Animal Welfare Fortnightly 2015 Reports

Nethaji Snake Trust, Usilampatti, Tamil Nadu

One day workshop on wildlife conservation welfare was held at T.E.L.C. Girls Higher Secondary School, Usilampatti, Madurai district. One hundred and twenty students took part. Smt. Gracy Chandra, Headmistress presided over the programme and spoke on the importance of saving wildlife and its welfare. Then students were asked to draw a pre concept map on wildlife welfare in order to test their knowledge on the subject. Next the resource persons taught about the human elephant coexistence, the difference between Asian and African elephants, comparison between rodents and elephant damage and people’s tolerance level to pests were discussed.

To demonstrate the basic necessities of animals ie. food, habitat and water, oh deer game was played. In the continuing session, they were told about the importance of saving snakes, handling snakes and its welfare, why we have to save snakes, its role in controlling rats and frogs and snake bite & first aid. Hawk and pigeon game was played by the students.

After lunch break, the first session was on dancing bear. We explained how the trappers shoot mother bear and take the cub to Kalandars and how they tortured them by piercing the nose with heated iron rods and put a rope and break the teeth and train them to dance for the public. The rehabilitation by the NGO both for bears and performers was also explained. Bear card game and dancing bear game were played and latter the interpretation for the game was given. Fishing game to demonstrate the sustainable harvesting of natural resources was played with the students. Then they draw post concept map and it clearly showed increase in their knowledge on the theme of day’s workshop. They were provided with Animal Welfare Fortnightly 2015 Reports

ZOO/WILD education programmes are partially supported by
balloon, they inflated it and wrote conservation welfare slogans on it and exchanged it with their friends. They took an oath to practice animal welfare.

When asked about the programme, the students opined that this was the first time they attended a full day programme filled with lots of activities and came to understand many new things on wildlife conservation, threats and welfare issues and it was really useful for us. All of them thanked Zoo Outreach Organisation, Coimbatore for the materials. The Headmistress gave vote of thanks. Submitted by: P. Ramesh. Email: ramesnest@gmail.com

Manimaran School, Poovandhi Village, Sivagangai Dt. Tamil Nadu
Animal Welfare Fortnight programme was conducted on 28 Jan 2015. Nearly 35 students participated. School correspondent Mrs. Uma Maheswari welcomed all and gave an introduction about animal welfare programme. After the introduction, Mrs. Jessie Jeyakaran, gave introduction about animals and their welfare. She also explained the difference between wild and domestic animals, their life, their habitat and their behaviors. The first session started with the introduction of animals and importance of protecting them. In order to make them understand the linkage between the animals the food chain and food web was explained.

The important facts about four bears of India—Sloth bear, black bear, sun bear and brown bear were told to the students. They were also explained about sloth bear rehabilitation in India. Then the Students had an interaction session with Mrs. Jessie Jeyakaran. She asked questions on animal welfare and students answered to the questions. Similarly the students raised some questions and the resource person gave answers to them. Students enthusiastically participated and enjoyed this session.

Then students were divided into four groups and each group was named one of the Indian bears. A group headed a teacher, and a student wore a particular bear mask standing in the front. Mrs. Jessie Jeyakaran shared lots of information on bears to the teachers and they explained the same to the students. Then an interaction session on bears about ‘what it is called’, ‘where it is found’, ‘how does it look’ and ‘what does it eat and how it behaves’ among the groups. The food items of the bear was drawn in the chart and played a game with that.

‘Play bears’ game was introduced to the teachers. This game takes the bear from a dry land to a greenly forest. Each player has to toss a coin based on head or tail the movement of the bear will be decided. Two teachers played the game and students observed the game. After the trail, the teachers explained the rules about how to play the game to the students. The students were divided into two
groups and played the ‘Play Bears’ Game. They enthusiastically toss the coin and moved themselves within the board. Brown bear started the game and it finishes first. Finally, students and teachers took an oath to save bears and spread the information what they learnt out of this programme to their parents, neighbours and other people what they learnt today. Mrs. Janaki Devi, Principal, Manimaran school gave vote of thanks. Submitted by: Mrs. Uma Maheswari, Correspondent. Email: uma.jegatheesan@gmail.com

YWCA MHS School, Madurai, Tamil Nadu
About 40 students class V & VIII participated in the AWF programme and it was held on 29 January 2015. It started with opening prayer followed by Tamizh Thai Vazththu. Mrs. Joy Devasagayam, Vice Principal gave welcome address. Mrs. Jessie Jeyakaran, resource person gave the introductory talk. She raised several questions related to animal welfare to the students. She also insisted the students to take care both wild and domestic animals welfare, to watch National Geographic channel and always to keep distance from pet animals.

Then she gave the activities to the students form ZOO education kits. First one was “crossword puzzle”. All the 8 standard students eagerly participated in this session. “Cross word puzzle” was based on Animal Welfare. So all the students got awareness about the Animal Welfare. They also got a clear idea about what is Animal welfare.
Second activity was “Play Bears” and again the same class participated in this game. All the students played dice. They were interestingly participated because the whole activity completely based on bear life. So this activity created great awareness about the bears. It was very useful to the students.

Third activity was conservation welfare. Fifth class students and teachers participated in this activity. During the activity the teachers alphabetised animals which are found in the brochure and gave information about particular animal and how we protect its welfare. They also got an idea about the endangered species and how to take care of them.

Mrs. Jeyakumari gave vote of thanks.

Submitted by: Mrs. Joy Devasagayam, Vice Principal. Email: ywca.mhss.madurai87@gmail.com

St. John’s College, Palayamkottai, Tamil Nadu

The college Nature Club celebrated AWF–on 03 Feb at the college and Eco Camp held at Thalaiyani, Kalakad on 07 Feb. Dr. Selvin Samuel, Principal (incharge) presided over the function. He first introduced ZEN–ZOO’s Educators Network and its AWF education materials. Then he talked about wild animals which dwells in the forests as well as in our backyards. Encouraged the students to learn more about wildlife and spread the message to others. He particularly appreciated two of his college students who took part in the recent “Bird Census”. Questionnaires were distributed to 50 students. Cross-word puzzles were filled in by the Nature Club students. The students curiously watched the Eco-Exhibits that contained various materials from Zoo Outreach Organisation on wildlife conservation. Mrs. Rani Kirubairaj, Resource Person and Environment Education Awardee 2010 explained the need for conservation of wild animals both in-situ /ex-situ – Conservation welfare of wild animals in forest & in our Daily life with charts and pictures. Further she added on the monkey manners, elephant etiquette, rehabilitation of sloth bears, do not harm the insects, frogs, snakes, worms, lizards, moths, rodents, bats shrews unkowingly or unneccessarily and actually there are beneficaia to human beings.

Then the students were asked to put on the masks, that made them really excited and took a oath saying be kind with animals, involve in wildlife conservation and welfare of wildlife etc.,. Then holding the bookmarks they read the slogans such as ‘animals have as much as right to a life as I do’, ’I won’t buy products made from animals horns, tusks’, etc., in a chorus.
On 07 Feb. seventy two National Green Corps students of Tiruvelveli district (various schools) attended an eco camp at Thalaiyani, Kalakad. Mr. Pillavinnayagam IFS, Deputy Director of KMTR motivated the students to visit, enjoy and preserve the forests – with a passionate heart. NGC Coordinators – Dr. Vijayalakshmi, Dr. Selvin Samuel, Mr. J.F. Joseph, teachers Madasamy, Arul Joseph, Forest Rangers were there. Dr. Selvin Samuvel explained about biodiversity conservation initiatives of KMTR-Western Ghats. After that students had few activities. Submitted by: Mrs. Rani Kirubairaj, Teacher (Rtd). Email: ranijoe12@gmail.com

EPCO, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
Animal Welfare Fortnightly 2015 was celebrated at four schools of Bhopal namely Golden Sun Beam School, Govt. High School, Ratua, Orion International School and Red Rose Higher Secondary School. More than 400 students and 30 teachers were oriented on the subject. The objective of the programme was to highlight the issue of animal welfare and involved more and more students, teachers, staff and general people to organize such events and encourage them to conserve wildlife.

The programme started with the introduction of Animal Welfare Fortnight- Programme as regular animal’s awareness event celebrated every year for over 50 years in India in the last two weeks of January. Nationally Animal Welfare Board of India AWBI organizes this event since 1956. Programme spread information that how wildlife is important to our survival, even daily life wildlife. It will help us to understand – biodiversity, wildlife, ecology and environment, wildlife trade and threats to biodiversity (create demand and supply). Students were encouraged not to buy material made from animal’s products, ivory, bags, wallets, etc. During the interaction with the group the human activities affecting the wildlife were also discussed with the participants. The topics were Destruction of habitat, Introduction of disease through domestic animals, Hunting / trapping / poisoning, Disturbance caused by tourism (firing crackers in forest), Introduction of non-native animals, Release of chemical pollutants leads to poisoning, Release of hybrid animals quick-breeding, diseased zoo populations. Our daily life mistakes also affect the many of the animals (eg., Frogs, snakes, bats that control insect and rodent populations). One major activity that we do knowingly or unknowingly is throwing food remains & vegetable/fruits peels in poly-bags. Large number of animals died by eating this. Students took pledge not to through organic waste and food remains in Polythene. Teachers are motivated to take up such programmes in their schools. During the programme educational material supplied by Zoo Outreach Organization, Coimbatore was used. Material was very informative and liked by students, especially the game on bear. Senior students liked the book mark depicted message on animal welfare. Programme was voluntary supported by members of Training and Research Society for Nature Conservation (TRI-NATURE), Bhopal. Submitted by: Dilip Chakravarty, Environment Education Officer, Environmental Planning & Coordination Organisation, EPCO, Bhopal, MP. Email: dilip.chakravarty1@gmail.com

IA & B Birds Welfare Society, Guttur, Andhra Pradesh
IA & B Welfare Society celebrated Animal Welfare Fortnight from 15 – 30 January 2015 very grandly
We organised camp at Brilliance E.M School, Penukonda. Our Society President explained about importance of wildlife in the nature and role of students the to protect its welfare. He asked all students to pledge to save the nature and to help wildlife live in the forest very peacefully.

After that we distributed animal welfare educational materials and explained about conservation welfare of monkey, sloth bear, musk deer, elephants, rhino and other non-charismatic animal welfare. They filled-up the crossword puzzle and played a bear game. Conservation welfare messages appeared on the bookmarks were told. They wore the different animals masks and they impersonated like animals and climbing on the trees. Prizes were distributed to the students as well. Similar kind of programme was also organised at Sri Vidya English Medium School, Kothacheruvu where we conducted quiz competitions on wildlife welfare and importance of protecting natural resources. The winners were awarded with prizes. An animal welfare film show was screened at Z.P.H.School, Kothacheruvu during this fortnight. 

Submitted by: G. Manjunath, IA & B Welfare Society, Guttur, AP. Email: iaabws@gmail.com

Conservation of Nature Society, Calicut, Kerala
The Conservation of Nature Society organized AWF programmes for school students throughout the fortnight at the Regional Science Centre. Approximately 125 students participated. The programme was based on the Zoo Outreach Organisation education materials and was conducted for different batches. ZOO’s education materials were given to them with explanation. They were taught about what are conservation welfare and more emphasis was given on safeguarding welfare of the elephants, monkeys, rhino, sloth bears, musk deer and daily life wildlife. To play the bear game the instructions were written on the wall. They played the game. The bookmarks carrying animal welfare messages were distributed to the students. The participants really liked the materials and thanked ZOO for the same.

The elephant education materials were utilized at the one-day captive elephant programme conducted by Kerala Forest and Wildlife Department. Our society executive committee reviewed the programme benefits in which ZOO materials such as amphibians, monkey manners, pollinators and bats were used. The material was very useful to reach out more and more people with conservation as well as welfare issues.

Submitted by: Mr. Vinod Kumar Damodar, Secretary, mspca5@hotmail.com