

## 59<sup>th</sup> Wildlife Week Celebrations Report

Zoo Outreach Organisation provided free education materials for celebrating India's 59 Wildlife Week. We got 50 requests for materials throughout the nation from zoos, forest department, education institutions, Ngo's and others. They celebrated wildlife week with our education materials and created an awareness of the importance of saving wildlife. Here are few reports of their programmes:

### **Biodiversity and Wildlife Conservation Lab, Dept. of Zoology, University of Lucknow**

We celebrated wildlife week with the theme "Wildlife Love it or Lose it..." with the support of Regional Science City, U.P. State Biodiversity Board and Zoo Outreach Organization's Educator Network ZEN, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. Prof. Dinesh Sharma, Mayor, Lucknow City inaugurated the celebration on 1 October. Mrs. Prathibha Singh, Conservator of Forests was Guest of Honour and Prof. Aqil Ahmed, Dean Science, University of Lucknow presided over the function. Mr. Umesh Kumar, Prof. Madhu Tripathi, Head Department of Zoology, Prof. A.K. Sharma, Dr. Ashish Kumar were also present.



**Rangoli on Pollinators**

Mr. Neeraj Srivastava, Indian Bird Conservation Network gave a presentation on Bird watching and their identification. On the second day, debate and poem recitation competition was held on the topic "Wildlife Conservation Acts & Policies in India: Effective or Ineffective and "Little Sparrow" respectively. 200 students from 20 schools and colleges enthusiastically took part. Dr R. L. Singh (Retd) PCCF talked about Biodiversity Conservation in India. On 3 Oct. painting, collage and greeting card making competitions

were held for 200 students from 25 different schools and colleges. The painting was on the topic of Human and Animal Conflicts. Greeting cards were on the topic of Wild Flora. Collages were created on Freshwater Biodiversity.

On the 4-day, students expressed their views on the assigned topic "Biodiversity Loss and Climate Change". The students wrote slogans on wildlife. We took the winners to the Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary, Unnao on the next day where they learnt about bird watching as well as do's and don'ts during field visits. The students also performed Nukkar Natak. On 6 October, Rangoli on the theme pollinators and quiz on wildlife were held. Students made eye-catching and attractive rangolis showing various pollinators such as bees, butterflies, ants, spiders, monkeys and bats. The students as well as the teachers enjoyed the game of snakes and ladders designed on wildlife with its dos and don'ts related to wildlife conservation. The students participated enthusiastically in the open quiz on wildlife. For the correct answer, they were felicitated with a pocket biology dictionary. More than 300 students from 30 schools attended the events.



**Zoo materials displayed by the students**

Prof.S.B. Nimse, Vice Chancellor, University of Lucknow and his wife Mrs. Sulabha Nimse distributed the prizes to the competition winners at the valedictory function on 7 October **Submitted by: Dr. Amita Kanaujia, Asso.Prof. University of Lucknow. Email: kanaujia.amita@gmail.com**

**Pilikula Regional Science Centre, Mangalore, Karnataka**

In collaboration with Zoo Outreach Organisation, Coimbatore we organised a programme for 100 students and teachers of Govt. High School, Moodushedde, Mangalore on 2 October. Shri Ramachandra, Principal presided over the function and Mr. Sunil was the chief guest. Shri Jagannath, Ms. Priyanka and Shri Victor, Staff of Pilikula Regional Science Centre were the resource persons. The programme started with the prayer.

Shri Jagannath, Education Assistant gave a brief introduction about the programme, explaining why we celebrate wildlife week? The students were made to realize the importance of wildlife and ecosystems by making them to do small activities, using the materials provided by Zoo



**Students were briefed about threatened Himalayan Primate**

Outreach Organisation. After this, some environmental games played. Ms. Priyanka, Education Assistant, gave a brief introduction about the endemic species like Himalayan threatened primate and bats. They were told about the importance of the pollinators and their role in providing us fruits and vegetables. The participants were also told about the importance of The Sahyadri (Western Ghats) and the rich biodiversity of the region,

including the Freshwater Biodiversity.

As the programme conducted on Gandhi Jayanthi day, the students were told that they need to live as simple as Mahatma Gandhi and should avoid unnecessary luxuries so that everybody can share the natural resources. Earth has enough to satisfy everybody's needs but not everybody's greed. Citing the recent examples of wild animals entering into human habitat, it was pointed out that such incidents could be avoided, by protecting the forests. Conserving the forests will also reduce global warming. Simple measures taken like switching off the fans and lights when not in use, closing the water tap when not in use, will help in saving precious energy and resources like water. Carrying a cloth bag with us when we go for shopping so that we can refuse plastic bags to save environment. The students and the teachers expressed their sincere thanks to the resource persons and Zoo Outreach Organisation for providing them an opportunity to be a part of the wildlife week celebration.

**Submitted by Dr. K. V. Rao, Director. Email: kvrao044@gmail.com.**



**Students engrossed in drawing competition at Vizag Zoo**

## **Indira Gandhi Zoological Park, Visakhapatnam**

In the 59 Wildlife Week celebrations about 180 students belonging to ten schools participated in the events organised. The objective of the event was to highlight the issue of wildlife conservation and to inculcate the conservation values of wildlife in day to day life of students from childhood itself. Drawing and essay writing competitions were held on 4 October. The topics were given for drawing: Any zoo animal (class I-V), various forms of wildlife (class VI-VIII), wildlife conservation (class IX-X) and essay writing topics were; national animal of India (class V-VII) and is wildlife tourism important for conservation? (class VIII-X). These competitions were meant to improve the creativity of the students as well as to test their knowledge on the respective topic. Three best drawing and essays were selected in each category and prizes were awarded.

On 06 October elocution & skit competitions were conducted. The elocution topic for junior batch (VI-VIII) was wildlife of India and for senior batch (IX-X) was forest ecosystem. The topic for skit is based on wildlife, forest & environment theme. Students showed enthusiasm to come forward and talk on wildlife conservation related issues during the elocution competition, as well as to perform skit on the related topic.

Three different types of education kits - Freshwater Biodiversity, Biodiversity and Climate Change and Daily life Wildlife sponsored by Zoo Outreach Organisation, Coimbatore containing placards, badges, bands, masks and information brochures on conservational aspects of wildlife and biodiversity were given to the students of various schools, participated in the events for their display. Each type of kit was given to two schools to perform

their best. Children were very interestingly and enthusiastically participated in this programme as kit material was very much liked by them. These programmes were a grand success and the participating students and their parents and teachers expressed that such programmes helped in creating awareness in their minds about the importance of protection of wildlife and also about the role of the zoos in conservation of endangered species. Print and electronic media persons enthusiastically made good coverage of the event throughout. Subsequently such programmes provide an opportunity for students to learn about the plants and animals in their surrounding environment as well as in the wilderness areas; Such programmes will also lead to behavioural change in their minds and their attitude towards wildlife. Teachers are motivated to take up such programmes in their schools. The results will be astonishing if these programmes are also linked as their part of the curriculum.

Sri. G. Ramalingam, Curator, addressed the gathering on various aspects of the information kits and also spoke about some important issues pertaining to

conservation of biodiversity and wildlife. Sri. Suresh Betha, Zoo Advisory Committee member asked the students to conserve wildlife and the natural wealth of the nation. Later, prizes were distributed. **Submitted by: Mr. G. Ramalingam, Curator. Email: igzpvizag@gmail.com.**

**Centre for Environment Education, Madhya Pradesh**  
Wildlife week 2013 was celebrated at Govt. Naveen Hr.Sec.School, Old Campion and Govt. Naveen Hr.Sec.School, Bagsewania, Bhopal on 5 Oct. Programme was observed in collaboration with local NGOs works on environment named TRI-NATURE (Training and Research Society for Nature Conservation) and OHIA (Organisation for Human Issues and Alternatives), Bhopal. The programme was themed on the resource materials provided by ZOO Outreach Organization. More than 200 students, teachers, staff and Principal participated and benefited.

First Programme: Mr.Amol Adholia, Ecoclub In-charge welcomed all. He addressed to the students about wildlife week's importance and how school could be a part of this event. Drawing



**Wildlife week at Govt. Hr. Sec. School, Bageswania, Bhopal**

competition was organised by linking water and biodiversity. Mr. Dilip Chakravarty talked about the biodiversity and its three levels- species, ecosystem and genetic level with brief explanation and examples. He also talked about the kingdom of life and their facts and features. His emphasis was on mammals as everyone interacts in his or her day-to-day life. Information on pollinators and key species involved in this process was very informative and learning point to participants. To make the session more interactive, an open house quiz was organised based on wildlife. Question based on our national animal, bird, flower, tree etc. were asked and very well answered by the students. Question on national heritage animal-elephant and national aquatic animal- Gangetic dolphin were new to students. Similar question based on state wildlife and biodiversity, national park and sanctuaries etc. were also asked. Students with right answers honored with the kit provided by ZOO. Students were very happy to receive it and pledged to create more awareness on wildlife with other students at school and at home. Principal Smt. Prabha Yadav gave kind support to the programme and encourages students to take active participation.

Second programme: It was observed at Govt. Naveen Hr. Sec. School, Bagsewania, Bhopal. Hirdesh Sharma, Sanskrit teacher gave welcome address. He quoted words and phrases in Sanskrit, which reflects on our sustainable life style. The topic was "Live More Simply". Session was designed on the principle value of Mahatma Gandhi and his simple way of living. Shri. S.P. Bishe, Director, OHIA organisation talked about the moral, spiritual, social and economic values addressed by Gandhiji. He admitted that today's generation is an orgy of consumption, overuse of natural resources, harmful towards wildlife

and ignore natural beauty. He shared with the participants that the decade 2011-2020 is the UN Decade of Biodiversity and it is an opportunity to change way of living instead being part of problem, it is time to change our attitudes and behaviour, and become more part of solution. He ended his talk with Gandhi words- "Be the change you want to see in the world". Shri. Ashutosh Dubey, talked about the importance of birds and bird watching. He spoke about magnificent birds like weaver bird (Baya)- architect of nest, sarus crane- pair of life, Kingfisher- different shades of colour, hornbill- caring behaviour towards female partner during pregnancy, Koel, sparrow etc. Participants were benefited by his talk and encouraged observing common birds around them and developing birdbath and keeps seed and water for birds. School staff, teachers and Principal Smt. Shiksha Yadav were present. Mr. Ashish kumar, Tri-Nature Organisation provided logistic support for both programmes.

**Submitted by: Mr. Dilip Chakravarty, Project Officer.**  
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### **J.D.B. Govt. Girls College, Kota, Rajasthan**

Environment Conservation Committee organized wildlife week programme in collaboration with Zoo Outreach organization, Coimbatore and Wildlife Division, Kota. On 1 Oct. the programme was inaugurated by Sh. H. S. Meena, Principal, J. D. B. Govt. Girls College and Mrs. Shakuntala Meena, Guest of Honor, released the ZOO kits on Biodiversity Conservation, Bats, Pollinators and Himalayan Monkeys. Extempore on the theme biodiversity loss and climate change was conducted for college students and the kit of Save Biodiversity! And beat the heat was distributed to the students and explained the importance of conserving Biodiversity for our future. On 2 Oct. essay writing competition on 'The Western Ghats, Freshwater Biodiversity' and quiz competition was organized. The kit on bats was used to explain the threats to bats and their importance that how they are useful to human beings. The message of conserving bats was given to college students and lecturers.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct, more than 250 students from various colleges and University were taken to



**Turtles and tortoises in the natural habitat - Rangoli competition**



**J.D.B. Govt. Girls College students and teaching staff with zoo kits**

Mukundara Hills Tiger Reserve on field visit in collaboration of Wildlife Division, Kota. The experts conveyed the message of conserving biodiversity and the importance of flora and fauna during the field visit. Students walked 6 kms in the Tiger reserve, exploring the flora and fauna. The kit Himalayan Monkeys was of great importance in the field visit. It provided a thorough knowledge about different types of monkeys and their importance. On 4 Oct, debate competition and lecture on 'Daily Life Wildlife' by Sh. A. H. Zaidi, Nature Conservationist (NGO) was organized. On 5 Oct. Rangoli competition was organized in collaboration of Wildlife Division for all categories, school and college students and amateurs. The theme for class 5-8 was butterflies humming on flowers, class 9-12, turtles and tortoises in their natural habitat; college and open group, a pair of Sarus crane in their natural habitat. 130 students participated with full zeal and joy. After this, kit of Pollinators! Not just bees! was used to explain and make aware the students the importance of pollinators.

On 6 Oct. slogan writing and drawing competition on the theme 'Deer in their natural habitat' was organized for our students. Dr.

Anil Changani gave a presentation on vultures and then students were taken to Geparnath to observe the vultures in their natural habitat. On 7 Oct fancy dress competition for school children and closing ceremony of wildlife week was organized. Sh. Anurag Bhardwaj, CCF (WL) was the chief guest. The wildlife week was a great success and more than 500 students benefitted with the kits provided by Zoo Outreach organization. The education material provided in the kits was very useful and made it simple to

spread the message and make aware of the importance of conserving biodiversity during wildlife week. **Submitted by: Dr. Fatima Sultana. Email: drfatimaehh2009@gmail.com.**

**Conservation Himalayas, Mohali, Punjab**

Conservation Himalayas celebrated wildlife week at Adarsh Vidya Niketan Public School, Kalal Ghati in Kotdwar, Uttarakhand on 5 Oct. with 9 std students. Dr. Santosh Sahoo and Mrs. Aruna Kumari Negi conducted a programme on the



**Adarsh Vidya Niketan students received Zoo education kits**

theme "biodiversity conservation and growing threats to biodiversity". At first, we gave a chance to the students to interact and learn about the concept of biodiversity through role play activities. Dr. Sahoo illustrated them with simple examples on how the daily life wildlife in our ecosystem plays a major role in controlling ecological balance in the ecosystem and contributes significantly for the benefits of human beings. In this context, the students were taught about the role of different pollinators in our ecosystem and how pollinators are helpful to human beings. In another session, five students played a role play activity to understand how frog species in the forest ecosystem is interlinked with elephants through a food chain and what would happen if we lost frog species and it can affect the elephants and may be linked with the elephant crop depredation problems. The ZOO educational kits were used as resource materials. At the end, Dr. Sahoo talked about the Behaviour Change Conservation Campaign as a new tool to save the threatened species. The students took a pledge to show their appreciation of love and concern for all types of

wild animals and educate others about the ecological value of protecting wild animals. Each student received the ZOO educational kits- "Pollinators! not just bees!", "Daily life Wildlife", "End of Year of the Bat: Threats remain...", and "Save Biodiversity! & beat the heat". The field coordinator of the Conservation Himalayas, Mr Rajinder Jajaedi thanked the Zoo Outreach Organisation for sending wildlife conservation educational resource materials to celebrate wildlife week. **Submitted by: Mrs. Aruna Negi, Conservation Himalayas. Email: arunameeru@hotmail.com**

**De Paul International Residential School, Mysooru, Karnataka**

The College Principal Rev.Dr.Baiju Antony inaugurated the event. Education packets developed by Zoo Outreach Organization, Coimbatore was used throughout the programme. The coordinator of the programme Ms. Mamatha said 'survival of human being is dependent on the survival of biodiversity and hence it has to be protected'. Climate change is emerging as a single biggest threat for the species. Utilizing

ZOO's packets, the students learned all about biodiversity and the need for its conservation.

In addition to it students learned some of the principles of Gandhiji, our Father of Nation. Human is greedy to exploit the natural resources, more than that is required for his living. Large-scale exploitation of natural source has become one of the threats for the animals and its habitats. Gandhi taught us how to live more simply. It is time for us to follow some of the simple ways of living, practiced by Mahatma Gandhi, which will help the survival of species and its habitats.

It is also appropriate to celebrate wildlife week and remember Mahatma during the Gandhi Jayanthi. He once said ' The difference between what we do and what we are capable of doing would suffice to solve most of the world's problem'. Thanks to ZOO and CBSG for supplying the education packets. **Submitted by: S. Mamatha. Email: mamathamys@gmail.com**



Wildlife week at De Paul International School