

Education Reports

World Environment Day 2009 - Considering the increasing cruelties to captive elephants a special half-day programme for public and students was arranged on WED. The state face problems with conflict between elephants and farmers, in particular. Also two elephants died in a train accident on 03.06.09 in which they were on the tracks. Participants petitioned the Ministry of Environment & Forests and Project Elephant to look into this. In the recent 6 years 12 Elephants had been killed similarly. Discussion included how Kabini river had been converted into a roaming area for elephants in the summer as the water there is available no matter the temperature. Participants from the area reported that elephants are freely roaming there. Participants also said sightings of



White-backed vultures in Wayanad had taken place despite tree cutting and that mobile towers probably assisted safe bird hatchings. A senior retired Chief Conservator of Forests led discussions on the increase in HEC near the Nilgiri Biosphere, where plantations are increasing and forests are decreasing. Felling of shade trees in cities also lead to increased threats to fauna. The participants thanked Zoo Outreach Organisation for the Ele-kit learning packet and other materials provided for the programme.

World Ocean Day 2009 - Conservation of Nature Society and Dolphin Protection Committee organized local World Ocean Day 2009 in Calicut where threats faced by animals of the seas (dolphins, turtles, etc.) despite being protected by the Indian Wildlife Act were discussed in the programme. The continuous death of the dolphins in Calicut and seeming lack of effective action by the authorities were discussed. Issues involving Sunderbans were discussed with the help of Tiger materials provided by ZOO/WILD. Participants discussed tigers' ability to swim helping them survive. This audience also discussed the huge felling of mangroves in Calicut District. The Society requested the Kerala Forest Department to tackle the area where increasing fishermen and their boats can affect the Dolphins which faces also threats in the Calicut area seas. **Submitted by the Vinod Kumar Damodar, Conservation of Nature Society, Calicut, Kerala. E-mail: mspca3@hotmail.com**

World Environment Day at DPIRS, Mysore

On the occasion of World Environment Day, a series of activities were conducted in the school campus.

In the morning school assembly, 18 students of 7th and 8th grade presented a 20 minutes mini drama on the theme "climate change" using Zoo Outreach Organisation Drama kit and other items. The drama concluded



with the students discussing steps to conserve wildlife. School Principal Rev. Fr. Jose Aikara congratulated the students for their excellent performance.



In his message he appealed to the students to use natural resources thoughtfully and to be part of the conservation movement. Principal and staff along with their respective class students took part in tree planting. About 800 saplings were planted across the campus. Afterwards trained ISC (12th grade) environmental studies students delivered talks on primates, bats and amphibians before handing over colouring books to the children. Fourth to seventh grade students took part in this drawing competition and within an hour, beautifully coloured



pages were ready to display in the school gallery. Kids were happy to see their drawings displayed on the wall. Children praised the beauty of animals, and appreciated their presence and role in the ecosystem. Teachers too learned a technique to transform their subject matter. Thanks to Zoo Outreach organization and their sponsors SeaWorld and Busch Gardens Conservation Fund for providing drama kits, posters, stickers and colouring books. **Submitted by S. Mamtha, De'Paul International Residential School, Mysore. E-mail: mamtha_57@yahoo.com**

Human elephant conflict to Human elephant co-existence education programme

The programme was held at Baghajatin Vidyapith High School, Siliguri on 2 June 2009 for 20 students both boys & girls of class VII - X and they were



selected on the basis of their previous experience with elephant depredation, other than that students of 10 - 12, teachers & working staff also attended the programme. The duration of the programme was 1-5 pm. Mr. Ranajit Mitra was the resource person.

A minute silence was observed in morn for the death of victims in HEC as well as death of elephants caused by the Indian rail. Assessment of

the participants was one through brain mapping (e.g. school, elephant). Then brief idea on elephant was given. Past and present distribution and status of Asian elephants was told to them with the help of map. Pleasant and unpleasant incidents regarding human and elephant were told and then the participants were introduced to HECx.

Drama on human-elephant conflict was rehearsed and performed by 10 students where others enjoyed and realized the theme of the drama. Simple energizer game elephant grazing, foraging and browsing was conducted. Sit and drawing on various elephant related subjects were performed by the students. After that resource round up game was played with twenty students. They were grouped into 4 and provided 4 types of piece of papers written as Food, Water, Shelter & Tusk then all the 4 rounds played as described in the elephant teaching guide. After their performance the participants now could really understood the cause of direct competition with humans and disappearance of Asiatic elephant and their crisis. Participants were then taught about the elephant etiquette and philosophy for survival of man and



animal, especially the Elle-do's & Elle-don'ts as per the teaching guide. Students and others who were present tied elephant *rakhi* to each other. At the end of the session all took oath to mitigate the conflict between elephant and us by growing awareness among people and to save nature. **Submitted by: Debapratim Saha, Bagha Jatin Vidyath High School, Siliguri, West Bengal. Email: sahadepapratim@gmail.com**

HECx education programme in Nepal

Many activities such as games, dramas were conducted with the students and teachers of Malpur Secondary School, Sauraha.

The students love to do these different activities. We also conducted a workshop for teachers on Friday afternoon. Some of the teachers were



very enthusiastic about the program. Other activities are described below.



Drama about conserving elephants and their habitats for our future generation was conducted. The second drama illustrated the tragedy of habitat loss of elephant and other wild animals.

Many other animal population will decrease as a result of destruction of habitat.

Students Rally: Students of Class 10 learned about Human Elephant Conflict and Co-existence and the ELE-KIT was distributed to all 47 students in the groups. The kit was handed over and explained,



and they wore elephant mask and tied the rakhi and committed to help wildlife. They also carried placard as they joined in the rally saying slogans on elephant conservation. **Submitted by: Bhim Lal Acharya, Malpur Secondary School, Sauraha, Chitwan, Nepal. Email: bhimzi@yahoo.com**

Megamix, Assam education programme reports

On 19 October 2008 an education programme was conducted by Gramya Bandhu (NGO) in Dhakuakhana for 20 civil society organizations invited to discuss disaster reduction issues at Dhakuakhana. It was organized by several NGOs of the region. Resource person from Megamix Nature Club was invited to

teach how environmental components help reduce loss in disaster. Participants said it was a big opportunity for the



non-environmental NGOs to better understand environment. Another programme was conducted on 08-02-2009 at Moderguri, Dhakuakhana for adolescents of the flood-affected areas to empower them to protect community health and environment. Training activities included classroom style, outdoor



demonstrations, interaction and quizzes. They learned about environment from the ground up. Megamix Nature Club conducted another programme especially designed for the 21 'ASHA' health workers to provide a capacity building training held on 05 April 2009. Topics aimed were nutrition, safe food (Chemical-free) and about the secrets of healthy environment. On 11 April 2009 four nests of long-billed vulture were collapsed in huge storm. This is a globally threatened species. Due to fatal injury, one killed another three nestling were rescued and handed over to the Vulture Conservation Breeding Centre, Rani, Assam. The Centre is to establish a population of 25 pairs of 2 species and to produce a population of 200 birds in 15 years to introduce in to the wild. **Submitted by Debojit Phukan, Megamix Nature Club, Assam**

Amphibian education programme at Thiruvananthapuram Zoo

As part of the World Environment Day celebrations in Trivandrum, ZOOWATCH members chose to do a "sandwich" session, i.e. we conducted an Amphibian Crisis public education event between World Environment Day on 5 June and the World Ocean Day on 8 June 2009. This program was held as usual in the Trivandrum Zoo on June 7 in the morning. ZOO WATCH members Mr. Palalayam Babu,



Ms. Amy Elizabeth Thomas, Ms. Deepa Joshi, Mr. Rajasekharan and Dr. Latha Tampi conducted the programme. By using the amphibian flex boards that we had designed, our members managed to convey the dire global situation for amphibians. We especially focused on encouraging people to avoid using pesticides and to create their own amphibian habitats at home. A common question was why we should worry so much about these "insignificant" creatures. We answered by pointing out that without these insignificant creatures the entire food chain we depend upon could and would collapse. Despite all our efforts, one visitor asked a shop where he could buy tasty frog legs!

Our program was also reported in detail by the press and ACV TV. Especially the TV interviews were repeatedly shown that same evening so that the message of amphibian conservation got very wide coverage. Our special thanks are due to the Zoo Director Ms. Vijayakumari and the Zoo staff, especially the Zoo Curator Mr. Sadashivan Pillay, who cooperated with us to produce a highly successful public education session. **Submitted by Latha Tampi, ZOO WATCH, Trivandrum, Kerala. Email: lathatampi@yahoo.com**

Environment Awareness Programme at Chautaki organized for World Environment Day by WWF, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh

Chautaki is a remote village which came into global focus last year for taking up mega plantation drive by communities in collaboration with the local administration for planting 2.84 Lakhs saplings



within a day in a wasteland in the Bongaigaon district of Assam. The target groups were local villagers, NGOs, rural school and college students, district administration officials, gram panchayats. It was hoped to increase the level of awareness among local village people from all walks of life and also sensitize public to take care of last years planting so the area would develop into a good community forest. We wanted to discuss with the district administration for future actions needed for eco-development and for collaborative programme of awareness and motivation from time to time.

Nearly the whole village took part in a procession in the morning carrying environmental slogans. Later the local villagers and students planted thousands of tree saplings in Choutaki. The best planters

within the groups were given prizes. Prof M. C. Kalita, Head of the Dept of Biotechnology, Gauhati University answered various questions asked by the students and villagers about the environmental problems like pollution, deforestation, the climate change and its impact in the region. Later Prof Kalita spoke on this year's theme of the World Environment Day-Your Planet Needs You! Unite to Combat Climate change.

Mr. Utpalananda Sarma IAS, D.C. of Bonnagam appealed to the society to increase nature conservation initiatives in the district. Mr. M. S. Manivanan IA, ADC, Bongaigaon lauded the efforts of the local communities and stressed the need of sustaining the novel effort with regular monitoring. Mr P.Gupta IAS, SDO, N.Salmara is developing 3 fisheries and planning to develop ecotourism in the plantation site for the community people of Choutaki. The potential of developing a network of ecotourism sites with beautiful Kaya-Kujia beel and other monuments of Abhayapuri is great.

Dr. Surajit Baruah, WWF-India, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh requested the community people to increase awareness for protection of the mega tree plantation site and make the Choutaki as an golden example of participatory environment conservation. Mr.Palash Ranjan Gharphalia ACS, SDO,Dhubri, Mr. Jainal Abedin, Chief of Dibru-Saikhowa WLS, Mr Srivatava IFS, CF and Mr. P. Hazarika DFO, Mr. Nabajit Das, Lecturer, BH College, Howli and other organizations participated in the programme. The programme was well covered by media. **Submitted by Surajit Baruah, WWF India, Guwahati, Assam. E-mail: sbaruah@wwfindia.net**

World Environment Day 2009 in Mangalore

This year the World Environment Day celebrations in the District were conducted at two stages. On 5.6.2009, the celebrations were inaugurated by Prof. Sandeep Sancheti, Director, NITK Surathkal at Vidyadayini High School Surathkal. He stressed the need for implementing environment education in school syllabi and exhorted all those who are concerned to involve themselves in any possible way in such activities where protection aspects are involved. Shri. P.P. Shetty, General Manager, BASF India, appealed to all to grow trees. Sri Sadiq Ahammad, Senior Environment Officer, KSPCB, presided competitions for children on Environmental songs, Quiz, painting, elocution were conducted. This was conducted in two other high schools also-





Kittel High School, Mangalore and Ramakrishna High School Puttur. High School students of the District are thus involved in the competition.



On 9-6-2009, about 1500 students, Govt, Officials and public gathered at Pilikula to participate in Plants distribution programme, prize distribution programme and inauguration programme of one day workshop for Eco-club teachers of the District. Prof. Sandeep Sancheti delivered the inaugural address. Sri Venkat Dambekodi, Zilla Panchayat President, presided over the function. Saplings were distributed to all and prizes were distributed to the District level winners.

The Eco-club teachers training programme was well attended. About 200 teachers from all over the District listened to Prof. R.R. Rao, Dr. N.A. Madhyastha and Dr. Gangadhara Bhat. They spoke on "Climate Change", "Conservation of Biodiversity" and "Our earth and its atmosphere". Resource materials which were kindly donated by Zoo Outreach Organisation, Coimbatore and CEE Bangalore were distributed to teachers. An exhibition was also organized on the occasion.
Submitted by Dr. K.V. Rao, Pilikula Regional Science Center Society (R), Mangalore, Karnataka. E-mail: kvrao_44@yahoo.com

A School that Cares for the Students' real Future

Today's Indian schools are exam-dependent and result-oriented. They take pride in declaring 100% results. On the environmental front, however, or equipping students to face life, there aren't many who can proudly declare they are making a difference. Nonetheless, fortunately, there are a few teachers and schools left who truly believe studies should go beyond the four walls, exams, etc. and who make a effort to equip the child to face the world as a responsible citizen.

One such school is the Kaliyuva Mane, a school run by Divya Deepa Trust, Mysore. Located about 20 Kms from Mysore on the H.D. Kote road, this non-formal educational institution is wide open for experiments and welcomes new subjects. There are about 40 students aged between 10 to 18 yrs and they too are as enthusiastic to learn and try new subjects and approaches. They are divided into different batches based on their age and learning ability. They have been promised a series of programmes throughout their academic year on nature, wildlife and environment, using Zoo Outreach Organisation materials.

The first of the series was on 20 June 2008. About 25 students were gathered and the discussion began by asking them what was meant by environment? and what did that constitute? What



are things they notice in the environment and their importance? The discussion veered towards the domesticated and non-domesticated animals, and they were asked if only animals found in the forest were wildlife? The students were given the Daily life Wildlife material and were told about amphibians and geckos, and their importance in our every day life. I thank the students and the teachers of Kaliyuva Mane and the Zoo Outreach Organisation, Coimbatore.
Submitted by Tanuja, Nature Conservation Foundation, Mysore, Karnataka. E-mail: tanujadh@gmail.com