

Amphibian Conservation Educator Skills Training at Central Zoo, Nepal

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Central Zoo Nepal, hosted a two-day Amphibian Conservation Educator Skills Training that was organised by ZOO from 9-10 September 2008. The entire programme was sponsored by sponsored by SeaWorld, Florida, USA. The programme was attended by 27 teachers from Kathmandu schools and forest personnel from Bhutan. During the inaugural, Dr Binab Karmacharya, Central zoo outlined the current amphibian crisis and the objective of the training.

ment to test the participant's knowledge about amphibians before and after the programme. The aim of the activity is to illustrate main concepts associated with amphibians and relationship between them.

ZOO staff gave a presentation on the amphibian crisis. Arun N. Rana, Conservation Education Assistant, Central Zoo, Nepal gave another presentation about amphibians of Nepal and



Some of the invited teachers were members of 'Friends of Zoo'. However, most of the participants were new to each other and so an ice breaker activity was played. The 'sound off' game that was played during the workshop help to know each other well and eliminate inhibition thus make a good platform to form to interact with each other throughout the programme.



Central Zoo education activities for amphibian conservation.



To assess the participant's knowledge on amphibians and its crisis attitude assessment activity was done. Several statements on amphibians were prepared. Three facial expressions such as happy, sad and neutral were drawn on the papers and placed in different places. Then each statement was read aloud. The participants moved around from one place to other and said what they felt about the statement such as good, bad or neutral.

Three different mini-drama scripts on amphibian conservation and biology were prepared. The scripts were 1. Frog legs-is about frog leg trade 2. My muddy buddy frog is flat on the road-is about dumping municipal garbage into a pond and 3. Leaping frog- is about the fungal disease. The participants were divided into three groups and each group was given a script and 30 minutes for preparation and rehearsal. All the three groups acted the drama with miming.



Following on, the concept map or mind mapping activity was done. This is another kind of assess-

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The second day we started with "Amphibian in our Culture". The participants were divided into different groups and asked them look for examples how the frogs were used as a symbol in our own culture or cultures from other parts of the world. The examples they were asked to look into...advertisement, movies, songs, literature, animal/plant/place names & miscellaneous. We made this activity as a competition. Each group came up with many examples. At the end each one was rewarded with a prize.

Energizers "Waving Hands" and "Monkey Say-Monkey do" were conducted after that. Debate was conducted. The theme of the debate was stopping the professional frog leg traders by offering a ex-gratia by Government. The people involved in the debate were the traders doing the



business for sustenance, government officials, human rights people, animal welfare people and researchers. So the group divided into accordingly. The government placed a proposal before the people, the proposal is whoever get rid of their traditional practice that is catch the frog and sell their legs would get 2.5 lakhs rupees for setting-up alternative business such as grocery shop, tailor shop, buying auto-rickshaw plus other facility such as medical, education and electricity. So the each group presented their positive or negative views to the government officials about the proposal. The participants really enjoyed this debate.

To demonstrate sustainable use of natural resources "Fishing game" was conducted. An "Observation game" was also conducted to demonstrate how scientists are observing the animals in the wild.

Zoo Outreach Organisation's amphibian education packet was introduced. The contents of the packets explained in detail and also said that how they could use these education materials in their programme. Participants went through the materials and activities such as tying rakhi, carrying placard and taking oath to conserve amphibians. To test their knowledge gained by two days workshop



Concept Map was done again. Then the participants were asked to compare their pre and post concept maps. All of them agreed they learned lot about amphibians, its present crisis and how could they spread the message to others to save amphibians.

At the valedictory Mr. Ganga Jang Thapam Executive Officer, National Trust for Nature Conservation and Ms. Sarita Jnawali, Central Zoo Director were participated. They asked the participants to disseminate the message whatever they learned out of this workshop to their students and colleagues. Both of them presented the certificates to the participants.

