

## Wildlife Week 2009 and other reports



### Workshop on Climate Change at Adayar Poonga, Chennai

A workshop on Climate Change, Global warming and Ozone depletion was conducted on 9<sup>th</sup> September at the Adyar Poonga premises by the Pitchandikulam Forest Consultants, Auroville, as an orientation towards wildlife week celebrations. Forty-eight students and three teachers from three Chennai schools: St. Antony's Girls' HSS, PS Hr. Sec. School and Raja Muthiah Boys' Hr. Sec. School, participated in the workshop which comprised of a Power-Point presentation on Climate Change and Global Warming presented by Cyril Rufus. This presentation included effects of global warming and climate change on biodiversity. This was followed by the do's and don'ts that students can follow to get rid of rising environmental issues like use local, think global. As an activity relating to the ecological footprint, students were asked to assess the amount of fuel burnt and electricity spent in their daily lives. After this, a visit was made to the weather station at the Poonga where the students were shown how weather monitoring is done by Prakalathan. Cup anemometer, Whirling Psychrometer, Thermometer, Rain Gauge and Pan evaporimeter monitoring were demonstrated. A field explanation was given on dress code, preventive and precautionary measures to be taken during different climatic variations. The Beaufort scale system of wind type measurement was also explained to the students. This was followed by an interactive session wherein the children expressed their views and suggestions. On behalf of the PFC environment education team, we would like to thank the Zoo Outreach Organisation for supplying and coordinating the education packets.

A half-day workshop on wildlife conservation was organized at Adyar Poonga premises by the Pitchandikulam Forest Consultants, Auroville, on 12<sup>th</sup> October, to mark the Wildlife Week

celebrations. Fifty students and 4 teachers from 3 Chennai schools - Avvai Home Hr Sec School, Besant Theosophical Society, Aringar Anna Govt. Hr Sec School - attended the workshop. The idea behind the event was to bring a clear conservation ethos into the minds of the student participants. The workshop began with an introduction to wildlife conservation in India which was followed by a PowerPoint presentation on the subject by Cyril Rufus. The *Daily life wildlife* packets were distributed to the students who were put through the "ABC of wildlife" activity and another called "wildlife in my surroundings" developed locally. The students were briefed on the important role of urban wildlife in the urban ecosystem which therefore needs to be conserved and were asked to perform Animal Name Writing exercises using body parts, as a refresher.

In the next session, *Amphibian Ark* packets were distributed and amphibian basics were taught to students. As a follow up to this, participants were asked to find the different kinds of amphibians in the booklet provided to them. They also marked their active participation by mask and *rakhi* tying. The students were briefed about the role of amphibians in the food web, the threats they face and the things students can do. A demonstrative activity was also performed to explain the loss of wetlands which are important amphibian habitats. Following this, the students were taken out on a field visit into the Poonga by the team members where the students were given an understanding of a wetland habitat and their denizen, which latter comprises part of the living environment. An oral assessment on the subject of the workshop was also held. The PFC Environment Education team would like to thank Zoo Outreach Organisation for supplying and enabling the use of the said education packets. **Submitted by Cyril Rufus, Adayar Poonga, Chennai. Email: [cyril4112@yahoo.co.in](mailto:cyril4112@yahoo.co.in)**

## Living with Climate Change programme at Pilikula Science Centre, Karnataka

A programme was conducted on Oct 7, 2009 at Alva's P.U.J. College, Moodabidri, Dakshina Kannada, Karnataka, to help the teacher's to understand their subjects better with the kits supplied by Zoo Outreach Organisation, Coimbatore. Prof. Ramesh Shetty, Principal, took the initiative to organize the



programme with the help of Pilikula Regional Science Society, Mangalore.

Moodabidri is a rural area with good Primary schools in and around. An effort was made to teach the teachers the concept of Science. About 60 schools participated in the programme. Dr. Venkatesh Nayak Co-ordinated the programme and the staff of the Dept. of Biology helped in conducting the programme feedback forms were distributed to the participants and they have given the opinion that the programme was effective. The interaction with individual teachers in the Laborating of the college helped them to understand the concepts better.

Thanks are due to Zoo Outreach Organisation, Coimbatore for supplying the teaching aides which were used in the programme.

Another programe on 'Living with Climatic Change' was conducted at Science Centre Pilikula Nisarge Dhama, Mangalore to the randomly selected high school students of the Schools of Dakshina Kannada District of Karnataka. A total of 120 students participated in the program. Among them 19 were from Kannada medium and rest from English medium. The Kannada medium students could speak in English.

The students were asked to fill in the part I of the evaluation sheet given by Zoo Outreach Organisation before giving the kit designed by Zoo Outreach Organisation, Coimbatore. Most of the students were aware of Climate Cahnge and they ticked **Yes** only. A few students were not aware of one or tow things of part I. Some of the students

even mentioned what they could do to reduce the global warming.

After filling the Part I, the Zoo Outreach kit was given to the students and the story of Greenhouse Gas Guardian & Greenhouse Gas Ghoast was told to the students. Then the students were asked to fill the Part II of the evaluation sheet. After listening to the Fable, the response from the students was very good and they answered the Part II of the Evaluation sheet correctly.

The students then were asked to wear the masks given and were requested to spread the message in reducing the Greenhouse Gas emissions and contribute to the efforts of reducing the damages of climate change.



Dr. Ramakrishna Marati, Mr. Mohan, Dr. Jayanth, Mr. Madhusudhan and Mr. Kishore helped in conducting the programme which was appreciated by one and all.

Thanks are due to the Zoo Outreach Organisation Coimbatore for helping us in conducting the programme which was appreciated by one and all.

The photographs of the programme and the sheets are enclosed for the kind reference of Zoo Outreach Organisation. **Submitted by K.V. Rao, Pilikula Regional Science Centre, Karnataka. Email: kvrao\_44@yahoo.com**

## Festive Nature 2009 during Wildlife Week

In connection with the wildlife week celebrations, 2009, Prof. T.C. Narendran Trust for Animal Taxonomy and Department of Zoology, The Zamorin's Guruvayurappan College, Calicut, jointly organized a programme "Festive Nature 2009". The Trust and the Department organized a quiz competition, painting contest (water colour) and essay writing competitions for the undergraduate students at the college, Calicut, on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> September 2009. Competitions were based on biodiversity conservation, and the primate pocket identification guides were distributed to the students. 20 teams (3 in a team) participated in the quiz competition, 8 students in the painting

competition (topic: Nature in my dream) and 10 in the essay writing competition (topic: Biodiversity Conservation at our doorstep). On 1 October, a one-day seminar was organized at the college Seminar Hall, with invited talk by noted expert in the field of Ecology, Biodiversity, Biocontrol and Behaviour, Dr. M. Nasser, Senior Lecturer, Department of Zoology, University of Calicut, Kerala, who delivered a lecture on the values of biodiversity and conservation aspects. Prof. A. C. Pushpalatha, Head, Department of Zoology welcomed the gathering. The Principal, Dr. Sumathi. M., presided over the function. Students actively participated in the discussion with Dr. Nasser and also took an Oath to protect wildlife and nature. Prizes and certificates were distributed to the winning teams/individuals of the various competitions. Dr. Madhavikutty, Reader, Department of Zoology delivered the vote of thanks. The event was reported by local newspapers and city channels. As part of increasing the awareness to protect wild life and nature, the students of Final year Zoology attended a two-day nature camp at Parambikulam Wild Life Sanctuary from 6<sup>th</sup> November to 8<sup>th</sup> November 2009. We thankfully acknowledge Zoo Outreach Organisation, Conservation International, IUCN/SSC Primate Specialist Group, and South Asian Primate Network for sponsoring the education packets and for joining us in making the programme a grand success. **Submitted by Dr. Sudheer, Kozhikode, Kerala. Email: sudheerkalathil@gmail.com**

### World Climate Change Day 2009 programme at Calicut, Kerala

The Conservation of Nature Society and The Dolphin Protection Society Organised awareness programme on 24.10.09 the Climate Change Day in continuation to our programmes of the same during the Wildlife Week 2009. Programme was connected with various reports on Amphibians also. An awareness programme was arranged this time for the smaller students but in spite being an holiday for schools there was good attendance. Zoo materials were used.

The participants also reminded about the year being the 'Year of the bear'.

How the Climate change had affected the bear in the forests and also about eh dancing g bear's trauma.

The participants congratulated some NGO's role in saving bears in rescue centres in different parts of our country. **Submitted by Vinod Kumar Damodar, Calicut, Kerala. Email: mspca3@hotmail.com**

### Wildlife and Human Animal Co-existence programme at Chennai School

Located in green and clean campus, the Vidyodaya Mat. Hr. Sec. Academy excels in education. The tall trees look like big green umbrellas provide cool weather throughout the year besides attracting

creatures to birds. A continuous stretch of stone benches provide a place for the students and parents to admire nature.

On 29<sup>th</sup> October 2009, 50 students of std. VI walked to the academy hall to know more about the wildlife and human animal coexistence. The



days programme started with prayer which was followed by a brief introduction by the Principal Mrs. Annie Mohan. In order to bring out the national environmental conditions, the audio visuals section on India's Environment issues and approaches. The wildlife initiative attracted the students very much. When recaputulatory questions were asked nearly 6 students answered well and received the prizes comprised of cards about the animals, the distribution and conditions prevailed now (printed by the ZOO, Coimbatore) along with labels received from CEE, Bangalore.



The students were divided into 4 groups like Amphibian, Dailylife Wildlife, Know your Monkey Manners and Elephant etiquette. Each session consists of 4 A – steps namely Admire, Appreciate, Accept and Adjust which in turn will lead to behavioural shift.

The students admire the picture on the cover page of the education packet supplied by Zoo Outreach Organisation, Coimbatore and came to know about

the sponsors like ZOO, WILD, WAZA, SANIZE, UFAW, US FISH AND WILDLIFE. They were overwhelmed with joy and went to the extent of recollecting their own experiences with the animals. On seeing the contents of the packet they were excited. The concern, the commitment and the sharing about this to others started while having the rakhie, the



mask and the placard. The booklet was dealt with explanation besides recollecting their own experience.

The various types of frogs, their uses decrease in number (degradation) the reasons for the degradation, the role of the students to safeguard the species were dealt with one after the other. The roleplay attracted the entire participants. The daily life wildlife –group identified some of the species they have seen at home, at school and in the shops nearby. The butterfly album has created a new dimension in correlating the subject matter.

The most interesting sessions allotted to group III & IV were Know your Monkey Manner and Elephant Etiquette. As they have come across many different kinds of situations with monkey and elephants it was easy for the Resource person and Teacher Co-ordinator to carry out the programme. These 2 sessions have brought out a clear cut first-hand information about the tackling of the situations. The roleplay was enjoyable. In the day's programme they admire and appreciate the animals and accepted the instructions and guidelines and the facts which have let them to adjust their time chart to care for the animals and their welfare beside their own. Each participant admits their duty to spread the matter to others. These little kids came out with bubbling thoughts especially in the role play. Till December they have planned to spread the day's experience to others, going in for the signature campaign, observing the sounds of frog at day/night, newspaper gathering on the abovesaid animals, watching the sounds produced by the gecko, frog, monkey and elephant. Decided to display the posters on do's and don'ts (Elephant and Monkey).

Drawing competition was conducted and prizes were distributed. The questionnaire for quiz was handed over to the teacher co-ordinator Mrs. Viola

and Mrs. Beulah. The days programme came to an end with the prizes distribution by the Principal and vote of thanks by Amphibian Ark leader Yagna.

*Submitted by: Jessie Jayakaran, Chennai. Email: jessiejey@rediffmail.com*

### **Amphibian colouring book programme at Sri Acharaya Gurukula, Kadakola, Karnataka**

The children were as excited as on the first visit. They just couldn't hold on their excitement, even as the programme began, they all started updating on the progress each had made on their Primate colouring book. This was on the second visit to Sri Acharaya Gurukula Shishuloka, 14 kms from Mysore, Kadakola, Nanjangud Taluk, of Mysore District. This time though there were about 13 students from I grade.

After the complete update of their latest experiences with bonnet macaques and how they have started noticing them different than earlier, it was time to bring them to the present topic of Amphibians. The kids were asked what came to their mind when it starts to rain? They said, farmer, grains, food and when hinted what do they hear when it rains, they realised and said 'frogs'.



They were asked if they had caught toads, few hands were raised. When asked if they had killed any they said 'no'. The Children were given information about amphibians and their use in our everyday life. They were told how they eat up on mosquito larvae and keep us safe from diseases that are spread by mosquitoes.

The children were given the amphibian colouring books and they were told that they had to use the cover and back page photos as reference. They were told that the amphibian and the prey were on the facing pages. The students were given 'Frogs Rock, Amphibians Arc' bumper sticker, they were happy and promised to stick on their parent vehicle.

The students were asked to observe the toads around them with care and also not to kill any. The students were happily colouring the pages of the book when they were said goodbye.

Thanks are due to the students, teachers, Harish and Rashim the people behind Sri Acharaya Gurukula Shishuloka, Zoo Outreach Organisation and its wonderful people for the interesting materials. *Submitted by Tanuja DH, Mysore, Karnataka. Email: tanujadh@gmail.com*