

## AGAINST WILDLIFE TRADE . . . Important Theme and Successful Education Programme for Animal Welfare Fortnightly ... REPORTS

Animal Welfare Fortnightly, (a project of the Animal Welfare Board of India) has become practically an institution in India among zoos, welfare organisations, and others interested in the welfare of animals.

The Zoo Outreach Organisation has helped zoos celebrate Animal Welfare Fortnightly for years. Normally the theme for these programmes would be visitor behaviour -- "do not tease and feed animals" -- because this is a big problem in Indian zoos.

This year we decided to do something different, to expand both the education function of zoos, of the event and of the subject "animal welfare" itself.

The conservation function of zoos is being questioned in a different way in the world today, not because zoos can't breed and release animals, but because the saving of habitat for release has become so very difficult. The role of conservation education in zoos has taken on a greater importance: if zoos can influence people to change their careless and destructive behaviour with respect to natural resources, then perhaps more habitat could be saved.

Previously, zoo education had one function: to convey information. Today, there is a different objective. Zoo education today should alter behaviour, create a caring attitude towards wildlife, and provide inspiration and information to help people make informed decisions which would protect natural resources. Today's zoo education should help visitors understand how their activities directly impact the environment.

With that in mind, Zoo Outreach Organisation is embarking on a series of education programmes featuring wildlife species, habitats and issues. For Wildlife Week last year, we featured Bears. This coming year we will be making educational materials and programme kits for the taxon groups for which we conduct Conservation Assessment and Management Plan workshops: bats, primates, amphibians, rodents and insectivores. We are expanding the Trade education programme kit with more materials and will add other issues from time to time, such as sustainable utilisation, development, and legislation.

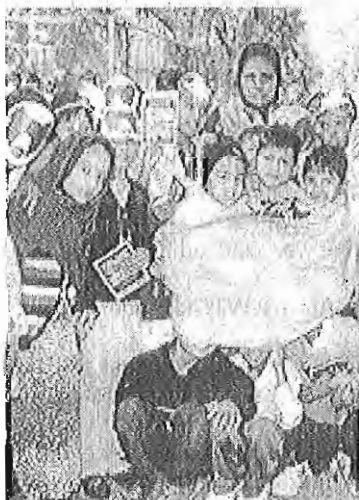
In our "mini-report" on 2002 Animal Welfare Fortnightly we listed the zoos which participated by ordering kits. In this issue we are sharing some of the wonderful Reports of what these zoos, museums and NGOs did with the materials.

The programme for Animal Welfare Fortnightly was sponsored by the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare, UFAW, and Columbus Zoo. Columbus Zoo has sent sufficient funds to make additional materials for zoos which would like to run the Trade Programme again or for those who could not avail the opportunity.

If you are interested write to us for a form, or send an email to <zooreach@vsnl.com>.



### Kamala Nehru Zoo, Ahmedabad



The Kamala Nehru Zoo in Ahmedabad entertained 6097 children giving free entry. Children were also treated with a film show on wildlife at their Education Hall. The Municipal Corporation offered free entry to children below 12 years and those visiting Ahmedabad on educational tours.

Educational materials including packets and masks, etc. were given out. There was a t-shirt contest to point out the agony of animals in trade stuffed into a small compartment (left). This was followed by a rally through the zoo premises (right).

*Submitted by R. K. Sahu, Superintendent*

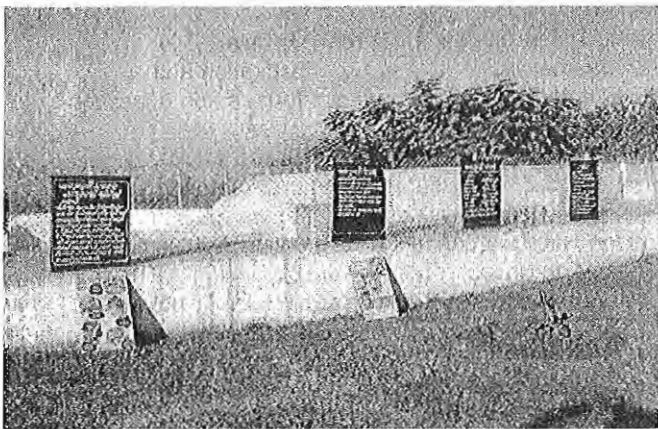


# Rajkot Zoo, Rajkot Municipal Corporation, Ahmedabad

Dr. M.G. Maradia, Zoo Superintendent, Rajkot Municipal Corporation reported "Developing a Programme" as follows:

From resource material and background information given in ZOO Guidelines booklet, an informative chart on various subject were prepared in local language, Gujarati. Listed below are the subjects of the charts prepared

1. Wildlife trade information (General), 2. Wildlife Crime, 3. Methods of capturing and poaching, 4. Wildlife of India
5. Wildlife of Gujarat, 6. Laws against wildlife trade, 7. Wildlife crime must be prevented, 8. Elephants traded for ..., 9. Bears Traded for ..., 10. Rhinoceros Traded for ..., 11. Tiger Traded for ..., 12. Musk deer traded for ..., 13. Whale Shark Traded for ..., 14. Live Birds Traded for ..., 15. Turtles & Tortoise traded for ..., 16. Butterflies and Moths traded for ..., 17. Plants traded for...



Poster display of over a dozen topics.  
Photo courtesy of Rajkot Zoo.

The Rajkot Zoo had some material of various wild animals which was kept for display to visitors, such as lion claws, panther, tiger and chital skins, chital antlers, blackbuck horns, skulls of lion, tiger and panther, porcupine spines, peacock feathers, carapace of star tortoise and turtles, non-fertile

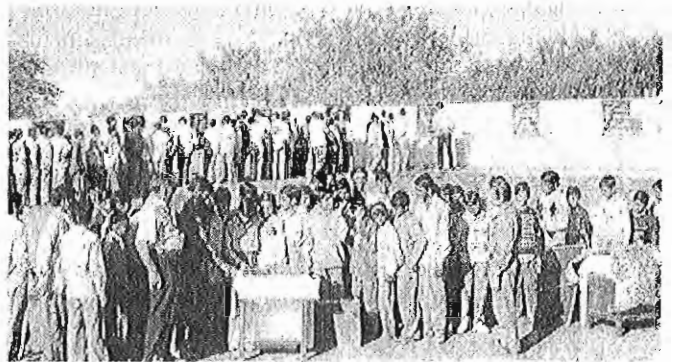


Visitors found the horn and skull exhibit very interesting. Photo courtesy Rajkot zoo.



Rajkot students examine animals skins and ask many questions. Photo courtesy Rajkot Zoo.

crocodile eggs and a one-day old crocodile preserved in formaline. Also displayed from the zoo storeroom were hairs of bear, skins of python, Russels viper and Banded racer. Plastic recovered from the stomach of deer made a dramatic message to visitors not to feed animals or carelessly throw such items into the enclosure.



Event 2 was open to the public as well as students and drew large crowds to see the animal artifacts.

Photo courtesy Rajkot Zoo

Event 1 began on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2002 with a programme only for school children. Activities Conducted:

1. All the charts & materials were displayed near the zoo office in large area.
2. Information given in chart and relevant information on the material displayed were explained to the student by Animal Keepers and participants from NGO's.
3. Material supplied by Zoo were given to teachers and some students, purpose of event was clarified by the Zoo Superintendent.
4. Teacher explained the theme "Against Wildlife Trade" to the students.
5. T-shirts teaching exercise was conducted, student realized "How animals would be feeling when packed in small cage".
6. Lastly small discussion was kept with student and teacher, questions raised were answered by Zoo Superintendent.

7. *Akila*, a local newspaper published the matter with a photograph.

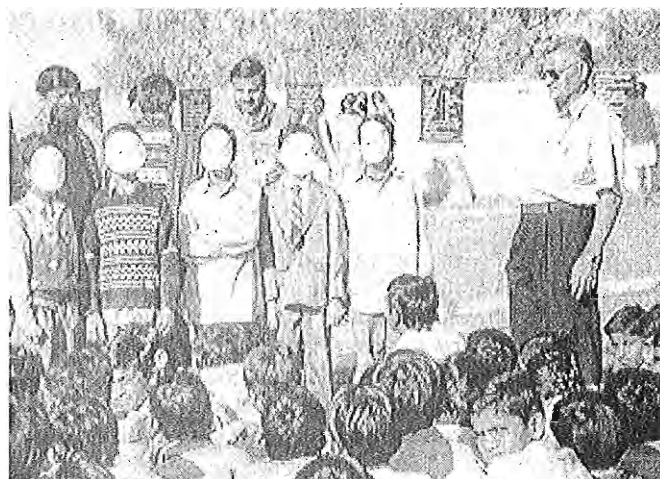
Event II was conducted as a result of the success of the school programme. Thus it was decided to have a programme for general public on 3rd February 2002.

Prior to programme matter was advertised in local newspapers very widely. The programme began at 10 am and went on until 6:30 pm. It was almost like an "... against Wildlife Trade" fair.

During the day, all the charts and materials were displayed for the visitors. Many many people who came along with their children took advantage of the programme. Animal Keepers and NGOs informed on various aspect of "against Wildlife Trade". Visitors were asked to give their opinion on the programme and comment on the issue in the visitor note book.

The packets sent by Zoo Outreach Organisation were given to some interested children and their parents.

*The Times of India* – Ahmedabad 6<sup>th</sup> Feb Edition had published the matter, giving an excellent Report.



Students wearing animal masks during the Rajkot Zoo Programme. Photo courtesy Rajkot Zoo.

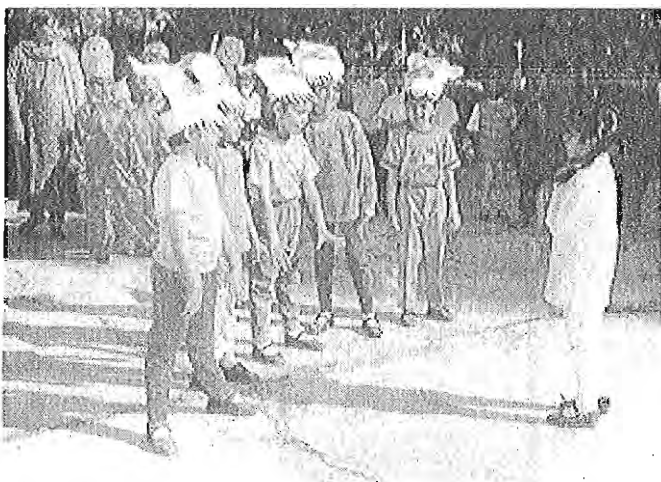
All our efforts and help provided by ZOO yielded lot of success and inspired us to go ahead in the future for similar activities.

Submitted by Dr. Dr. M.G. Maradia,  
Zoo Superintendent,  
Rajkot Municipal Corp., Gujarat

## Sayyaji Baug Zoo - Baroda, Gujarat

The Sayyaji Baug Zoo celebrated Animal Welfare Fortnightly at the Navrachana and Vidyani School with "Against Wildlife Trade" materials from ZOO as well as masks and other handicraft items made by themselves.

Dr. J. H. Desai, former Director of National Zoological Park, who had taken keen interest in education there, gave a lecture and had an interactive session with the children. Mr. Sevak, Deputy Commissioner of Varoda Municipal Corporation also attended the programme.

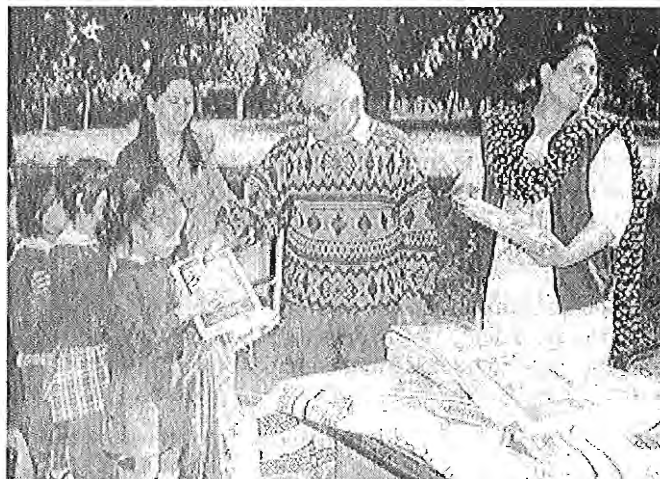


Skit performed by students.  
Photo courtesy Sayyaji Baug Zoo.

A quiz programme was conducted by teachers who also gave clues to identify the animals easily under discussion. Three

groups participated, and also involved the audience.

A skit was enthusiastically performed by the students. A zebra named Zelda loses her stripes and in trying to find them, she meets many different animals. The programme was covered by the local television channel and by both Gujarati and English press releases.



Dr. J. H. Desai distributing packets to students at the Sayyaji Baug Zoo programme. Photo courtesy Sayyaji Baug Zoo.

The zoo authorities suggested that ZOO develop packets for specific animals highlighting their behaviour, habitat, food habits, as well as how they are used in the animal trade.

Submitted by Vijayraj Jadeja, Curator, Sayyaji Baug Zoo.

## Animal Welfare Fortnightly – Thiruvananthapuram Zoo

Animal Welfare Fortnight was celebrated in Thiruvananthapuram Zoo from 20<sup>th</sup> January to 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2002. The main theme of the programme was "... Against Wildlife Trade"

The programme was inaugurated in the Zoo on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2002. A group of students from Jawahar Balabhavan, Thiruvananthapuram participated in the programme together with several staff members. A talk was delivered by the Zoo Superintendent covering the theme. The importance of Wildlife Protection and Conservation was emphasized throughout the celebration.

Students were led to the 'touch table' which was especially designed as a part of the programme inside the Zoo. A selection of animal trophies including horns, antlers, skin, feathers as well as eggs, teeth and other important parts of various endangered animals were exhibited there. All who entered the Zoo were given opportunity to touch and feel the display made on the 'touch table'.

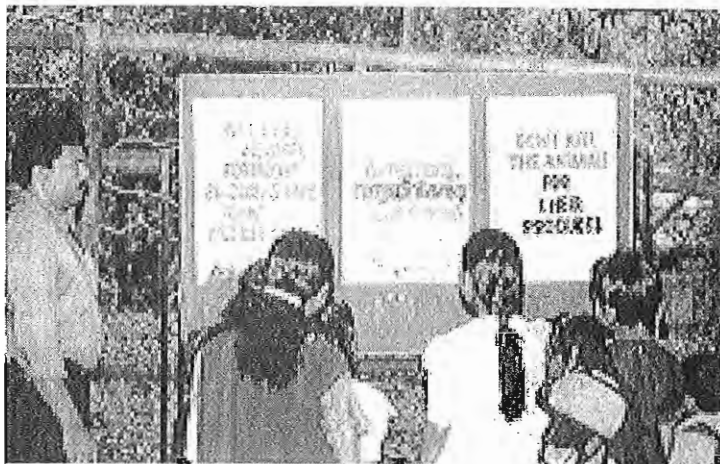
Foreign materials which were thrown by visitors into the animal enclosures such as polythene bags, pieces of footwear, coins and other non-biodegradable objects which had taken toll of a Hippopotamus, a Hogdeer, a Fallow Deer as well as a Nilgiri Tahr in the past were also displayed as part of the programme.

After the 'touch table' visit, the students were taken to the Zoo selectively to the animals which are prone to 'animal trade' and were explained the urgent need to protect such animals from poaching. The Wildlife trade packets made available by the Zoo Outreach Organisation, Coimbatore became handy to drive home the 'Anti-Wildlife Trade' message to the participants.

Educative banners and posters carrying the importance of wildlife protection and provisions against wildlife trade were displayed at the entrance of the Zoo itself. Awareness classes were given to school students on wildlife trade and its adverse impact on the wildlife conservation.

The touch table exhibition and awareness programme on animal trade continued for 14 days till 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2002. The programme attracted a large number of visitors as well as press persons.

*Submitted by K. Gangadharan, Educational Officer, and K. Harikumar, Superintendent, Thiruvananthapuram Zoo, Department of Museums and Zoos, Thiruvananthapuram*



Students appreciate posters developed by the Thiruvananthapuram Zoo on Wildlife Trade. Photo courtesy: Thiruvananthapuram Zoo.



Visitors pay close attention to the information about bones and skins at the touch tables. Photo courtesy: Thiruvananthapuram Zoo.



# Green Mercy and Indira Gandhi Zoological Park, Vizag - "...Against Wildlife Trade for Animal Welfare Fortnightly"

A week-long education & awareness campaign was conducted by Green Mercy 14-31 January 2002 in collaboration with Zoo Outreach Organisation (ZOO) and Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW). Green Mercy Organisation observed 'Chaitanya Saptaham' (Awareness Week) during the second half of the Animal Welfare Fortnightly by organising a week-long education and awareness campaign with the theme "..... Against Wildlife Trade" involving students and young people. Awareness Week celebrations commenced in and around Visakhapatnam City and concluded on at the Indira Gandhi Zoological Park, Visakhapatnam. A series of education and awareness programmes were organized in educational institutions and public places to sensitise students and young people about the ills of illegal Wildlife Trade. The



Students tying "Against wildlife trade..." friendship bands to one another



Two types of specially designed educational kits were given free to the participants at the Zoo Park, which consisting of an animal mask, a rakhi, stickers, play material and a book-let on Wildlife Trade information. A total of 400 educational kits were distributed. A certificate of Merit was given to all the participants.

which were organized at the Indira Gandhi Zoological Park on the concluding day were more exciting to the participants.

The Centre of attraction of the valedictory function was a display of Wildlife Trade Items at the Zoo Park. Moulded heads of Bison and Tiger, skins, tusks, nails and horns of various animals were displayed to convey the brutality of hunting down wildlife.

Awareness campaign included classroom lectures, parades, oath-taking ceremonies, contests, competitions such as spot quiz, debate and essay writing and slide-shows (both in house and outreach)

Highlights: The response to the Awareness Programmes was quite positive, even overwhelming.



About 500 students and young people took out a 'Animals on March' rally which was flagged off by the Zoo Curator, Mr. Sanjeev Kumar Gupta. The participants displayed play-cards and banners and raised slogans calling for protection of 'Animal Rights'.

An eye-catching rakhi-bandan and an emotional oath taking ceremony was performed by the participants, which became an added attraction to the valedictory function.



A total of 1000 students and young people participated and enjoyed the slide show and discussion activity whereas a total of 210 students participated in essay writing competition. Spot painting and caption writing activities attracted 200 students and 100 students participated in spot-quiz competitions in the Indira Gandhi Zoological Park on the eve of valedictory function. All the activities

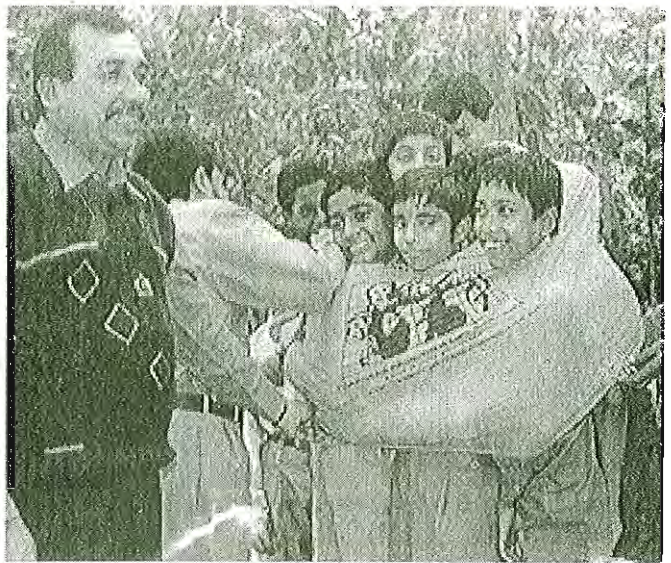
*Submitted by Mr. K.V. Ramana Murthy, Executive Director Green Mercy, Visakhapatnam 530 028*

## Sepahijala Zoo, Sepahijala, Tripura (West) ... against Wildlife Trade.

Sepahijala Zoo arranged three programmes to celebrate Animal Welfare Fortnightly 2002 at Sepahijala Wildlife Sanctuary. On 24-1-2002, we held a painting competition and essay competition involving the students of the surrounding schools. Altogether 65 students of two age group participated from 5 schools. All the students were supplied with one packet of the educational materials and two teachers viz. Smt. Manju Bhowmik of Bishalgarh H.S. (+2) School and Sri Atul Kr. Singh of Baidhyar Dighi High School were selected to demonstrate t-shirt exercise and they were briefed about the procedure. Thereafter the teachers conducted the programme as per guidelines given by Zoo Outreach Organisation in a very attractive way and all the participants as well as the spectators were pleased.

Again on 27-1-2002, we had organized a Bicycle rally to create awareness on the eve of celebration of Animal Welfare Fortnight 2002 involving ten-year old children from the surrounding panchayat where in all 60 boys and girls were participated. We also provided them the educational packets for which they were very glad and thankful.

Again, we had organized a Zoo visit for school groups on 30-1-2002 where 60 students participated from 15 schools around



Agartala who were also supplied with Trade materials.

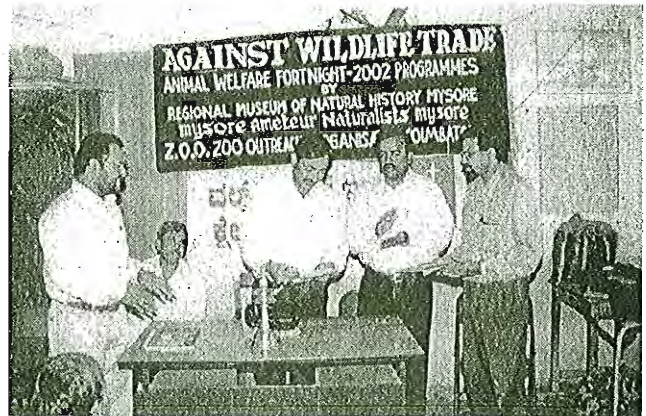
Submitted by Ajit Kumar Bhowmik, Director, Sepahijala Zoo, Sepahijala, Tripura (West).

## Regional Museum of Natural History, Mysore -- "... Against Wildlife Trade"

The Regional Museum of Natural History, Mysore, conducted programmes in Gundlupet, Chamaraajanagar and Kollegal at "Cluster Resource Centres" which are a project of the Karnataka State Education Department. In addition to students of 1st to 10th standard, participants were villagers, including farmers, teachers, housewives and government officials.

The programme consisted of "Wild Games", elocution, drama, singing folk songs, clay modelling, drawing and painting and fancy dress and mimicry.

The teachers and village folk took interest in these programmes with great enthusiasm. They contributed anecdotes, stories and their personal experiences. The complimentary packets were distributed in the programme which evoked enthusiasm for other parts of the programme. It is therefore likely that our other educational programmes will be well-attended by more of those who received these free packets.



Gundlupet function "...against Wildlife Trade"



Gundlupet kids show off their masks and packets



Kollegal Programme ... how many kids ...?



Bandally Programme, a drama about hunting I

# Maitri Baug Zoo's new Zoo Education Unit "... Against Wildlife Trade"

Ganesh Kumar Dubey\*

As per the suggestions of the Central Zoo Authority, a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Government of India, all large or medium sized zoos should have a zoo education unit.

A new Zoo Education Unit at Maitri Baug Zoo was founded this year and inaugurated in January during Animal Welfare Fortnightly.

Maitri Baug Zoological Park, Bhilai Steel Plant, Bhilai, Chhatisgarh constructed a new zoo education unit inaugurated by Shri. S.C. Jain, General Manager, Town Administration, Bhilai Steel Plant as a part of continuous endeavour to their commitment to preserve nature and creative awareness. In his address, Mr. Jain announced his intention that the Maitri Baug Zoo should be used as a dynamic resource and a tool for zoo education.

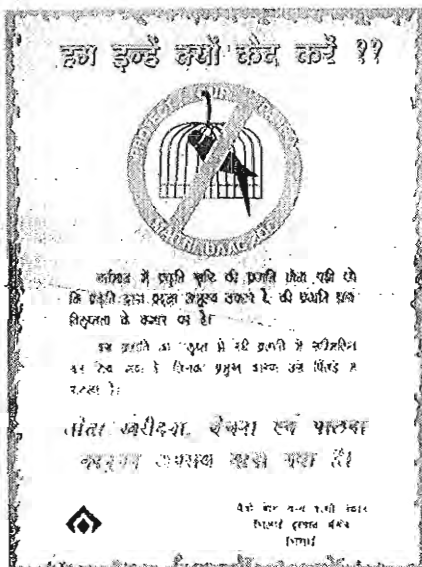
During this occasion, in collaboration with a special programme initiated by Zoo Outreach Organisation and funded by the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare and the Columbus Zoo entitled "Against Wildlife Trade", the zoo conducted a programme on a native species the Rose-Ringed Parrot selected earlier to create an awareness not to sell or purchase this bird. This species is found frequently in markets for sale as a pet in this region.



Shri S. C. Jain, General Manager, Shri A.P. Singh, Headmistress of English Middle School, Sector 9, Jabba, Dr. T. Sahu, Asst. General Manager, T.K. Chhivan Zoo Education Unit and girls and boys of school jointly releasing poster titled "Save our Parrot ... Against Wildlife Trade."



The first function was conducted for the English Medium Middle School, Sector 9.



The main programme was organised for the Bhilai Steel Plant English Medium Middle School, Sector 9. It was the first programme to be held in the new Zoo Education Unit. The students of EMMS School participated in this function. They delivered presentations on endangered species and wildlife trade. Educational material provided in packets "...Against Wildlife Trade" was handed out to students. Also students tied friendship bands or "animal rakhi's" on each other's wrists. They took an oath not to become involved in wildlife trade.

They were given a certificate of attendance. All of these items were provided in the kits and packets sent by Zoo Outreach Organisation.

In the near future free visits for school children will be organised for a better understanding of wildlife and the need to stop trade in wildlife products.

\* Sr. Vety. Officer, Maitri Baug Zoo, 7A, South Park Avenue, Sector 9, Bhilai, Madhya Pradesh 490 006

## Zoo Outreach Organisation ... "against Wildlife Trade"

Zoo Outreach Organisation celebrated Animal Welfare Fortnightly with the 12-13 year old students of RVS Educational Trust on 31 January 2002.

The theme "...Against Wildlife Trade" was introduced with a song in Tamil. The song was basically a story from Panchathanthra about a hunter who goes into the forest to hunt animals and eventually falls into the pit, which he himself had dug for an elephant. The animals feel sorry for the hunter and rescue him. This changes the hunter's attitude and he becomes friends with animals and stops hunting. Various puppets such as the elephant, frog, wolf, spider and crocodile were used during this session.

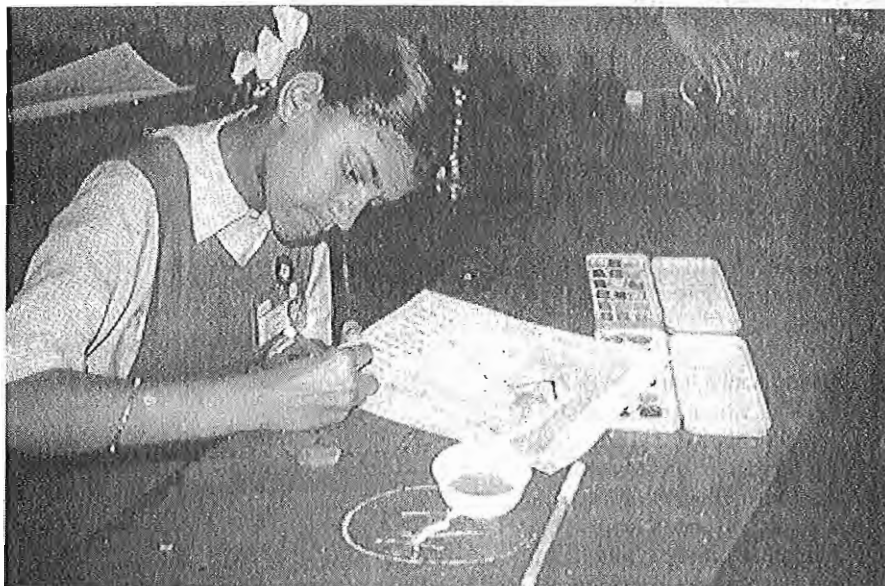
Slides of various animals in trade were shown. The students were educated about wildlife products and their illegal trade in India and abroad with a view to help stop wildlife trade in the future. The role of the Government and Forest officials in controlling wildlife trade was also emphasized.

Quiz and painting competitions were held simultaneously in two different locations.

Five groups of two students each participated in the quiz competition. The competition started with a preliminary round in which four groups were selected. The questions were on wildlife trade, and some questions were on general wildlife. Then the winners were chosen after four rounds of questions.

Twenty one students participated in the painting competition. They were given three topics based on wildlife trade. They could choose any one of the topics. The students were very creative. They were given one and a half hours after which their drawing sheets were collected from them and the best three were evaluated and given prizes.

Games were included in the programme as it is the best way to enhance interest among children. Web of Life -- students stood in a circle holding a badge carrying the name of the four basic elements,



Twenty-one students participated in the painting competition. They were given three topics based on wildlife trade from which they could choose.



In the popular *Web of Life* game, students stand in a circle holding a badge carrying the name of one of the four basic elements, and different plants and animals.

namely sun, water, soil, air, plants and the names of different animals. A roll of twine was given to "Sun" to be passed on to any single organism dependent on it, e.g. grass. That organism passed the twine on to another dependent on it e.g. deer, etc. until all animals and elements were linked which showed interdependence. One element was asked to let go of the twine which caused the collapse of the structure, thereby demonstrating the interdependency of all things in nature.

The students were also played games called Oh Deer! and Fish-a-fish, also with environmental themes. Education packets were distributed to all the students and the programme was concluded. We thank UFAW and Columbus Zoo for their generosity funding the education program.

*Report compiled by Binu Arthur, Sonali Lahiri, Padma Priya, B.A. Daniel, Hanneke de Boer. Photos by Padma Priya and Hanneke de Boer.*