

We are here to save our forests, our tigers and our hoolocks

Background:

Public awareness for threatened species conservation depend basically on the services of the educators, conservationists and it is an urgent need for the nation to develop responsible citizens who will support species conservation. Keeping this in mind, Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh (WTB) organized a unique conservation education workshop for school children of 1-7 standard (age ranges from 6-12 years) called 'We are here to save our forests, our tigers and our hoolocks'. A total of 35 students attended the programme. The objective of the workshop was awareness building using the 'active learning' method. This method helped children to learn better and retain what they have learned by taking them through interactive lessons with games, creative activities and other mechanisms.

The workshop themed on conservation need for some threatened wildlife of Bangladesh like the Bengal Tiger (*Panthera tigris*) and Hoolock Gibbon (*Hoolock hoolock*). Members of the Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh and Mr. M.R. Deedar, Senior Teacher, Beershreshtha Munshi Abdur Rauf Rifles College organized the workshop. Gawsia Wahidunness Chowdhury, Suprio Chakma, Shahriar Mahmud, Nurul Basar Sarker, Afroza Yasmin and Kamruzzaman of the Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh participated actively in conducting the workshop. Gawsia Wahidunnessa Chowdhury coordinated the workshop.

Parents of some students, teachers, other students and the members of Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh were present. Among others Professor Md. Anwarul Islam, Chief Executive, Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh; Mr. Md. Moniruzzaman, Principal, Beershreshtha Munshi Abdur Rauf Rifles College, were present.

Objective:

This conservation education workshop for threatened species of Bangladesh is an initiative or responsibility we have to shoulder for the future generations - a responsibility, which is being increasingly recognized. The objective of the workshop is to educate the participants about some threatened species of Bangladesh through advanced play way learning methods such as games and activities using Tiger and Hoolock as examples, the importance of the species and their conservation and the importance of suitable habitats and the need to preserve forests to protect wildlife. The programme also aims to train and develop creativity among participants by preparing them how to get involved in group activities and discussions.

The three hour long workshop included Art Exhibition on tigers, hoolocks and other animals. Registration: Know each other, Thinking about the living world: Story of life, Introducing Hoolock Gibbons of Bangladesh and an eco-game termed Resource Round Up-"Tiger-tiger....what man!" keeping two threatened species as the central characters.

Activities of the workshop:

Inaugural session: Professor Md. Anwarul Islam, Chief

Executive, Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh; Mr. Md. Moniruzzaman, Principal, Beershreshtha Munshi Abdur Rauf Rifles College, BDR Headquarter, Peelkhana, Dhaka addressed the students and declared the workshop open. Mr. Md. Moniruzzaman presented a painting of a student to Professor Islam for WTB.

Exhibition - Environment and Threatened species (Hoolock Gibbon, Bengal Tiger) in arts: An art exhibition was organized. Tigers, hoolocks in arts were presented at the workshop site. The students of different classes came up with their own creative ideas in colour.

Know each other: Participants introduced themselves through an interesting activity. The participants were given a blank paper and asked to put their name, class, age and to draw their favourite animal's picture, name and requested to explain what they had drawn, why they liked the animal. All the participants enjoyed much to draw their favourite animals. Some were came up with colorful pictures of their favourite animals. The participants, drew butterfly, 5 fish, 3 birds, 1 elephant, 2 zebra, 2 tiger and 1 rat.

Thinking about the living world, story of life: The workshop theme 'We are here to save our forests, our tigers and our



Drama competition for children at Dhaka Zoo

hoolocks' was explained to all the participants by Professor Md. Anwarul Islam. All the participants got to know how the living world care for us, what the role of plants-animals around us and our close interaction with each and every element of our Mother Nature. At this event, Professor Islam discussed the role of human to conserve forests and the threatened species. This discussion with the students was interesting and they responded enthusiastically. At the end of the event he called for an essay writing competition for all the participants on this living world and what they feel for our forests, threatened species and their conservation needs.

Workshop-theme: The workshop theme was explained to all by Gawsia and all of them got a pen, clay-bell, candy and 'Hoolock gibbon education packet' developed by Zoo Outreach Organization, India. At the end they were requested to ring their bell. They got to realize that it was an

alarm call to raise awareness among us for sustainable conservation of our forests, threatened species and other natural resources of Bangladesh for a better future.

Hoolock Gibbons of Bangladesh: The objective of this activity was to make the participants understand about Hoolock Gibbon, how Hoolock is involved in our forest ecosystem, its conservation need. All the participants got a paper of information on Hoolock Gibbon, they were requested to read the information loudly. This is the most interactive participatory learning method. Shahriar and Gawsia conducted it.

Resource round up "Tiger—Tiger—What man": The resource round up was an eco-game which is flexible to play for any threatened species and designed to understand, to dramatize the crucial link between environment, human population and species endangerment. This was an active learning method, which involved all the participants. Participants formed a ring, which symbolized our Sundarbans. Then they took part in a game to dramatize how human interference increasingly destroyed the tiger population in the greater part of the country and now in the Sundarbans. It was conducted by Gawsia Wahidunnessa Chowdhury.

Pledge from the participants: At the end of the Resource round up event, all the participants were asked to raise their voice to save the Sundarbans and the Bengal Tiger by



Play way teaching method

saying "Save-save-save the Sundarbans, Save-save-save the tiger". In another pledge, they said that they would save the tiger and the hoolock habitats and help the tigers and hoolocks for their better survival.

Valedictory- Photograph exhibition: The workshop ended by showing photographs of some previous workshops to the participants. By looking at some of the photographs participants were immensely excited and inspired. The participants had a wonderful time. About another 100 students were watching all the activities. **submitted by :**
Gawsia Chowdhury, Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh

Environment Day Celebrations

Environmental Day was celebrated on 5th June 2006 in the School of Studies in Zoology, Jiwaji University, Gwalior as a part of a 'Bioresources Training Programme for School Children' that was conducted during 15 May to 15 June 2006 for 30 students from various Schools of Gwalior and other neighbouring towns. It was funded by the National Bioresources Development Board, Department of Biotechnology, Government of India.

The Environmental Day celebrations were started by a seminar by Mr. K.D. Singhal, Coordinator, Nehru Yuva Kendra, Gwalior. He motivated the students, through his lecture, towards participation in environmental activities including team work for plantations, cleanliness in school surroundings etc. After the seminar, competitions like painting and quiz were conducted to the students on the topics related to local and global environmental issues. All faculty members and research scholars in the School of Studies in Zoology participated in the day long celebrations.

A visit was made to Gandhi Zoological Park, Gwalior. The Zoo Park authorities took much interest in explaining the importance of the Zoo and its role in Wildlife conservation. The students prepared a check-list of animals in the zoo and prepared project report on the captive management of endangered species in the zoo.

The education material received from the Zoo Outreach Organisation helped the students to know the importance of wildlife conservation and the role of students in this noble

cause. The students put masks, tied the rakhis, hold the banners and sign posters throughout their visit in the zoo.

I am very much thankful to the Zoo Outreach Organisation for providing educational material and the Department of Biotechnology for financial assistance for organising the Environmental Day Celebrations. **Submitted by: Dr. R J Rao Conservation Biology Unit, School of Studies in Zoology Jiwaji University, Gwalior, M.P**

World Environment Day-2006 at Hosur--Krishnagiri District – A Report

Hosur Forest Division conducted a special programme on World Environment Day-2006 at Hosur Don Boco School. This programme was conducted on 03.06.2006. Dr. Santhosh Babu I.A.S., District Collector, Krishnagiri presided over the function. In his presidential address he said, it is responsibility of each and every citizen to preserve and protect the environment. Shri. Senkuttuvan, MLA, E.G.Sugavanam MP, Thiru. Sakthivel. DRO, Krishnagiri also addressed. Various competitions such as essay, elocution, drawing, Quiz programme and dramas were conducted for the students. The winners were awarded by Hosur Forest Division. The programme covered whole Krishnagiri District. Hosur Forest Division schools and College students were participated in this programme.

The education materias which was given by the Zoo Outreach Organisation was distributed to the students. **Submitted by: S. Paulraj. I.F.S. District Forest Office, Hosur, Krishnagiri Dt. Tamil Nadu**