

Education Reports from SAN-IZE on Wildlife Week, Animal Welfare Fortnightly and other events

Christmas special half day camps by MCBT

Half day camps were organized for children between the ages of 7-14. Last winter, many Gharials had died in the Chambal river, so this programme focused mainly on Gharial awareness. Along with Gharials we also conducted activities to spread awareness on other endangered animals that share it's habitat like tigers and amphibians.

The participants were given a brief introduction on MCBT and briefed on the Dos and Don'ts. The kids



were then given a talk on Gharials followed by a documentary focusing on the species (Crocodile Blues). We had two batches of half day camp in which a total of 17 children participated.

The first batch was given Tiger Education kits de-signed and produced by *Zoo Outreach Organization*. The children tied a *Rakhi* to each other with much enthusiasm. They held their held up the hand in which they had tied *Rakhi* and pledged to protect and conserve wildlife and spread the message to their friends. They wore the tiger mask and held up the placard to demonstrate how they would influence other visitors at the zoo. They read the information booklet and learnt about Tigers by a simple question session.

The second batch was given the Amphibian Education kits designed by *Zoo outreach organization*. The kids tied a *Rakhi* on each other and pledged to protect and conserve amphibians. They were given a talk on different problems faced by amphibians all over the world. They wore the frog mask and leaped like frogs to indicate solidarity for amphibian conservation. They also learnt about how they could protect frogs during the rainy season by asking their parents/drivers to go slow when they see frogs on the road.



were also given to them.

Then the kids were taken on a "Croc trail". They were given information on all the crocodiles housed

at MCBT. They were also given information on snakes and turtles. They also got an opportunity to take pictures with our young reptiles. Take home sheets were distributed. The sheet contained the summary of what the children learnt from the camp as well as the some details about Gharials. The activities were carried out by the MCBT education officer.

Animal Welfare fortnight at MCBT

As part of the Animal welfare fortnight, a half day workshop was conducted for schools.

Twenty five students of Class 9 of Alpha Mat. Hr. Secondary school participated in the programme along with one teacher. The students were given a brief introduction about Madras Crocodile Bank



and its conservation activities. They were given a brief talk regarding the importance of conservation. A documentary "Crocodile Blues" was shown followed by an interactive talk about the Gharials. A small talk about amphibians was given. The Amphibian educational packets designed and produced by the Zoo Outreach organization were distributed. The Amphibian stickers were used as a badge for all students. The kids were given information on the problems faced by amphibians around the world. They were encouraged to come up with ideas about taking steps to save the amphibians on an individual level in their own little ways. A discussion was held on the kinds of Amphibians found in India - the kids were also

given a talk on why amphibians are important and how they are an indicator species and give us an idea on the quality of water bodies. They tied a *Rakhi* to each other and took a promise to save the amphibians



and pass on the message in their school and neighborhood. They wore an amphibian mask and enthusiastically shouted the slogan 'Save the Amphibians'. Amphibian bumper stickers were distributed to the kids. They promised to put it up on cars to spread awareness about amphibians.

They played a game to understand how human caused problems are causing the extinction of animals. An informative and interactive guided tour to the park was given. They were shown crocodile feeding. The students took a group photo with our young reptiles.

Participants were given Sea turtle awareness stickers. An informative take home sheet was distributed. The wildlife educational activities were carried out by the MCBT education officer and the MCBT education consultant. **Submitted by: Akanksha Mukherjee, Education Officer, Madras Crocodile Bank Trust, Tamil Nadu. Email: education.mcbt@gmail.com**

Education programme for kids at Kolhapur

A small programme of painting was organized on 24 Dec 08 a day before Christmas at Shri Renuka Mandir for kids using ZOO kits. Santa visited the programme & distributed drawing books, chocolates, for all 26 participants & he advised kids regarding how to save wild animals.



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Rachana Eco-Club's workshop on "In the world of amphibians"

This workshop was held on 29th Nov. 2008 at Rachana Vidyalyaya run by Maharashtra Samaj Seva Sangh and 35 eco-club members attended. The workshop was inaugurated by Mr. Chandrakant Dhamane, President, Dr. D. N. Lele, Vice-President Mr. Sudhakar Sali, Secretary, Mr. Niranjan Oak, Treasurer, and Mr. Shantaram Ahire, Vice-Secretary, of M.S.S.S., Mr. Digambar Gadgil-Friend of Birds were also present at this occasion. Before the first session the guest tied *Rakhi* over the wrist of a few participants and thereafter girls followed suit by tying similar *Rakhi* to their brother participants when the masks were on.

In the first session of the workshop Mr. Gadgil explained the importance of amphibians in the environment. He further explained the effect of reducing number of birds in the environment. Z.O.O. an institution from Coimbatore who cares for zoo and wildlife had provided educational kits on amphibians. Kits were distributed to the student participants, guests and News paper reporters.

In the second session Dr. Mahesh Shindikar, Lecturer, Dept. of environment K.T.H.M. College, Nashik explained the place of amphibians in eco-system, the features of reptiles, mammals and amphibians with the help of Slide-Show presentation. Mrs. Mangal Dhadankar, Head Mistress and Mr. Yuvraj Nikumbh, Supervisor, Rachana Vidyalyaya expressed satisfaction over such efforts.

Before concluding session a funny competition was arranged in which ten boys and girls participated to cover a certain distance by frog jumping in which Rohit Mahale stood first and was given a prize. The programme was organized by Mrs. Vaishali Agnihotri and Nilesh Thakur. Samruddhi Shembekar and Vivek Kakulte student participants proposed a vote of thanks. **Reported by Mrs. Vaishali Kulkarni (Agnihotri), Sharanpur, Nashik-422002, Maharashtra. Email: unawanehemant@gmail.com**

Wildlife SOS-New Delhi education programmes

We are grateful to you for providing us with the resource material for the Wildlife Week. I took on the program at three schools, Sanskriti School, Shriram School- Vasant Vihar & Shriram School – Aravalli We spread out our session over two months. We also conducted the program in classwise instead of addressing the whole school. The idea behind this was to ensure that we were able to ensure that all the children understood the importance and we were able to address any questions that they might have. The species that we talked about was the Bear. All sessions were followed up by a worksheet and the children scoring the highest marks were awarded with the kit. You have sent us kits with information on elephants, bats & hoolock gibbon. The next session we have we will address one of these species. I will try and get you feedback & photographs from the teachers & students of the respective schools. The kits were also sent to our other education officers in Jaipur & Kashmir. **Submitted by: Karishma Handa, Wildlife SOS, New Delhi. Email: karishma@wildlifesos.org**

Pitchandikulam Forest Consultants-Adyar Poonga Animal Welfare Fortnight 2009-Report

Promotion, Education and Training wing (PET) of Pitchandikulam Forest Consultants, Adyar Poonga celebrated Animal Welfare Fortnight on 29th January 2009 and the theme for the program was Frogs; Our Friends. We had ordered around 50 Frogs Rock!, 50 Frogs Bumper stickers. But of course, we received a lot of packets and stickers. The program was organised for 30 Pooncharal Eco-club students of Rani Lady Meyyammai Higher Secondary School, Chennai. The program was held at the school premise and it lasted for an hour and a half.

Mr. K. Cyril Rufus, Environment Education Coordinator gave a brief introduction about



Amphibians which included the status, importance and threats. Following the introduction, Frogs Rock! On the Amphibian

Ark packets were distributed to the students. The students did a follow up activity in the booklet on Amphibian identification. The students were asked to tie the friendship bands and mask to their partner. Slogans were raised saying "Save our Frogs! Save our Friends!" using the placards. Then following that pencil sketching and poem writing were organized for the students. As a mark to appreciate their active participation, "Amphibian Crisis" calendars were distributed to the participants. I thank the Headmistress of the

school, Mrs.R. Andal and Eco-club teacher coordinator, Mrs. Sivagami for their cooperation. On behalf of our environment education team, I would like to thank Zoo Outreach Organisation for supplying and coordinating the education packets to us. I take it as an occasion to thank ANSA, ZOO, WILD, SAZARC, IZE, CHESTER ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, SEA WORLD, and ASG.

World Wetlands Day 2009-Report

PET and Adyar Poonga celebrated World Wetlands Day on 2 February 2009 and the theme for the program was Frogs, Our Friends. The program was organised for 30 Eco-club students of P.S.Higher Secondary School, Mylapore, Chennai and held for two hours at the Adyar Poonga. At first, the children were taken around the exhibition.



Mr. K. Cyril Rufus, Environment Education Coordinator presented a slideshow on "Wetlands" which was about introduction, types, values, threats, need to conserve and measures. The idea was to give baseline information about multifaceted issues related to wetlands. Following the presentation, "Frogs Rock! On the Amphibian Ark" packets were distributed to the students. Then Ms. Marianne Manuel, PET Coordinator asked the students to do a follow up activity in the booklet on amphibian identification. Then the students tied the friendship bands and mask to their partner. Ms. Archana, PET Manager encouraged the students to raise slogans "Save our Frogs! Save our Friends!" using the placards and insisted the need to spread the message what they have learnt through this event to all. I thank the Headmaster of the school, Mr.G. Kannan and Assistant Headmaster, Mr. Sundramuthy for their cooperation. On behalf of our environment education team, I would like to thank Zoo Outreach Organisation for supplying and coordinating the education packets to us. I take it as an occasion to thank ANSA, ZOO, WILD, SAZARC, IZE, CHESTER ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, SEA WORLD, & ASG. **Sub. by: Cyril Rufus.K, Env Education Coordinator, PFC, Adyar Poonga, Chennai. Email: cyril4112@yahoo.co.in**

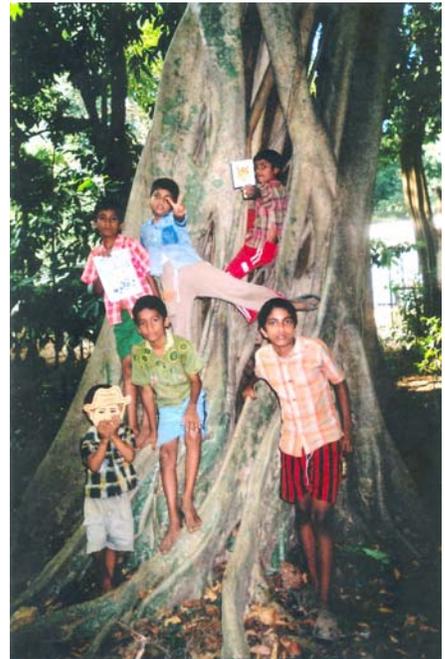


Animal Welfare Fortnight 2009 at Calicut, Kerala
The Conservation of Nature Society and the Dolphin Protection Committee of Calicut organized the Animal Welfare Fortnight 2009 in the Peruvannamuzhi Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre (Kozhikode) and Crocodile Mini Zoo on 15 January

2009. The area is to be developed as Tiger Safari. All types of participants participated. The office bearers of the society did awareness programmes on the conservation conscious conservation careless zoo. Monkey manners were also a subject there. Students were concentrated on this. As the proposed Kakkayam Wildlife Sanctuary is adjacent to the centre, awareness programme was done to the casual workers in that area. There were results for the programme even though it was a very short one. A proposal from the participants came up that a workshop similar to the one wild to wild translocation of Western Hoolock Gibbon was held in Guwahati in September with participation a valuable suggestion from the Zoo Outreach Organisation should be conducted here.

"Elephant Programme" as also conducted in the centre as the adjacent area had witnessed enough Human Elephant conflicts. The reason is forests nearby being converted into a sanctuary also the human elephant conflict going on since years due to the destruction of forests and elephants losing their habitat. Hence they attack the farmers.

The Wildlife Rehabilitation centre staff showed keen interest in the awareness programmes and amphibian cap were given to them. As the centre was specialized in crocodile rehabilitation, opinion came up that a U.P. model Gharial deaths should not happen in the centre and steps should be taken for the full protection of the same. The Central Zoo Authority had cautioned about the complete facilities are not available in the centre as per the authority norms.



Tiger Search Programme was also conducted in the proposed Kakkayam Wildlife

Sanctuary. A monkey manners programme was organized in Chelavoor near to Calicut on 16-17 January. The area is now facing severe threat from the number of monkeys. Previously, a few numbers were concentrated in a temple nearby now attacking and entering into the houses nearby. The Executive committee members itself showed a trial model feeding the monkeys with rice with chilly powder and without water being offered (a trial to keep away monkeys). The Calendars were

distributed along with the amphibian awareness programme, as the area had once in abundant numbers of amphibians now reduced due to the losing of the greenery in the area due to increasing numbers of visitors to the nearby temple.

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Animal Welfare Fortnight Celebration at Indira Gandhi Zoo, Rourkela, Orissa

The Animal Welfare Fortnight was celebrated at Indira Gandhi Park Zoo and Deer Park, Rourkela (Orissa) during 14-28 January, 2009 with a great enthusiasm shown by all the participants. Around three hundred school children were invited from various schools like Delhi Public School, Desouza's School Sector-2, Deepika Public School sector-5 and other vernacular medium schools in and around Rourkela. The participants were exposed to different zoo education programs comprising important issues like wildlife conservation, ethical treatment to domestic and wild animals and the measures to control the environmental pollution. All the programs were facilitated by the distribution of specially designed zoo education materials provided by the Zoo Outreach Organization (ZOO), Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu to all the participants with



the details provided by our distinguished resource persons and experts of the subjects like Sri A.S. Sarangi (AGM), Dr. A. Biswas (SVO) and Dr. R. K. Singh (Curator).

The participants liked the information about Gibbon and chiropterans (bats). The natural habitats of fruit bats were also shown to participants to give them practical exposure to the concerned species. Many myths regarding bats were also discussed and explained before the participants. With the eco-club members of the Delhi Public School on 14 January, 2009 a drama was played at the zoo and witnessed by many school children and visitors. At



the end of the programs rakhi tying ceremony and free moments were shared among the all participants. The Zoo management provided free ride on the toy train and an education tour was conducted within the zoo to explain the importance of all endangered species of the zoo collection.

Submitted by Dr. Ravi Kumar Singh, Curator, Indira Gandhi Park Zoo & Deer Park, SAIL, Rourkela, Orissa. Email: ravi_dei@rediffmail.com

COUNTDOWN 2010-Report

When awareness and action programmes on environment are going around the Globe, it seems to be more important to halt or significantly reduce the current rate of biodiversity loss by 2010.

COUNTDOWN 2010-being a new initiative was conducted at C.S.I. Girls H.S.S.Erode on 3 Feb, 09 to the



students of std. IX National Green Corps. Along with the materials AMPHIBIAN ARK supplied by Zoo Outreach Organisation the programme was introduced to the entire school in the morning assembly. The day's programme began with the introduction and welcome address by the Asst. Headmistress. Interactive section was there to know more about the Biodiversity and its loss. Slowly the students recognized the importance of frog in food chain, ecosystem etc. Various sections like tying up of *rakhi*, mask and sticker initiated the day's programme.

The programme's sponsors like ANSA, ZOO, WILD, SAZARC, CHESTER, IZE, AMPHIBIAN ARK were explained with the calendar sheet. More inputs were given with the booklet especially on the reasons of the loss of frogs. They slowly came to know the various types of programme to be carried out to spread about the importance of the role of the frog in the life of the human and the ecosystem. They have planned many on - campus and off - campus programme. **Jessie Jeyakaran, Virugambakkam, Chennai. Email: jessiejey@rediffmail.com**

