

## Education Reports from SAN-IZE NETWORK



**SAN IZE stands for South Asia Network of the International Zoo Educator Association. Zoo Outreach Organisation hosts SAN IZE and raises funds for producing educational material suitable for students and others in the South Asian Region. The following reports are from recipient organisations which applied for and received a quantity of educational packets, posters, t-shirts, and guidelines for a successful programme. Most of the individuals and organisations reporting are members of SAN IZE and receive ZOO's popular educational materials.**

### ASSAM

#### A Report of "Plants For Life" and "Just Bats about Bats" Programme of School Students

As a part of environmental programmes in schools, Megamix Nature Club hosted 42 school students on 4th September 2005. They were selected from 7 high schools and H.S. schools of Dhakuakhana. Mr. Putul Bhuyan, O.C. of Dhakuakhana Thana has inaugurated the event. The activities were performed in two phases: class room teaching and out door teaching. An orientation about the programme was given at the classroom. Then the students were divided into two groups, one group was given "Plants for Life" packet and another group supplied with "Just Bats about Bats" packets which was provided by ZOO/WILD, Coimbatore and funded by BGCI and Chester Zoo, UK. Programme leaders asked the students response to the packets for sometime, after which some of the games were conducted. At the end the students were tested on what they learned from the programme. Dr. Amal Dutta, Debojit Phukan and Narendranath Dutta were the resource persons.

Submitted by Mr. Debojit Phukan, Coordinator, Megamix Nature Club, Dhakuakhana, Assam. [phukan54@sancharnet.in](mailto:phukan54@sancharnet.in), [debojit.p@rediffmail.co](mailto:debojit.p@rediffmail.co)



Students identifying & describing the tree blind folded



An exercise finding a tree that is not useful on the earth

#### Megamix Nature Club Celebrates Wildlife Week 2005

In the fifty-first Week for Wildlife, Megamix Nature Club choose a large and diverse range of target group as audience, participants and visitors. The groups are students of college, crowd standing in the town comers, gatherings in community hall etc. Similarly, the venue located in college conference hall or a community hall beyond a boat rowing or to reach by bicycle after hours. The target group and venue covered prominent places of wildlife. Inaugural event on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2005 was in Dhakuakhana Girls College conference hall. 110 girls, 12 lecturers, principal and 10 other guests were the participants in the college event. The lectures, interactions and display of the ZOO's wildlife education packets covered the topics: state of wildlife in the area, various threats, fish and environment education in college. The 2nd event of the week on Gandhi Jayanti was in Akhoiphutia. The place is prominent for common wildlife but impossible to arrive without boat. The 'Namghar' was the venue which attracted whole section of people. Nothing about wildlife was left in the microphone of the loud-speaker. A set of ZOO's education packets relevant to the area are provided to the village committee.



Biodiversity web game-students wearing different masks as species



Debojit Phukan explaining how to determine biomass of selected area

The third event was daylong workshop on biodiversity for Harhi college students. Diversity of habitat, species and genetics and inter-dependence among the producer, consumer and decomposer are explained through the classroom teachings and field demonstrations. A set of ZOO's packets are used as teaching materials. The last day on 07<sup>th</sup> October of the week basically was a street meeting at the junction of 'Khojua Tinali'. But the meeting became an in-hall-type event due to large installation of sitting facilities, loud-speaker, black-board and presence of wildlife enthusiasts with some ideas, information and proposals. The development committee of the area was behind the sudden arrangements of the facilities. Much of educational materials of 'ZOO' are demonstrated to inform and clarify some facts about wildlife and environment. The 'day' as well as the 'week' ended through a party of light food served by the volunteers of the local development committee.  
**Submitted by Debojit Phukan, Co-ordinator, Megamix Nature Club, Dhakuakhana, Assam.**

## **CHHATISGARH**

### **Maitri Baag Zoo conducts a Zoo Education Programme on Bats for Central School, Raipur.**

The Maitri Baag Zoo, Bhilai Steel Plant conducted an educational programme on Bat Conservation for the students of Kendriya Vidyalaya (Central School) Raipur. Over 300 students along with staff of the school visited the zoo for this education programme. They were taken round along by Maitri Baag Zoo Education cell staff divided into 3 groups. They heard an explanation on the role of bats in the environment in controlling rodents and insects as well as seed dispersal. Also, the decline in number of bats in the field due to habitat destruction, pesticides, and other human activities was explained. Myths about bats were discussed as well and the true facts substituted. In Maitri Baag zoo, bats roost in the trees of the natural habitat of zoo and enjoy protection given by the management. During educational visit the members of Maitri Baag Zoo have explained the purpose of the zoo, e.g., conservation, zoo education, research and recreation. In fulfillment of one of the most important of these roles, e.g., zoo education the students have been given much information about the habit and habitats of wild animals, such as their feeding habits, the status of wildlife etc. by the staff of the Maitri Baag Zoo. During this educational visit, the students were given educational packets containing mask, placards, stickers, information booklet etc on bat conservation provided by Zoo Outreach Organisation and which provided material for learning activities. At the end of the programme, the participants have taken oath on the conservation of bat and also wildlife in their lifetime by tying rakhi from the packet. During the visit they have also been given certificates provided by Z.O.O Coimbatore.

**Submitted by Dr. G.K. Dubey, Chief Veterinary Officer & Dr. T. Kalaichelvan, Zoo Supervisor, Maitri Baag Zoo, Bhilai Steel Plant, Bhilai-490 006, Chhatisgarh.**



**Students explained about bats conservation**



**Showing bats roost at Maitri Baag zoo campus**

## **NEW DELHI (UNION TERRITORY)**

### **Wildlife week at National Zoological Park, New Delhi**

The National Zoological Park ceremoniously and traditionally started its Wildlife Week today on 3/10/2005. The wildlife week has been held annually (since its inception in 1957) in NZP in the first week of October. Our aim is to create awareness and sympathy for the wildlife. Adding to the festive colours of Navratri the painting competition was held with whole premise full of enthusiastic kids, students from government, public and private schools, who had come to celebrate wildlife. The competition was held for different age groups from 5-16 years and also for handicapped students. The topics given for drawing were our very own animals of the zoo, e.g., Elephants, Himalayan Black Bear, Giraffe and White Tiger. Our effort was fruitful, as can be shown by every year increase in the number of students who participated. Next in our celebrations we had the essay and wildlife quiz competitions in which nearly 800 students participated. The essay competition was held on fourth of October for fourth to seventh class whose topic was "Importance of Wildlife" and eighth to twelfth class whose topic was "Why we should conserve Wildlife?" Both the categories had many participants. Honorable judges judged the entries and prizes from first to third as well as consolation were awarded. The Quiz Competition received an overwhelming gathering and the questions were a mixture of easy, tough and tricky questions and the participants responded well. Our amateur photography competition also received increased entries and that too from far off places like Jaipur and Rohtak, besides the local entries. A panel of renowned photographers judged the entries. We feel happy that the wildlife fever is catching on in the young minds and may be we will have a crowd of wildlife conservationists in the coming future.

During the wildlife week this park received packets of educational material and a programme with theme "Conservation of Tiger" was organized by involving a group of students from Tehelka Foundation on 22/10/2005.

The programme details are as under: 1. The educational materials of "Tiger Tool" were used for this purpose. 2. The programme was conducted at NZP near tiger enclosure for half day. 3. The students involved were of the 8th and 9th class. 4. The faculty from the NZP who executed this pro-gramme. During this theme programme the group was first taken around the zoo mainly the carnivore exhibit for on the spot observation and discussion. Thereafter, the group assembled near the tiger enclosure where the following games were played. Tying the tiger rakhi and playing of musical chair type game based on the concept of "The Survival of the Fittest". We also made all the participants take pledge to save the tiger. We like to





**Conservation of Tiger Programme - Students along with NZP staffs**

thank Zoo Outreach Organisation for providing such informative packages that are highly appreciated by the masses and are proving to be boon for the wildlife conservation.

Submitted by Dr. A.K. Malhotra, Curator (Education) National Zoological Park, New Delhi

#### **GUJARAT**

##### **Department of Biosciences, Veer Narmad South Gujarat University, Surat conducts Programme for Wildlife Week 2005**

The programme consisted of a Biodiversity Quiz competition and Essay Writing competition on "Biodiversity in service of man" We received some packets, posters and t-shirts from ZOO which provided informative material for our theme. The four hour programme was held at the senate hall of the University, on 01-10-2005. The participants consisted of University and College students, 74 in all, accompanied by five teachers. Dr. Minoo Parabia served as a resource person and delivered a lecture with a slide show on the "Medicinal Plants and Primary Health Care" to the participants. Prof. R.G. Kothari, Vice-Chancellor of the university and Professor P.K. Hiradhar, Head, Department of Biosciences addressed the gathering and gave away the prizes to the participants. The programme was a collaborative venture of the university and Zoo Outreach Organisation. Dr. Y. J. Thanki, Dr. P. V. Desai, Dr. S. K. Tank & Dr. M. N. Reddy were the resource judges to evaluate the quiz and the essays. It was a very encouraging experience, and we look forward to similar collaborative programmes in future.

Submitted by Dr. Minoo Parabia, Professor and Head, Department of Biosciences, Veer Narmad South Gujarat University, Surat-395 007, Gujarat



**Plants for life packets-prize distribution by the chief guest**

#### **JAMMU & KASHMIR**

##### **Educational activities of Wildlife Week by Chenab Division Kishtwar, Jammu & Kashmir Forest Department**

Zoo Outreach Organisation has been a reliable source to bring home the message of wildlife conservation in this part of the globe. The material sent by your organisation stands distributed among the target groups during observance of Wildlife week 2005. There were symposiums at Govt. Degree college, Kishtwar, Govt. Degree College Bhadarwah Govt. Middle School, Dachhan Govt. Middle School, Kiyat Oachhan, Govt. Degree College, Doda and Furqan Academy, Dachhan. There was an essay/ painting competition at Govt. Higher Sec. School, Ramban. These educational institutions have expressed their appreciation for launching awareness drive through distribution of theme oriented awareness materials. On behalf of the department we congratulate Z.O.O. for this endeavour and wish you all the best ahead.

Submitted by Rashid Y. Nagesh, Wildlife Warden Chenab Division Kishtwar Jammu & Kashmir.

## KARNATAKA

### Pilikula Biological Park, Mangalore celebrates Wildlife Week

The fifty-first Wildlife Week was celebrated in the Pilikula Biological Park of Pilikula Nisarga Dhama Mangalore for five days during the week's duration. Various wildlife related competitions for school children were the major focus. On 3<sup>rd</sup> October drawing competition was held for school children. Smt. Anitha S. Arekal, I.F.S., Deputy Conservator of Forests, Mangalore division inaugurated the drawing competition by drawing the picture of a Peacock. Sri. S. Shivaram Malli, President Mudushedde Grama Panchyat, presided over the function. Sri. H.J. Bhandary, Director, Pilikula Biological Park, welcomed the gathering and spoke about the contribution of Zoo Outreach Organization in educating the masses. Sri. J.R. Lobo, Executive Director, Pilikula Nisarga Dhama was present on the occasion. Dr. K.V. Rao Director (Training) Pilikula Nisarga Dhama proposed the vote of thanks. Nearly 250 school children participated in the drawing competition which was held in four categories.



Participants with the kits supplied by Z.O.O.



Snakes demonstration

On 5th October a ring vaccination camp for preventive anti rabies for dogs and foot and mouth disease to the cattle of the surrounding areas of Biological Park was held in association with department of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Sciences. On 7<sup>th</sup> October at 10.00 a.m quiz competition in four categories was held for school children in four categories nearly 200 school children took part in the competition. From 2.00 p.m to 3.00 p.m live demonstration of snakes by members of animal care trust and a lecture on snake bite & treatment by Dr. K. S. Bhat, Prof. of medicine, Fr Mullers Medical College, Mangalore was held. A fancy dress competition on wildlife was held for school children from 3.00 p.m. Sri. Kishor Singh Sugar, I.F.S, Conservator of Forests, Mangalore Circle, Mangalore presided over the valedictory programme held in the evening. Smt Philomena Lobo, Deputy Director of Public Instruction, Mangalore was the Chief guest and distributed the prizes to the winners. Sri . H.J Bhandary, Director, Pilikula Biological Park welcomed the gathering. Dr. K. V. Rao, Director (Training) Pilikula Nisarga Dhama proposed the vote of thanks.

The kits received from the Zoo Outreach Organization were distributed to the participants and other school children who visited the Biological Park during the Wildlife Week celebration. We would like to thank Zoo Outreach Organization for the kind co-operation extended to Pilikula Biological Park.

Submitted by H.J. Bhandary, Director, Pilikula Biological Park, Mudushedde, Managalore 575 028

## KERALA

### Kerala Forest & Wildlife Department conducts Wildlife Week in all district HQs

Every year, Kerala Forest & Wildlife Department conducts Wildlife Week in all district HQs. But areas adjoining forests generally get neglected. This year Peechi Wildlife Division organized various competitions for school students of Pananchery Panchayat in which this division falls.



Children drawing elephant



Quiz programme in progress

The event was conducted in the dormitory at the division HQ at Peechi on 5<sup>th</sup> October 05. Quiz and painting competitions were held for 3 categories of students, Lower and Upper Primary and High School. Fifty six students from different government schools participated. The previous day, 5<sup>th</sup> October was also the Elephant Day for Kerala, so the theme for painting was Elephants with Quiz Master Dr. E.A. Jayson, Scientist, Forest Ecology & Biodiversity Conservation Division,



Kerala Forest Research Institute. Up and coming artist Sri. Ratheesh Kumar of Kochi was the judge for the painting competition.

In the public function that followed the competitions, District Education Officer Sri. Sadanandan, was the chief guest and gave away the prizes while appreciating the efforts of the Department. "Holding a programme like this for the underprivileged students of the rural area is admirable," he commented, and offered all assistance in future. The Headmistress of Govt. High School, Pattikkad and Govt. U.P. School, Peechi participated in the function as well as Dr. E.K. Easwaran, Forest Veterinary Officer, Kerala Forest & Wildlife Department, Konni who presided. Education materials provided by Zoo Outreach Organization was given to all participants and T-shirts were given to prize winners in addition to cash prize. All the teachers who accompanied the students were very enthusiastic about organizing further nature awareness programmes and starting nature clubs in their institutions.

Programmes based on certain animal/genre are now planned to be conducted in November and December for students of this Panchayat, e.g. Amphibian, Bats, Bears and Primates. Resource persons who have agreed to participate are Dr. E.A. Jayson and Dr. K.K. Ramachandran of KFRI, Dr. Gigi of Periyar Foundation and Dr. P.O. Nameer of College of Forestry, Agricultural University. We are thankful to ZOO and their external sponsors for the educational material and assure that they will be put to genuine use.

**Submitted by John Augustine Nirmal, Wildlife Warden, Peechi.**

### **ZooWatch conducts an awareness Training workshop for snake conservation**

On 5<sup>th</sup> December 2005, ZooWatch conducted a programme entitled "Hiss ... Story – Understanding Snakes at the Museum Auditorium, Trivandrum Zoo, Kerala. In order to bring about public awareness of environmental issues ZooWatch also conducts training workshops and public education programmes at the Zoo. In this instant, ZooWatch members Mr. Raajkaran Aravind and Mr. Palalayam Babu conducted a very important workshop on snake conservation for teachers from local schools and colleges at the museum auditorium of the Trivandrum Zoo. This may be the very first time such a training programme has been held in Trivandrum zoo on snake conservation. The workshop is especially relevant because today in India, snakes have a very negative image. Innumerable superstitions are blindly believed even by the most educated people. For example, many still believe that snakes will take revenge for the killing of a mate, that cobras have a jewel in their hoods, etc. They are frequently hunted and killed solely because most people regard them as dangerous vermin. The fact is, not only are the vast majority of snakes perfectly harmless to human beings, but they are actually crucial elements of our natural environment. Without snakes, our farms, gardens and houses would be overrun by rats and mice. In many parts of the world, therefore, snakes are actually considered the farmer's best friends because they protect the crops that we require to survive. The objective of the ZooWatch workshop was to demystify snakes as a species. We choose to focus solely on Indian snake species in this workshop in order to maximize the message of conservation.

This one day workshop began with Mr. Raajkaran chairing an interactive discussion about the image of snakes in general. The delegates, most of whom are teachers, also filled out a questionnaire which analyzed their perception of snakes. Following this session, Chief Guest, Mr. Ajith, an environmental activist from Kodumangallur, gave a very informative talk on the various species of Indian snakes. Most importantly, he taught the delegates how to identify snakes, especially the Big Four, ie. The snakes responsible for most of the serious bites in India. These are the Cobra, the Russell's viper, the Saw-scaled viper and the Common Krait. Using slides, he taught us about the breeding of snakes, their senses, their feeding habits and why snakes as a species have developed the weapon of venom. Most delegates were not even aware that there are two types of snake venom. Cobras and Kraits produce venom that is neurotoxic, ie. It works by shutting down the nervous system. On the other hand, the venom of Vipers is haemotoxic and works by damaging blood vessels.

After lunch, the delegates were taken to visit the reptile houses in the Trivandrum Zoo and had the rare opportunity to watch the feeding of a King Cobra, something that does not normally take place when the general public can visit the zoo. More



than any pictures or lectures, this visit enhanced awareness of the beauty, elegance and speed of snakes. In the afternoon session Mr. Raajkaran delivered a power point presentation on the message of conservation with some extraordinary pictures that revealed the truly astonishing capabilities of snakes. The workshop concluded by 5 pm with an interactive question and answer session. Now the delegates could fill out the same questionnaire with ease because they were equipped with much more knowledge about snakes. Those teachers who attend this workshop on snakes were unanimous in their view that they now had a very different to snakes as a whole and more importantly, that they would strive to transmit their knowledge to their pupils and their communities as a whole.

### **Interactive session on snakes**

ZooWatch takes this opportunity to thank Mr. Unnikrishnan, the director of the Trivandrum zoo and his staff for their wholehearted and generous support. We owe a special debt of gratitude to Mr. Ajith, our Chief Guest, who very kindly lent his years of experience to us in conducting this workshop. To other NGOs who would like to conduct similar programmes: our advice is to choose a day when the Zoo is closed to the public because the attention of the participants will not be distracted by the usual noise on visiting days. It also means less stress for the snakes. A very useful and informative tool in this workshop was the "Snakes of India. The Field Guide" by Romulus Whitaker and Ashok Captain- We strongly recommend it!

**Submitted by Latha Tampi, Vice President, ZooWatch, Trivandrum, Kerala.**

## MAHARASTRA

### Bombay Cambridge School, Andheri (East) conducts Educational Sessions

"Threatened Primates" On November 30, 2005, an activity session was conducted for a group of a 50 students of Standard VII of Bombay Cambridge School. The session was planned for 3 hours on the topic "Threatened Primates"; it included 5 activities and a power point presentation on primates. Our School is a member of ZOO and we received the activity material from them in July 2005. I have been given the responsibility of conducting activities and making proper utilization of material provided.



To begin the session, the importance of plant and animal life was discussed, followed by the importance of plants to nature and the means of conservation of plantlife. The interdependence of plant and animal life was later discussed, and students spoke about why animals were equally important in the process of conservation. Later, an activity was conducted, where students were asked to make a list of all animal they were aware of, alphabetically. The students enjoyed doing this in groups and came up with some names which other students were not aware of. Thus their knowledge increased and it was fun to see them questioning each other and expressing doubts of the existence of those species. Next, I read out the small piece of description of tiger which usually appears on the last page of Sanctuary Magazine. It is the imagination of a small child who has not seen a tiger.

### Students from class VI are making masks

The students laughed when I read that the tiger has wings. So, to build up on this issue, I gave the groups a name of an endangered / extinct species of animal, and told them to describe it, in whatever way they could think of. The animals that the students were to describe were – Dugong, Red-ukari, Moa, Golden-Lion Tamarin and Kagu, etc. The students had fun and were really delighted to just imagine about the animals and state its characteristics. Later, each group was asked to read out what they had written.



Some of the masks they did during the exercise

The activity was concluded with the importance of various species and how they are becoming endangered and extinct. The students were told that the tiger and monkey that they we have all seen might be available only in photographs a few years later and may be their grandchildren would describe a tiger with colorful-wings. This activity had a great impact on all students and they all promised to protect wildlife. The story about the LTM and tiger (from the activity material), was read out. Then there was a discussion on various primates'. A power-point presentation based on the booklet "Threatened Primates" was shown to the students and the students loved to see the pictures of Hoolock gibbons, different types macaques, different types of langurs and were surprised to know about species endemic to India. The session concluded with students making masks and posters, promising to protect and save the environment in all ways possible.

Submitted by Ms. Pratibha Kharat. & Ms Aparna Joshi, Bombay Cambridge School, Andheri (E), Mumbai

### EVS Workshop for Teachers

I was invited as a member of the resource team to conduct an EVS workshop for the teachers of various schools of the K-P East-ward, Mumbai. During this workshop (10<sup>th</sup> October to 15<sup>th</sup> October 2005), I tried my best to create awareness related to protection and conservation of nature and human intervention in this field. I have used the material provided by ZOO on two occasions during the workshop. (The works of teachers is also posted along with). When the topic of Biodiversity was being taken up, I used the poster of "Cruelty towards Bears" and then discussed how animals have become endangered and extinct. I read out the last page of Sanctuary magazine where a small child, who has not seen a tiger, describes it as a animal with wings,... To enhance on this issue a video clip showing "Cruelty towards



Ms. Pratibha Kharat is talking to the teachers about conservation of nature

Animals" was shown and the teachers promised that now they would think twice before they buy any product for which an animal needs to be killed. In another activity session, the teachers were given a sketch depicting a man in need of water and the teachers were asked to review / analyze the picture in the form of drawing, poetry, story or any other way. The response of the teacher was marvelous and the best entries were read out during the workshop and appreciated by all. Some of the material provided by Z.O.O. was given away as gifts to the teachers.

**Submitted by Ms. Pratibha Kharat, Bombay Cambridge School, Andheri (E), Mumbai**

### **Plants for Life**

Our school has a nature club with students of Std.VI to VII as members. During the first week of October, a small activity session was conducted for the students on this topic –"Plants for Life". I chose a group of around 25 students of Std.VI of the nature club for this 3 hours session. The session began with discussion on the number of plants and animals species in the world and in India. The "Plants for Life" book was very useful. The students were told to form groups of 10 and they were informed that they would be marked for the activities and the best group would be awarded.



**The students from 8<sup>th</sup> std taking part in "Plants for life" activities**

The session involved a few activities like, - 1) Writing the list of plants known to them in alphabetical order; 2) List of uses/ importance of plants; 3) Ways of Conservation of plant life; 4) Preparing a poster depicting concern for environment. The students were all very enthusiastic and enjoyed every activity, though they felt more time should have been given. A small discussion was held after each activity and it was observed that students were sorry that they did not mention it in their activity sheet. Each activity made them think of the case and effect of human intervention and how only humans could save our nature. Ms. Aparna Joshi, the teacher incharge of the nature club assisted me in this activity session and scored the groups for their work. The students were given the "Plants for life" kit and their work was displayed on the school flannel board.

**Submitted by Ms. Pratibha Kharat & Ms. Aparna Joshi, Bombay Cambridge School, Andheri (E)**

### **'A Tiger'**

*"Tiger is very red. It has wings & flies very high. Just bird. When it sees me, it wags its tail. Sometimes I give it my lollypops & pudding. Tigers come in many colours also. Mummy says white. I like playing with tiger".* This is a description of tiger written by a child who has not seen a tiger (appears regularly on the last cover page of Sanctuary Magazine). If this not the case today, it may be a possible situation with our grandchildren if the tiger becomes extinct. Taking this aspect, I have conducted the following activity twice with students & teachers. The groups formed, were given the names of a few animals species that have become extinct/are endangered (lesser known) and asked to describe them (the Zebra – Finches, Golden - Lion Tamarin, Kagu, Dugong, Moa, etc). The students as well as the teachers enjoyed (using their imaginations) writing about the animal given to them. They were asked to read out their description and then the actual picture was shown and a vivid description of that animal was read out. All participants enjoyed this activity and to summarize, the paragraph — "A tiger" (mentioned above) was read out. This was concluded by saying that "today if we are so aware of the tiger, it is only because it is part of our environment, otherwise we would also say that it has wings and flies high. Let this not happen for our generations to come." This activity had a great impact on one and all. This was followed by a discussion on the various causes that have led to extinction of species. The bear poster was also shown and read out.

**Submitted by Ms. Pratibha Kharat, Bombay Cambridge School, Andheri (E), Mumbai**

### **Nature Club Surat conducts Wildlife Week**

The materials received from Zoo Outreach Organisation were used in Dang camps to educate the participants. Kits containing the materials of frogs and vultures were used for participant age group 8-15.

Materials on frogs:- Participants gathered under a tree near a river and they were told to make different sounds of frogs, which they must have come across during any field trip. Some of the students were able to make some sort of sound. Nature Club Surat volunteers helped them with different sounds. Many did not know much about them. So volunteers opened the kit provided by Z.O.O. and gave them one each to study and understand.

The following questions were put to them.

1. Why do we need frogs around us?
2. How do they help us?



3. What are the stages of their development?
4. Where do they fit in the life cycle?
5. Why should we protect them?

Answers to these questions were given to them at the end of the session. They discussed the answers in groups. At the end they staged a skit using the masks. They made a procession to the campsite wearing the masks and making the sounds of frogs. All at the campsite appreciated the procession and skit.



**Children with frog masks and placard at Dang Nature Education camp**



**Students are explained about vultures**

Materials on vulture: - Materials on vultures were also used during the camp. The kits were tried on different groups. Vultures are getting diminished day by day. So we made it point to put the message through. Vultures are one of the few birds that are not looked upon well. People have different belief and opinion about them. It was bit difficult to convince the participants about the role they play in the nature.

The following questions were put to them to answer.

1. Why do you hate vultures?
2. Is any one of you ever harmed by vultures?
3. What will happen if the vultures are not around?
4. Is it not our responsibility to protect them?

There were hot discussions on the matter, but at the end it was decided that nature's own cleaners should be protected. Masks were distributed to the participants and they readily wore them to make some skits. We had gloves puppets of vultures and were used for the skit along with the masks. They also enjoyed painting vultures.

The following points were noted after the session:-

- Participants have so many negative thoughts about frogs and vultures
- It is easy to make them understand the things with practical demonstrations
- When the point is discussed through scientific explanations they are ready to accept it and change the attitude
- Public media like cinema are at fault for their believes

Nature Club Surat is thankful to Zoo Outreach Organisation and their sponsors Columbus Zoo and Chester Zoo for giving us an opportunity to use the education materials.

**Submitted by Snehal Patel, Nature Club Surat, 81. Sarjan Society, Athwalines, Surat - 395 007**

#### **KCL Service Club and Yuvak Mitra Mandal celebrates Plants for Life.**

On 24-12-05 at Rajarampuri, Kolhapur a programme was arranged jointly with KCL Service Club and Yuvak Mitra Mandal, the aim of the programme was to motivate citizens for plantation. More than 200 children other citizens were present for the event. "Santa Claus" distributed "Plants for Life" packets to every participant, a certificate for participation and sweets for the kids. Santa explained the role of plants in our lives: "Remember we can not live without plants, so let us protect them."

Children and other attendees enjoyed the programme. We are planning this programme at every school in Kolhapur.

**Submitted by Kishor, Maruti Malekar, Kolhapur - 416008, Rajarampuri**

#### **MAHARASTRA — OASIS conducts programmes October – December on Animals, Plants and Biodiversity.**

OASIS is a Registered Environmental NGO of Aware Action. In the month of October we had "The Animal World"; in November we had "World of Trees" and in December we conducted a programme on "Biological Diversity" as our valuable resource. In The Animal World and Biological Diversity workshop, a gallery including all ZOO packet themes was put up for children to read through — Bear, Primates, Vultures, Frog, Bats, Turtle. Some children participated in a Fancy Dress contest or a drawing contest. Then they were made to paint huge mount boards and create a drama out of the points learnt from the packets. They had to present it to their other peers of the school. In the World of trees workshop the "Plants for Life" module was used again a gallery was put up, identification games were played. Each child had to wear a mask and say a few points about the species he/she was wearing.





Students are playing game by wearing plant masks



Students with mount boards - drawn for enacting drama

Submitted by Dr. Puja V. Sukhija, OASIS, Mumbai - 400 007, Maharashtra, pujasukhija@hotmail.com

## MIZORAM

### Observance of 51st Indian Wildlife Week 2005 at Aizawl, Mizoram

The Hon'ble Chief Minister's Special Message for Wildlife Week was broadcast on Doordarshan Kendra and AIR, Aizawl Station and local cable networks, and the message was circulated to all Territorial DFO's for wide dissemination under their jurisdiction. Early in the week there was a one-day Wildlife Art Camp for High/Higher Secondary School level in association with popular artists who are also members of an NGO, Association for Environment Preservation (ASEP). The following day the first round of Wildlife Quiz Competitions for high/higher secondary school level students was conducted utilizing the service of Science Teachers' Association of Mizoram. A final round was held at the closing function on 6th October 2005. For two days a wildlife awareness campaign was organized at 12 schools utilizing the services of the Science Teachers Association of Mizoram, the Association for Environment Preservation (ASEP) and Centre for Environment Protection (CEP). The closing function of the weeklong observance of Indian Wildlife Week 2005 was held at the Auditorium of I&PR Department where Dr. R. Lalthangliana MEF was the Chief Guest. The following day the Message of Dr. R. Lalthangliana was broadcast on DDK, AIR and Local Cable Networks.

In addition, similar programmes were held in all the 11 territorial forest divisions of the state. In all the functions materials received from Zoo Outreach Organisation have been distributed to the participants.

Submitted by L.R. Thanga, Chief Wildlife Warden, Environment & Forest Department, Aizawl, Mizoram

## TAMIL NADU

### Wildlife Week Celebrations- Focusing the theme of "Plants for Life" at Anaikatti

Wildlife Week Celebration-2005 has been organized as part of creating awareness among students about plants conservation at the Coimbatore Zoological Park Society, Botanical Garden at Anaikatty on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2005. A total of 90 students and 7 teachers from GRG Polytechnic for Women took part in this event. The theme of the event was "Plants for Life". All the participants trekked through the botanical garden. Then they were told about the importance of plants in our daily life and the CZPS thematic collection of endemic plants of Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. Plant and animal interaction also was explained at the site. Games and quiz also were conducted. Our thanks to BGCI, NBRI, Chester Zoo, Zoo Outreach Organisation for providing the educational materials and to Shri G. Rangaswamy Secretary/Treasurer CZPCC for constant encouragement.

### Coimbatore Zoological Park Society organizes Plants for Life Celebrations

As part of the Collaborative programme with Zoo Outreach Organization, Plants for Life Celebrations second event was organized by CZPS for the Chandra Matriculation School (CMS) on 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2005. A total of 59 students from classes 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> and 4 biology teachers took part in this event. The Principal of the School Mrs. N. Kamalam inaugurated the event.

The CMS School is having an Herbal Garden in their premises. The theme of the event "Plants for Life" was easily understandable by the gathering. In the Introduction session B. Rathinasabapathy, Biologist highlighted the local, National and Global scenario of plants diversity and how its getting depleted due to increasing human population, industrialization, pollution, deforestation. As a case study the CZPS garden at Anaikatty was described; many children had visited. R. Marimuthu, Education Officer of Zoo Outreach Organization, devoted second session to explain about the BGCI and Chester Zoo sponsored education packet. In this session students were extensively taught about the materials that found in the packets. The students were told about the sponsors of this packet, Botanical Gardens Conservation International, Chester Zoo, Zoo Outreach Organisation and WILD. Then the rakhi tying and mask wearing ceremony was conducted.

Mr. Manickam, horticulturist led a hands on experience: explaining the plants facts and its importance in our life and after his demonstration he took the students to a small field trip around school campus. He selected some plants in the school and also from the herbal garden. He explained to the students the common name, scientific name, uses-medicinal and other and some interesting factors about the plants to the students. Most of the students brought their note book and whatever the information they got, jotted down.



**Students wearing plant masks**



**Hands on experience: explaining importance of the plants at the herbal garden**

The Principal, concluded the event and said similar such event will help the students to learn more about our environment. She thanked Shri. G. Rangaswamy, Managing Trustee and Mrs. R. Nandini, Secretary of the Chandra Matriculation School, resource persons and Zoo Outreach Organization. The programme has been conducted as part of creating awareness among the students through the National Plants Conservation Programme under BGCI, National Botanical Research Institute and supported by HSBC.

**Submitted by B. Rathinasabapathy and R. Manickam, Coimbatore Zoological Park Society, Coimbatore.**

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#### **EX-L-NT, Conducts Wildlife Week Programme**

Vulture Culture — a one-day programme about vultures was conducted at the Education and Cultural Academy, Aiswarya Complex, P. N. Palayam, Coimbatore, co-ordinated by Mr. Dhanaraj with Miss. Sangeetha as Resource Person. In this class we have taught the following information to the students.

1. Different types of vultures
  2. An Indian Vulture Culture
  3. Vulture is in the list of disappearing beings in the world.
  4. What happen if they disappeared
  5. Why are vultures important to people
  6. Why we should save vultures.
- Before starting the programme we distributed the education materials given by ZOO. It was very helpful to conduct the programme in an interesting manner. Through this programme we could make the students think about the disappearing animals. Particularly the ZOO education materials made the students to participate in this programme with involvement and interest. Finally we asked the students to think about the disappearing creatures and to love each and every animal in the world.

**Submitted by Mr. Dhanaraj, EX- L- NT, Coimbatore - 641 037, Tamil Nadu.**



**Vulture poster is demonstrated to the students**

#### **UTTARANCHAL**

##### **G. B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment & Development, Kosi-Katarmal, Almora**

For Wildlife Week, the Pant Institute conducted a programme called Biodiversity Conservation Awareness Campaign. We used Zoo Outreach Organisation t-shirts, posters and other educational material for three days of five hour programmes. The programmes were conducted in the *ex situ* gene bank site (Arboretum and Herbal Garden), GBPIHED, in Kosi-Katarmal, Almora (Uttaranchal). Students and their teachers were the target group for education. Resource Persons were



**The students explained about the education packets**

Scientists and Research Scholars of the locality. The Director of their institute participated and lent dignity and prestige to the event. The campaign coincided with celebration of Wildlife Week, 2005. The objective of the campaign was to make the youth aware of biodiversity and natural systems. Particular emphasis was on creating interest among the children for diversity of life in their immediate surrounding. Included as the main event was an exposure visit to the Institute's *ex situ* gene bank site (arboretum, herbal garden, nurseries, etc.). This was followed by various on-spot competitions for the students. Schedule of events included also drawing, painting, essay and quiz competitions, Essay contest themes were Generate awareness about plant species and their uses, Role of youth in biodiversity conservation, Environmental Education and Nature Science. There was a creativity exercise with a task to generate awareness about plant species and their uses and conservation of biodiversity.



The programme received financial support under IIN-India Small Grant projects (IIN/ SGA-2003-04/10SZ-1). Education material and certificates for participants was made available by Zoo Outreach Organization, Coimbatore, we thank them. Heads of various educational Institutions agreed to the invitation on short notice. The organisation thanks all.



**Students with plant masks**

Submitted by Dr. R. S. Rawal, G. B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment & Development, Kosi-Katarmal, Almora - 263 643, Uttaranchal

#### **WEST BENGAL**

##### **Tarakeswar Science Club celebrates World Environment Day at Ramnarayanpur Junior High School**



Sixty-two students of VIII class gathered to celebrate World Environment Day 2006 in a programme initiated by Mr. Tapan Bhattacharya in collaboration with Zoo Outreach Organisation. The programme began early at 6:30 am with a tree planting programme of *Annona squarnosa* tree which are very rare in the locality. Our secretary explained the significance of this day and why it should be celebrated. The workshop on Environment, Ecology and Wildlife began at 7:30 am. In this workshop the 62 packets on "Plants for Life" and "Turtle & Tortoise" provided by Zoo Outreach Organisation were utilized and very much enjoyed by the students who wore the masks and tied the rakhi. They learned about plants and turtles in a one and half hour teaching programme, of which most of them had only very little knowledge.

**Students with plant and turtle & tortoise materials**

They were very curious about the turtles because some of them had already tasted those animals! After learning that their population is in danger, however, they promised that they would help us conserve turtles. They won't buy them from market. Then we displayed some local weed plants in posters and their utilization for medicinal purpose. We appealed to the Headmaster to create a medicinal plants garden in their school compound and he agreed. From 10 a.m. to noon we conducted a quiz on Sustainable Lifestyle and distributed T-shirts and posters of Environment and Wildlife as prizes. We thank Zoo Outreach Organisation and the international organization for sending the very useful packets. All students enjoyed the whole programme.

Submitted by Santanu Mitra, Tarakeswar Science Club, Tarakeswar, Hooghly, West Bengal, tarakeswar\_scienceclub@yahoo.co.in

##### **Tarakeswar Science Club celebrates Forest Week with a Wildlife Education Programme**

July 14-20 is considered as Forest Week in West Bengal. This year we celebrated on 15<sup>th</sup> July at Kulbatpur High School. Our secretary and Head master of the school briefly delivered a lecture on the necessity to observe the Forest Week to start the programme. We distributed educational packets on "Plants for Life" and "Turtle and Tortoise" packets to 55 students of class VI to IX. The packets were gifted by Zoo Outreach Organisation, Coimbatore and sponsored by Chester Zoo. Afterwards we played games on survivability in habitat which were taken from the packets of "Just bats about Bats" which were much enjoyed by the students. Our senior club members helped students understand the books in each packet so they could learn about plants and turtles. Each student pledged not to do any harm to turtle and to refrain from using turtles for food and to conserve plants by planting more trees in schools and houses.

In the afternoon we conducted an interactive programme with participants in the school compound where they learned about our neighbouring plants. Students enjoyed all the programme and their school teachers of the schools were also delighted by such programmes. They and ourselves thank Zoo Outreach Organisation for sending those packets for our programme. We also thank Chester Zoo and others abroad who help us to conduct this type of programmes.

Submitted by Santanu Mitra, Tarakeswar Science Club, Tarakeswar, Hooghly, West Bengal, tarakeswar\_scienceclub@yahoo.co.in

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# Report of the Education Department of National Zoo, Sri Lanka

**Dammika Malsinghe\***

The organisation of our educational activities depends on the age or grade of the school of the children. Usually we categorize the children under grade 5, i.e. age below 9 years, in-between grade 6 and 8 ages between 10-12, upto O/L's ages between 13-15, A/L's and University groups.

For the school children we have prepared power point presentations on various topics. Zoo animals, the zoo, *ex-situ* conservation, bio gas digester, bio diversity, adaptive radiation, trees, snakes of Sri Lanka, birds of Sri Lanka and bats, are some topics.

To get a Slide Show, a Power Point Presentation or a guided tour, a prior request was made before a weeks time. And during the presentation or the lecture, one of our education assistants conducts it with relevant to the level of age group or grade of the students.

Usually we guide a group of 15-40 children by one guide.

In addition to those school groups we receive lot of school children who select the Zoo for their Advance Level Projects.

Some students focus their projects on problems and difficulties in the zoo. For that we give them a brief description on infrastructure, species and numbers of animals, number of employees, wages, expenditure on various aspects, how we find various food for animals, etc.

The questions, I feel most difficult to answer are on the balance between expenditure and income. Since we utilize large sum of money on renovation and reconstruction, and the possibility of this structures to be on capital assets and income generation in future, counting exact balance is difficult. At most of the time these questions are raised by A/L or University level students. Some times we feel embarrassing when questions on excess animals are asked. Though we conduct many exchange programs, there are some animals in excess. Hence the answer for our excess animals is another zoo, we cannot repeatedly say it, since it depends on the politics of the country.

At most of the time we talk about conservation. We talk on our successful breeding programs. Though reintroduction is a part of the conservation, at the moment we hesitate to talk on that. Since at the moment our reintroductions are not carried out in the proper scientific way. But we have plans for a rehabilitation center close to a huge forested area and in near future we may be able to talk on that.

We have prepared descriptions on almost all animals and they are for sale. Descriptive labels, are provided for some important animals. When we talk about animals we like to tell important facts of them, such as distribution, habitat, food habits, behavioral patterns, gestation period, status whether endangered or not and the conservation methods taken so far.  
**Deputy Director, (General) Dept. of National Zoological Gardens, Anagarika Dharmapala Mawatha, Dehiwala, Sri Lanka, Email : zoosl@sit.lk**