

WILDLIFE WEEK in the International Year of Biodiversity

Indian Wildlife Week is coming along soon. This year is special because this year we learned that ten years of beating the Biodiversity drum have not resulted in saving much habitat or many species. We have to try harder.

Indian Wildlife Week is a "grande carnivale", a Fifty-plus years old government sponsored celebration of Indian wildlife. No other city or country or region has anything quite like it for wildlife conservation. We in India can't afford to let this opportunity slip by, particular this year, the International Year of Biodiversity.

So, just like Gerald Dick, Executive Director of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums, WAZA, suggested for Earth Day, lets make Wildlife Week this year a Special Event. It is also special, but this year is more special.

The theme of the WAZA conference this year is BIODIVERSITY IS LIFE. Truer words could not be spoken. We all are dependent on biodiversity for life. We all ARE Biodiversity and we are biodiversity dependent as well.

India as a country is very fortunate to have had a great history of rulers and governors with interest and admiration for wild animals and plants. India has always been a wildlife country. It is hard to hear wildlife news from India, however, which is so much like news from other countries without such a rich history of interest and value for wildlife. We all have to try harder.

This year for Wildlife Week we are featuring five new things

1. a folder on biodiversity which will go in all packets whatever their theme
2. a new animal welfare packet, wildlife conservation welfare
3. a new bear packet, and
4. a new primate packet
5. a new climate change folder

We also have a good number of other species or issue based items or materials also such as for the amphibian crisis, primate field guide, human elephant conflict. We have divided these into two categories, "New" and "Tested and True".

New

Biodiversity and life (leaflet)
Wildlife Conservation Welfare, in the wild and in the zoo (packet)
All Bears are Rare ... do you Care ? (Packet)
Primate's Fate ... is it too Late ? World's 25 Most Endangered (packet with brochure)
Climate Change and Loss of Biodiversity (leaflet)

Tested and True

Amphibian Crisis Continues (packets)
Amphibian Biodiversity Crisis (calendars for IYB 2010)
Amphibian sticker (large)
Amphibian colouring book (booklet)
South Asian Primate pocket guide (brochure)
Getting Along with Elephants Ele-Kit (packet)
Elephant calendar for 2010
The Greenhouse Ghost (a story about climate change)

All items will come with a biodiversity facts leaflet, sticker, or mask.

ZOO PDF Presentations

ZOO staff has developed a large number of interesting, pertinent presentations which you could use for a programme during Wildlife Week. These presentations are by Sally Walker, Sanjay Molur, B.A. Daniel and R. Marimuthu on a variety of topics, including most themes mentioned here and more. If anyone is interested they can write (only email accepted) to us for a list and also for conditions of use.

We request you to try and relate all of your activities, no matter what species or taxon group you are featuring, to overall biodiversity loss. In our material we will give ways to do that. If we bring everything back to one point: biodiversity is life ... our life and wildlife's life, plant life and animal life, big creature and small creatures lives. Also one of our very pressing issues today – climate change – is also affecting biodiversity loss. Plan your programme early and let us know what you want to order.

**Sally Walker, Convenor SANIZE
IZE Regional Representative**

