

Programmes for Public Education for Animal Welfare Fortnightly and World Environment Day

Featuring Tigers at Maitri Baag Zoo for Animal Welfare Fortnightly

Manu Smriti Bal Vikash Shikchan Samiti, Bhilai students and staff visited BSP Zoo 16th Jan 2007. The Zoo Education Unit of Maitri Baag Zoo conducted a special programme of "Teachers for Tigers" for the 40 students and teachers. They conducted a zoo visit giving detailed information about different species in front of animal enclosure.

Tigers were featured. Students were also given detailed information on the role/importance of tiger to maintain the ecological balance and about the decline of tigers due to trade of tigers' skin and bones.

The students and teachers received educational materials containing booklet on the tiger tales, mask, stickers, rakhi, etc. The students wore the tiger mask and went around the zoo motivating themselves and visitors.

Participants pledged an oath by *tying rakhi* to one another to help by working for wildlife in their lifetime. This programme was organized and conducted by Dr. G. K. Dubey and Dr. T. Kalaichelvan. The Zoo Education materials were provided by Zoo Outreach Organisation, Coimbatore. BSP Management waived the entry fees to participants to encourage students on Zoo Education to create awareness about wildlife, environment etc.

Zoo Education programme on Teacher for Tigers

Students and staff of Delhi Public School, Durg visited the Maitri Baag Zoo during the Animal Welfare Fortnightly. The Zoo Education Unit conducted different special programmes on Primate Primer, Bat conservation, Bear conservation, Primates in Peril, Teachers for Tigers, and Invertebrate conservation to cover all the 915 students, distributing packets to cover the animal themes.

The Maitri Baag staff conducted a Zoo programme giving detailed information about different species when they came to different enclosure of the animals. Students were given information about Primates, Bear, Bat, Tigers, Invertebrate etc. which help to maintain the ecological balance.

The Zoo Education materials were provided by Zoo Outreach Organisation, Coimbatore. **Submitted by: Dr. G. K. Dubey and Dr. T. Kalaichelvan, Chief Veterinary Office, Zoo Supervisor Maitri Baag Zoo, Bhilai Steel Plant, Bhilai Chhattisgarh State.**

AWF featuring Bears in a remote village in Himalaya

The Conservation Himalayas organised a series of wildlife educational programmes in Pithoragarh and Almora district of the northwestern Himalayan state of Uttarakhand, India celebrating Animal Welfare Fortnightly 2007. The first programme of this series was organised on January 17th 2007 in black bear habitat area at Thalkedar village under Pithoragarh Forest Division. The aim of this programme was to give conservation education to the fringe villagers in the bear habitat with a theme on saving Himalayan Black Bears. The programme was attended by 30 villagers, DFO (who was Chief Guest) and area forester and range officer.

As the venue of this programme is located right adjoining to the wildlife sanctuary, the programme highlighted the importance of saving wildlife with special reference to Himalayan Black Bears. The participants were all familiar with the bears but they were ignorant about the threats to the bears in their village site habitats. As per the information from some of the participants, at least four to five Himalayan Black Bears have been killed by the poachers from neighbouring state between the year 2002 and 2006. This is indeed a serious concern for the participants who showed their willingness to learn about the importance of Himalayan Black Bears in their local forests and about the community-based conservation for this species.

The programme consisted of a brief introduction about the significance of Animal Welfare Fortnight in context of growing threats to wildlife followed by an interactive session about ecology, population distribution, potential threats and conservation issues associated with the four Indian bear species. The interactive session was very meaningful as the participants willingly shared about their experiences with the bears. Some participants expressed strong interest in conducting regular workshops for wildlife conservation education and training in their villages. This, they believe, can make significant changes in the attitudes of the local villagers toward wild animals and the natural ecology.

Educational kits Bears on the Road (Hindi Version), Special posters on Dare to Care for Bears (Hindi Version) made by Zoo Outreach Organisation, Coimbatore were used as the primary resource material in this programme. As the programme closed, participants used *rakhi's* to pledge not only to keep watch on the wildlife crime activities and protect bears in the region but also to educate their friends, neighbours, family members not to go for bear show anywhere.

The local forest officials attending the programme appreciated the programme and gave special appreciation for the ZOO kits and posters on bears. All the participants were given bear packets and posters from ZOO at the end of the programme.

Conservation Himalayas (NGO) is thankful ZOO Outreach Organisation, India, their sponsors (EWCL, USFWS, Philadelphia Zoo, Wildlife SOS, Alertis) for bear ed material, Mr. Ram Gopal, DFO, Pithoragarh FRO, Pithoragarh Forester & Forest Guard and Aruna Negi, CH Education Officer. **Submitted by Dr. S.K. Sahoo, Conservation Himalayas, chimalayas@yahoo.com**

Wildlife Welfare Programme in Kolkatta

The West Bengal State Office (WBSO) of WWF-India, in association with West Bengal Pollution Control Board, organized a day-long workshop and field trip on the importance of Wetlands earlier this month. Organized in Bible Society, the programme started with an illustrated slide show on the "Importance of East Calcutta Wetlands" by Dr. Subir Ghosh - eminent wetland ecologist. This was followed by Dr. Sangita Mitra, Senior Project Officer of WBSO, who discussed the significance of "Daily life Wildlife" with the help of an educational kit prepared by Zoo Outreach Organization, Coimbatore, with support

from Universities Federation for Animal Welfare, U. K. The students learnt how to utilise those kits and try to identify the living creatures around them, their significance in the environment and the ways to protect them. This was an interesting experience for the students and teachers. Teachers were eager to use the kits for their school programmes for more children.

The last segment of the programme was a field trip to East Calcutta Wetlands where Dr. Ghosh introduced the participants to the natural features of a wetland, its function in filtrating the urban waste and also harbouring the biological diversity. Around 100 students and teachers from different schools of Kolkata participated in the programme. **Submitted by Sangita Mitra, Senior Project Officer, WWF-Kolkatta, e-mail: monkinct@rediffmail.com**

International Animal & Birds Welfare Society-Guttur, Anantaur Animal Welfare Fortnight -2007 Report

IA & BWS Celebrated Animal Welfare Fortnight from 14th Jan to 30th January 2007 with materials provided by Zoo Outreach Organisation, Coimbatore.

An Essay-writing Competition at Santhinikethan English Medium School, Penukonda was conducted on 16th Jan, 2007 with participation of students from 6 different Schools. The themes for the 500 word competition were: Animal, wildlife welfare importance; Against Wildlife Trade; Enforcement of Wildlife Protection Act and children's role in wildlife welfare. Participants could choose any one topic. We distributed the prizes to first, second and third place for boys and girls.

Another drawing competition was held at Z.P.H.Girls School, C.K.Palli on 18th Jan, 2007 with 25 school students. Themes were My favorite wild Animals, Animal planet and Types of bears.

A rally and seminar was held at Penukonda on 20th Jan, 2007 with school students wearing masks and holding placards. Afterwards we organized a seminar on the importance of wildlife at B. Ed. College office.

On 22nd Jan, 2007 a quiz programme was organised for a selected 20 students from Z.P.H.Girls School, Guttur. Before the programme a brief introduction to the importance of wildlife welfare and role of students was given. Then they are divided into four groups. They answered questions related to wildlife.

Games were featured at Z.P.H.Girls School on 24th Jan, 2007. Also Free Health Checkup and Vaccination Camp was conducted at the animal shelter, Guttur on 24th Jan, 2007 with the support of Animal husbandry department. In this camp 246 general animal cases treated and 165 animals vaccinated against foot & mouth disease and 26 calves were dewormed. **Submitted by G. Manjunath, IA & BWS, Guttur, Penukonda, Andhra Pradesh; e-mail: iaabws@yahoo.com**

WORLD celebrates Animal Welfare Fortnight

Animal Welfare Educational Programmes were designed not only to educate the students about the cause but also to generate their active participation in the cause. Our programme began with an educational lecture followed by an educational skit to make participants

understand the need for kind treatment of animals & what is their role. Students were formed into groups of 25 children each .

Our team allocated a task to each group and distributed special educational activity literature to the students. Some children played the role of bears and some as *Kalanders* in an educational skit. Then each group was given a task in which they have to find the solution of a situation. Then students were asked to read out-loud about the task given and the solution written by them. Panel of teachers, Animal Welfare Officers and team members of WORLD selected the best group. In the end the teachers and animal welfare officers gave their expert suggestions and views to the students.

WORLD team organized an inter-group discussion; students were asked informative questions as well as situation-based, action-oriented questions. Students and teachers were motivated to work for the welfare of animals. In the end students painted their thoughts and feelings in their paintings. Animal Welfare Educational programme was organized in the following school:

MGD School, Sawai Man Singh School, S.V. Public School, School Blue Heaven, Golden ERA Academy, Kids Club School, Jaipur Cambridge School, Tagore NRI School, Tagore Vidhya Bhawan, Lawrence Public School, Vidyashram School, Vidyasthali School and St. Paul's School.

The finale of the WORLD Animal Welfare Fortnight 2007 was organized in the Hotel Clarks. WORLD gave special appreciation awards to the media person who have contributed towards eradication of cruelty towards animals. Media person shared their experiences and views, laid stress on stringent laws and speedy case disposal to punish the guilty and to promote the development of an animal-friendly society in India.

Submitted by Manish Saxena, Director WORLD; e-mail: world_in@rediffmail.com

World Environment Day at Kozhikode District

World Environment Day was organized by the Conservation of Nature Society, Kozhikode & the Dolphin Protection Committee at Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre, Peruvanamuzhi of Kozhikode District where there is a Mini Zoo. Zoo materials were distributed among the participants.

World Environment Day primate colouring books were given to the children. The posters of sloth bears and WAZA were given to the teachers. T-shirts were given to the staff of the centre so that they may take more interest. More programmes for the local people can be conducted with the help of the rescue centre staff.

The recent report in The Hindu on sloth bear sanctuary was copied and circulated. The Dolphin Protection Committee took a class on the crocodiles which is the main attraction of the Rehabilitation Centre. Discussions also came up on the improvement made in the Parashinikadavu Snake Park in Kannur District Kerala, after the last awareness programme conducted in the Regional Science Centre. **Submitted by Vinodh Kumar Damodar, Conservation of Nature Society, Calicut, Kerala; E-mail: Sagarcit@rediffmail.com**