

Education Reports from India

World Forestry Day Celebration 2010 by Nature Club, St. John's College, Palayamkottai

An ecocamp was organized for students in connection with the celebration of 'World Forestry Day' at Koonthankulam Bird Sanctuary Tirunelveli District, Tamil Nadu on

delivered a talk on the conservation of bats. The educational materials provided by Zoo Outreach Organization Coimbatore were used as resource material. The systematic position, type and behaviour of bats were explained with pictures and specimens so participants

prizes were awarded to the winners. The ecocamp came to an end with the proposal of vote of thanks by the participants. The camp provided rich field experience to the students. The participants observed the various types of vegetation and agriculture fields during the travel. The participants expressed their heartfelt thanks to the sponsors of the educational materials-Zoo Outreach Organization, Coimbatore. **Submitted by Dr. A. Selvin Samuel, St. John's College, Palayamkottai, Tamil Nadu.**
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Students using ZOO education kits at the Eco-camp

27th March 2010. Participants reached the Sanctuary in the morning. Dr. A. Selvin Samuel, Staff Adviser Nature Club, explained the objectives of the camp and welcomed the participants. Prof. Rajakumari, Dept. of Zoology delivered a talk on Ornithology explaining the techniques involved in bird watching and bird identification and listing.

Next there was a field visit guided by Mr. Paulpandi, a resident of Koonthankulam village and an expert in bird conservation. He shared his knowledge and experience with students as they walked along the banks of the tank and observed the flight pattern, feeding and nesting behaviour of the birds. They also observed the birds residing on the trees in the village which was a thrilling experience for the students.

In the afternoon Dr. Suthakar Isaac, Associate Professor,

realized the ecological role of the bats. This was followed by discussion in which students participated actively and clarified their doubts regarding bats. A quiz was also conducted and

SANIZE Activity Reports from Assam

Educating Women for Biodiversity: 28-02-2010, Megamix Nature Club, Assam
To mark the opportunity of IYB 2010, the Megamix Nature Club began its round-the-year campaign to educate the female section of community to understand, respect and protect biodiversity. On the occasion of NSD, 28th Feb 2010, Megamix conducted the first program by targeting the women folk. Participants in the program were the 30 leading women of civil society organizations, schools and SHGs of Dhakuakhana. The



Women Group attended International Year of Biodiversity programmes

two themes of the program were – ‘what is biodiversity’ and ‘the way we live as an element of it’. In addition, there was a 15 minutes talk about Mr. C.V. Raman and another 10 minutes introduction about the IYB2010 activities to be conducted by Megamix. In the program, Likhan Gohain, Dr. Amal Dutta, Debojit Phukan, Smt. Podma Bora and Narendra Nath Dutta were the resource persons.

Capacity Buidling of PVD on Biodiversity: 04.04.2010, Bokulguri, Assam

This program was designed for central executives of Prakritik Vikshu Dol (founded in 2005) organization of Bokulguri, near Majuli. The place is a river basin and a traditional living place of missing tribes of Assam. Debojit Phukan along from Megamix was resource person for this full day program comprising of classroom and outdoor activities. The main task of the day was to explain the shaping of livelihood of the community by the biodiversity around them. Evidence of these around the village was vivid, highlighting housing, food habit, wild medicine and fishes.

Wildlife Management Workshop: 29-05-2010, Dhemaji College
This was an academic program of Dhemaji College to educate the two-year diploma course students of the UGC sponsored faculty of Forestry and Wildlife Management Cell. Debojit Phukan and Md. Anwar Husain (Zoology Dept.) were resource persons for the day. Among the 45 participating students 17 high school teachers admitted to the faculty. In the workshop, Debojit Phukan was to teach about seven prime ways of management of wildlife in the context of Assam in these challenging days. The products of ZOO, WAZA, IZE and WTI were the major resource to brighten the learning, ideas and knowledge of the participants.

Submitted by Mr. Debojit Phukan, Co-ordinator, Megamix Nature Club, Assam. E-mail: phukan.debojit@rediffmail.com

World Environment Day 2010 at Ewart Matriculation Hr. Sec. School, Chennai

On 14th June 2010, the students of Std VI were enthusiastically sharing their experience during the summer holidays, the new lessons according to the new

syllabus and the competitions conducted on World Environment Day. Hence they were very happy to know more about World Environment Day theme “Many species – One Planet – One Future. The Principal welcomed the participants and introduced the Resource person. The free educational packets received from Zoo Outreach Organisation were distributed to students who were thrilled to see the cover and identify its content. Elucidatory questions were asked about the animals, plants, and peoples of various nations. Slowly the definition for biodiversity, genetic diversity, species diversity and eco-systems diversity were explained. The follow-up discussion was carried out in such a way that students began telling the environmental conditions of the world and the reasons for that. By observing, they identified the things around the classroom through the windows and door. They were able to understand the cover page with resource person’s explanation on UNEP and its symbol. The headband and the colourful picture on the sticker were self explanatory and they



Students enthusiastically participated in WED programme

enjoyed using them. 'The What is Booklet' seemed to be a mini-encyclopedia, so the guide teacher and the resource person explained in detail. The "Wheel of Life" impressed them with an unforgettable mental map. The Kingdoms of Life parts made them to recollect the names of all pictures printed on it except kingdom I Monera 'One kingdom one week' was allotted as a follow up. The Do Do Do... Suggestions were renamed as MUST do. At last they were divided into groups to discuss the species according to its habitat. They enacted a short play on Know your Monkey Manners. The teacher guide Miss Vivilina recorded the programme. At the end of the programme the Principal Mrs. Emily Jugirtha Titus interacted with the students and encouraged them to follow-up. With the globe, mask, badges and placards of species they arranged to highlight the theme Many Species, One Planet, One Earth. **Submitted by Jessie Jeyakaran, Chennai. Email: jessiejey@rediffmail.com**

Workshop on Community-based Mangroves Rehabilitation

International Mangrove Action Day 2010. Mangrove forests, one of the most productive ecosystems, are also one of the most vulnerable ecosystems. Because of the complex interactions of a changing climate and forces of globalization, mangroves and mangroves-dependent communities have been witnessing an unprecedented threat. These ecosystems support and strengthen the lives and livelihoods of tens of thousands of coast-dependent communities in Orissa.

The International Mangrove Action Day 2010 provided the much required framework to initiate, support and strengthen a community-based mangrove rehabilitation institutional framework in these coastal areas. The KIIT-Centre for the Environment and Global Sustainability (KIIT-CEGS), a boundary organization at the

knowledge-policy-action continuum under the Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) University, in association with the Action for Protection of Wild Animals (APOWA), a local-level NGO, organized a day long community-led workshop at village Badakot in the coastal district of Kendrapara. This was also a moment to discuss about the importance of and opportunities through the International Year of Biodiversity (2010). With a formal introduction of the background and sharing of recent findings from the World Mangrove Atlas 2010, community-leaders and members led the entire discussion on mangroves rehabilitation and the ways through which communities can take part and own this. The group came out with the following recommendations:

- More emphasis on awareness



People from coastal villages attended the Mangrove Rehabilitation programme

generation among the communities about mangroves, natural disasters and climate change;

- Continuous engagement with the communities through field-based restoration and rehabilitation activities;
- Design and development of an appropriate programme at the interface of mangroves, livelihoods and disaster risk reduction to incentivize the communities;
- Multi-level collaboration and association with the

agencies of the state (forest, revenue, and others);

- Ownership of these activities and the entire process through community-based institutional arrangements;
- Involvement of women members through skill development and participation in alternative-livelihood opportunities; and
- Young people of the communities to lead the process with due consultation with the village elders.

The entire discussion was focused on the action part with emphasis on 'how' rather than 'what' and 'why'. The background of the workshop and initial processes were initiated by Mr. Bijay Kabi (APOWA), Mr. Jyotiraj Patra (KIIT-CEGS) and Dr. Mihir Pattnaik (Range Officer). **Submitted by Bijaya Kumar Kabi, APOWA, Orissa. Email: apowa1999@yahoo.co.in.**

