants and Tigers. They learned about Human Elephant Co-existence and how to address Human Elephant Conflict. They were also made aware about the Tiger crisis in India. After the lectures, the participants were asked to give five minutes presentation about elephants and a group discussion was also held on tiger conservation. All the children took keen interest in the presentations and group discussions. A quiz was also organized just to check the interest of students and we were surprised to discover that all the questions were answered by our participants. The kit on Human/ Elephant Coexistence and Tiger Tool Kit packets obtained from Zoo Outreach



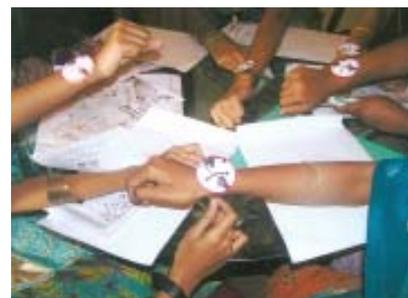
Organisation and kit of WWF-I were used. Quiz could be arranged for these children. The programme will be focused on elephant and Tigers particularly. The questionnaires

based on Elephants and Tigers was also distributed to the students and they were asked to fill it up. Participants were very thrilled to receive the kit and these kits were very useful for them to remember the conservation work they would take up for these wild animals. In both the above two programmes different activities will help in conservation efforts and reduce adverse impacts on wildlife. **Submitted by: Ms. Sangita Saxena, State Director, WWF-India, M.P. Chhattisgarh State Office, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. Email: ssaxena@wwfindia.net**

### Workshop on biodiversity conservation education

The workshop was held on 04 December 2008 at Women's Christian College, Chennai. Seventynine students of Enviro Club attended this workshop. Mrs. Jessie Jayakaran facilitated the programme along with the Enviro Club staff Co ordinators, Dr. Mary Pearl Ravikumar & Ms. Pauline Deborah.

The students were separated into 3 groups. Mrs. Jayakaran, Member *SANIZE* facilitated one group on Amphibian conservation, Dr. Mary Pearl, facilitated another group on Bat conservation and Ms. Pauline Deborah facilitated the third group on how to mind their Monkey Manners. After lunch the students assembled and were given a short practice session. The teams brought out the message they had received in their groups through song, skit, mime and action song. This enlightened the entire group about the need to conserve Amphibians, Bats and how to mind their monkey manners. The Workshop came to a close with the students pledging that they would do all that they can to conserve Biodiversity. A signature campaign was initiated to save Amphibians.



As a follow up to the day's programme the students promised that they would spread the message of the Amphibian Crisis to their friends and relatives and keep the signature campaign going. They also said that in the months to follow they would visit a nearby Zoological park and spread the message of conservation among visitors. Students were told that the tree on the campus, commonly called Sausage Tree (*Kigelia*) is pollinated by bats.

### Song composed by the students, on minding their Monkey Manners

"Well. Here's something to sit and think  
for all you guys out there.  
Who's the problem? Who's the menace?  
You or the monkeys out there?"

"Mind your monkey manners  
Mind your monkey manners"

"Don't feed, Don't smile  
Don't taunt, Don't Run  
Or don't try to fight them"

"Mind your monkey manners  
Mind your monkey manners."

"Aaaaweee.....ba wep ba wep  
In the jungle the mighty jungle,  
The monkey sleep tonight  
In the jungle the mighty jungle,  
The monkey sleep tonight."

"Mind your monkey manners  
Mind your monkey manners"

The second workshop on biodiversity conservation was held on 19 December 2008. A total number of 75 Enviro Club members from various departments enthusiastically participated in the workshop. The same teachers organised students of this workshop into the same groups as the above report. It was during this session that these students also began to recognize and cherish the biodiversity existing in their campus. **Submitted by: Ms. Mary Pearl Ravikumar & Ms. Pauline Deborah, Women's Christian College, Chennai**

#### **Wildlife & Environment Day at Surat, Gujarat**

We celebrated "Wildlife & Environment Day" on 29 September, 2008, Monday at Department of Biosciences, Veer Narmad South Gujarat University, Surat. The Programme included a quiz competition, poster competition and skit performances among first year, third semester and fifth semester students of M.Sc. Integrated Biotechnology. The topic for poster was "Environment and Wildlife Conservation". About 200 students actively participated and showed their creativity by giving new slogans and putting their ideas on canvas. In quiz competition, each team was given a different



theme like bat, monkey and frog. There were four rounds- including general questions, rapid fire, visual and special theme rounds. Students also performed a small skit related to the "Save Our

Environment" and conveyed a good message to all of us. **Submitted by: Dr. Minoo Parabia, Email: minoo\_parabiain@yahoo.com**

#### **Wildlife Week 2008-Activity Report from WORLD, Rajasthan**

WORLD celebrated Wildlife Week 2008 with an objective to create educational awareness programmes for school students. It was

commemorated in collaboration with Forest Department and Zoo Outreach Organization with an objective to associate our young generation for the wildlife conservation campaign. WORLD Organization organized large number of educational cum awareness activities for the masses and students to commemorate the Wildlife Week 2008. Our programmes were designed in such a manner to educate and associate our future generation with the conservation of wildlife. We lay emphasis on teaching them about the various endangered and threatened species of our planet in a fun loving atmosphere.



We organized inter school painting competition in Jawahar Kala Kendra to mark the beginning of the educational cum conservational programme with participation of eminent dignitaries, forest officials, students from twenty five schools and media persons. Programme started with the Deep *Prajawlan* by Shri S.N. Kachhwaha, Director, Jaipur Zoo. It was followed by the unveiling of special poster on zoo visitor behaviour. Our especially trained squad of zoo patrol officer educated & sensitized the students & visitors about the importance of wildlife conservation. Then young students took part in the painting on the topic "Tigers in Sariska", students painted the beautiful and endangered wild animal, underline the need of conservation of Tiger in its natural habitat. Some draw tiger in the lush green surrounding of the forest other depicted the nocturnal behaviour and hunting scenes of tigers etc. Students were encouraged to participate to paint their thoughts and feeling in their paintings. More than 1500 students from 25 eminent schools took part in educational activity; students were divided in groups and were assigned one minute memory activity, group interactive session, etc. These activities were organized for encouraging participation of children in conservation efforts in state.

We organized another wildlife educational activity on the bats & primates theme, for the students of Springdale's Public School with a similar format. Our

team under the leadership of our Project Officer Pravesh Kumar along with volunteers presented a small skit on "the vital role of Bats & Primates in wildlife of earth. Devendra Bharadwaj, Range Forest Officer, eco tourism delivered lectures to the students in the informative sessions defining the importance of various species of Primates defining how each species plays a significant role in the ecosystems. Best three students were selected and were felicitated in the closing ceremony.

Save Wildlife Educational session was organized in 15 eminent schools of Jaipur. "Mowgli Utsav" was organised. This programme is designed especially for the young children, showcase their love and affection towards wildlife. Our effort is to bring young generation closer to wildlife. Programme started with the Interschool Fancy Dress Competition for young children from various schools of Jaipur. Our effort come to colour as the children dressed up as mowgli, lion, leopard, tigers, zebra, elephant, chinkara, each one saying a loud the message for need to conserve them. Each participant depicts the species significance in the



biodiversity. Some said "Mujhe Mat maro Mujhe jeene do", ("Don't kill me, Please Let me live"), Mein Mowgli Saab janwar mere dost, a tiger roar and said "save me, my existence is your existence....." these words not only touched the heart and soul of the audience also showcased the concern of youngsters on deteriorating condition of wildlife in the state.

Interschool Elocution Competition was organized on the topic "Future of tigers in Rajasthan" in the Forestry Training Institute, Jaipur. Dignitaries of the programme were Indraj Singh, IFS-Director, FTI, Swaroop Mehta- General Manager, Hotel Holiday Inn, Advocate M.S. Kachhwaha, Dr. J.S. Mishra, S.C. Gupta, Additional Director FTI. Best speakers of the Elocution were felicitated by the dignitaries. Wildlife Interactive Sessions were organized in Jaipur Zoo in which students were encouraged to ask informative question as well as situation based action oriented questions.

Forest Secretary P.S. Mehra, Principal Chief Conservator Forest Abhijit Ghosh, Chief Wildlife

Warden R.N. Mehrotra, Chief Wildlife Conservator P.R.Siyag, Principal Chief Conservator Forests U.M. Sahay, Chief Conservator, Forest S.K. Srivastava and S.N. Kachhawa, Director ZOO felicitated NGO Wing Of Research In Local Development (WORLD) Organisation for commendable contribution in the field of wildlife conservation. Zoo team, volunteers & Staff, media persons and every one for their time and contribution to make the week a success in sensitize masses for WILDLIFE conservation. He said that each one of us should help in developing an information network to check the threats on wildlife in our Rajasthan state. He said our efforts could reach their objective with support from Jaipur Zoo, the Forest Department and the Zoo Outreach Organization. We are highly thankful for their support; hope to have in future also. **Submitted by: Mr. Manish Saxena, Director, (WORLD), Email: world\_in@rediffmail.com**

#### Wildlife Week 2008 at Sepahijala Zoo

Sepahijala is a unique Nature Conservation center in the world where two *In-situ* conservation and one *Ex-situ* conservation centers exists i.e three in one place. New concepts are replicated constantly for conservation of this Bio-diversity hotspot of the State and of the North East India. To create mass awareness, various activities are organized involving the people of the adjoining area every year. Unlike every year, to generate massive awareness among people and the young generation of the state and Sepahijala in particular, Celebration of 54th Wildlife Week'2008 celebrated at Sepahijala Wildlife Sanctuary wef 20th October 2008 followed by various programmes such as quiz, debate, pravat Feri, sit and draw competition, marathan race, Bi-cycle race, swimming, Tag War Padayatra and essay competition. The concluding ceremony was held on 27 October 2008 . The dignitaries were Sri Narayan Rupini, Hon'ble M.L.A, Sri Keshab Debbarma, Hon'ble M.L.A, Sri R.P.Tangwan, PCCF, Tripura; Dr. A.K.Gupta, Addl. PCCF(T) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Tripura, Smt. Sukla Sarkar, Savadhipati, Paschim Tripura, Zilla Parishad, Sri G.R.Paul, Conservator of Forests, Southern Circle, Smt. Suprava Das, Chairperson, Bishalgarh Panchayat Samiti. The dignitaries delivered speech and explained the need for Conservation of Wildlife for the existence of human being. Colorful leaflets / other educative materials received from the ZOO

Outreach Organization, Coimbatore were used among the students and the young generations who were very much pleased having these materials. Drama was organized with the masks of Elephant,



Hoolock gibbon, frog etc. **Submitted by: AK Bhowmik, Director, Sepahijala Zoo, Tripura. Email: bhowmik\_ak@yahoo.com**

### Amphibian Ark in Assam - Wildlife Week 08

Batamari, means the place of fishes of Lakhimpur and it was the venue for the Amphibian programme on the occasion of 53 WL Week on 2 October 2008. Participants were the students of middle & high schools and their teachers. Opportunity for Dr. Amal Ch. Dutta and Mr. Debojii Phukan were high to teach the group, as they were much, enthusiastic to learn environment and wildlife. The teaching was of classroom type, much intimate, systematic and by twin presentations. ZOO packet was demonstrated to introduce the species diversity and the roles played by them in biodiversity. Further the participants are trained about—what to do as a young environmentalist and the objectives of environment education in schools. During the evaluation several students awarded with 5 kind of ZOO packets and amphibian stickers.



The second programme was held on 05 October 2008. Women were targeted for this programme. The target place was a remote Gaon Panchayat of Dhemaji. Nature's Friend, a new NGO there collaborated with Megamix. Mr. Debojit Phukan and Dr. Amal Ch. Dutta of Megamix' were the trainers. The first topic of the Amphibian programme was domestic home science. The women responded heavily to express their womanly nature of using so many resources from nature around. From this point of view the trainers turned their way of presentation to link those domestic practices to



know about biodiversity, its conservation and sustainability. ZOO packets were displayed to add visual memory. During the course of species diversity, women were astonished to know that frogs, toads contribute in protecting crops, controlling mosquito to stop epidemics. They have

known for the first time that the birds, bats, bees, butterflies and some other animals are helping in seed production, dispersing seeds and even protecting its shoots to create forests, herbs and shrubs. **Submitted by: Debojit Phukan, Megamix Nature Club, Dhakuakhana, Lakhimpur, Assam.**

### Seminar on "Wife Life Conservation"

As a part of wildlife week celebrations, the Nature club of St. John's College, Palayamkottai conducted an awareness seminar for college students. The staff adviser of the Nature club Dr. A. Selvin Samuel explained the objectives of the programme and

stressed the value and need for the conservation of wildlife. This was followed by the lecture on wildlife conservation by Dr. Albert Rajendran Hon. Wildlife Warden and Reader in Zoology, St. John's College. He pointed out the bio-diversity of southern Western Ghats and its uniqueness in maintaining the biological weather. He also explained the steps taken by the forest department to protect this biodiversity 'hotspot'. During his talk he mentioned that the ecological role of the southern Western Ghats and also its role as a life support system to the people of South India. Hence he stressed that the need for the conservation of the wildlife habitat for the existence and well being of human beings.

In the afternoon Dr. Suthakar Issac of the Bat Research Center of St. John's College delivered a talk on "Bat conservation". He mentioned that bats are the most helpful animals to humans and, they form a major portion of India's mammalian biodiversity. The ecological roles of bats like pollination, seed dispersal, and pest control and forest regeneration were highlighted during his talk. He also requested the students to treat bats as friends and protect their habitats. The educational materials provided by Zoo Outreach Organization, Coimbatore were used as resource materials. The participants were explained the methods of identification of bats using the flash cards in the kit. The participants enjoyed the programme wearing the bat masks and tied rakhi to their fellow participants as a token of love towards wildlife and especially bats.



Jacob Durairaj welcomed the gathering. Wilson proposed the vote of thanks. Educational materials were sponsored by Zoo Outreach Organization/ Wildlife Information Liaison Development/ Bat Conservation International. We sincerely thank you for sending the education materials. **Submitted by: Dr. A. S. Samuel, Email: selvinsml@yahoo.com**

### Wildlife Week celebrations at Bhilai Zoo

Wildlife Week was celebrated from 1-7 October 2008 at Maitri Baag. During this Week the following programmes and activities were organized. Debate competition among BSP Schools was organized. Drawing & painting on Wildlife week organized for the students of BSP School, under 3 groups i.e. Primary, Middle & Senior Seco-dary School/Higher Secondary School. Zoo educa-tion programme were imparted to the school students. Drawing, painting, debate competition were also conducted for non-BSP Schools students.

Concluding programme was organized on 7 October

2008 at 3.30 pm in Maitri Baag Zoo. Many dignitaries and foresters were present and participated in the programme validictory. Programme organized by Shri Pyasi. **Submitted by: Dr. G.K.Dubey, Email: dubeyganesh@hotmail.com**

#### **Biodiversity Conservation and Wildlife Welfare Programme at Madurai**

The programme was held at Lady Doak College, Madurai, Tamil Nadu on Dec 12, 2008 organized by Department of Zoology. Twenty four III year Zoology and 16 II year Biotechnology students attended this programme.

**Activities:** Chief Guest asked questions relating to her address. Ms. Divya from III UG Zoology answered and won the game and was given a T-Shirt with figures on the importance of frogs. Soon after this, the students were grouped and the activity started. The educational packets were then distributed to all the participants. The packets contained Rakhi wrist-band, mask, educational packet and placard. Students planned a role playing session.

**Amphibian Ark:** About 13 students participated in this session. Students learnt more about amphibians and its role in environment and the future plan for the students was to highlight the importance of frog.

**Mind your monkey manners:** About 9 students participated in this session. One packet was given to each participant. Students shared their experience and they also planned for a role play and also learned more about monkey manners.

**Elephant etiquette:** About 17 students participated in this session. All the participants felt to have got a new dimension on how to safeguard the animals and also the importance of wildlife and its welfare. The students enacted role play highlighting biodiversity conservation and wildlife welfare. All the students actively participated in the event and The students viewed a CD on "Gajaraj"- based on the elephant's behavior to the Department of Zoology. Participants gave feedback on contestants in form of marks. In the painting competition the winners Ms. Yamina Irfana Fatima, Ms. R. Saranya and Ms. Savera Maggie.

**Students future plans:** To stick a bumper sticker poster on the back of the vehicle (cars/vans, etc) to create an awareness of the importance of frogs. To share the informations with their friends. To stand in front of the college gate, wearing mask and holding the placard for spreading the importance of elephants and frog. To spread the information to other departments and get an approval in the attendance sheets. To play the skit to NSS/NCC/EAP students. Ms. Savera Maggie of III UG Zoology delivered the vote of thanks. **Submitted by: Ms. Jayakaran, Email: jessiejey@rediffmail.com**

#### **Report on wildlife week celebration-Samrakshan Trust, Meghalaya**

Wildlife Week 2008 was observed in the Baghmara, the headquarter of the South Garo Hills District on through a function on 4 October 2008 by Samrakshan Trust in collaboration with partners-the Meghalaya Forest Department, Youth Development Vigilance Committee (YDVC) and the Meghalaya Rural Development Society (MRDS). The focus of this year's programme was on changing attitudes of children towards wildlife, specifically weaning them away from: Using catapults and wanton killing of birds; Disturbing nests and removing eggs and fledglings from nests; Killing of reptiles, particularly snakes Keeping wild birds and animals as pets.

The schools that participated in the programme were a part of Samrakshan's ongoing conservation education work with schools in Baghmara that attempts to alter the attitudes of children in favour of wildlife and change specific behaviour that harms wildlife. All the activities during the wildlife week function

were designed with this in view and were a culmination of conservation awareness activities that have been undertaken with the select schools since August 2008.



The programme consisted of essay competition, a quiz and a skit contest. The quiz got the audience very excited and there were lots of 'Ohhhs!! and Aiaoooo' from them depending on how their team responded to the fielded questions. A skit contest was truly remarkable as it reflected the creativity of the children (and their teachers). In advance, themes had been suggested to different schools and brief scripts had also been provided. These pertained to the use of catapults by children, poaching of animals, and keeping wildlife as pets. The students along with their teachers prepared full length skits and used improvised props with great effectiveness. The skit performances did seem to suggest that some substantive messages had in fact been communicated to the children and that wildlife had begun to enter their active imagination.

Following the skit, the final item of the programme was a pledge that was led by the senior students. The entire gathering took a pledge to protect wildlife and to specifically abstain from actions that harm wildlife. They pledged not to kill wildlife, not to use catapults, no more keeping wildlife as pets, preserving forests near the village, to work for the welfare of wildlife and passing the same message to others. They pledged to be ambassadors for wildlife

by spreading awareness about conservation among their peers. **Submitted by: Nova Sangma, Samrakshan Trust – Meghalaya Field Office. Email: garo.hills@gmail.com**

### **Wildlife Week Celebrations – 2008 with ENVAN-India**

This is the eighth consecutive year we have been celebrating our wildlife week with Zoo Outreach Organization. We as ENVAN-India team and on behalf of Department of Zoology, Bharathiar University thank Zoo Outreach Organisation for educational resource materials for this wildlife week celebrations. The function was held 10am at Natchimuthu Seminar Hall. Dr. K. Sasikala, Prof. and Head, Dept Zoology, welcomed the gathering and



highlighted the importance of wildlife and biodiversity conservation. Dr. P. Thirumalvalavan, Registrar, narrated the importance of wildlife.

T. Gunasekaran, IFS, Director of

IFGTB, Coimbatore gave keynote address on the importance of wildlife and man animal conflict & how to protect the wild animals from extinction. Next C. Gunasekaran highlighted the role of NGO's in wildlife conservation. Dr. K. Murugan, Professor, Department of Zoology, spoke about the monkey manners to the august gathering with the help of educational resource materials received from Z.O.O. He highlighted the importance and how to behave while monkeys encountered during the field trip and educational trip and so on. The students of II year M.Sc., Animal Science and Animal Biotechnology, Department of Zoology organized with the help of OSAI a photographic exhibition and film show on wildlife. Finally the programme ended up with the National Anthem. **Submitted by: Dr. C. Gunasekaran, Coord., ENVAN-India, Coimbatore. Email: <envan\_india@rediffmail.com>**

### **Amphibian Ark- In National Environment Month 19th Nov to 18th Dec 2008**

In order to sensitize and create awareness on environmental conditions among the students and to the people in India, a month's time was allotted starting from the birthday of our late Prime Minister Mrs. Indra Gandhi from 19th Nov to 18th Dec. During this time programs are planned, implemented, executed along with evaluation for betterment. Hence, the Devapragasam Memorial Primary School was coined at Valasaravakkam, Chennai. On 20th Nov 2008 a short note on Bio-diversity with a special emphasis on Amphibian Ark was given and the programme began with a special introduction by Mrs. Arthur. Forty students from standard III to V were trained with complimentary educational packets supplied by Zoo Outreach Organization. As the school has larger green area, the students have



already seen frogs inside the campus. So they bubbled with matters related with frogs. As soon as they received the colorful packets, they followed the instructions carefully. With rakies, masks and placards they did a mini cultural programme. After the first session, with the information strips 'Learn about Amphibians', the meaning of amphibians, their kinds, the number of species, their importance, conditions, etc, where clearly dealt with. While explaining the causes of their loss, one student mentioned about the polluted water near his residence. There was drama session for the youngest participants.



The second half of the training programme with the booklet will be on 24th of Nov 2008. **Submitted by: Ms. Jayakaran, Email: jessiejey@rediffmail.com**

### **Wildlife Week 2008 celebrations at Zoological Survey of India Calicut, Kerala**

Zoological Survey of India, Calicut, in collaboration with Zoo Outreach Organisation celebrated, Wildlife Week- 2008, in a grand way, from 1-7 October 2008, the focal theme was "Frogs of Western Ghats". During the week, preserved samples of about 35 species of frogs native to Western Ghats were in display at the ZSI museum, supplemented with write ups and huge colour photographs. It was a unique opportunity for the general public as well as the students to get to know our amphibian wealth in detail. The scientific staff at ZSI, explained to the visitors, different aspects of the life of frogs. All the 400 visitors of the week were gifted with a frog book mark/ frog bumper sticker.

In addition to this, on the forenoon of 6 Oct, we organised, Wildlife Day-2008, with a variety of

colourful programmes, like quiz on biodiversity, lecture on frogs of Western Ghats, an interactive session- 'Meet the Scientist' and also a Raffle - 'Lucky Frogs-2008'. About 44 students from 22 high schools in Calicut participated in the event. The event turned very lively and colourful once the amphibian packets were gifted to all the participants. They were delighted to wear the frog rakhis and frog masks. We started the programme with a quiz on biodiversity. After a preliminary screening, 6

teams qualified for the finale, which comprised of 5 different sections- General, Buzzer, Visual, Interactive and Hands on round.



Trophies and certificates were awarded to the winners by Mr. C. Radhakrishnan, the Additional Director and Officer-in-Charge, ZSI, Calicut. Aspects on amphibian diversity, zoogeography, the reasons of the current frog crisis, were all dealt in detail in the 20 min lecture on the Amphibians of Western Ghats, by Mr. C. Radhakrishnan. This LCD presentation and also the short videos on the life activities of the Pig-nose Frog, *Nasikabatrachus sahyadrensis* and the recently discovered Reed Bush Frog, *Philautus ochlandrae* added a touch of uniqueness to the event. Later, the enthusiasm shown by the participants in signing the frog petitions itself was indicative that we could kindle in them a wave of deep affection and conservation awareness towards our fellow beings. The whole scientific staff at ZSI, Calicut, participated in "Meet the Scientist", session that followed. For about 30 minutes, the students interacted with the scientists on varied topics related to frogs, as well as general

issues regarding biodiversity.



The Final event, a Raffle- 'LUCKY FROGS-2008' also turned out to be a very interesting and a colourful one. The programme

concluded with 5 winners being awarded amphibian T-shirts.

We are extremely thankful to Zoo Outreach Organisation and their networks for collaborating

with us, by supplying various frog items that added colour and gaiety to the celebrations and creating awareness and spreading the message to conserve our valuable Faunal wealth. **Submitted by Dr. K. Raj Mohana, Scientist - C, ZSI, Kozhikode, Kerala. Email: <mohana.skumar@gmail.com>**

### Madras Crocodile Bank-Wildlife Week 2008 Activity Report

A special education program aimed at providing environment education to a varied audience with a special focus on reptile awareness was carried out. This program focused on spreading the message of conservation and general awareness regarding reptiles and herpetofauna. The programme catered to audiences of a diverse age group. This program was held in October 1-7, 2008. Two sessions per day were organized. Each session was about two hours long. This program was advertised in the press a week before and people had the option of registering before hand. For sessions with fewer participants on the spot registration was also possible.

Over the week, a total of 168 people participated in this programme. Each session consisted of the following activities. Children introduced themselves to each other as well as the MCBT team. Children were given a brief talk regarding the importance of conservation. The "All about Amphibians" educational packets were distributed. The students took a pledge promising to follow and spread the word of conservation. A guided tour of the croc bank, 'behind the scenes' was done with stops at Young Reptiles display, providing an opportunity to take pictures. **Submitted by: Madras Crocodile Bank Trust. Email: education.mcbt@gmail.com**

### WWF Bokaro celebrates wildlife week 2008

We have arranged two programmes during wildlife week. Main programme was arranged at Jawaharlal Nehru Biological Park (Zoo), 150 students of 21 schools participated. On 2 October morning quiz & painting competition were held based on endangered aquatic life. Programme was inaugurated by Shri V. K. Singh, DGM, Town Services, SAIL/ Bokaro Steel

Plant. All teachers were provided with frogs rock kit. Winning students were provided with T-shirts sent by ZOO. Nature Camp was



organized at Petarwar on 7 October with the same theme. Students were provided with frog rock kit followed by a quiz. Students also tied the handband provided. Jain Saint Shri Jagjiwan Ji Maharaj spoke

about preserving and caring for small living beings especially aquatic animals. This camp was attended by 50 students. Winning students were provided with bat posters. We thank you for the support and cooperation given by you. This will surely be helpful in creating awareness and concern amongst school children. **Submitted by: Raj Kumar Priya, WWF-India, Bokaro Unit. Jharkhand.**

### Getting along with Elephants HECx 3 –Report

Vijay Vital School children aged 14-18 visited Nagarahole National Park as part of their nature club activity. Students also visited Kabin backwater to get a glimpse of elephants. The programme took place on 09 December 08 with a theme of Human Elephant Coexistence. The objectives of the programme included.

- to learn some rules and principals of elephant etiquette.
- Understand today's elephant's problems.
- to praise elephants beauty, their presence, and to save.
- to share the tribal pupil experience.
- to adopt to HECx.



Participants tied the provided elephant band and exchanged greetings. With the help of the elekit booklet elephant quiz conducted. Quiz activity created opportunity to interact- learn more about

elephant tales, myth, culture and so on. Further, organizer made the session interesting by recalling the content of Elephant Etiquette. Holding the placard, pupil of Vijya Vitala School took pledge and promised to be part of elephant conservation. Kids love stickers and took it with them as event remembrance/souvenir. Students wore elephant masks and staged a small rally by making trumpet all through their walk and tried to remain with mask.

Thanks to Zoo Outreach Organisation and US Fish and Wildlife Service, Coloumbus Zoo, Elephant Family, Twycross Zoo, and Schonbrunn Zoo for providing materials.

**Submitted by S. Mamatha and Mohan, Mysore.**  
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### Human Elephant Issues - Programme

An astonishing 9 elephant deaths in 8 days was a current burning issue in Mysore district, for the fact the number of elephant deaths surpassed any other in the history for such a short time.

The author had organised two programmes targeting two different age groups. One group was



school students and the others were teacher trainees, the latter of which will be handling the children in future and shaping young minds.

The Indira D. Ed College selected 50 first year students for the programme. The programme was informal but had a lot of impact on our lives. After introductions, students were encouraged to respond on the latest issues on elephant deaths. A student hailing from human-animal conflict area was asked to narrate the problems and what they do in response. He said everyday they live in fear and uncertain future and take turns in keeping vigil throughout night.

Following this the issue of human-elephant conflict was explained and the importance of elephants in our ecosystem. The students were asked to make a list where the elephant is used in our Indian tradition -- advertisements, movies, literature, nursery rhymes, etc. The students were given elephant etiquette materials. They went through the packets and the booklet and were asked to stage a short skit, to make their own story using the available masks.

The programme ended with question answers session. The interactions brought out important information like the migratory route, food preferences, elephants behaviour, matriarchal family, protecting young ones, etc. Students pledged to pass on the information to their family, friend and relatives.



The second programme was a one day workshop organised for the students of the Youth club, Mysore zoo and their friends. These students unlike many have a prior exposure to few

facts about environment and elephants. Their association with the Mysore Zoo was for over six months. The 21 students introduced themselves and discussion was set about the information they had gathered in these past six months and the importance of elephants in our ecosystem.

The students were asked to list the elephant used in literature, poetry, advertisements, movies, games, etc.(Global perspective). They were taken to the elephant enclosure and had close interaction with the elephants. They were asked to observe the elephants, their behaviour with the other members of the family as well with their mahouts. They were given elephant etiquette materials and they went through the contents. Following this the students had an interaction with the Elephant keepers. Mr. Vinod and Mr. Santosh, asked them questions about their relationship with the elephants and their reaction to them, the commands they use, the food, how they handled if the jumbo was unwell, etc. The students examined elephant dung and had an explanation about paper being made out of dung.

Post-lunch, the students were given time to come up with their own story with the latest issues. The students staged two plays. Interesting the two plays had solutions involving the local community. Here are some comments about the programme by the students:

"I got a lot of information about the elephants from materials given to us. The skit which we did gave us a lot of inspiration".- Nikhil

"I'm extremely happy to have come to this workshop. Observing the elephants is always inspiring. Preparing for a skit was a new experience".- Nishcal R

"It was really great to participate in this informative elephant workshop. I enjoyed participating in a skit. We can do similar skits in real life to educate people". G.S. Mayur

Thanks to the students, Mysore Zoo Director and his staff for letting me carry out the programme and Zoo Outreach Organisation for providing the materials to hand out. **Submitted by D.H. Tanuja, Mysore. Email : tanudh@yahoo.co.in.**

### **Kaliyuva Mane, a new opening for EE**

Kaliyuva Mane or 'Home for Learning, is a unique school run by Divyadeepa Trust where they have classes not within four walls but according to choice of the students. Class can be in the garden, under a tree etc., and student can decide what they want to read. Kaliyuva Mane has been in existence for over 13 years now. Initially they started in a small two room place, but now they have their own land and are seeing their dreams materialised. A small programme was planned for this school on Jan 2009. The school has 40 students of various age groups. Many of these students are school dropouts who did not learn properly and are now re-doing their schooling etc.

The session for younger students began by asking what they knew about nature and to describe whatever they had observed in nature. They described



birds, butterflies, trees, flowers etc. The subject was narrowed to monkeys and the problems they faced when they went to visit temples, on the farms around them, the havoc they were causing to the coconut grooves, mango, chickoo, gauva orchards in particular and farmers in general, how they are seen as a nuisance. They stated narrating the incidents they had heard, experienced when they were at temples etc.

Then they were told what distinguished them as primates and asked to describe different primates they were familiar with, if they had seen any when they had visited the zoo. They were given the primate book. They were thrilled to see so many primates and asked why the gorilla and chimpanzee



were not illustrated. They were told that the book focused only on South Asian primates instead of African animals

They went through the whole page and asked

questions about hoolock gibbon and loris. The children were asked to colour the book using the colour spreadsheet as reference and follow the instruction given next to each outline. The children were happy to hear they could keep the books. The second batch was older children collected from various classes they were in. Since, this group was a little older and they were at close proximity to HDKote, the scene of the latest elephant killings, the students were asked to discuss the elephants, the forest and the role of elephants in the forest. They said they were aware of the elephant deaths by electrocution and that we humans were at fault. They said they would like to lead a life along with the elephants and 'not without'. They were given the ELE-KIT. The students went through the contents. The placards that says 'Do not buy or use things made from elephant (except dung)' caught their eyes and the discussion on poaching and the paper made out of elephant dung came up. The

programme ended on a note of saving amphibians and they were given the 2010 calendar and told the importance of the calendar, which was promptly stuck on the office wall. I thank all the students, teachers and the administrators of Kaliyuva Mane and the all the crew of ZOO, Coimbatore

**Submitted by D.H. Tanuja, Mysore.**

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#### **Wildlife Week 2008 by PEACE INSTITUTE**

Wildlife Week 2008 was celebrated at Ecological Monitoring and Research Station of PEACE Institute Charitable Trust, Forest Range Campus, Sesaipura, in association with Kuno wildlife division, Sheopur, Madhya Pradesh.

October 4, the first day of celebration begun with the welcome of students, teachers and officials & staff of forest department by the field biologist Sita Ram Taigor. Shri M.P. Mangal, Range Officer Morawan East, Kuno wildlife Division explained the importance of forests for the human being.



A detailed slide show titled 'Kuno Darshan' was given by the field biologist of Peace Institute after a tea break in which he explained about the importance of Kuno for the

local communities and ecological goods and services rendered by the Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary. He also discussed about the Asiatic lions and Kuno as its second home. Many questions were raised by the students and teachers on Kuno and its importance which were suitably answered.

Shri K.K. Khare, Assistant Conservator of Forest, Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary presented an introductory lecture on Kuno and adjoining forest area of Sheopur Forest Division. He also informed students and teachers about the contiguous forest area which can support a population of re-introduced lions. He also explained the importance of forest for the neighbouring community.

An open house wildlife quiz was organized for the student of 6 to 8 standard and for each correct answer they were given a prize. All students interacted well with the field biologist of the institute and the staff of Kuno Wildlife Division. Some of the students also shared his view on forest in general and Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary in particular. In further session essay writing was organized among the students of 6-8 standards on the subject of wildlife conservation.

In the second day of wildlife week celebration a rally was organized beginning at Government H.S. School, Sesaipura, and walked through the street of Sesaipura village to Forest Rest house. All participants were carrying placard with different slogans and were also shouting slogans on various conservation themes. On reaching the rest house, a painting competition was organized on wildlife conservation theme with 36 participants of which 3 best paintings were selected for the prize. Research techniques were discussed and students were given opportunity to handle research equipments such as binocular, global positioning system, camera, range finder and compass.

Last day a wildlife quiz programme was organized for the 6-12 class level students. Total 40 questions were given and three best students were selected for the prizes. In the last session two wildlife movies 'The great Cats of India' and 'The Vanishing Vultures' (Hindi) were shown. **Submitted by : Sitaram Taigor (Field Biologist), PEACE Institute Charitable Trust, New Delhi.**

