

Celebrate WED IYB -- Reports

This year for World Environment Day, Zoo Outreach Organisation took up the WAZA challenge of convincing educators to combine WED with the International Year of Biodiversity. We quickly created a simple WED IYB on a very stringent budget and wrote to our educator friends. We could afford to make only 1500 packets. In no time at all they disappeared. The following people and organisations ordered them and celebrated WED IYB with ZOO and WAZA this year. We are publishing reports this issue and next. Thanks to the people who ordered and conducted programmes.

1. Sujata Lakshman, ISHA Home School, C'tore-50
2. Latha Tampi, Trivandrum, Kerala-50 pkt
3. Manjunath, Guntur, AP-50 pkt
4. Santhosh Sahoo, Chandigarh-100 pkt
5. Bijaya Kumar Kabi, Apowa, Orissa-50 pkt
6. Sivakumar, WWF, Kerala-50 Pkt

7. Vinod Kumar Damodar, Calicut, Kerala-50 pkt
8. Jessie Jayakaran, Chennai & Madurai-200 pkt
9. A.K.Gupta, Tripura-200 pkt
10. B. Vijay Kumar, DFO, AP- 50 pkt
11. Mamtha, Mysore-50 pkt
12. Dilip Chakravarthy, CEE, Madhya Pradesh-100
13. Lourdes-Auroville, Pondicherry-50 pkt
14. Mysore Zoo, Karnataka-100 pkt
15. Rathinasabapathy, Coimbatore Zool Park-100
16. Anbu Charity, Rathnapuri, Coimbatore-75 pkt



MANY SPECIES • ONE PLANET • ONE FUTURE
WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY • 5 JUNE 2010



ZOO Celebrated IYB on WED with the students of Anbu Charities, Coimbatore

At the suggestion of the Executive Director of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA), the Zoo Outreach Organisation celebrated World Environment Day allied with the International Year of Biodiversity 2010. I contacted Anbu Charities in Rathnapuri, Coimbatore and requested their permission to conduct a programme with their students. Anbu Charities helps underprivileged school students of all ages by providing free special coaching in the evening hours. About 41 students from 13 schools, 7 staff and a few parents gathered at Anbu Charities Trust on the evening of 5th June to celebrate IYB on WED 2010. These boys and girls of ages ranging from 11-15 years attended this kind of environmental programme for the

first time in their lives and hence they were fully involved. The hall was decorated with the slogan of WED theme and posters showing the logos of various organisations that are involved in WED in the IYB 2010 celebrations. This gave a good

introduction about global and local organization involved in these special events. In leading the programme, I went more into the details of these organisations and briefly talked about biodiversity and its status using a Power Point presentation.



Students posing with enlarged Five Kingdom cards



Students with ZOO's International Year of Biodiversity education kits

The theme of the WED 2010 slogan 'Many species One planet. One future' was introduced and the gathering received a WED packet designed by ZOO which had a booklet, a mask, Kingdom card, IYB sticker, drama ideas and 'what to do' instruction pamphlet. The logo printed on the packet cover helped them to understand the theme of the logo which has a representation of the globe and a representation of living things drawn on it. The set of cards helped participants to understand the word "biodiversity" and the 5 kingdoms of life. The gathering was asked to read the card and details were interpreted. They also learned how they can help preserve biodiversity from the pamphlet provided in the packet. They all agreed to do something for the betterment of the environment and wildlife. At the end simple questions were asked to know how far they had understood the content of the programme. As a token of appreciation, students who gave best answers were given wildlife stickers. The youngest of the gathering, who was very attentive, received a t-shirt as a special gift. The students promised that they will carry the message to their family members and their school friends to spread the message of Biodiversity conservation. The sponsors of the packet namely SeaWorld and Busch Garden Conservation Fund, WAZA and CBSG were acknowledged for

their support. Thanks to Mr Franklin, the Secretary of Anbu Charities and their staff for coordinating this programme and for organising full coverage in the press and local TV channels for providing full coverage. **BA Daniel, ZOO, C'tore. E-mail: badaniel@zooreach.org.**

Training programme in Biodiversity for corporation school students

In order to create awareness of the importance of biodiversity, a training programme for students of Madurai Corporation School was held Friday at Ponmudiya Corporation Girls Higher Secondary School at

Goripalayam. The programme was inspired by the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums which asked members to organize programmes combining a dual purpose of celebrating World Environment Day and with a theme of International Year of Biodiversity 2010.

The event was organised by ZOO Outreach Organisation which provided clever materials about biodiversity and the most important organizations which work for it in the world. Jessie Jayakaran, co-organiser and Resource person, led the programme.

Students were given the educational packets free of charge by ZOO. The education packets contain simple items which have a characteristic of making it easy for the organizer and resource person to engage the students. A sticker, beloved item by students, highlighting the need to celebrate International Year of Biodiversity is always popular. A small booklet featured a theme "Our Future on Earth" related information on how the various international organizations work with to protect and save the environment. A handout focused on the means to be taken up to



Corporation Chief Education Officer delivering keynote address



Planting trees at school campus

protect the environment and make the world more sustainable. Also some learning cards were provided featuring the 5 Kingdoms of Life on earth, such as Monera, Protista, Fungi, Plantae and Animalia. Some drama scenarios were created and suggested to the students to plan and enact. Students can use the mask and materials to conduct street dramas to spread the message of the Year of Biodiversity.

Since 2010 is the International Year of Biodiversity, zoos around the world, including those of South Asia will be acknowledging the Year of Biodiversity. Zoo Outreach Organisation will try to provide many materials and methods for celebrating the Year by reaching out to the public to enhance their awareness of the need to give attention to this important global project. **Jessie Jeyakaran report from Hindu Newspaper.**

Biodiversity Education for School students in Puducherry

Biodiversity education is an important tool for encouraging students to make the changes in their attitude, behaviour for protection and conservation of local precious natural resources, wild animals as well as environment. The main focus of this Biodiversity education is to explain the complexity of ecosystems and interrelationships between organisms and their environment at local level. They need to understand and develop

skills related to solve various threats to biodiversity and problems with reference to local context. In order to develop the Biodiversity consciousness, developing attitudes, values and skills, and promoting participation among school students about their local Biodiversity non formal action oriented participation methods such as field trips, hands-on-activities, community studies, debates, autobiography, games, and practical in field is vital role to achieve environmentally sustainable future. Local environment such as lakes, ponds, vegetation, animals, water, air and soil is the richest resource base for environmental studies for students.

Everyone in the world depends on natural ecosystem to provide the resources for a healthy and secured life. Humans have made unprecedented changes in ecosystems in recent decades to meet their expanding populations and booming economy. Human activities have taken the planet to the edge of a substantial wave of species extinctions, further threatening our own well-being. The pressures on water, air, and natural ecosystems will increase globally in coming decades unless human attitudes and actions change.

It is important to understand and communicate how man's cultural activities (e.g., religious, economic, political, and social and others) influence the environment from an ecological perspective. Understand and communicate how an individual's behaviours impact on the environment from an ecological perspective. Identify a wide variety of local, regional, national and international environmental issues and the ecological and cultural implications of these issues. Identify and communicate the viable alternative solutions available for remediation crucial environmental issues as well as the ecological and cultural implications of these various solutions. Understand the need for environmental issue investigation and evaluation as prerequisite to sound decision making. Understand the roles played by differing human beliefs and values in environmental issues and the need for personal values clarification as an important part of environmental decision making. Understand the need for responsible citizenship action in the solution of environmental issues. Identify and describe a wide variety of successful local, regional, national, and international sustainable development.



Performing drama on mind your monkey manners

Wildlife population in Pondicherry comprises of small mammals, birds, reptiles and fishes. A large number of birds are sighted in the botanical garden and the two large water bodies namely, Ossudu and Bahour tanks. Similarly, the backwaters of Karaikal also attract a number of migratory aquatic birds including ducks, teals, poczhards etc. The wild animals recorded in the U.T. are jackal, black napped hare, bonnet macaque, Jungle cat, civet cat, mongoose, monitor lizard, olive ridley Turtle and leather backed turtle. Among these, the olive ridley turtle and leather backed turtle have been declared as endangered. Objectives of the programme designed for several schools in the area were to discover/ investigate varieties of plants and animals, to name some types of plants and animals found in the pupils respective villages and in nearby bushes or forests, to discover the value of animals and plants in different ecological groups, to recognize that other living things have a right to share the environment with us/ attaching value to other living things in our environment, etc. They also played various games provided by Zoo Outreach Organization. During field trips, students divided into four groups of 12 students each and given different activities, such as bird watching, plant survey, aquatic organisms, and pollution monitoring groups. At the end of the field trip students were asked to submit a report with description of their findings and also they were asked to share observations.

Games were a powerful technique to demonstrate and teach environmental concepts to both children and adults (Project WILD 2000). They can energize a teaching environment, immerse learners in the material, promote collaboration with other players, and encourage students to learn from their mistakes (Teed 2004). During each biodiversity education programme, several games were used to explain different concepts such as

butterfly conservation, tiger hunting to explain predator prey interaction, fruit bats and their role in pollination and frogs as indicators species of healthy ecosystems. **Submitted by R. Alexandar and P. Pushparaj, Dept. Ecology & Env Sci, Pondicherry Univ. Email: enviroalexandar@gmail.com**

World Environment Day 2010

World Environment Day programme and an awareness programme on Climate Change under National Environment Awareness Campaign (NEAC) was organized on 5 June 2010 by WWF-INDIA, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh State Office and North East Biotechnological Association (NEBA) in association with All Assam Women Literary Association in Gauhati University. The programme started with tree planting of 100+ saplings in University campus. The theme of this year is *Many Species, One Planet One Future*. An awareness meeting was held from 1.30 PM in the Biotechnology Department where different speakers expressed concerns about the growing environmental problems affecting the ecological balance, the opportunity WED and IYB provide for focusing different target groups (in particular women this year), the serious effects of man-made causes of environmental changes and global warming and the limitations of space and resources and need to utilize them sustainably. In the inaugural some of the issues related were need for massive awareness drive to find probable solutions through actions, the increasing level of GHG (green house gases) as one of the principal causes of global warming, dangers of climate change and its probable impacts on all the species on the planet, the unabated destruction of forests and natural resources in the name of unplanned developmental activities and participatory management in remote Choutaki village in Assam which recorded a World Record in 2008 for planting nearly 3 lakh tree in 24 hours. These examples

calls for involving of local communities and common people in the major conservation initiatives. It is encouraging to note that subsequently more such efforts of massive plantation are taking place in various places of the state which is the need of the hour. Many participants questioned in these topics.

An opening song on environment was composed and performed by the members of All Assam Womens Literary Association. A recitation was also done by its members on the occasion. The vote of thanks was given by Ms Nandita Chaliha, Secretary, All Assam Women Literary Association, Jalukbari branch. More than 100 women participants from different branches of the prestigious literary association of the state took part in the programme. They requested the organizers for undertaking such awareness programmes in other cities and towns of the region also. Several academics, scientists, NGOs, researchers and students also participated in the programme.

Submitted by Dr. Surajit Baruah, State Coordinator, WWF-India, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh State Office, Guwahati. Email: sbaruah@wwfindia.net

WED 5th June at Lahore Zoo, Pakistan

World Environment Day (WED) is a day that stimulates awareness of the environment and enhances public attention and political action. WED began on the day coinciding with the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, 5-16 June 1972. It was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1972 and the first World Environment Day was celebrated on 1973. The theme for the World Environment Day (WED) 2010 was *Many Species, One Planet, One Future*, a message focusing on the central importance to humanity of the globe's wealth of species and ecosystems. The WED theme also supports this year's UN International Year of Biodiversity. Rwanda, the East



Guests and speakers on the dias

African country that is embracing a transition to a Green Economy, was the global host of World Environment Day 2010; declared by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Lahore Zoo celebrates WED. Conservation education is the

Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Lahore on 5 June, 2010.

Lahore Zoo through its Education and Awareness Programme celebrated the event, to create awareness among students and visitors about importance of healthy and clean environment,

Ecology, University of Animal & Veterinary Sciences, Lahore participated.

Director, Lahore Zoo in his welcome address told the audience about drastic impact of environmental degradation on the lives of human beings and animals as well. He related Lahore Zoo's plan to plant 3000 trees within zoo premises and 1000 have been planted already.

Qadeer Mehal, Director, Wildlife and Parks highlighted that the little acts can lead to a big change, therefore everyone should play his role for healthy environment, which directly or indirectly improve the mankind and biodiversity. Dr. Mahmood ul-Hassan, University of Vety & Animal Sciences lectured on the importance of Bats, its threats and conservation status and about his booklet on bats in Urdu for students.

Zoo Education Officer, Lahore Zoo explained the role of Conservation Education in modern Zoo for future naturalists. Mr. Syed Shahid Ali, CEO Treat Blade Company appreciated the efforts of Lahore Zoo management for well caring of the animal and arranging such informative celebration for young students as they are future of tomorrow. Mr. Rizwan Mahboob, Additional Secretary Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries distributed the educational material i.e. small information books on Bats of South Asia in Urdu developed by UVAS, Lahore and Kids animal coloring book developed by Zoo education programme among the students.

Many representatives from different news papers and T.V channels gave live coverage to this event, and helped out Lahore Zoo management to spread its message among masses. Lahore Zoo management paid special thanks to dignitaries and sponsors as well as BCI, ZOO and CCINSA.

Submitted by Bushra Khan, Lahore Zoo, Education Officer. Email: bushrank@yahoo.com



Book on bats in Urdu and bat kits are distributed to the students

process of influencing people's attitudes, emotions, knowledge, and behaviours about wildlife and wild places. Conservation Education is the vision of Lahore Zoo and for its practical implementation, we celebrated World Environment Day in collaboration with the Wildlife and Ecology Department, University of

and correlating this day with conservation of Bats, the important but neglecting component of ecosystem. Many dignitaries and university staff as well as school students from Children library Complex, Students of Environmental Sciences from Kinnaird College and Students of Wildlife and

WED with IABWS, Andhra Pradesh

With the collaboration of SEVEN networks, we celebrated World Environment Day on 5 June at Pragathi School, Penukonda, using of Zoo Outreach Organisation education packets, which were very useful to us. In this celebration, Project Director Manjunath explained the importance of WED and the role of students to protect environment. Every student should take responsibility to protect the environment and practice wise use of natural resources like water, electricity, gas, petrol, etc. and reuse of products. He also suggested that every student should plant at least 2 trees a year and protect them.



Students wearing ZOO's plant masks

As per "Article 51(g) it shall be the fundamental duty of every citizen to protect environment. So every student can follow this and do their part to save the world. School Principal Mr. Srinivasulu said that it is a great opportunity to our students to know the importance of environmental protection, and

and public about this movement to make more people aware.

Education officer, Chenna Reddy said that in the past every village had thick forests and wildlife. Now those have been lost. Our national animal tiger and national bird peacock are now

the future generations could enjoy the nature. At the end by using ZOO material students played drama and also a video was shown on the important of environmental protection.

Submitted by
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Students with International Year of Biodiversity masks

participate in this program. Everyone today onwards should start protecting natural resources and communicate with parents

endangered. These are all happened because of people's selfishness. So he asked students start to protect the environment from today so that

Education Reports from India

Snake conservation education programmes in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

ZOOWATCH conducted 2 environment education programmes which was an educational seminar on the importance of snakes in our environment. Our seminar was conducted at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan school, Trivandrum on 18 February. Members present were A Gopinathan, P Babu, D Joshi, Madhu, Prasanth, V.Suresh and Prof. Valsala Kumari, retd Prof, Womens College in Trivandrum. School Principal and staff provided the venue and ensured we had all the basic facilities required.