

Z.O.O. Education Reports

World Environment Day on 5th June 2008

The materials received from the Zoo Outreach organization were used to create awareness among the students and visitors on the occasion of the World Environment Day on 5th June 2008. The students of Srikantha Balika High School numbering



40 had visited the zoo. Each student was made read from the book on Amphibians to create awareness. The extinct of Amphibians and efforts to conserve the amphibians were told to them. The masks were made to wear by them, and Rockies were tied to the visitors to create awareness.



The students have also given assurance that with the help of the materials given, they shall create awareness, with friends and other students in the school.

**Submitted by: Executive Director,
Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens, Mysore**

Report of Activities: Amphibian Ark Programme

An Amphibian Ark programme was held on 04 May 2008 at Butikur in Dhemaji district where the Biodiversity is high but the awareness among the community is much low. However a group of 42 participants having some rules in the society are selected for the training. Debojit Phukan and Dr. Amal Dutta were the trainers. By the uses of classroom works, field outings and interactions, we performed the event as an orientation course for environment activist. The contents were local biodiversity, rules of smaller animals in agriculture and ecosystem and types of works to do as an activist.

As the mass victim of chemical and technical human, amphibians are introduced as the ground level volunteer of natural World. Introductions were made by analyzing the amphibian packets and wearing t-shirts. To highlight the 'Frog Year 2008' trainees were asked to kick the wrong and misconcepts about frogs. Several myths and believes on frogs prevailing in the society were discussed by the trainers and the science and facts behind were analyzed. Before the end the trainees proposed to form a group of environment activist to work in their place and appealed 'Megamix' to help in the mission.

On 27, 28 April 2008 at Dhemaji Girls' H S School "Training for Environment Teachings" was held. First introduced in Assam by Aryabhata Science Centre which is a local based science campaign of DST, Govt. of India, all the centres established this year are focusing their campaign on environmental science. 'Megamix' provided a 2 days training for high school teachers on nature studies. The program was chaired by Principal Mrs. Binita Garodia and inaugurated by Inspector of schools Mr Bhaben Deori. To make the occasion better use in class room we renamed the district level program as 'mini course for teachers on environment teachings'. The two days were packed with diverse and interesting schedule such as classroom and outdoor activities, interactions, quiz, game, song and dance to understand local environment and to make it entertaining for the kids.

On 25 May 2008, Biodiversity Exhibition was held at Konwar Gaon, Assam during the golden Jubilee celebration of 'Nova Vikash Natya Mondir' of Dhakuakhana, Assam. SAN-IZE with participation of kids displayed a game to depict the process of biodiversity. According to my commentary the group displayed food chain, nectarine in flowers, eating and dispersing seeds and finally competing for food (frits/ insects). The audiences appreciated the unfamiliar moment in the stage.

Submitted by: Debojit Phukan, Megamix Nature Club, Assam

World Environment Day Celebrations - 2008

On June 5, 2008, workshop for Eco Club Teachers of the Mangalore District was conducted. The programme was inaugurated by Sri M. J. F. Mohan

Kamath, Lions Club District Governor and Dr. S. K. Susarla, Director, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, Sri Ramesh Kumar, Regional Environment Officer, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Bangalore Sri Maheshwara Rao, Deputy Commissioner, DK, District & Chairman Pilikula Nisarga Dhama Society, Sri J. R. Lobo, Executive Director, Pilikula Nisarga Dhama Dr. K. V. Rao, Director (Training), Pilikula Nisarga Dhama were participated.

In this workshop Dr. Susarla, explained the total scenario of the environment problems pertaining to our country and measures taken to combat it. Sri Kaushik, Project Officer, INEP, Bangalore presented the guidelines of the government for the working of the eco clubs and gave some ideas regarding the activities that could be undertaken by the teachers. Dr. N. A. Madhyastha, Retd. Principal Poornaprajna College, Udupi gave an overview of flora and fauna of Western Ghats and explained about the short term projects that could be undertaken by the teachers in eco clubs

A Jatha was organized to create awareness on 07.06.08 from Canara College, Mangalore to Scouts and Guides Bhavan, Mangalore. Environmentalists, Pollution Control Board Officials, Officials from Pilikula Nisarga Dhama and representatives of Lions and JCI, Scouts and Guides Students participated.

We thank ZOO sincerely for the kind help in providing necessary training materials to our teachers on the occasion of World Environment Day Celebration conducted at Science Centre, Pilikula, Mangalore.

Submitted by: Dr. K. V. Rao, Director (Training), Pilikula Nisarga Dhama, Mangalore, Karnataka.

Nepali Bat Education Kit released

A new publication entitled 'Bat Conservation in Nepal: An Educational Kit' has been developed and printed with the financial support of *Bat Conservation International's Global Grassroot Award 2008 (Awardee: Mr. Hari Adhikari)*. This kit is written in Nepali language to make it more user-friendly to local people. 1000 copies have been printed in first edition. The author team comprises Mr. Hari Adhikari, Mr. Gandhiv Kafle and Mr. Rajkumar Koirala. Bat Friends, Natural Resource Research And Conservation Centre (NaReCon) and Nature-Nepal are the supporters for this publication.

The main aim of this kit is to help in raising awareness on bat conservation among school students and local community in Nepal. Accordingly, it includes basic information on bat, its evolution, distribution, habitat, status, human perception, types, importance, lifespan, courtship and reproduction, hibernation, feeding behaviour, bat house, threats, conservation measures and working organizations. A checklist of bats found in Nepal is listed at the end of this kit with information on distribution and Red List Status. Images for the cover page of the kit are kindly acknowledged to Bat Conservation International and Lubee Bat Conservancy.

This educational kit was released by Dr. B.A Daniel and R. Marimutthu (Zoo Outreach Organisation) during Bat Conservation Educator Skills Training on 29 and 30 August, 2008 in Institute of Forestry, Pokhara Campus, Pokhara.



Title of Publication: Bat Conservation in Nepal: An Educational Kit Author: Mr. Hari Adhikari,
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**Submitted by Hari Adhikari,
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Save Hoolock Gibbons, Protect Forests Conserve Biodiversity

Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh (WTB) joined with Oxford Brookes University graduate student, Ms. Corrin La Combe, to evaluate the proficiency of their most popular conservation education programme.

This programme was designed and coordinated by Gawsia Wahidunnessa Chowdhury. Children from six different schools throughout the Dhaka and Sylhet divisions were evaluated in terms of their knowledge, attitude and behaviour towards the Critically Endangered hoolock gibbon (*Hoolock hoolock*), forests and Bangladesh biodiversity.

Evaluations were carried out at rural, urban, and suburban sites. Over 75% of children studied exhibited positive attitudes towards nature and conservation. However environmental knowledge varied greatly among demographic groups, as did levels of forest stewardship.

Though the scope of this analysis is limited and small sample size, the study offers insight into disparity that may remain in the Bangladesh education system and highlights the impact potential of WTB's Save Hoolock Gibbons, Protect Forests, Conserve Biodiversity program specifically and informal conservation education programs in general.

To complete this study children ranging in age from eight to thirteen years from Birshrestha Munshi

Abdur Rouf Rifles College, Doluchara Govt. Primary School, Bhanugach Govt. Primary School, Tetuljhara Govt. Primary School, Birshrestha Noor Mohammad Rifles Public College, and Manarat International College were asked to fill in questionnaires relating to the environment and environmental issues before and after participating in the Save Hoolock Gibbons, *Protect Forests, Conserve Biodiversity* program.

Based on pre-questionnaire results, environmental knowledge decreases as distance from the forest increases. This indicates that children who do not encounter forests in their everyday lives may be lacking knowledge about forest environments.

The majority of the urban children interviewed had never visited a forest, had never heard of a hoolock gibbon, and were unaware that forests of Bangladesh are declining. However, their reasoning skills, intellect and enthusiasm caused them to exceed expectations and to perform marvelously in all activities. The rural children, on the other hand, had tremendous knowledge about nature and biodiversity, but displayed lower academic skill than did urban and suburban children.

After only a few hours of instruction post questionnaire scores increased as much as 30%. The best thing about programs like *Save Hoolock Gibbons, Protect Forests, Conserve Biodiversity* is that they are often taught using an active-learning teaching style. This means that students are encouraged to physically join in lesson activities, while using their problem solving and reasoning skills to complete various tasks.

**Submitted by Gawsia Wahidunnessa
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