

World Wetlands Day celebration at Government Schools in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh: The key role of wetlands in coping with climate change



Students colouring the wetland biodiversity sheets

World Wetlands day was celebrated on 2 February 2019 at Government schools of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh with collaborated efforts of Indian Biodiversity Conservation Society, Manav Organisation, Sarthak Pragati Prayas and Society for Scientific Research. The theme for 2019 was “Wetlands and Climate Change”. There is an increase in natural disasters such as storms, floods and droughts due to climate change. The well-managed and healthy wetlands absorb and store the excess rainfall and store it for the dry seasons; thus helping the communities to cope with extreme weathers such as floods as well as droughts.

The team members and volunteers, Abhishek Namdev, Saurabh Yadav, Rakesh Yadav and Daya Sagar participated in the field surveys so as to interact with the people and also assisted in the organization of awareness programs in schools. Lectures were delivered to students in an interactive way. Several questions were put up to them before letting them know about the wetlands around them such as what do you see when you are around a water body and have you seen people hunting the water birds? The students responded actively to the team members. Later they were provided with a poster on common water birds that included the bird names in Hindi. A colouring competition was also organized for the students. Colouring sheets were prepared so as to let the students learn about the biodiversity associated with the wetlands and the effect of climate change on them.



Interactive session on wetlands

For the primary sections, the names of the animal were written in Hindi. The students enjoyed the activity and coloured the sheets. The students were felicitated for the efforts.

The students were also provided with flyers on wetlands in Hindi. The teachers were interested in bringing awareness amongst the students so that they learn

critical thinking and problem solving skills. The team members worked closely with local teachers to pilot future activities related to wetland conservation. In spite of the truth that we are losing our diversity at an unstoppable pace, our most education system still have only indirect value for conservation, the most influential conservation efforts are those that have an apparent consideration of how their education actions unswervingly control conservation outcomes. The school staff Sarla Maurya, Mamta (Head), Tilak Ram Maurya (Head), Shailendra Yadav, Mamta Maurya, Anita Yadav, Poonam Singh Yadav, Vinay Kumar, Devendra Singh Yadav (Head), Ram Kishan Ahirwar, Ved Prakash Mishra, Mahesh Kumar Dave, Hari Shankar Kaushik, Nand Kumar Prajapati, Mangal Singh Yadav, Brijesh Yadav, Rohit Yadav and Harish Ahirwar) co-operated in the event with appreciable zeal.



Biodiversity associated with wetlands - Colouring activity

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