

Hands-on Training for the cause of Wildlife Conservation



Participants engaged in specimen collection during field session

The main focus of the biodiversity and wildlife education was to create knowledge, interest and necessary skills to solve various biodiversity problems with reference to the local as well as global context. In order to develop the biodiversity perception among students, local masses the action oriented biodiversity education methods were promoted and identified in our past trainings such as active classroom sessions, hands-on activities, experiential education, and field exposures that are vital to accomplish sustainable

biodiversity and wildlife knowledge and motivate to protect and conserve biodiversity and wildlife.

For the experimental education as well as hands on practices, the Institute for Wildlife Sciences, ONGC Centre for Advanced Studies, University of Lucknow has started a series of hands on trainings on various topics on wildlife and biodiversity conservation. In the same context institute has successfully organized two Hands on Trainings on Basic Course in Butterfly Identification and

Taxonomy (30 November – 2 December 2017) and three days training on Wildlife Journalism (28 December - 30 December 2017) in collaboration with Department of Forests and Wildlife, Uttar Pradesh, Biodiversity and Wildlife Conservation Lab, Department of Zoology, University of Lucknow and Butterfly Research Centre, Bhimtal, Turtle Survival Alliance-Foundation India, U.P. State Biodiversity Board and Institute of Mass communication in Science & technology, University of Lucknow.



Hands on practice about the flattening and curation of butterflies during technical session

Hands on Trainings on Basic Course in Butterfly Identification and Taxonomy

Total of 15 participants from different Indian states like Bihar, Gujarat, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh and Nepal took part in. During the three days training programme various informative lectures and practical sessions were completed. On the very first day of the training, our resource person, Peter Smetacek, Director of Butterfly Research Centre, Bhimtal started with the talk on “History of Butterfly study in India”, how names are given to butterflies and finally the curation of specimens. A lecture on, how to photograph the butterflies has also been

given by the expert. On the second day the experts handled the sessions on collection of specimens, the taxonomy, nomenclature and how to distinguish families of butterflies and finally about the curation of butterflies. On the third day it started with collection of specimens and followed by a talk on how to preserve the specimens by Mr. Peter

Smetacek. At the end, all the participants were presented with participation certificate and a butterfly mug.

Training on Wildlife Journalism

Journalism refers to the production and distribution of reports on the interaction of events, facts, ideas and their compilation in the form of news and that ultimately impacts the society to at least some degree. Nature Journalism is a vital means of communicating important environmental issues and making the natural world more accessible to the public. Just like a perfectly captured wildlife photograph, a beautifully crafted piece of nature writing can be thrilling to



Participants engaging in story writing during story or news telling session

create or behold. Wildlife journalism is a very vital means of communicating important environmental issues and making the natural world more accessible to the public.

A total number of 35 participants from throughout U.P. attended this three days training. The aim of this training was share knowledge about conservation of wildlife, skill development and the placement of the students. During the training participants learnt how to write an article, blog, children stories, and discovery news and also how to tell, explain their news or story in print as well as electronic media. A brief knowledge about wildlife and biodiversity such as the vultures and their conservation, biodiversity laws, traditional knowledge and bio resource policies, aquatic biodiversity and wildlife trade, wetlands biodiversity and ecology, wildlife laws, human and animal conflict and Project Tiger, nuances in wildlife -



Participants of Wildlife Journalism Training

biodiversity writing for mass media have also been taught by various experts from media and forests as well as wildlife field. Group activities and hands on news or blog writing were accomplished by participants and read their ideas and views in front of common mass and experts.

The whole training was very informative and communicative knowledge shared by experts Rupak De, Shailendra Singh, Sanjeeva Nayaka, L.B. Chaudhary, Somesh Gupta,

Sanjay Pandey, Deo Kant Pandey, Prashant Pandey, Neeraj Srivastava and well organized by Amita Kanaujia with the help of Research Scholars Adesh Kumar, Shivangi Mishra, Daya Shanker Sharma, Ankit Sinha, Ruby Yadav and with technical assistance by Amir and Deepti and Savita & Rakesh. It will prove very beneficial for the better opportunities and skill development for the students opting Wildlife Sciences and Journalism as their career.

Submitted by: Amita Kanaujia, Wildlife Conservation Lab, Department of Zoology, University of Lucknow, Lucknow and Adesh Kumar, Institute of Wildlife Sciences, ONGC Center for Advanced Studies, University of Lucknow, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. Email: kanaujia.amita@gmail.com

Wildlife Week celebrations at Tata Steel Zoological Park, Jamshedpur, Jharkhand

Wildlife Week was celebrated at the Tata Steel Zoological Park from 2-8 October 2017 on the theme “Sustainable Tourism for Development” and “Prakriti Paryawaran aur Hum”. It was formally inaugurated by Chief Guest Biren R Bhuta, Vice-president and in the presence of Guest of Honour, Rishad M Chinoy, Secretary, Tata Steel Zoological Society. Then the Chief Guest presented Best Eco Club Teacher Award 2016-17 to the winner Sangita Sarkar from NML K.P.S, Jamshedpur, runner-up award to Rajalakshmi Sahu from Belpahar English High School, Jharsugoda, Orissa and the special recommendation award to Yogita Singh JUSCO School Kadma.



Inaugural function



Prabhat Pheri

On the first day, Prabhat Pheri was flagged off by Mr. Sanjeet Kumar, Treasurer Tata Steel Zoological Society, where 210 students and zoo staffs went an awareness rally to spread the message of need of biodiversity conservation.

Inter-school essay competition results were declared and awarded with prizes. The topic were “ईको-टूरिज़्म और इसके फायदे वन्यजीवों के संरक्षण लए I” and “Ecotourism and its benefits to wildlife conservation”.

A total number of 109 students represented from 20 schools. On the second day, debate competition on the topic. “क्या?ईको-टूरिज़्म प्रकृति संरक्षण का हस्सा है I” Is Ecotourism is part of conservation” was



Participants of on the spot painting competition



Winners of fancy dress competition

organized. There were 81 participants from 19 schools took part. The event was sponsored by Inner Wheel Club of Jamshedpur, ZEST and judged by Mrs. Herpreet Kaur and Nibha Mishra.

On the third day inter school quiz competition was organized. There were 80 participants from 18

schools who took part, which was conducted by Subhodeep Sarkar. The questions for the ten rounds of the quiz included topics such as national parks and sanctuaries, ecology and wildlife conservation and others. On the fourth day a fancy dress competition for children was organized. There were 231 participants

from 21 schools who took part. On the final day, an on-the-spot painting competition was organized in association with Jamshedpur School of Art. A total of 435 students from 40 schools participated. Followed by the closing ceremony was held in which Chief Guest Asish Mathur, MD, JUSCO, presented awards to the winners of the on the spot painting competition. Through the various events, the zoo reached a total number of 1147 students and 40 education institutions during the wildlife week.

Seema Rani, Biologist cum Education Officer along with education team members, Monalisha Banerjee, EA, Pratap Singh Gill, Shefali Das and zoo volunteers Iram Khan, Vinay Kumar Pandey and Joya Khan, coordinated the events very effective.

**Submitted by Dr. Seema Rani.
Email: cmarani00@rediffmail.com.**

WWF-India's FrogFest 2018 - Conservation Awareness through Art

WWF-India launched FrogFest in January this year to raise conservation awareness of amphibians, one of the most endangered groups of animals. Currently roughly one third of all amphibians across the globe are threatened with extinction. Most of the current threats are human generated. Civil society and decision-makers urgently need awareness regarding this alarming fact, since Frogs are vital to our food security and health – they prey on agricultural pests and vectors thereby reducing vector-borne diseases. They are valuable ecosystem indicators – their permeable skin and dual lifestyle, aquatic and terrestrial, makes them extremely sensitive to changes in water, soil and air quality. Frogs are also an important part of scientific research and their chemical secretions are the basis of numerous key drugs produced by the pharmaceutical industry.

FrogFest is a celebration of Frogs in Art and Nature. The Festival includes a pop-up museum of over 400 frog artefacts



Playing a giant Save the Frogs Board game



FrogFest Exhibition

collected from across the globe in a variety of materials, shapes and sizes. Also on display are various frog-themed artworks, both tribal and modern-style paintings. The collection is owned by Seema Bhatt and the exhibition is curated by Aditya Arya and Mamata Pandya. Amphibian photographs have been generously shared by S.D. Biju, Gururaja, K.V. and others. The Exhibition that opened on the 15th of January will continue till the end of April 2018. Information panels educate the audience about frogs, their role in nature as an important link in the food chain – as predators and a prey species, their diversity in terms of size, colour, shape and their wonderful adaptations. The panels also talk about frogs in various cultures. In most Asian cultures frogs were considered a good omen – their calls predicted rain which brought wealth and prosperity. India has one of the only known frog temples, and frog weddings were thought to bring rain. In Egypt the frog represented fertility and was symbolized by the frog-goddess

Heket. In modern culture Kermit the Frog is a popular Sesame Street Character. To build atmosphere at the exhibition, frog-calls recordings by Gubbi Labs, Karnataka, fill the air at the venue.

WWF-India has deputed trained volunteers to guide visitors and explain the contents of the panels in detail for the duration of the festival. In addition WWF has organized other interesting events to engage the public and increase awareness and curiosity about amphibians – there will be illustrated talks by experts, Films about frogs, Frog-themed tribal art workshops, origami and nature trails. WWF has reached out to schools, colleges and corporate houses to visit the FrogFest to build awareness

for these important but often overlooked animals. An inspirational Amphibian Conservation talk by Kerry Kriger, Founder and Executive Director of Save the Frogs! USA has been planned in January, which will be followed by ‘A day with Frogs’ lead by noted herpetologist S.D. Biju in February, and possibly one by Gururaja, K.V..

From 2000 onwards scientists have described over 1,500 new species of amphibians, with at least 10% of these being discovered in India. Biju himself has made several important new frog discoveries, including many ‘lost’ species being rediscovered, some after over a hundred years.

The Western Ghats-Sri Lanka region and the Northeastern part of India are some of the leading biodiversity hotspots for new amphibian discoveries.

Frogfest is a call-out to all art and nature-lovers to appreciate the beauty and diversity of the world of frogs who perform valuable ecosystem services – unnoticed and unappreciated. It is imperative that critical amphibian habitats are protected, the use of pesticides reduced, and harvesting of wild frogs for classroom dissection, medical tests and research, human food and the pet trade stopped. Currently one of the biggest conservation challenges facing amphibian scientists is a remedy to curb the spread of Chytrid fungus, which is the major threat to frog populations worldwide.

Submitted by Ms. Payal Narain, WWF-India, Environment Education Division, New Delhi-110003. Email: pnarain@wwfindia.net



Drawing Frogs - Gond Art