

Show the Wild Face of Climate Change: Photo project

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Zoos and Aquariums for 350 is a global event initiated by Conservation Breeding Specialist Group. We at ZOO organized this awareness programme on 22nd May 2014 at VOC Mini Park Zoo on the occasion of the International Day for Biological Diversity 2014. One of the activities was a photo project conducted at selected animal enclosures within VOC Park Mini Zoo. This is an effort to raise awareness of climate change and its impact on species.

Climate change and biodiversity are interconnected and climate change is a new threat to the biodiversity. If biodiversity is affected, it will bring negative impacts for human well-being.

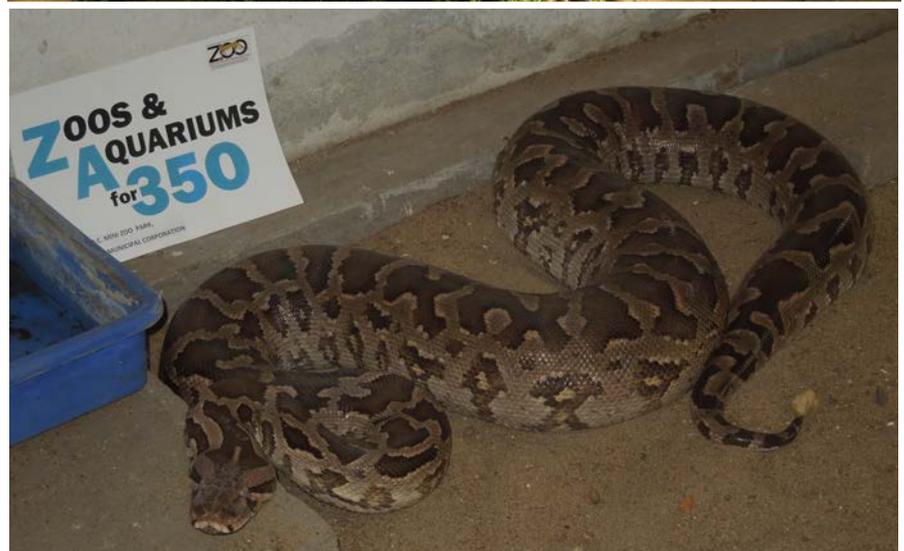
350.org is building a global climate movement. This movement has a key message – that the world's governments need to act to get and keep atmospheric levels of CO₂ back to a "safe" 350ppm.

Today's problem is that we are releasing too much of greenhouse gases, by over use of natural resources, which are absorbed by the atmosphere and create a thicker layer of gases around our planet. This result in trapping heat below the atmosphere which leads to global warming that ultimately influences the earth's climate.

Carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas that traps heat in the atmosphere and contributes to climate change. Scientists say that 350 parts per million (ppm) is the safe upper limit of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Right now, the atmosphere contains over 400 ppm of CO₂ and is increasing every year. At 400

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Photos by Dr. B.A. Daniel

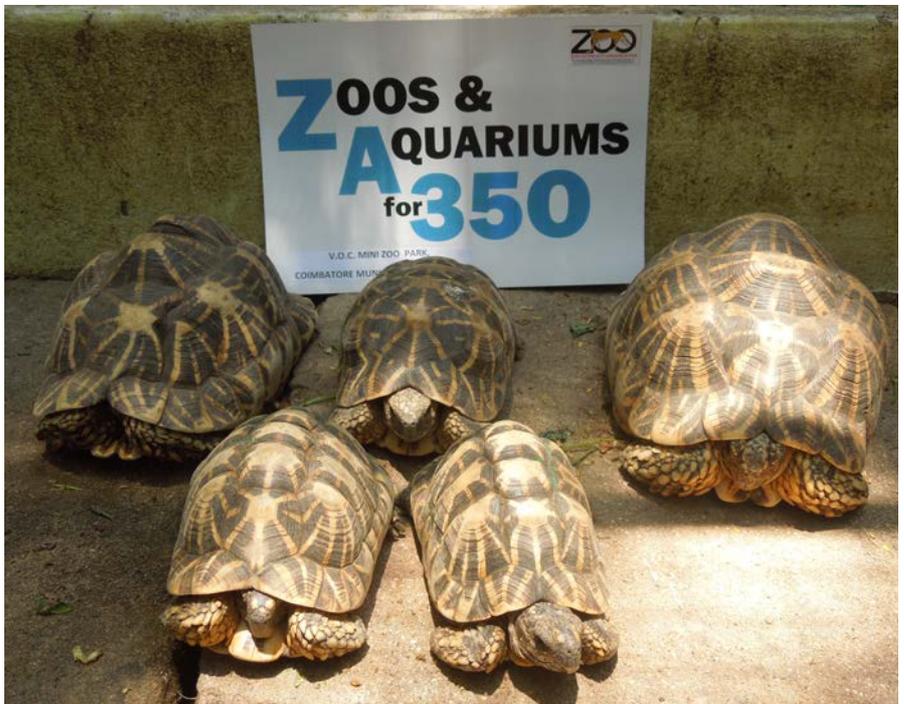
ppm of CO₂ in our atmosphere, we are already seeing problems related to climate change, from the melting of the Arctic to increasing extreme weather events. If we continue to do the same practices by liberating more CO₂ in the atmosphere, climate change will continue to progress.

To create some awareness about this threatening issue to a wider audience, a photo project was carried out at the VOC Mini Park Zoo in five animal enclosures namely turtle, crocodile, peafowl, python and giant squirrel. The entire event was performed with assistance from the zoo staff. Initially we gave an introduction to the zookeepers all about CBSG's 'Show the Wild Face of Climate Change' and also about 350.org.

The objectives and needs of the photo project were explained to them in detail and corresponding animal keepers were given necessary instructions. In addition to it all the keepers were given the logo of 'Zoos and Aquariums for 350' project to carry with them during the photo session to facilitate interaction with the visitors near the animal enclosure. Copies of the project logo was also put at the entrance to attract the visitors and put in zoo notice board.

The first photo project was done at the turtle enclosure and photos were taken with utmost care not to disturb the animal. Photos were taken in other selected animal enclosures. Multiple copies of the 'Zoos and Aquariums for 350' logo were printed and fixed in cardboards and also wooden frames so as to keep them comfortably in the animal enclosures. They were kept inside the enclosures without disturbing the animals so as to take pictures when they stand at the vicinity of the logo boards.

Visitors on seeing a big group carrying out photo project enquired about the details of the



event. The animal keepers holding the logo explained them about the event and also about 350. They also directed them to go to the entrance to learn more about the project where an awareness counter was setup.

The entire event was carried out between 11 am – 2.00 pm. On that day, being school vacation, the zoo had about 2000 visitors. Selected photos were uploaded in the CBSG project site.

