

Wildlife Education Reports from South Asia

Conservation of Nature Society, Calicut education programmes on special days

World House Sparrow Day 2010 (20 March 2010) & World Water Day 2010 (22 March 2010): The Conservation of Nature Society organized the above day for the school students from 20 - 22 March, 2010. Even though the programme was combined with the Climate Change Day the main theme was disappearing house sparrows.

We could not identify a single sparrow on the day. Students had noticed the disappearance of the house sparrows from our cities. Some students opined that the disappearance of the grain stores which is now converted into super market is a main reason for their disappearance.

Many super markets now functioning in the upper floors and in luxurious models kept away these sparrows. As the sparrows are not seen in the wild they cannot be protected in the wild said some participants.

However the sparrows found near the Mangalvanam Bird Sanctuary in Kochi would be threatened due to the construction work likely in the



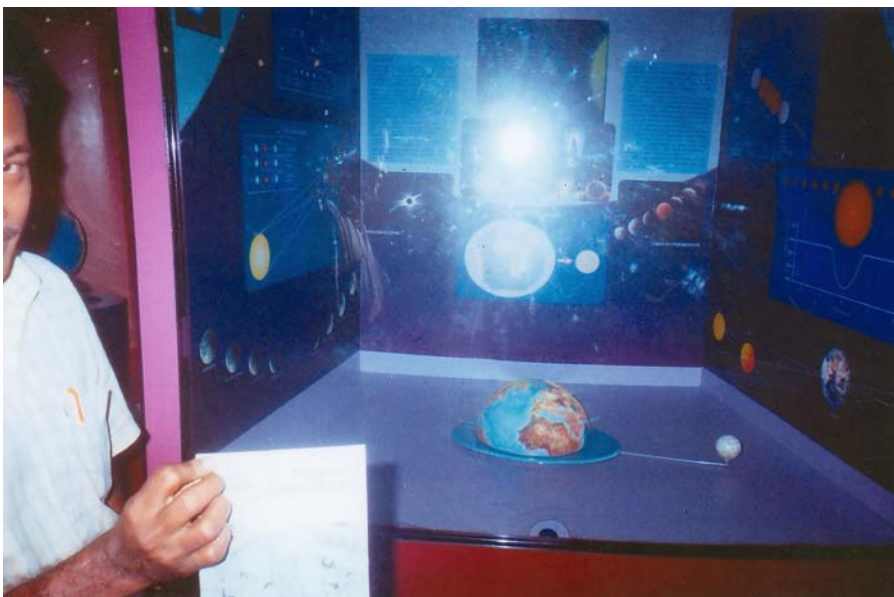
Children with ZOO's climate change education kits

sanctuary as they are deprived of food. In Kerala and Tamil Nadu the bird is called as 'KURUVI' in other states they are known in different names. In Maharashtra they are known as Chimani (CHIMANI) and in different states in different names. The bird is the state bird of Karnataka. The programme was made further attractive by a biology teacher taking classes for the students on the characters of the House sparrow. As per their opinion even though they have disappeared from the Cities they

are seen in Forest districts like Wayanad. The recent orders of the Hon: High court of Karnataka making the NH 212 through Bandipur Tiger Reserve was appreciated by the participants. Even though political parties are trying to lift the ban on pressurizing the governments and have arranged for the studies the Wildlife lovers were happier on the increase in Tiger, Elephant sightings in the area.

The Conservation of Nature Society also arranged the programmes on the World Water Day 2010 which falls on March 22.

The increasing heat in Kerala followed by the rivers drying up, no summer rains, forest fires and also the severe water shortage even in Kozhikode City which itself have a good number of threats were the subject of discussions. The society studied about the water shortage mainly about some areas even close to seas and rivers not receiving drinking water for even one month was the matter of the awareness programmes. The effect the same had on the smaller animals also was a subject of study.



Demonstration on Global Warming at Science Centre

World Forest Day 2010 Report:
The World Forest Day 2010 was organized by the Dolphin Protection Committee and the Conservation of Nature Society in technical school on 21 March, 2010. The Zoo materials of Amphibians, bats, Climate change were used.

The World Water Day 2010 was organized by the Dolphin Protection Committee also on 22.03.2010 in Regional Science Centre. Classes were taken on how the Global warming reduces availability of drinking water was taken by biology & experts. Zoo materials were used (Climate change).

The World Climate Day 2010 was also conducted jointly by the Conservation of Nature Society & Dolphin Protection Committee for students in the CWRDM, Kozhikode. ZOO material on the amphibians and climate change were used. The programme was conducted along with CWRDM programmes for students up and +2 levels.

The Society organized a World Earth Day 2010 on 27.03.2010. How our Natural Parks etc. converted into concrete Jungles was the main theme on the Day.
Submitted by Vinod Kumar Damodar,
Email: mspca3@hotmail.com

2010 – International Year of Biodiversity programme at MCC, Chennai

The one day training programme on International Year of Biodiversity was conducted to 30 N.S.S. first year students of Madras Christian College, Chennai on 4 March 2010. Dr. Alexander Jesudasan the Principal, MCC delivered the introductory talk on Biodiversity and shared his own experience while doing higher studies in the same field. Dr. S. Yagna Sekhar, the Co-ordinator, N.S.S. welcomed the gathering and shared the previous experiences undergone by the students in the camp and the field work. Mrs. Jessie spoke on Biodiversity in relation to the college campus as it is vast and



MCC students playing skit on amphibians



Students explains about kinds of South Asian Primates



Mind your monkey manners: Do's and don'ts with problem monkeys

situated very near to the Vandalur Zoo. The worldwide voluntary organizations that are supporting this programme besides implementing the same were clearly explained. The role played by the Zoo Outreach Organisation was also explained. The AV session on Indias' Environment was spellbound. The students really enjoyed the session as it seemed to be informative and enriched their knowledge.

The 10 first year Zoology students received the free educational packets supplied by the ZOO. The session started with the tying up of rakhis, mask besides holding the placard. As they are specialist in this subject they found it very easy to go through the booklet and explain the same to the rest of the 20 students. They enacted a short play. The rest of the group were divided into two and received 'Mind your Monkey Manners and Primates in Peril'. They easily identified the primates nearby. But this day's programme seems to be the first of its kind how to tackle the situations at times of menace. They decided to share the important points i.e., DON'Ts to the classmates, members in the family and in the villages. As they are very often invited by the zoo authority at the time of enormous crowd they told that it will be the time for them to share this message.

The last group who received the Primates in Peril packets shared about the conditions. The locations, feeding habitat and the need to protect them were explained to the rest of the students. On the valedictory function the N.S.S students gave the cultural programme and spread the message to the entire college. At the end they took an oath to take active part in the Biodiversity Conservation and signed the signature campaign sheets. **Submitted by Jessie Jeyakaran, Email: jessiejey@rediffmail.com**

Earth Day – In the International Year of Biodiversity – 2010 at Rani Meyyammai, Chennai

Being the last working day for this academic year, the Earth Day was celebrated on 19 April 2010 at the Rani Meyyammai, GHSS, Chennai with holiday assignments. Mrs. Jessi Esther, the Headmistress welcomed and congratulated the students for the wonderful contribution as Eco task force. Mrs. Jessie Jeyakaran, the Resource person explained about the formation of the Earth Day on 22 April in 1970 at New York. She also added the important events which are going around the world. The present condition of the earth due to climate change, the future of Biodiversity and the existing percentage of water were clearly explained with the charts received from UNESCO. She gradually explained about the wealth of the minerals and the living organisms around India in the Arabian Sea, Bay of Bengal and Indian Ocean with pictures. The water cycle was clearly explained and the role of every human being was clearly explained. The importance of biological diversity and the steps to be taken for its conservation was shared. The lesson learnt last year on bat, primates and frogs have encouraged the students to step into the International Year of Biodiversity by making use of every important



Poster developed on "International Year of Biodiversity"

environmental days to the maximum level.

The following holiday assignments were given to 300 students studying in VI, VII & VIII.

- 1 Adopt 2 meters of land in front of the home. (Cleanliness, appearance etc.)
- 2 One day project on "One cubic foot – in land and water to find out the living organisms with the help of the family members.
3. Any 10 points about the earth and water found in the holy book for the submission on World Environment Day.
4. Comparative study of the



Jessie Jeyakaran explains about Earth Day

natural resources like mountains/ rivers/lakes/gardens with the help of the parents and grandparents during the holiday trip.

5. To submit a model '1foot model' prepared on waste material – to be submitted on the World Environment Day.

As the last year's programme of this school was published in website and ZOOS PRINT they decided to come up with their level best with special features.

Submitted by Jessie Jeyakaran,

Email: essiejey@rediffmail.com

Observation of Earth Day by APOWA, Odisha

Earth day is an annual observance held on April 22 every year to increase public awareness on the environment. Earth Day has been used as a powerful catalyst to involve community in making a difference towards a healthy, prosperous and sustainable future. We stand at a critical moment, a time when humankind must choose its future. While environmental degradation hurts us all, the consequences of fewer natural resources and increasing of climate change impacts strike animal biodiversity and poor people especially hard. As the society becomes increasingly



Beautiful drawings done by the students

interdependent and fragile, the future at once holds great peril and great promise.

Keeping in mind the importance of Earth Day, the Action for Protection of Wild Animals (APOWA) has celebrated the Earth Day – 2010 with the active involvement of School Community. Celebrating Earth day with the

student community is an effort by APOWA to promote comprehensive environmental activities and also to build-up student's interest in participating similar environmental activities. The organization has encouraged young students to become active participants in the Preservation of Earth's natural resources.

Eco club students of various schools were assembled in the morning with the strong belief that it's high time to get together to protect our earth and its resources. They attended with great enthusiasm and display to inspire an awareness and appreciation for the Earth to protect plants and animals and other natural resources in their surroundings. A group of students presented a beautiful song on our mother 'Earth' and followed by an enriching passage read by Ambuja Kundu of USAK High school reminded the students to keep the earth clean and preserve the harmony in nature.

Number of activities were also conducted to honour the beautiful planet 'Earth'. Some students made paper bags from old



USAK High School students attends Earth Day celebration activities

newspapers. Paintings were presented by the students giving the message of Saving Environment and Saving Earth. Mr. Bijaya Kumar Kabi, Director, APOWA rendered a welcome and introductory talk in the assembly for dignitaries and participants in the second session of the programme. During the ceremony, Dr. M. Patnaik, Forest Range officer, Rajnagar Mangrove Division attended as the chief resource person and addressed the participants and informed them about the importance of Mother Earth. He suggested that scientific community as well as environmentalists and the groups working for protection of environment should work together for the goal. Among others, Mr. Manoj Kumar Satapathy, Eco guide teacher, USAK was participated as resource person. In his talk, he expressed the role of students and community in preservation and conservation of Earth. Apart from that, Mr. Mahanta Kumar Mallick, Forester, Rajnagar Mangrove Division addressed to the participants on this occasion. The programme was concluded by the Vote of Thanks by Mr. Manamohan Kundu, coordinator, APOWA. All the team members of APOWA were present on this occasion. Overall, it was learning and a fruitful experience for the participants. **Submitted by Bijaya Kumar Kabi, E-mail: mail@apowa.org, www.apowa.org**

Environmental Awareness Programme by Green Wings, TNAU, Coimbatore, TN

Green wings, a student environmental organisation of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, conducted a workshop on environmental awareness for the students from standard 1st to 5th of the government Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Kendra School located in the premises of TNAU, in accordance with 'Earth hour' on the 26 March 2010.

Around 70 students participated in the workshop, which was handled by the student volunteers from TNAU. The

children were elucidated about the problems of environmental degradation through a short talk on the five elements of nature. The activity kits provided by ZOO were distributed to the kids, using which they were explained about the variety of fauna present on this planet, its beauty and significance. The kits were very useful, we conducted a small quiz using the information booklet given in the kits and the drawing books were very enticing. The students were very enthusiast about the material and we had a good response. Also, emphasis was laid on the degradation of habitats due to clearance of forests and pollution of water bodies which leads to dwindling

of population, climate change and rising global temperatures.

Other activities included games like "energy relay". The amphibian kits were a hit with children, with most of them sporting the masks till the end of the session! They were also found engrossed in reading the amphibian guide book during the small breaks that were provided in between. It was a very enlightening session for the kids who still wave out to and tell the volunteers what they are doing to save the environment, every time they meet them. Looking forward to work with ZOO in the future also.

Submitted by: S. Keerthikrutha, Email: kskrutha@gmail.com



Child colouring the frog picture in the amphibian colouring book

Kabul Zoo celebrated Earth Day 2010 on the theme of Afghan animals

This is the first time in the history of Kabul Zoo celebrated Earth Day at newly constructed auditorium on 22nd April 2010, from 9:00 am to 12:00 am.

As per the agenda I anchored the programme, at first I welcomed all the guests to Kabul Zoo Earth Day's celebration gathered in the new building. Then, I explained about the improvements of Kabul zoo in the past eight years.

Kabul Mayor Eng M. Younes Nawandish in his speech remembered the Friends of Kabul Zoo who donated and supported the zoo in the past years specially Mayhew Animal Home, Zoological Society of London (ZSL), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), US Embassy in Kabul and members of South Asian Zoo Association for Regional Cooperation (SAZARC). He also announced that the proposed zoo extension plans which involves a new master plan and wanted help from donors for making the master plan.

Mr. Eng Najibulalh Yamin, Technical Deputy of National Environment Protection Agency (NEPA) spoke about his Agency's role in protection of wildlife, environment and other developments of his organization and also he thanked Kabul Zoo for celebrating Earth Day for the first time in Kabul zoo. Mr. Najibullah Nazary, Education Officer of Kabul Zoo and Dr. Arif from WCS played games and activities with students about eco system and also Mrs. Pamela Wayne the wife of US Ambassador in Kabul gave a presentation to the students and interacted with them by asking questions about animals of Afghanistan.

Mr. Tony Wayne, US Ambassador in his talk, briefed about Earth Day celebration and wildlife of Afghanistan. He thanked Kabul zoo specially Mr. Aziz Gul Saqib, Director for his great effort to have a good zoo for Afghan people and the recent



Azizgul, Director, Kabul Zoo welcoming the students and guests



Students and guests at the Earth Day celebration



Students playing food web game



Guests and students touring around the zoo

improvements of Kabul zoo after Mr. Aziz became a director.

We presented special gifts which is sculpture of animals of Afghanistan to US Ambassador, Mrs. Ambassador, Deputy of NEPA, Director of WCS, Culture Affairs and Press Manager of US Embassy.

After that, we went around the zoo together with guests and students. Students asked questions about some animals and we answered. Then we went back to the venue, there students and their teachers were presented with gifts. At the end we had refreshments with guests, students and teachers.

We had a press conference with media and we requested our Afghan people not to hunt the animals and help the government.

Submitted by: Azizgul, Director, Kabul Zoo, Afghanistan.

Email: azizsaqib1@yahoo.com



Students presented with gifts by US Ambassador and his wife



Special gifts to the guests: Sculpture of Afghan animals