

Z.O.O. Education Reports

Save Bio-Diversity 2010- Follow up activities by students at Chennai Schools

In June Eco-Task Force members submitted their holiday projects during the month of May.

1. Cleaning and maintaining the cleanliness of one meter area in front of their house.
2. Analysis of 1 square feet area in garden and number of species observed were recorded.

trees in maintaining the environmental balance.

A training programme on biodiversity conservation entitled, 'Many Species, One Planet, One Future' was organized and the awards were distributed for Countdown 2010 programme on 5 June 2010.

Dr. S. Balaji, Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Tamil Nadu, was the chief guest for the

children to participate in the programme. Our School won the first prize for the project work and for creating awareness about the environment among the students. **Submitted by Headmistress, Shri RKM- SVMHS School for Girls, T.Nagar, Chennai.**

Follow-up of WED 2010

The follow-up of WED 2010 was carried out on 9 July 2010 along with Guntur Subbiah Pillai Girls Higher Secondary School and Karnataka Ganga Higher Secondary School at Saradha Vidhyalaya Higher Secondary School, Chennai. One cubic feet of soil was taken out. Students identified earthworm, eggs of tiny size sheels, ants, dried leaves, pieces of cloth, plastic carry bags etc. They noted the temperature, colour, water content of the soil.

Sustainable Development and Biodiversity training for Madurai corporation school teachers

Three one-day training programmes were conducted for Madurai corporation school teachers from 18-20 August 2010. The programme was held at Ponmudiyar Corporation Higher Secondary School, Madurai and sponsored by CPR EE Centre, Chennai. The programme included welcome address given by Head Master of the school. The Commissioner of



Tree plantation drive at school campus

3. Analysis of 1 square feet area near the sea shore and number of species observed were recorded. These activities motivated the students towards research activities.

Beema Bamboo saplings are planted in the school campus and they are taken care of by our Eco-Task Force members. They do gardening after school hours and monitor the growth of the saplings. Each member grows small plants and monitors them. Medicinal plants have been planted in the school campus and their growth is checked periodically. Students learned the importance of growing trees and learned the biological role of

programme. ExNoRa International, Joint General Secretary Mr. R. Govindaraj and TEXWOC President Mrs. Radhika Anand participated in the programme.

Headmistress gave a warm welcome to all and spoke about the various environmental activities undertaken by the school. Mrs. Jessie Jeyakaran of ZEN (ZOO's Educator Network) explained about the training programme and motivated the



Mr. John Victor presenting on biodiversity of mosquito vector in South India



Amphibian education programme conducted to the teachers by using ZOO's kits

Madurai Corporation gave the key note address. After that Corporation Education Officer spoke. Mr. Thirunavukkarasu, Education Officer, CPR EE gave his introductory talk about sustainable development and biodiversity at length. Then he chaired a discussion session on the same subject with the participants. Following to this, Mr. John Victor, Senior Entomologist, Virology Laboratory, Madurai Medical College gave a presentation on Biodiversity of Mosquito Vector in South India and had discussion session on this.

Ms. Jessie Jeyakaran, Member, ZEN (Z.O.O.'s Educator Network) conducted an amphibian education programme by using ZOO's education packets and shared the current amphibian crisis and its conservation. Teacher participants liked this active learning programme very much. She continued to share another session on environmental education guide to teachers. It has set of printed materials on energy, unhygienic in the cities, water, forests, land, population, and atmosphere. At the end the future plans were discussed and the certificates were presented to all the participants. **Submitted by Ms. Jessie Jeyakaran, Email: jessiejey@rediffmail.com**

ordinator were the coordinators of the programme. The programmes conducted during the period were: Using animal pictures, charts, environmental education about sanctuaries and Red List species was conducted. Skits, song and discussions were held on elephants. There was a programme on monkeys using ZOO's primate education packets. Tiger sanctuaries were explained with stickers and pictures.

A short biography of Mahatma Gandhi was read and Sathyagraham seminar was held. In this seminar ZOO's bear packets were used and



ZOO's amphibian resource materials displayed during World Wetlands Day

Caldwell School National Green Corps Environmental Education programmes

Caldwell School conducted several environmental education activities from September 2009-May 2010 through its 50 National Green Corps (NGC) members on the theme "Unite together to combat climate change". Mr. T. F. Joseph, Environmental Awareness Co-ordinator, Cheranmahadevi Ed. District, Mr. Joel Revingston, Headmaster and Mrs. Rani Kirubairaj, NGC Co-

students pledged that "I will not harm my nature".

Other programmes included: Frog conservation seminar: Encyclopedia, charts and preserved frog specimens were used to explain the students about frog and need for conservation. World Animal Welfare Day: The theme of the day was "save animals". Skits, songs and dance were performed. World Habitat Day: In

environmental class, preservation of fauna and flora, controlling the pollution and the importance of energy conservation was told.

During wildlife week a rally was arranged carrying flag, placard, wearing mask and chanting slogans on saving wildlife. A seminar on preservation of wildlife was conducted by Nithiyantharaj and procession held up to Thisaiyanvillai. At that time of World Natural Day students were pledged to celebrate noiseless Deepavali. During International Biodiversity Day drawing competitions for 6-8 standard and seminar was arranged for 9-11 standard students.

In another environmental class, we taught about amphibians using amphibian charts. On World Wetlands Day the slogan was save amphibians. Skits, group song activities were done by the students wearing amphibian masks. The Head Master spoke on the Ramsar Convention. Another day tree counting activity was done by the green group. The Yellow group surveyed insects, reptiles, birds and mammals and submitted their observation report.

On World Forest and World Water Day using ZOO education materials skits, group song and ecological kural were composed. During World Sparrow Day there was an eco class on sparrows. Special one day camp was held at the school campus on World Earth Day. Bird watching, exhibition, drawings themed our earth..our future, essays on energy conservation, scrap book on eco news, film shows on medicinal plants, waste management, seminar on our earth, tree planting, bicycle ride and visit to integrated farming area were held on that day. Students were taken on a field visit to Koonthankulam Bird Sanctuary to study about different bird species, their nests and feather collection.

Submitted by Joel Revingston, HM & Rani Kirubairaj, NGC Co-ord, CCMHSS, Tirunneveli



Wildlife Week Rally on stressing the importance SAVE NATURE



Students sings a song on frog conservation



Mini skit performance on World Water Day

Report on Teacher Training Workshop in preparation for Wildlife Week

This year Wildlife Conservation Trust (WCT) associated with Rajkot Zoological Park and Gujarat Forest Department for activities of Wildlife Week – 2010 celebration. It has become imperative to open our eyes to changing environment and vanishing wildlife. It is very much important to instill in school children, who are tomorrow's world, a feeling of love for nature and thereby its conservation.

During the wildlife week every year, normally we use to reach students directly by organizing various competitions, exhibitions etc. This way we could reach only about 1000 students. But this year we thought of reaching many more of them through their school teachers. We found that

there are lots of enthusiastic teachers who want to do such awareness activities but cannot due to lack of knowledge and resources. So we organized a 'Workshop on Teacher's Training for Wildlife Week Celebration – 2010' on 18th September 2010 at Rajkot Zoo. Response was amazing and workshop was successful. Some highlights of the workshop were: 22 teachers from 16 schools participated; Participants were taught many games and activities; were taken for zoo visit; each participant was provided with Kit of about 34 items that included games material, 15 books for school library, set of 15 size (A-1) posters, information pamphlets, DVDs of wildlife movies and stationery for children.

At the end of workshop a very positive response and feedback

was received from the teachers. We feel that such workshops should be organized more than once in a year and more schools & teachers should be allowed to take part. One teacher also suggested that all the schools in district should be approached through District Education Officer. As an incentive to participating teachers, four best performing teachers, who actively celebrate the week with more students, will be awarded free trip with their family for one night and two days in Sasan (Gir). For this they must send their report by 25-October 2010. **Submitted by Kishore Kotecha, Wildlife Conservation Trust, <info@asiaticlion.org>, www.asiaticlion.org, News Blog: http://asiatic-lion.blogspot.com**



Participants of the teacher training workshop