

## Education Reports from SAN-IZE members on Animal Welfare Fortnightly and other events

### Wildlife Welfare Programme at Chennai, Tamil Nadu

A one day awareness programme on Wildlife Welfare was conducted for the students of Grove School, CPR Ramaswami Iyar Foundation, Chennai on 22 January 09. Nearly 28 students participated in the programme. After the introductory talk the students were divided into two groups. While the first group was dealt with Monkey Manners, the second group observed and interacted with them. The educational packets supplied by Zoo Outreach Organisation were informative and very useful. They enthusiastically enacted a play and decided to share the information to all at school and at home.

The second group was given Elephant Etiquette kits from which they learnt many things. Though they have seen the fearful situation created by the elephants in T.V. and news papers the steps to be taken at the roadside, Temple and Zoo were very useful. A quiz program was conducted at the end in which Selvi A. Krithika and S.Siddharth won the prizes. A role play was enacted by the second group. At the end of the day's program they clearly understood that Wildlife Welfare is not for the benefit for the animals alone but also for the human beings too. Ms. Sujatha assisted the entire program and Krithika proposed the vote of thanks. **Submitted by: Jessie Jeyakaran, Email: [jessiejey@rediffmail.com](mailto:jessiejey@rediffmail.com)**



### Animal Welfare Fortnight programmes conducted in Bhopal, M.P.

An attractive banner graced the starting of the program where supporting partners for the event were introduced and the importance of "Animal Welfare Fortnight" explained. After that an interactive session was conducted with students concerning



animals. We gave equal opportunity to students to share their views about animals. We organized the program in three schools of Bhopal in three different themes on bear, elephant and tiger.

A lecture on bears was presented to students at Govt. Naveen High School, Bhopal. The habitat, food habits and role in ecosystem were explained. The



threats to bears were also explained. Also a drama on bears was organized with students taking different characters. We involved all the characters mentioned in the kit about bears, which was explained to the students. The drama was based on

threats to the species. The students were fully involved in this activity and learned a lot from the drama. Another lecture on Elephants was given to Naveen Hr.Sec. School, Arera Colony, Bhopal. Fifty students participated in the program. The lecture consisted of important facts and figures about this mega species. A quiz was also organized after the lecture to find out the level of understanding of students. An elephant kit was given to the students and utilized to reach them. Two of the students played the roles of Eswari and Elango with finger puppets. They had a discussion on elephants in the wild. Students pledged to play important role in the conservation of elephant by tying Rakhi's on one another's wrist. Finally another lecture, this one on Tigers was given to the students of Govt. Middle School, Khanugaon, Bhopal. Initially the basic information about the tiger was given, after that a group discussion on tiger was held. The students were divided into four groups and learned basic information, threats to tiger and what we could do for conservation of tigers.



At the end of each lecture in all three schools we asked some basic questions about the species and for correct answers we rewarded them with amphibian calendars provided by Zoo Outreach Organization. **Submitted by: D. Chakravarty, Email: [dilip.chakravarty@ceeindia.org](mailto:dilip.chakravarty@ceeindia.org)**

### Verve 2009-Youth Summit on Wildlife at Delhi

I had an opportunity to address a gathering of college students using educational materials provided to me by ZOO in January 2009. The 90 minutes session was conducted on the occasion of Verve 2009 - "Youth Summit on Wildlife" organized by Hindu College, University of Delhi. My session was on 7th February. I broadly covered issues revolving around Human Wildlife Conflict incidents throughout the country, reasons why they are happening and most

importantly explaining misconceptions about wild animals which result in them being killed whenever they enter human habitations. The material provided by ZOO which proved most useful in the interactive discussion was the one entitled "Monkey Manners" and a booklet on Bats which described myths and misconceptions associated with conflict issues with wild animal species. The session was very well attended and the other issues addressed during the course of my session with these young college students included: Leopards, Bears, Snakes and other Reptiles and a brief on Delhi's ecological concerns as of today. **Submitted by: Vasudha Mehta, Email: vasudha1907@gmail.com**

### Report on Animal Welfare Fortnight Celebrations by APOWA

Poster and Banner Campaign (15-18 January): This programme was highlighted with materials prepared by organizations on animal welfare and environmental conservation and displayed in important places in the Kendrapara district.



Animal Welfare Rally-28th January: An animal welfare rally was organised at Kendrapara town on 28 Jan 2009 during Animal Welfare Fortnightly. More than 1000

participants from different religions were gave a message of animal welfare to the inhabitants of Kendrapara in a disciplined rally. They wore different type of animal masks and holding placards. Slogans were shouted throughout the procession and Karuna Club gave a demonstration on animal welfare. Brochures and cards were give to participants and bystanders in the rally.

Balmela, Exhibition-31 January: A poster and photo exhibition cum Balmela was organized at Keshpur M.E. School. More than 500 students and peoples of the near by schools and villages visited the exhibition. Activities and games were played among the participating students. All the students were given papers and they were asked to draw and colour animals that they find in the surrounding villages and forest. The children did their best and once the activity was over all the drawings were put up for display on selected spots at the venue.



Later, Karuna club members conducted a drama with animal masks and materials of Zoo Outreach Organization, which was the biggest hit. At the end of the mela the participants and the audience knew more about animal welfare; get a better understanding about the environment and wildlife conservation; get an opportunity to form more Karuna clubs in schools. **Submitted by: APOWA Team, Email: mail@apowa.org**

### ZOO WATCH education programmes at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerela

On 24 Jan 2009 ZOO WATCH members used our own flex boards to conduct an Amphibian Crisis educational programme in the Thiruvananthapuram Zoo as part of the Animal Welfare Fortnight celebrations. One major change was that we decided to locate our display not at the entrance but just outside the exit of the new Reptile House; and attract the public by also using a Touch Table to display snake skins. Zoo visitors, especially school children and their teachers, were fascinated by snake skins so we could attract a good audience for our amphibian conservation message. Reporters for Jaya TV and Surya TV and Surya FM radio were present and interviews were conducted with our members who took this opportunity to spread the message of the amphibian crisis. Therefore, we feel that this was a very successful event because we could talk to so many teachers, school children and college students from different parts of India and we could use the media to make the message immediate and authentic. Our special thanks go to Zoo Outreach Organisation and to the Zoo Director, Curator and all the staff of the Thiruvananthapuram Zoo who really went out of their way to help us conduct our educational programme.



Following this, on 30 January, 2009, ZOO WATCH members held an Amphibian Crisis exhibition at the school science fair being conducted at the Bharathiya Vidya Bhavan School in Manvillla. This event also proved to be most successful. We would really like to suggest to other zoo – friendly organizations that they should try making their own materials and attracting audiences using Touch Tables with a variety of properly labeled snake skins. Making our own materials has proved to be very beneficial in educational terms. Without flex boards and snake skins it is far more difficult to make people actually stop and listen. Now people, especially children, stop to touch the snake skins and look at the boards and we have the time to influence them. ZOOWATCH members who conducted these events were Amy



Thomas, Mr. P Murali, Dr. Ravindran, Palayam Babu, Mr. Vava Suresh and Mr. Biju. **Submitted by Dr. Latha Thambi, Email: lathatampi@yahoo.com**

### **National Science Day & World Wetlands Day-2009 in Calicut, Kerala**

On National Science Day 2009-Conservation of Nature Society along with Dolphin Protection Committee arranged a "Tiger Awareness Programme" on the National Science Day 2009 in Calicut to different participants in various locations. Forest officials, students and public participated in the programme. The programme was organized as per the training programme of the Wildlife Conservation



Society, USA module. Model tiger census method was conducted by using dogs. The group discussed the dispute of the proposed Kakkayam Wildlife

Sanctuary whether it has tigers or not. Also the group discussed about the new Tiger Safari of Peruvannamuzhi adjacent the present Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre. Another subject was discussed about the forest fires now raging in the tiger roaming areas and the participants expressed their concern on tiger conservation in these areas.

World Wetland Day 2009 - The Wetland Day Programme was conducted on 2 February 2009 in Mavoor Road wetland area which once abundant with amphibians now became a concrete jungle. The decreasing wetlands and their effect on amphibians came up for discussions. Amphibian conservation was also one of the themes of the day. Scientists announced that the discovery of 10 amphibian new species in Colombia, +2 students participated in the wetland day programme commented about this discovery and another 50 species found which was thought to be extinct is a new hope.

The participants discussed various issues related to wetland conservation. Even though Kerala took keen interest in conservation of paddy fields and wetland bill for protection of implementation of the wetlands would take a long time. Wetlands became waste lands now, once seen the tortoises, fishing cats and wildcats in the city now disappeared. **Submitted by: VK Damodar, Email: sagarclt@rediffmail.com**

### **Zoo Education programme at Maitri Baag Zoo**

Students of Shri Shankaracharya Vidyalaya, Amdi Nagar, HUDCO, Bhilai visited Maitri Baag Zoo on 10 January, 2009 for a half a day. In this programme 300 students aged 4 to 10 along with 14 teachers were attended. The Zoo education unit of Maitri Baag Zoo taught them about the bats and their role in the eco-system. Half of the group were taken to

the tiger enclosure and they were taught about the tigers and what they could do for tiger conservation. The Head Mistress Ms. Manisha Das commented about the visit that it was very interesting and liked by the children. She said the environment of the zoo was very nice. The cages were neat and clean and animals seemed healthy and well maintained. The zoo authorities were very cooperative. The zoo provided 'Tiger Masks' and 'Bat Books' for amusement and colouring. The visit to the zoo was educative also as it inspired interest in the children in wildlife. The school is grateful to the zoo authorities for their interest expression and kind cooperation. **Submitted by Dr. G.K. Dubey, Chief Veterinary Officer, Maitri Baag Zoo, Chhattisgarh.**



### **De Paul International Residential School, Karnataka EE Programmes**

De Paul School is a unique campus to study daily life wildlife as it has rich floral environment. School nature club had organized field survey in the campus to find out different varieties of vegetation and record the student's observations. With the help of teacher coordinator Mamatha and Botanist Prof. Sadanand, students spotted many types of insects, amphibians, garden lizards, birds and mammals like mongoose, bat, hare etc and made a checklist. Students made the check list of the campus trees and teacher made the name boards' to fix the same on trees. The name boards has local name of the plant, biological name, habit of the plant and the medicinal/commercial or ornamental values of the plant.

A Survey of the Floral Environment: Save the mother earth from the clutches of the devilish human race who molest their own mother. This is the quote of Sai, Student coordinator of School Nature Club.



Human-elephant co-existence: This program was conducted on 13 March 09 for the 7th grade students in the campus as extended topic. These students are fond of Zoo Outreach Organisation tool

kits and would like to get associated with ZOO in any possible way, mostly by through their project works. Since their latest class room teaching was on content

"Interdependence of plants and animals", kids played WEB game to understand that food chains get connected with one another to form food web. Students sang Holi songs while tying friendship band. They themselves organized quiz session and there was tough competition among boys and girls group. They promised to contribute their service towards wildlife conservation. For example, one of the students Athena Rose said that she will not allow her parents or workers to scare the elephants in their coffee estate at Coorg. She also narrated some elephant stories which she got from her grand father with the help of puppets. Two students from Africa narrated morphology of African elephants with the help of finger puppets. Kids played grazing, browsing, giraffing, game and finally took oath foraging and said no to animal products.  
**Submitted by: Mamatha, Email: mamtha\_57@yahoo.com**

#### **Amphibian Colouring Book programme at Mysore, Karnataka**

I visited Kalivuya Mane 21 Feb 2009, where I had conducted activities with Ele-kit and primate colouring book. The previous visit fresh in the children minds made them eager to know what I had this time. I used the amphibian colouring book. Since we were familiar with each other, the session started with volley of question and answers. The children were asked when they did hear the frog croak? What was special about amphibians? What they thought about them, and if they had killed any? They were told about the importance of frog and their role in the ecosystem. They were given the colouring book and they enjoyed the colouring it. They also related the amphibian and the prey in the book. The group let go of me only after promising them to go back with some more material. **Submitted by: D.H.Tanuja, Email: tanujadh@gmail.com**



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