

Educational Activities in South Asia

Wildlife Week 2007, Madurai, Tamil Nadu

As the wild animals are threatened by deforestation, poaching and climate change awareness about the existing species and endangered species created during the wildlife week i.e., 1st of October 2007 this year. As bats, primates and frogs are reducing in number, through various organization conservation education programmes were conducted with education materials and competitions. This year the programmes was a 'trio' – i.e., school, college and community were interconnected. Through IUCN and South Asian Network of International Zoo Educators (SANIZE) the importance of zoo and aquarium and specially the protection of primates were taught to the C.S.I. College of Arts and Science, K.Pudur, Madurai. Educational packets on Monkey Manners, South Asian Monkey colouring book and Building for a future for wildlife were used.

This programme was entitled, as '24hours to 24 months'. On 11th October 2007, 30 minutes keynote address was given by Mrs. Jessie Jeyakaran, Member IUCN-CEC, Switzerland. Drawing competition was announced. Within 24 hours, the students participated in the drawing competition, tree planting and cultural programme on eco-songs especially about nature and animals. This 24 hours preparation will be extended for 24 months during which the NSS students will reach the community besides doing an eco-project on the sapling planted, and the science students will develop a corner for Aquarium. As 2008 is declared as 'Year of The Frog', this college will initiate amphibian programme with proper planning. The principal and the chief guest distributed the prizes to winners and along with the students and staff saplings were planted in the campus.

Biodiversity and Conservation of Primates

One day programme on Biodiversity and Conservation of Primates was conducted inviting to 26 students from 4 different Matriculation Schools namely M.S.P.S.N. Memorial H.S.S., Lions Matric H.S.S., S.M.B.M.P. Matric H.S.S., Dindigul. Mr. Sheik Dawood, NGC Co-ordinator welcomed the participants. Mr. Jayaprakash, the Principal of SMBMP Matric H.S.S., delivered the introductory talk. The first two sessions namely Biodiversity & Biodiversity in India was dealt by the N.G.C. Co-ordinator. The educational packets on Monkey Manners, Primate Primer and South Asian Monkey Colouring books were distributed. Dudley Hr. Sec. School students enacted the behaviour of animals and a short play on 'Zoo'. The respective school teachers with the respective Resource persons conducted the rest of programme on the day. All were thrilled while the participants shared their experiences and narrated the follow up of the day's programme.

Bats awareness – Alamarathupatti

In connection with the World Environment Day 2007, a special programme was conducted in U.C. Primary School,



Alamarathupatti, Dindigul Dist on 18th June 2007. Nearly 25 students participated. As the school is situated amidst the field and very near the mountain, all the sessions were very much interesting. Observation and data collection about the bats were given. As they are exposed to the species, some students drew the diagrams easily.

Healing the wounded on Ecological perspective

The Regional conference–Tamil Nadu of Christian Medical Association of India was held at Sarah Tucker College, Palayamkottai, Tirunelveli District on 30th & 31st of May



2007. Based on the theme various inputs were given. But on the ecological perspective, this was the first time the medical students were given about the ecological condition prevailing on the earth and what the steps to be taken to protect and preserve them. Inputs were given on the Biodiversity and the importance of species conservation. Special focus was given on bats & primates with the help of few educational packages. Being the first time to get in depth materials on species, the participants showed much interest in various activity sessions. With the future plan of developing a corner into eco-corner with the special focus on children ward by displaying the pictures, besides the cultural programmes. **Submitted by Mrs. Jessie Jayakaran, Madurai, Tamil Nadu.**

Recent activities in Chirrang-Ripu Elephant Reserve

Western Assam is also the prime Golden langur habitat in India. With support from USFWS, we are facilitating the 153 numbers of Forest protection volunteers with some basic facilities to strengthen the protection of the forest & wildlife through community co-management. This is the shared habitat of Elephant, Tiger and Golden langur. We are using Golden langur as "vertical" flagship species and Elephant and Tiger "horizontal" flagship species. See our website: <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/details.asp?id=feb0608\State4> for details. **Submitted by Jihosuo Biswas, Primate Research Centre, NE India, Guwahati, E-mail: jihosuo@yahoo.com.**

Lahore Zoo, Pakistan celebrates Amphibian Conservation Year Activities

Zoos around the world, led by their professional associations such as the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums and South Asian Zoo Association for Regional Cooperation as well as related NGOs such as the IUCN SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group as such and the South Asian Network, IUCN SSC Amphibian Specialist Group and its South Asian counterpart ANSA have come together in a network called AArk Amphibian Ark. AArk has declared 2008 as the Year of the Frog YOTF. This programme intends to raise awareness of the looming mass extinction of amphibian species. Many zoos of the South Asian countries conducted programmes along with the global programme on 31 December.

Lahore Zoo, Pakistan Education and Awareness programme has conducted our frog conservation activities on 22 January, 2008 at Lahore Zoo. WWF Pakistan partially

sponsored this function. Three were competition were arranged during this frogs awareness function. First was the poster which has been themed as *Amphibians as Environmental Indicators/ Threat to amphibians in Pakistan*. Second one was a model making competition which has been themed *Frog Species of Pakistan*. The third and most fascinating one was frog giant leap by school students having on mask of frogs. 250 students from 13 schools namely LACAS Girls Branch, Johar Town Lahore, EDCS Valancia School, the Skill School Gulberg, DPS Model School Model Town, Aizar School System Allama Iqbal Town Campus, Lord International School Gulberg, International Imperial School Garden Town Lahore, The City School Model Town Campus, Lahore School of Learning, Gulberg, Lahore Lyceum School Gulberg, Lahore Literati School Shadman and Lahore Grammar School Junior Branch Gulberg participated in this conservation activity.

Mr. Muhammad Asif, Director General, Wildlife & Parks/ Chairman, Zoo Maintenance Committee was chief guest of this occasion. The students from Lahore College for Women University also took part in special activity and made posters on Natural Habitat of Frogs. Judges evaluated the work and declared the positions of participants. Zoo Education officer, Zoo Director along with the Chief Guest distributed trophies and participation certificate to winners. Chief Guest also appreciated the Zoo Director Mr. M. Yousaf Pal and Zoo Education Officer, Mrs. Bushra Nisar Khan. People from all walks of life visited the zoo and show keen interest. The main objective of Lahore Zoo to celebrate these activities was to participate equally in the international cause of amphibian conservation and to play a role as conservationist and educationist for threatened and endangered species. We would also like to pay our gratitude to Ms. Sally Walker founder SAZARC to always provide us the platform for creating awareness among public about threatened animals species of world.
Submitted by Bushra Khan, Education Officer, Lahore Zoo, Pakistan

Amphibian Awareness programme in West Bengal
During last week of January 2008, we organized a programme "My Green World" with the Future Foundation School at Calcutta in collaboration with Tata Agrico Company. Around 50 students of age 12-17 participated



in debate and sit & draw competition held in the school premises that is run by Aurobindo Institute, Pondicherry. This two hour long programme started with the screening of a film on climate change produced by WWF-India.

The motion of debate was "Industrial development and environment protection do not go hand in hand". A senior executive from Tata Agrico, Senior Project Officer of WWF-India, WBSO and Secretary, FWW were present to judge the contestants. The Amphibian kits were used for demonstration among the students. This programme was launched among selected schools of the city and students showed keen interest to use the kit and wear the tea-shirts. There was a pledge to protect the amphibians for their future survival and service to environment. The Programme ended with announcement of results of the

competition and distribution of prizes. The winners received the Amphibian kits and tea-shirts. **Submitted by: Ms. Sangita Mitra, Senior Project Officer, WWF, West Bengal. Email: monkinct@rediffmail.com**

Animal Welfare Fortnight, 2008 Celebration at Vizag Zoo

An educational programme on "Mind Your Monkey Manners" was organized as part of the Animal Welfare Fortnight Celebrations on 27-01-2008 at Indra Gandhi



Zoological Park, Visakhapatnam. About 40 children from various schools in the city along with teachers and parents were invited as participants. During the

programme educational kits provided by Zoo outreach Organization were distributed to the children. Participants were told to put on the masks, rakhis, and a rally holding placard was organized. They were taken to the primate section in the zoo park and various issues pertaining to monkey menace, behaviour, dealing with problem monkeys and first aid for monkey bites were explained to the participants in an interactive manner. Later, role-play and dramas were conducted on themes like how city monkeys learnt survival skills from their forest counterparts and other animals in the jungle and how kids should behave around monkeys. At the end, evaluation forms were distributed to all the participants to assess what they had learnt from the awareness programme. Resource persons in the zoo park shared few facts about the existing monkey problem and the consequences of ignoring monkey manners with the children. The response from the children was overwhelming and the programme ended successfully.



We are thankful to Zoo Outreach Organisation and all the overseas sponsors for providing the educational kits with valuable information. **Submitted by: Mr. Rahul Pandey, Curator, Indhira Gandhi Zoological Park, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. Email: rahulp1974@yahoo.com**

Editors' note: Please see our website, www.zoosprint.org, where photographs of some of these programmes have been put along with the articles - **S. Walker**

Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON)
(An autonomous centre aided by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India)

Invites application for the following positions in the short term project on "Kerala Wetland Mapping Project"

Name of the post: Senior Image Analyst; (2) Age: 35 years as on 1.1.2008; (3) Duration: 10 months; (4) Fellowship: Negotiable; (5) Qualification and Experience: M.Sc. in any branch of Science, experience in Image processing of satellite data / GIS; (6) Essential Experience: Three years experience in Image Processing and GIS

1. Application on plain paper with complete bio-data in the following format should reach the **Director, Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, Anaikatty Post, Coimbatore – 641 108, Tamil Nadu:** (1) Name, (2) Age as on 01.01.2008, (3) Permanent address, (4) Present address, (5) details of prescribed qualifications (with grades) (6) other qualifications, if any, with grade obtained, (7) total years of experience in the concerned field, (8) positions held with details of pay and responsibilities, (9) any other relevant information. Applications not received in the above format are liable to be rejected.
2. SACON will decide the cut off point for calling the candidates for interview based on the academic qualifications, experience and age.
3. Only those who are highly motivated, creative and committed to the cause of nature conservation and prepared to put in strenuous work need apply.
4. Application should be accompanied by certified copies of documents in support of the qualifications and experience claimed.
5. Last date for the receipt of application is 26th February 2008.