

India Campaign for Amphibians: Reports from Wildlife Week



Wildlife week celebration

Kids Knowledge Garden thank ZOO for the kind support in making a successful celebration of wildlife week at Rajapalayam on 1 October. Using the educational packets and t-shirts offered by ZOO, we



conducted this programme successfully. 65 students participated in this programme and we conducted the following activities: Games like frog jump, non-stop sound, frog capture, drawing competition, fancy dress competition, essay writing and quiz.

Mr. Venkatakrishnan, Forest Officer and Mr. Sadakopan, Veterinary Doctor honoured us as our chief guests. The parents of those students requested us to conduct another such programme.

Submitted by Mrs. N. Kalyani, Kids Knowledge Garden, Rajapalayam

Wildlife week celebration for Amphibians

In connection with the wildlife week celebrations, 2007, Prof. T.C. Narendran Trust for Animal Taxonomy and Department of Zoology, The Zamorin's Guruvayurappan College, Calicut, jointly organized a quiz contest, picture message and slogan writing competitions for the undergraduate students at the college, Calicut, on 1 October. Competitions were based on biodiversity and the special theme: amphibians, and the amphibian booklets which were distributed to the students. Of the 25 teams (3 in a team) participated, first 13 teams (39) were presented the amphibian T-shirts.

On 5 October, a one-day seminar was organised at the college itself, with invited talks by noted experts

in the field. Prof. T.C. Narendran, Emeritus Professor, Department of Zoology, University of Calicut, Kerala, delivered a lecture on the values of biodiversity and Mr. C. Radhakrishnan, Additional Director, Zoological Survey of India, Western Ghats Regional Station, Calicut, on conservation aspects. A separate slide show on amphibians was organised in order to create an awareness among students regarding the developing amphibian crisis. Students in their amphibian T-shirts, organized a 'lighting the candle



ceremony' as a symbolic enlightening towards environmental awareness and also took an Oath to protect wildlife.

Prizes were distributed to the winning teams of the various competitions. The programme concluded in the evening with a film-show depicting the wild beauty of *Sahyadris*. The event was reported by local newspapers and city channels. A set of Amphibian packets and t-shirts were distributed to all the dignitaries on the Dais. We thankfully acknowledge organizations namely, Amphibian Ark, ANSA, WILD, SAZARC, ASG, Conservation Breeding S.G. and Zoo Outreach Organisation for joining us in making the programme a grand success. **Submitted by Dr. K. Rajmohana, Scientist, Zoological Survey of India, Kozhikode**



Wildlife week 07 organised in Regional Science Centre & Planetarium

Indian Wildlife Week, Calicut was organized in the Regional Science Centre & Planetarium, on the day also of 'World Animal Day' 2007. Awareness programmes for students were organized on the subjects of Amphibians (Frogs). The programme was organized in the Dinosaur & Wildlife Park in the centre. Separate programmes on Monkey manners, Conservation of Zoo, were organized as well. Painting competition was held with students along with the teachers participating in the programme. An Awareness Programme was organized by the Conservation of Nature Society & the Turtle Conservation programme was organized by the Dolphin Protection Committee, an associate of the Conservation of Nature Society. On 7th an awareness programme was organized by the Dolphin Protection Committee and was held in the Youth hostel, Calicut.



Awareness programme on Amphibian (Frogs) was the important subject. Discussions came up on the proposed Zoo & Safari Park to be put up in Kozhikode District. The participants said that the Safari should follow guidelines of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums. Various suggestions came up on the subject.

On 8 October a concluding programme was held in Malabar Christian College, Kozhikode. The subject was Dolphin Protection mainly and the new Peacock sanctuary in Trichur – Palghat Dist. The proposed Tiger Reserve in the Dist. of Palghat and the effects on wildlife on the construction of the dam in Athirapalli was discussed. The new zoo coming up in Puthur, Trichur Dist. was discussed widely.

Submitted by Shri. Vinod Kumar Damodar, Conservation of Nature Society, Calicut

Wildlife Week Celebration 2007

Conservation Himalayas, a Shimla-based nongovernmental organisation celebrated the Wildlife Week-2007 at Chandigarh and Almora, Uttarakhand in collaboration with the Zoo Outreach Organisation, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. The theme of this year's celebration was on the Amphibians Crisis.



At Chandigarh, the programme was organised for 5th-7th grade students in the auditorium of the Shivalik Public School at sector 41-B, Chandigarh.

Dr. Santosh Kumar Sahoo, Chairman, Conservation Himalayas, and Ms. Aruna Kumari Negi, Wild Education Officer, Conservation Himalayas conducted the programme in two different sessions. In the first session of the programme, a Power Point presentation on "Amphibians in Crisis" was given in three parts: amphibian species diversity in India, threats to the frogs and the current conservation status of the frogs in India. The second part was devoted to an interactive question-answer session in which the students and teachers raised different questions relating to the frog facts and frog conservation value in the context of the global warming. During the session special Amphibian Ark t-shirts and educational kits from the Zoo Outreach Organisation, Coimbatore were distributed to students who actively participated in the question-answer session and gave satisfactory answers. In the third part of the presentation, audio sounds of different wild animals and frogs were played and the students were asked to distinguish the sounds of the frogs. The students participated in this Frog Sound Detection Round



took keen interest in identifying the frog sounds. The Amphibian Ark T-Shirts and Educational kits were given as a token prize to all the participants of the Frog Sound Detection Round.

In a second session students from the 5th, 6th and 7th grades of the Shivalik Public School participated in the Frog Colouring Competition. The frog art sketches of the Conservation Himalayas and Zoo Outreach Organisation were used as colouring resource materials for the participating students. The programme concluded with the distribution of ZOO educational kits and with a group pledge ceremony. The group pledged to protect the frogs and their habitats and join the amphibian campaign.

On 17th October 2007, Conservation Himalayas conducted another programme for 9th-10th graders of the Government High School at Dinapani in Almora. Besides the students, eight teachers of the same school participated. Mr. B.S. Sahi, Almora Forest Department was the chief guest for the programme. The programme was conducted by S.K. Sahoo and Aruna Negi of Conservation Himalayas. The theme of the programme was "Ecological Significance of Amphibians". The programme began with an introductory remark by the school principal followed by a short talk by Mr. Sahi and Dr. Sahoo. Students shared whatever they knew about amphibians, and learned about the growing threats to the frogs from different sources like pollution, road kill, lab research, habitat fragmentation, habitat destruction, etc. Students participated in a game activity following guidelines from the ZOO booklet on game activities. The students enthusiastically participated in games and activity. Amphibian T-shirts were given to the participants who played games and Educational kits on Amphibians were presented to all students and teachers. The students also tied Amphibian Ark Rakhi's after which there was a SAVE FROG pledge ceremony in which participants pledged that they will do their best not to harm frogs and other amphibians, and also to teach other to protect the frog habitats and save frogs in their natural habitats. Conservation Himalayas thank Zoo Outreach Organisation, Coimbatore and their sponsors WAZA, Chester, CBSG for their contribution. **Submitted by S.K. Sahoo, Conservation Himalayas, Chandigarh. Email: chimalayas@yahoo.com**

Celebration of Wildlife Week at Jawaharlal Nehru Biological Park, Bokaro Steel City, Jharkhand

Wildlife week has been celebrated every year during the 1st week of October for the last 53 years. Like other zoos, the event was celebrated at JNB Park by highlighting the purpose of zoos and conservation of wildlife. The zoo is a living laboratory. Students learned about the habit, habitat, behaviour and other interesting information of wildlife in a shortest time which is useful for protection and conservation of wildlife. The theme of this year was "Protection of Wildlife specially Amphibians".

About 100 students of classes VI to VIII from various Bokaro Steel Plant schools participated on this programme. Dr. T.K. Sinha, AGM (Education) Co-ordinated this programme. The programme was inaugurated by Sri Jeebesh Mishra, E.D.(PBA) Bokaro Steel Plant on 09.10.07 by lighting the lamp at the interpretation centre of JNB Park. A small ceremony was conducted with each child tying the *rakhi* on the wrist of another. The *rakhi*, masks, stickers, information booklets etc for this programme have been provided by Zoo Outreach Organisation,



Coimbatore. After *rakhi* tying ceremony, all the participants and dignitaries took Oath for preserving Wildlife and take all necessary steps accordingly. There were 3 events for this programme. The topic of on spot drawing competition was "Frog croak near the pond". The topic for essay and speech competitions were "Biodiversity and role of Amphibians" and "Are Frogs friend or enemy to environment conservation". The prize for these events were distributed by S. Mishra DGM (LBA). **Submitted by Dr. G. Chakraborty, Sr. Div. Vety. Surgeon, JNB Park, Bokaro Steel City, Jharkhand.**

Wildlife week celebration at Kais Sanctuary, Kullu District

In Kais Sanctuary, Kullu Distt. children of Govt. Middle School were exposed to flora and fauna in two groups one of them with an overnight stay in Forest Rest House. Resource persons were Sameer Rastogi, Divisional Forest Officer (wildlife) Kullu, Shri Adarsh Vir (Range Officer). The first group was taken into the forest and educated about local flora and fauna and the importance of fauna in balance of nature, climate change etc. They stayed in a forest Rest house for the night. During the night the children were given the packets of Frogs matter. Useful information about the amphibians was shared with the children. A small quiz was organized for the children to test their knowledge followed by an essay competition. A trip to the forest was organised on the second day. Frogs Matter packets were given to the children. They were told about the relevance of frogs in balance of nature. How snakes come to habitations if they don't get frogs to eat and other related issues.

Submitted by Divisional Forest Officer, Wildlife Division, Kullu, Himachal Pradesh

AArk / Wildlife Week at Pilikula Biological Park, Mangalore

The wildlife week 2007 celebration programme was inaugurated by the MLA with a number of other VIPs as Chief Guests. Director welcomed the gathering and the Executive Director spoke about the importance of wildlife week celebration. Nearly 500 children from schools of Mangalore and distant places like Bhramavar, Puttur and Honnavar attended this programme.

Throughout competition Budding artists were encouraged in every possible way. A quiz and informative session on Frogs – behaviour, characteristic and need for conservation was conducted by the Scientific Officer of the Biological Park.



Education kits supplied by Zoo Outreach Organisation, Coimbatore were distributed to contest winners and all the participants. Director of the Biological Park thanked the Zoo Outreach Organisation profusely for the educational kits provided by them.

A demonstration of live snakes and a discussion session was conducted. An evaluation was organised with a "Memory test" on various animals and aspects that they had observed all day long in the Biological Park. The contest winners were honoured with awards and certificates. Participants were given tshirts provided by ZOO. The day's celebration ended with a vote of thanks proposed by Dr. Jayaram Shetty, Veterinary Officer of the park.
Submitted by Director, Dr. Shivaram Karant, Pilikula Biol Park, Mangalore, Karnataka

Frogs Matter to India Wildlife Week programme in Western Assam

Natures Foster, a leading conservation organisation of Western Assam, celebrated the past wildlife week with a theme entitled "**FROGS MATTERS TO INDIA**", with active support from Z.O.O. on 16 Oct 07 in collaboration with Abhayapuri College.

Twentyeight participants from various departments of the colleges, highschool and University students took part in the programme.

The daylong programme started with an ice-breaking session called Sound Off. This helped student participants know each other well since they were from different departments of the colleges & Schools). Next session was the Concept Map. Where we asked each participant to draw a concept map on FROG. At the end of the programme we asked them to draw another map to asses their understanding on the topic. In the next sessions Mr. R. Soud discussed Anuran diversity and the risk they are facing nowadays with special reference to Western Assam.

A game called Happy-Sad (Express ones viewpoint on a particular topic) was played among the participants. During this game the participants came up with their own viewpoint on particular environmental problems that the North Eastern Region of India is experiencing and the earth as a whole.

Another game called the Understanding Threats was played in which participants learned about issues on wildlife threats, human pressure and migration.

The Amphibian Ark packets with the Amphibian Ark t-shirts were distributed among the participants and the while Frog Matter booklets and contents were explained. They tied the save amphibian *Rakhi* to each other and took the pledge to save amphibians. After interactive quiz session, pencils, sharpeners, erasers were distributed as prizes for the participants.

Before the closing speech and certificate distribution ceremony another concept map game was drawn by the participants. We found a huge difference in the first and the second Concept Map and this showed our teaching teams success in making them comprehend the ideas on the conservation issues particularly the amphibian species. Some of the participants expressed their anticipation and expectation for a greener world to live and to be a part of the Nature's Foster and ZOOS effort for the conservation of amphibians of western Assam. Certificates were distributed. We are thankful to our supporters ZOO and WILD for the education material provided to us along with ANSA, WAZA, SAZARC, CHESTER ZOO, CBSG. We are also thankful to Principal, Abhayapuri college for his support.
Submitted by Kripaljyoti Mazumdar, Nature's Foster, Assam.

Wildlife Week with Amphibian Ark Programme

Wildlife celebrations were conducted in our school in two stages, a workshop & a field trip. There were 50 participants of age 11-14 years. The programme started at 11.00 am with Head Master of the school Mr. A. Jeyapaul, speaking about the gift of nature



and how animals and plants need to co-exist in our ecosystem. Organiser gave an introduction on the vital role played by the frogs (amphibians) in the ecosystem, and about various threats. Participants then tied frog *rakhis* and took a pledge to support frog survive. So as to empathize this, they also put on masks and made croaking noises.

We also discussed how frogs are threatened in our environment, and what we can do to save them. I used the opportunity to make participants aware that frogs were not given due attention by governments around the world, as compared to larger animals. I encouraged them to send a petition to politicians and parliamentarians of the world, by signing the petition form supplied to us. Finally, the organiser conducted competitions on drawing and poetry writing on the amphibian themes. Prizes (frog T-shirt) were given to the winners on 14 Nov., Children's Day. On that day, we along with some volunteers engineered a play, with no dialogues, in which a frog is depicted as a police constable. The constable guides the traffic, and there is order. When the constable is removed and there is total confusion. The play goes on to communicate that amphibians, especially frogs play a pivotal role in maintaining a healthy environment.

Submitted by S. Joseph Prem Kumar, Sec. Gr. Asst, Corporation Middle School, Coimbatore.

Frogs Matter.... Jump In... at Osmania University

A talk on Amphibian Declines and Climate Change highlighting amphibian crisis aptly titled 'Frogs Matter.... Jump In....' conducted 29 Oct, in Zoology Dept, Osmania University, Hyderabad by amphibian biologist Dr. C. Srinivasulu, Asst Professor in Zoology.

The talk was attended by post graduate students of belonging to Zoology and Environmental Biology streams. Dr. C. Srinivasulu spoke at length about what amphibians were, their kinds, their importance in the ecosystem, their distribution, their numbers globally and in India. He also spoke about the decline in their numbers and elucidated the factors contributing to their decline, the habitat they prefer,

the intensity of biomagnification of chemicals and other harmful materials into the habitat they reside in thereby affecting the ecosystem and in turn affecting the amphibians causing many abnormalities and hitherto unknown diseases that are wiping away populations of amphibians throughout the world. He stressed on the fact that the amphibians are the indicator species of the environment health and the health of the ecosystem.

The students saw and understood the extent of abnormalities in amphibian populations and were urged to collect information about such abnormalities and provide feedback to understand the extent of environmental pollution and eutrophication of the lake ecosystem of which the amphibians are a part. In the course of the talk the students were urged to mobilize in to 'Amphibian activists' as part of 'Save amphibians' campaign and spread awareness among the local communities about the importance of amphibians, their conservation and ecosystem health.

The programme culminated with an informal discussion on Amphibian Crisis and study of the



material supplied in the educational packets and presenting t-shirts to those who scored good points and volunteered for Amphibian Survey Programme in Hyderabad and its vicinity. The importance and information provided by each material in the information packs was explained to the students and they were then told to tie the friendship bands that were provided to their friends with a pledge to protect, conserve and spread awareness among people about amphibians. Dr. C. Srinivasulu concluded the programme by expressing gratitude to 'amphibian ark' and different agencies, including ANSA, ZOO, WILD, SAZARC, SANIZE, WAZA, Chester Zoological gardens and Conservation Breeding Specialist Group, that have come together for this noble cause. **Submitted by Dr. Bhargavi Srinivasulu and Dr. C. Srinivasulu Wildlife Biology Section, Department of Zoology, Osmania University, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh**

Five Amphibian Ark Programmes Organised at Mamta's School

In the month of October and November, having wild life week and National Environment month in it, five amphibian ark programmes were organized. It was electrifying to see the energy generated by organising such campaign events within the school premises. This time my aim was to target government authority people, decision makers and last but not the least, celebrities through their own children, studying in different Institutions. Youth/ Students are powerful ... just make them realize the reality in return they show difference.

The objectives of the programmes were:

- To impart the scientific knowledge about amphibians
- To create awareness of the very existence
- To provide understanding about amphibians role in ecosystem
- To make them understand to value and respect to other lives by not allowing their dissection in biology labs
- To make them familiar about the three groups of amphibians
- To inspire them to create awareness among their parents, relatives, neighbour and friends through signature campaign.

We used Amphibian Ark, India campaign packets supplied by ZOO, Coimbatore such as amphibian booklets - all about amphibians, backyard buddies-frogs and give amphibians right of way, a drama kit, Amphibian Ark T-shirts and colouring materials



Memorable educational programmes were conducted in different institutions for different grade level students and staff. Nearly 25 staff and 650 students got the benefit of these workshops at different places such as Pratham library centers, De Paul School, Impact Institute, Vijayavitala school and Mani Arts School.



Students are the main source and nearest pathway to reach the different heights and levels of society due to their family background and their position in the society. No doubt that they create large networks to create history.

Methods: In all the programmes folk, frog related games gave boost to enrich the topic and kept the participants intact throughout the program. Participants enjoyed hopping, jumping, leaping actions through these games. For example Frog race, river & the bank, and What animal am I? were some of the games played. Participants were invited to share stories and tales related to amphibian. It was amazing to hear "Frogs wedding Story", which is still in practice in north Karnataka. One participant explained about the Frog Temple which he has seen at Sringeri stating "When the snake being predator is giving shelter to frog in this temple, then why can't we be part or sheltering umbrella to their amphibians by protecting and preserving them to our next generations?"

Friendship Band was appropriate to commemorate the day. Participants though fully tied friendship bands a few posted these bands to their faraway beloved friends with conservation message. Children used the mask, as a good sun shade (Hat) throughout the programme. Booklets were given out to read and ten minutes was allowed to read the contents. Interaction took place, which further led to mini drama on Amphibian crisis. One student took part as a Frog in the school Fancy dress competition.

Students used colouring materials and made big banner saying "Save Amphibian" and went on a rally. As they met people passing they tried to create awareness thought in their mind and collected signature from them. Altogether participants have collected about 2,000 signature.

Enthusiastic art loving children created frog puppets using simple paper covers with thumb printing. They created wonderful frogs from paintings by paper

holding (origami) and created frog garden in their scrap book and made collage work of pond ecosystem and food chain to show amphibians role in nature! Created a new kind of frog by using all amphibian parts separately. Using leaves members made beautiful frog using bookmarkers and pretty cards.

Another activity was Word Wall. On the word wall they put up words like ark, chytrid etc to know their meanings or pronunciation. Participants later used their drama kit at different places during their educational trip and school / science exhibitions to convey the conservation message and collected signature for the campaign.

Curriculum use — Amphibian Ark kit was used with curriculum pupil from first grade to twelfth grade who study about amphibians i.e. anatomy of frog and its classification. In most of the classes only one group of amphibians are studied. Amphibian ark kit helped me to introduce other two groups to pupil; ark program is like extended biology or EVS class through play way method. Evaluation was done by quiz, animal word puzzle and passing the parcel game activities.

Students were asked to do the following activities as home work to spread the conservation message among their parents relatives and friends: to find advertisements related to amphibians, to list local folk games related frog and to get some frog related stories from your parents.

Though the number of items in the packet are few, subject is challenging, specially the kinds of amphibians and their names. ZOO has made big effort in designing toughest subject to simplest form, which can be easily understood by any one. The entire programme went on very successfully. College students took oath saying that they will stop killing frogs in their biology labs. Through the month, trained teachers and pupil carried out same activity where ever they went. For example, during their educational trip to Darjeeling and Sikkim, at social gathering like birthday parties and during special olympics they collected the signatures of as many adults they could reach through their Programmes. Special thanks to ZOO and sponsors, Chester zoo, CBSG and WAZA. **Submitted by Mamatha, De Paul International Residential School, Mysore, Karnataka**

AArk education programme at Isha Home School, Coimbatore

As a part of one day programme on wildlife week celebration, a three-hour education programme was organized at Isha Home School on 3 October 2007 for 75 children of age group 10-13 years. The programme started with an introduction to daily life wildlife and its welfare. Before leaning about amphibians the attitude of the students about amphibians was assessed using attitude

assessment activity. Though few among them did not like to see frogs in their vicinity, they were fully aware of the importance of frogs. Later as part of the programme frog packets developed by ZOO was issued to all the students. The students were divided in to four groups of equal size with an adult teacher as the team leader. Each team was given 20 minutes time to read the booklet to learn the facts about amphibians. Later a short quiz was conducted and they were encouraged to learn more about amphibians. The children learned with much interest about three kinds of amphibians and the



important role that they play in the ecosystem. Hawk and the pigeon game was played to make them understand that three 'C' (Communication, Cooperation and coordination) that are essential for the success of a project. The memorable activity of the programme was mask and rakhi tying. The school authorities made everyone to involve in signature campaign and collected 132 signatures. The entire group took oath in front of the school authorities and other members to help preserve wildlife particularly amphibians. The entire programme was coordinated by Mrs. Sujatha and Ms. Amishi, teacher, Isha Home school. **Submitted by B.A. Daniel and R. Marimuthu, ZOO**