

Animal Welfare Fortnightly 2012 Education Reports

Animal Welfare Fortnightly at Mumbai Zoo

As a part of various educational activities, Veermata Jijabai Bhosale Udyan conducted three programmes during Animal welfare Fortnightly 2012. Twenty school students and a teacher participated in each programme. Poorva Byculla Municipal Secondary School participated in the programme on 17, 24 and 27 January from 10.30am to 1.30pm. The following activities were carried out.

An introductory presentation about role of zoos in wildlife conservation, protection and education as per National Zoo Policy was given for creating love, interest and awareness among them. A guided tour was conducted to show the zoo animals in the zoo. An emphasis was given on how to "observe" the animals in terms of their external characteristics.

Then presentation and demonstration of education materials received from Zoo Outreach Organisation was organised. The education packets titled Bears, Forest and Biodiversity, Frogs are part of Biodiversity, Bats and Biodiversity and the posters All Animals Alert and Lion-tailed Macaque were demonstrated to the participants with the brief information about threat to these important species and their role and importance in ecology. These materials were distributed to the participants and they were informed about how to use them to educate other students in their school. An interactive question and answer session, rakhi-tying ceremony was conducted thereafter. The programme was a grand success, the students and teachers expressed that the programme helped in creating awareness in their minds about the importance of protection of wildlife in general and role of zoos in conservation in particular. They also wished that more such programmes should be conducted in future.

Director of the Zoo presented participation certificates. **Submitted by: Mr. A.M. Anjankar, Director. Email: <vjbudyanzoo@yahoo.co.in>**

APOWA Odisha celebrates Animal Welfare Fortnight 2012

APOWA (Action for Protection of Wild Animals) has been celebrating Animal welfare Fortnight from 14th January to 31st January each year since its inception in Odisha. Our main aim is to create awareness, to treat animals



Students at the zoo during guided tour



Zoo's education materials demonstrated to the students

with respect to kindness and compassion. During Animal Welfare Fortnight 2012 a series of animal welfare programmes were conducted by APOWA as reported below:

14 January 2012: Teachers' Training Programme on Animal Welfare: A teachers' training programme was organized at APOWA office premises on the inauguration day of the Animal Welfare Fortnight. Dr. Laxman Behera, ex-Director, Animal Resource Devt. Dept. Govt of Odisha inaugurated the fortnight programme. Animal welfare was the main subject discussed. The session was more interactive with the teachers giving their inputs throughout the programme. The teachers were

also explained how to communicate the values of kindness to animals to children in their daily life. Thirty-two teachers participated in the programme.

21-22 January 2012: Eco tour for School Students to Bhitarkanika National Park: The 48 eco club students and 12 green teachers from ten different schools were taken on action-packed field tour to Barunei forests under Bhitarkanika National Park on 21 and 22 January, 2012. Throughout the tour the students were led by experienced biologists to learn about the history, biology, mangrove ecology etc. Our main tool in nature camp was nature experiences; explore



Pledging by tying rakhi to care for wildlife



Students playing mini skit on animal welfare



Studying about Mangroves in Barunei forests

the wonder of mangroves, exposure to marine and its resources, nature games and activities. The two-day programmes include environment research, interaction with environment experts, hands on activities, creative challenges and enriching exposure visits, beach clean activity, bird watch etc.

Live Experience to contact with Animals and Birds at Barunei Forest: Barunei has rich ecology surrounded with sea, dense mangrove and casuarina forests. Apart from the flora and fauna, Barunei has one of the most beautiful river mouth systems. Jackals, hyena, Red jungle fowl, crocodiles, spotted deer, wild boar, reptiles, river dolphins etc abound in the area. It is also a paradise for migratory birds. It's nearest beach Penth-Dobandi is known for Olive Ridley sea turtle's nesting ground. The entire region is a treasure trove of eco-education.

Day 1: After one and half an hour journey by boat from Rajnagar all the participants were assembled at Barunei forest. Gopinath Dash, Eco club master trainer and Bijaya Kabi, Director, APOWA started the programme with a brief orientation about the programme. The students were divided into three groups with three local river's name i.e. Brahmani, Baitarani and Hansua, which was lead by Gopinath Dash, Manoj Ku Satapathy and Bijaya Ku Kabi respectively. Three eco club teachers assisted the group leaders.

Exploring the Wonder of Nature...All three groups were taken to the nearest forest to learn about environment and its services. There they explore several types of mangroves and other tidal-zone vegetation, studied root system of mangroves, its life cycle and discussed their importance in Nature. The participants were able to see up close the vital role that mangrove forest and wetlands play, such as homes for wildlife like birds, crocodiles, spotted deers etc. Students were also observed how mangroves roots are a refuge for smaller fish and how they provide such a good barrier against coastal erosion. This activity was conducted under the guidance of their group leaders.

Beach Experience...In the afternoon session, the participants had a chance to visit the Penth-Dobandi beach, which is also one of the major sea turtle nesting ground to learn its

ecology and to discuss what they found from the beach and how they were linked to the natural system. The students and teachers were also got chance to observe the sea turtle hatchery at Dobandi. The students were also participated in a beach clean activity. Two experts Mr. Binod Acharya and Mr. Suvendu Behera were joined with the participants and interacted with them in the late afternoon.

Evening Programme...After a quick break all the participants were gathered at campsite for evening session. The camp participants enthusiastically participated in evening cultural programmes held within the camp venue. Forest range officers from local forest department, Mr. Binod Acharya and Mr. Suvendu Behera shared their field experience with participants, which was heartening. The students shared their experience and memorable moments of the camp too, which they are going to remember for a long time to come. Ending the first day with group presentation and recommendations by three group leaders.

Day 2: The day started with the morning activity "Bird Watching". The students identified the birds with the help of bird experts. It was a unique learning experience for them. In the mean time, the participants visited Sasanapeta and interacted with some marine fishermen and gathered information about endangered olive Ridley sea turtles.

Followed by a game an interactive planned with Mr. Chandan Jani, wildlife biologist from Wildlife Institute of India. He explained the various components of ecosystems such as plants, insects, animals, birds etc. to the participants.

Promise to Conserve Nature and Wildlife...Before the end of the programme, the students participated in a rakhi tying activity and took oaths to protect nature and wildlife. At the end of the day, students and teachers were encouraged to write about their experiences.

31 January 2012: Students Training Programme on Animal Welfare: The highlight of this programme was the wide range of enthusiasts. Ms. Satyabhama Das, Asst. Headmaster of the school delivered an inspiring speech. In her speech, she highlighted the prevention of cruelty to animals and animal welfare. Mr. Manoj Satapathy, Eco club in-charge teacher

explained the role and duty of students in Kindness Club activities. Mr. Bijaya Kumar Kabi, Director, APOWA insisted students to show kindness towards all living beings. He also explained the nutritional values of vegetarian diet. A total of 162 students participated in the programme.

Acknowledgement: APOWA thankful to Zoo Outreach Organization, Coimbatore, for supplying very attractive and useful educational materials for Animal Welfare Fortnight. We would also like to thank Mangrove Forest Division (WL), Rajnagar, all the participating schools, teachers and our volunteer team for their cooperation. **Submitted by: Bijaya Kumar Kabi, Email: mail@apowa.org.**

AWF celebration report of International Animal & Birds Welfare Society, Anantapur, AP
IA & BWS celebrated Animal Welfare Fortnight 2012 very grandly and usefully. This year we conducted

programmes in seven schools and 425 children participated in the programmes. Our first programme was conducted at M.P.U School, Duddebanda Village of Penukonda Mandal. Our Educational Officer Mrs. Ramiza explained about the importance of wildlife in the nature and role of students to protect them. She asked all students to take pledge to save the nature and to help wildlife live in the forest. ZOO educational materials were distributed and they wore animal masks and played games by climbing trees. Finally the best-performed students were awarded with gifts. The second programme was held at Pragathi English Medium School, Penukonda. We conducted essay writing and elocution competitions on wildlife welfare and importance of protecting natural resources. The first three winners were awarded with prizes. Third programme was conducted at Santhiniketan E.M.School Penukonda, there we conducted art and quiz competitions on animal welfare. At Z.P.H.School, Guttur



Participants with zoo materials



Playing a game related to animal welfare



Teachers posing with AWF posters



Dilip Chakravarthy leading an awareness session on dancing bears



Bat awareness programme conducted at Rajpur school

another animal welfare programme was convened. Forty students of class IX attended the programme. A presentation and question and answers session on animal welfare were held. In the Z.P.H.School, Roddam programme, we conducted games using ZOO education kits and Educational Officer Mr. Banu handled the session. In the middle of the games he explained about the importance of the wildlife and how to protect them. Children really enjoyed the games and learned a lot. We also conducted programmes in Z.P.H.School, Beedupalli and M.P.U School, Guttur. Here we conducted art and quiz competitions. Our special thanks to Zoo outreach organization for the education kits. **Submitted by: G. Manjunath. Email: iaabws@gmail.com**

CEE Madhya Pradesh Animal Welfare Fortnightly 2012 awareness programmes

Animal Welfare Fortnight is a popular event celebrated every year for over 50 years in India in the last two weeks of January i.e. 14 -31 January. Animal Welfare Board of India AWBI organizes the event. Zoo Outreach Organization and other sponsors help educators of all kinds use the event to create awareness by providing complimentary educational material. The material developed for specific animal is oriented toward both conservation and welfare.

Centre for Environment Education, CEE Madhya Pradesh State Office, Bhopal conducted 5 programmes using the materials to create an enjoyable and meaningful experience for school students and participants. CEE representative Mr. Dilip Chakravarthy, Project Officer organized specific lecture on Bear, Monkey, Frog, Amphibians and Bats to the selected 5 schools (class VI to X) of Hoshangabad district of Madhya Pradesh. He highlighted the animal welfare components in the kit/packets developed by Zoo Outreach organization. The emphasis was given on the fact that if all wildlife conservation practiced properly, it benefits the domestic and wild animals in the long term. Mr. Joseph Kujur, CEE facilitated the sessions. On 27 January a bear awareness programme was conducted at Servite Convent Higher Secondary School, Hosangabad, M.P for 500 students and 10 teachers. On the same day another programme was held at Shantinikatan Montessori Sr. Sec. School Hoshangabad, M.P. The

theme of the programme was monkeys and 200 students and 5 teachers participated. On 28 Jan, frog awareness programme was held at SNG Higher Secondary School, Hosangabad. One hundred and fifty students and 10 teachers participated. Another amphibian awareness programme was held at Government Boy's and Girl's School, Koti Bajar, Hosangabad and 80 students plus 5 teachers took part in it. One more programme was arranged on bats at Govt. High School, Raipur, Hosangabad and 150 students and 10 teachers benefitted out of this programme. Each programme lasted for an hour. Introduction about ZOO and CEE were given to the participants for about 10 minutes and detailed information about each animal was given about 30 minutes. The students and teachers used another 20 minutes for demonstrating the education kits and their usage. Session on wildlife or animals is very much interest of students and teachers as the programmes on such theme are not organised frequently in schools. The materials available with the organisers were limited so it was used in activity mode to involve all students as a whole. Students took oath for not harming the animal by using Flap Card or Pledge Card. Group of students was called for tying of Rakhi and take message to conserve and protect the animals. Stickers were given to students to use as an attraction to animal. Animal Mascot is used to resemble the animal and think of it. Information Booklet was generally given to teachers for further followup of the programmes in the schools. The interactive AWF poster developed was given to those students who answered on the question asked on animals. This was to bring attention and sincere listening of participants during the programme. **Submitted by: Dilip Chakravarthy, CEE, Madhya Pradesh. Email: dilip.chakravarty@ceeindia.org**

AWF programmes in Madurai and Chennai schools

Animal Welfare Fortnight was celebrated on 23 January 2012 at Capron Hall Girls HSS in Madurai. About 100 students of NCC, NSS, Red Cross and Guides participated in this programme. Irrespective of the age groups, everyone is very much interested to know more about the living beings than the humans. This is the result of the global warming and the climate change. As all are exercising their effects, especially its impact on human-animal co-existence,



Amphibian awareness programme in progress



Students learning about South Asian Primates



Amphibian education kit materials used by the participants



NCC, NSS and Red cross students teaching about animal welfare and monkey manners to other students



Students tying monkey manners Rakhi and taking oath on animal welfare



Students wearing monkey masks and holding 'not to feed monkey' placard

this year's Animal Welfare Fortnight – India 2012 was conducted with much enthusiasm. Thanks to the ZOO Outreach Organization and the other co-sponsors to kindle the interest among the students. The NGC, NSS, Red Cross and guide students underwent training during January 2012. The headmistress Mrs. Joseph welcomed the student and Mrs. Juliet explained about all the programmes undertaken by the students since 2005. Students were surprised to know that the Office of the Animal Welfare Board of India is situated in Chennai and wish to visit the place during the summer holidays. Stepwise action programmes were followed starting from tying up the rakhi from

the free educational packets on Frog and Bat. Students were thrilled to go through the records of their seniors on these two animals. Role play in the school campus about know your monkey manners attracted the other students. As all the groups are expected to approach the general public, the materials supplied with the masks on various animals will be of great use. The students took an oath and decided to share the positive attitudes not only in this fortnight but also in the following days.

On January 2012, the VIII standard students of Sri. Saradha Vidhalaya Model Girls Hr Sec School, Chennai and the primary schools students of

standard IV & V attended the programmes. It was so interesting and informative when the senior students took the lead to teach on frog and bats to the 25 juniors with the proper guidance of the co-ordinator Mrs. Jessie Jeyakaran. The names of various animals they see in the surroundings, at home, school, hospitals, market places etc., were elucidated. On seeing the packets supplied by ZOO India they were much interested. Various activities like, skit, role-play, singing etc were conducted. The various types of masks supplied added their interest. Students took an oath and departed with a decision to spread the importance of animals. Mrs. T. Vijayalakshmi proposed vote of thanks. **Submitted by: Ms. Jessie Jeyakaran, Email: jesseyjey@rediffmail.com**

Conservation of Nature Society celebrated Animal Welfare Fortnight 2012

The Conservation of Nature Society organized the Animal Welfare Fortnight from 14-28 January 2012 at Calicut and other parts of the Districts. On 16 & 18 a car rally (starting Beach to Wyanad) was organized by the Society to make aware among the public about the importance in the protection of the Wildlife. Each car was used for the awareness of each animal under serious threat. On 14 and 17 a programme was organized in the Planetarium with regarding the threat faced by the wild animals in the state especially wild cats. On 18-20 an awareness programme on the "Wild Elephants" which is severely under threat was conducted in the

Planetarium. During the programme threats by the captive elephants in the state was discussed.

A painting competition was conducted with the themes related to present status, cruelties and remedies among captive elephants in the state. On 21.01.2012 a programme on captive bears was held which included the collection of reports from the participants about sighting. The participants informed that they have not seen any captive bears chained or under cruelty in the state since months. The threat faced by Leopards was discussed. On 22.01.2012 – An awareness programme on bats was done in the National Tribal Heads workshop and exhibition on Tribal Medicine in Chevayur Calicut District. On 23-26 the society arranged a practical programme on the threat faced by the bats in city. Various details were collected with regard the same including photos were collected. Even though tree felling was the biggest threat various other factors like electric shock, killing using Air-guns etc, were some of the factors, which led to their death. On 28 January a programme was done on the threat faced by peacocks. The practical action taken through the Animal Welfare Board of India and the Ministry of Environment & Forests on the felling of trees in city and the threat faced by the wild birds, Mynas, bats on the trees

was highly appreciated by the participants. **Submitted by Vinod Kumar Damodar, Conservation of Nature Society, Calicut, Kerala. Email: mspca5@hotmail.com**

RMNH Mysore awareness programmes for Children and disabled

RMNH, Mysore used ZOO education materials in two programmes. Winter Nature Camp - 2011-12: This programme was organised for the High School Students. Fifteen participants were selected from 40 schools of Mysore through competition. The selected participants were taken to the Kulgi Nature Camp, Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary, North Karnataka from 3rd to 6th January 2012 with the objectives of: to develop environmental awareness among the student community, to develop scientific attitude among the students, to emphasize the importance of wildlife, its welfare and conservation, to create firsthand experience and awareness about the diversity of flora and fauna of Western Ghats and its importance. The activities were under taken: nature trail, collection of plant samples, lecture cum slide show on the biodiversity of Western Ghats, wildlife film shows, discussions on conservation of our flora and fauna with the help of ZOO animal welfare materials and visit to the interpretation centre of the sanctuary. **Programme**

for persons with Disability – 2012:

This programme was organised from 25th January to 10th February 2012. Eighty persons participated and it was organised to suite the different categories of disabilities such as hearing impaired, visually challenged, mentally challenged and physically challenged with the objectives of to extend museum programmes to the persons with disability, to involve different groups of disability under the fold of environmental awareness, to provide an opportunity to participate in the museum activities and to create awareness about our flora and fauna and its conservation and to help the persons with disability to utilize museum resources.

ZOO's educational materials like Bears, Forests and Biodiversity, Frogs are part of Biodiversity, All frogs are amphibians, but all amphibians are not frogs, Amphibian an Art Aark and posters An All Animals Alert, Lion-tailed macaque and etc. are very interesting, informative and educative. They are all very helpful for us to convey the message about the animals, its welfare and conservation to the participants. Once again I thank Zoo Outreach organization for these useful educational materials. RMNH, Mysore expects the same kind of cooperation in future also. **Submitted by: C. Rajasundaram, Scientist D, RMNH, Mysore. Email: rmnhmysore@gmail.com**



Mysore school students taking part in sit-draw competition