

The family programmes and class room activities were very creative and fascinated us a lot. We saw a good number of programmes including 'Mommy and Me', 'Gorilla kindergarten' etc. After seeing the programmes with the participants, we gained confidence that we can develop similar programs on various themes in India. The class room education programme for poor school students to learn more about animal science was appreciable.

In the two-weeks program we learnt about recent trends in education, various education techniques including assessment and evaluation methods. We also got an opportunity to discuss topics such as grant writing that helped us to learn more about framing proposals and sharing experiences on curriculum development.

The family programmes, class room activities, developing curriculum on wildlife themes and planning an education programme are some that can be practiced in our future programmes with definite modifications according to the local situation.

Education is one of the very important functions of modern zoos. More and more zoos are upgrading their ability to

support the conservation of biodiversity by educating the public. Zoo education in India is gaining importance now-a-days as it is evident from the many South Asian zoo reports appearing in *ARNIZE News*. Education programmes in Bronx Zoo are more informal and at the same time build a life-long impact on the visitor and develop an interest about animals and environment. It is important to note that well-trained educators conduct all education programs. Teachers for Tigers is a good module that can be followed not only for tigers but for the friends of Tigers.

In the midst of this busy schedule we also found time to visit Natural History Museum, do some shopping and go on a one day visit to New York City. We were also invited as special guests by many staff of the Education Department. My special thanks are due to Mrs. Annette Berkovits, Mr. Tom Naiman and Mrs. Nalini Mohan for arranging this programme for us and particularly Ms. Sally Walker for her encouragement and efforts.



The Rainforest Initiative

The Rainforest Initiative is an active and vibrant organization committed to conserve the biodiversity of the rainforests. The Rainforest Initiative is a Non-Profit Public Charitable Trust (Reg. No. 235/2003). The Rainforest Initiative's personnel are a motivated team with a high level of enthusiasm to fulfill this commitment. Dr. R. Krishnamani, a primatologist and rainforest ecologist, and his team, are set to blaze a new path in the field of rainforest conservation. He and his team are guided by a panel of renowned ecologists.

The office of The Rainforest Initiative, located in Coimbatore, southern India, provides library, infrastructural and logistical support and coordinates the Organization's conservation-oriented research projects in various parts of southern India.

The Rainforest Initiative was formed as a Registered Non-Profit Public Charitable TRUST (Registration No. 235/2003) by five committed people on the 19th day of February 2003. Subsequently two more people have joined to make the team seven. These seven members are the Trustees of this Organization.

Objective:

To conserve the flora and fauna (including the abiotic components) of the rainforest and its allied ecosystems.

Anybody interested in conserving the rainforests, irrespective of their caste, creed, religion, sex and nationality, are welcome to join us. The activities of The Rainforest Initiative are presently confined to southern India, especially the Western Ghats, but will eventually be expanded to other areas like the northeastern Indian and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

The Rainforest Initiative has launched and executed a number of research projects in different parts of the Western Ghats and southern India. Based on the results of this research, The Rainforest Initiative designs and implements conservation programs.



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The Rainforest Initiative believes in reaching out with the results of its research and conservation to a wider audience encompassing the scientific fraternity, policy-makers, and the public, to bring about awareness and catalyse action needed to conserve India's rainforest flora and fauna. The work of The Rainforest Initiative has resulted in a number of publications in international journals.

Research

- Feeding habits of the bonnet macaques
- Geophagy (soil eating) in the bonnet macaques
- Phenological observations in the rainforests of southern India
- Woody plant surveys in the lion-tailed macaque (*Macaca silenus*) habitats
- Database on the rainforest trees of Western Ghats
- Status and distribution of the "Hanuman langurs" in southern India
- Restoring the riparian forests of River Noyyal

For more information check out
<http://www.rainforest-initiative.org>