

World Environment Day 2007- Reports

WED report from Chandigarh conducted by Conservation Himalayas

On 5th June 2007, Conservation Himalayas, a Shimla-based NGO, organised a WED Programme at Munakot village, in collaboration with the Munakot Block to increase awareness of various environmental issues among the village level women' groups, youth groups and school children and to educate the participants about the threats to the Himalayan bears and other bear species, particularly sloth bears.

The programme was attended by local officials from the Van Panchayats and Environment NGOs. The programme was divided into two sessions of two hours each: in the first session, the Conservation Himalayas presented its programme on the theme people's role to protect threatened Sloth Bears and Himalayan Black Bears. Dr. S.K. Sahoo, Chairman, Conservation Himalayas, conducted the entire session of the programme with an introductory interactive talk on "Understanding biodiversity through the food chain and food web system in the ecology". Some of the women and youths participated in this interactive talk and shared their understanding of the issue of wildlife decline. Through pictorial examples and schematic diagrams, the concept of food chain, food web and chain reaction were explained.

In the second part of the programme, there was a brief talk about the four bears (Himalayan Black Bears, Sun Bears, Sloth Bears and Brown Bears). The focus of this session was to apprise the audience with the information about the plight of Sloth Bears on the high way road as a result of the bear dance shows. A game on "Rescuing the Sloth Bears and Protecting Bear Habitats" was played by the young students. At the end of the programme all the students who participated in the wild protection game received ZOO bear kits and ZOO bear posters. All the participants took group pledge along with Sahoo to remain alert about any sorts of wildlife crime against bears and other wild animals in their local forests and elsewhere in the country. The group also pledged not to watch any bear dance show anywhere and to discourage their friend, relatives and neighbours not to go to watch any bear dance show.

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WED celebrated in Darjeeling, West Bengal

The theme of this years World Environment Day was "Melting ice-A hot Topic ?" One of our programmes was in The Governor House, Darjeeling on 4th June 2007. There was a group discussion among the concerned authorities, civil societies, academia and other stakeholders. Before this an essay writing competition was held all over India on "Water conservation" where two candidates from this region secured 2nd and 3rd positions. The winners got awards along with the T-shirt and posters distributed by Zoo Outreach Organisation.

On evening of 5th June, the State Environment Minister released a souvenir of WWF-India in Kolkata at Ashutosh Birth Centenary Hall and a film show was organized on this years theme topic. Two representatives from Loreto House and Don Bosco, Liluah delivered their presentation on climate change.

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WED celebrations at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

Regional Museum of Natural History, Bhopal has organized Wildlife Coservation Programmes with the help of zoo materials on the subject primates, bats & rats, bears and zoos in an effective manner. The duration for the said programme were 4 hours and it was organized at RMNH, Bhopal campus. As the part of Summer Camp 2007, this programme was arranged for selected participants at RMNH for 8-10 std. from various schools on 19 June 07. We explained nine species of bears identified but emphasized the four species found in India such as Sloth bear, Sun bear, Himalayan black bear and Himalayan brown bear and requested the students to avoid being witness of the bear dance and illegal poaching. The participants readily agreed.

The South Asian Primates Colouring book was introduced and explained that how to differentiate them and also what they eat. Behaviour of monkeys was explained as that monkeys eat berries, fruits and nuts. They were told that the monkeys are social animals and they live in groups.

We explained that the great majority of non-volant (non-flying) small mammals are not pests at all, but these innocent forest animals are doing what other small mammals do for ecosystem like dispersing seeds for healthy growth of vegetation, consuming excess grasses, providing a food source for a great variety of mammals, birds, reptiles etc

Shri Manoj Kumar Sharma, Taxidermist of the museum acted as resource person and Ms Samita Singh from Chitransh College, was the invited VIP. Materials as rakhi, posters, books, stickers, masks etc provided by ZOO were distributed to the students and found very helpful to enhance the environmental information to conserve the nature. All sponsors were acknowledged and the participants collected the e.mail id of Z.O.O. for their further contact.

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Report on World Environment Day celebration by SEE, Arunachal Pradesh

The Society for Ecology and Environment (SEE) has organized the world environment day in Kingcup Public School, Itanagar on 5 June 2007. The NGO known for its commitment towards biodiversity conservation and development in Arunachal Pradesh targeted mainly the school student for such an awareness programme. Experts from different educational and research institutes such as North Eastern Regional Institute of Science and Technology (NERIST), GB Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development (GBPIHED) and Rajiv Gandhi University, Itanagar were invited to talk on various issues relating to conservation of biodiversity.

Some activities were: speeches, planting seedlings, inauguration of poster display session, presentations by Resource persons, screening of movie, extempore speech competition, prize distribution.

In accordance with this year's global theme "Melting Ice-A hot topic?" different resource persons conveyed different messages to the participating students. The importance of why the younger generation of today need to be sensitized on matters pertaining to climate change and its consequent effect on human being.

Follow-up: To disseminate the message of the programme among the masses, the programme details were published in the leading dailies (Arunachal Times, The Echo of Arunachal and The Dawnlit Post of Arunachal Pradesh).

Acknowledgement: The Society for Ecology and Environment (SEE) is very much thankful to the Zoo Outreach Organization (ZOO) for educational material which helped us to conduct the programme successfully, but also created mass awareness amongst the students.

Submitted by: L.B. Singha, Advisor-SEE, Email: see.org.in@gmail.com

Other programmes

Conservation Education programme in Kolhapur, Maharashtra

We have erected Amarnath Cave & Ice Shivling at 11th Lane Rajarampuri under our programme of "Global Warming" awareness.

A programme on wildlife conservation & save environment was arranged on 27&28 August 07 at this cave of Amarnath. Around 250 students from Sai English School, Birds School, T.P Highschool, Tararani Vidyapith participated in the programme.

MLA Shri. Malojiraje & MP Shri. Sadashive Mandlik were chief guests for the programme. The education packets received from Zoo Outreach Organisation were distributed.

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Happy Birthday for White Tiger Cubs at Nandankanan Zoo

It was a different day for the Nandankanan Zoological Park. The atmosphere was charged with a festive mood. It was good news for inmates of Nandankanan Zoo. They too now celebrate their birthday with the visitors. The zoo authority has planned to celebrate birthday of important animals and birds inside their enclosures. The animal keepers of the zoo along with the school children had left no stone unturned to decorate the enclosures of the three white tigers with flowers and a "Happy Birthday" banner. The main entrance of the zoo was posted with a large "Happy Birthday Wish" hoarding indicating the birthday of the tigers and a brief history of their clan.

The Chief Wildlife Warden, Orissa gave the final touch to the celebration by cutting the cake cheered amidst the chorus "Happy Birthday to Rishi, Sitesh & Prachi by more than 100 School Children and hundreds of visitors. Then the tigers had their special treat of the whole goat while the children were relishing the special birthday cake. This was followed by the felicitation of the animal keepers who care the animals of the zoo more than like their children and a tiger talk by eminent naturalist and scientist Dr. P Roy the scientist in charge of RMNH, Bhubaneswar, attended by more than 200 school children, visitors and zoo guides. The event was covered by all most all national and local news papers and aired by 30 television channels.

Organised and reported by Sri Ajit Pattnaik, Director, Nandankanan Zoo.

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