

were divided into four groups. They had to choose questions any one of these regions.

To give more examples of friends of Tiger activities like Bear dance and experiences in running a bat club was also explained. To demonstrate carrying capacity of forests the bear dance was done using old newspapers as habitat. And then near the bat roost, the participants were explained about observing, counting and monitoring the bats.

To make the participants understand how the TFT programme is linked with their science curricula an exercise was done by the teachers using their own school books belonging to State board as well as CBSE syllabus. As a group they were asked to go through the syllabus and to look how the TFT programme fit in. They were asked to present the results of their group.

After this the activity 'Links' was done. They were divided into four groups. Each one of the groups has given a set of linking or matching slips. They were asked to link the hints and make the story complete. The existing problem in the wild were given to do this activity.

In order to get immediate solution for the problems that the teachers had the SWOT exercise was done. It was also the follow up of the the activity Problem hat, done on the first day. Since the teachers and volunteers had different set of problems they were divided into two groups to do this exercise. Some of the problems were addressed and

found a solution within the group itself. The trainers were also given some solutions for their problems.

Later the groups were asked to design an education programme for one-day, on special days, one to three hours, and one year programme according to the eco calendar supplied to them. At the end the group members were presented their designed programme. Followed by this the elements of developing a programme with endangered species in which events were explained to the participants. This was taken from the ZOO ED Book, written by Sally Walker, Zoo Outreach Organisation.

Commitment: Each participant was given a reply postcard. They were instructed to address the letter to themselves and state what they hoped to do in next three months. It was explained that this card will be posted back to them after three months so that they can send a reply to incorporating their activities that they did to fulfill their commitments. As the last activity a questionnaire was given to get the feedback about the refresher course.

In the valedictory Dr. B.A. Daniel welcomed the chief guest Mr. Manoj Kumar, Executive Director of Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens, Mysore and the gathering. All participants received a certificate from Mr. Manoj Kumar, who appreciated the interest of the teachers involved in creating awareness in biodiversity conservation. R. Marimuthu gave vote of thanks.

## Announcement

### BGCI needs your abstract NOW

Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI), in association with the University of Oxford Botanic Gardens, is currently organising the **6th International Congress on Education in Botanic Gardens** "*The Nature of Success: Success for Nature*". The congress is taking place from **Sunday 10th – Thursday 14th September 2006**.

Themes being addressed during the congress include;

- Achieving sustainability: ideas and solutions
- Public awareness of plants
- Reflection on practice
- Education for all: working with challenging groups

This will be an excellent opportunity to share your experiences and skills with the international botanic garden education community. Knowing of your work, we would like to invite you to submit an abstract for a paper, poster or workshop for the congress which would contribute to one of the themes.

We are looking for 200-300 words on the aims, objectives and subject of your presentation and a short biography (50 words) – outlining who you are, where you work and what your particular interests are. The deadline for abstracts is Friday 30th December 2005. We do hope you will consider submitting a proposal.

Please find the form for abstract submissions attached – this should be completed and emailed back, either to the

return address or to the congress committee at [educationcongress@bgci.org](mailto:educationcongress@bgci.org).

The Congress Organising Committee will be reviewing all abstracts received during January 2006. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to get in touch. We hope are interested in contributing to and attending the congress and look forward to receiving your abstract.

**The Organising Committee : BGCI's 6th International Congress on Education in Botanic Gardens**  
**The Nature of Success: Success for Nature**  
**The University of Oxford Botanic Garden, U.K. 10th – 14th September 2006**

For a soft copy of the abstract format please contact Sarah Kneebone, Education Officer, BGCI, Descanso House 199 Kew Road, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 3BW U.K. [sarah.kneebone@bgci.org](mailto:sarah.kneebone@bgci.org)

