

Zoo Outreach Organization Education Activities Report April-September 2009 Summary-See brief report (pages 3-13) for details of each programme

The following education activities have been carried out by ZOO for the period of April-September 2009 and its partners;

Getting along with Elephants HECx Refresher course: Lataguri, Gourmara NP

A refresher course was organized at Lataguri in Gourmara National Park in West Bengal on 8-9 June 2009 for the West Bengal HECx participants.

Getting along with Elephants HECx-Human Elephant Co-existence, Bangladesh

In Bangladesh, third series of three Getting along with Elephants-Human Elephant Co-existence HECx educator skills training programme were organized from 22 June-02 July 2009.

IZE membership sponsorship

Zoo Outreach Organisation paid IZE membership fees for 18 SANIZE members.

Asian Zoo Educators conference

ZOO circulated conference information and details to the potential SANIZE members encourage them to apply and attend.

New Education materials for Wildlife Week 2009

1. Climate Change packet (New)
2. HECx 2010 calendar (New)
3. South Asian Primate Pocket Guide (New)
4. Amphibian Ark packet (Revised)
5. Daily Life Wildlife packet (Revised)

Education programme done by the HECx workshop participants

Arun Narsingh Rana, Conservation Education Assistant, Central Zoo, Nepal

- HECx education programme at Central Zoo, Nepal

Debapratim Saha, Teacher, Baghajatin Vidyapith High School, Siliguri, West Bengal

- HEC to HECx education programme for students

Yogendra Lama, NTNC Biodiversity Conservation Centre, Chitwan, Nepal

- Nature Guide Training

Bhim Acharya, Malpur Secondary School, Sauraha, Chitwan, Nepal

- HECx education programme for students

Ram Maya Lama, Chairman, Children and Women Group Committee, Bachhauli, Chitwan

- HECx programme for orphan children

Education programme by SANIZE partners

Zoos & Zoo Volunteers

S.K. Mahato, Curator, Tata Zoological Park, Jharkhand

- Tata Zoo Environmental Camp

Ashwini Shitole, Education Officer, Rajiv Gandhi Zoological Park, Pune, Maharashtra

- *Rakshabandhan* Festival education programmes

Akansha Mukherjee, Education Officer, Madras Crocodile Bank Trust, Tamil Nadu

- Bat education program during summer camp

Latha Tampi, Lecturer, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

- Amphibian education programme at Thiruvananthapuram Zoo, Kerala

D.H. Tanuja, Zoo Volunteer, Mysore, Karnataka

- Bear & Bat education programme at Mysore Zoo Summer Camp

- Amphibian education programme at Sethu Bahndan Trust Summer Camp
- Daily Life Wildlife Programme at Kaliyuva Mane
- Amphibian colouring book programme at Ekalavyanagar Learning Centre
- Amphibian follow-up and elephant education programme at GP school, Jayalakshimpuram
- Monkey Manners Programme in Nanjangud

Lanka Dharmadasa, Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage, Sri Lanka

- World Environment Day Human-Elephant Conflict programme

Education Institutions

Mamtha, Teacher, DPIRS, Mysore, Karnataka

- Getting along with Elephants HECx at Sunshine Camp
- Amphibian Education programme at Balakiyara Baal Bhavan
- Amphibian colouring book programme at Sethu Bandha Trust
- World Environment Day at DPIRS

Jessie Jayakaran, Retd Teacher, Chennai, Tamil Nadu

- Count Down 2010-Save Biodiversity programmes-Theme amphibians
 - NESSA Office, Chennai
 - SVK International School, Madurai

Joel Revingson & Rani Kirubairaj, Schaffter H.S.School, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu

- World Wetland Day

Non-Governmental Organisations

Hari Adhikari, Natural Resources Research/Conservation Center (NaReCon), Nepal

- Bat Awareness Programme in Palpa District, Nepal

Bijaya Kumar Kabi, APOWA, Orissa

- *Vana Mahotsava* Week
- International Mangrove Action Day

Debojit Phukan, Megamix Nature Club, Assam

- Disaster management, capacity building and rescue of vultures

K.V.Rao, Science Centre, Mangalore, Karnataka

- World Environment Day programme

Vinod Kumar Damodar, Conservation of Nature Society, Calicut, Kerala

- World Environment Day programme

Dilip Chakravarthy, Centre for Environment Education, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

- World Environment Day programme

Surajit Baruah, WWF India, Guwahati, Assam

- World Environment Day-Mega tree plantation drive

Wildlife Week 2009-supply of education materials from ZOO/SAN-IZE

ZOO provided education kits and other materials to 55 individuals during Wildlife Week 2009.

We received requests from 10 zoos, 5 forest dept. personnel, 26 NGO's, 10 education institutions and 2 Central Government institutions and 2 volunteer environmental educators. Sixteen kinds of 15000 items were supplied.

Sponsors -These packets were sponsored by Chester Zoological Gardens, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Zoological Society of London, Conservation Breeding Specialist Group, Elephant Family, Bat Conservation International, Universities Federation for Animal Welfare, Awley Wildlife People and Appenheul Primate Park, Alertis, Conservation International and Busch Gardens-SeaWorld, USA.

Zoo Outreach Organization Education Activities Report April-September 2009

Getting Along with Elephants HECx - Advanced Technique Refresher Course, West Bengal

The first series of three workshops of HECx – Getting along with Elephants educator skills training was held in November 2008 at North West Bengal. As a follow up, a Refresher course



was organised at Green Lagoon Resort, Lataguri near Gorumara National Park on 8-9 June 2009. This refresher course was organised with the financial support of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A total number of 25 participants were selected on the basis of their performance and reports after the training in which 5 five persons represented the forest department.

The objective of the course was to understand the effectiveness of the HECx training programme towards changing the behaviour and attitude of the people who live in HEC areas, to evaluate the educators after 6 months to understand the utilization of the training, their education activities on HECx and also to teach additional active teaching/learning tools.

Participants were evaluated through a questionnaire to find out whether they could change their own behaviour or they could



convince the people through education to change their attitude in order to promote human-elephant coexistence. Out of the 25 participants 17 conducted programmes in HEC areas.

It was decided at the training, starting a North Bengal educator's network in order to share their work with each other while ZOO helps them in all aspects of technical support.

ZOO supplied 50-100 Bengali Ele-kit education packets. B. A. Daniel and R. Marimuthu visited one of the HEC villages near Lataguri prior to this course.

Getting along with Elephants HECx-Human Elephant Co-existence Educator Skills Training Programme, 22 June – 2 July, 2009-Bangladesh

In Bangladesh, a series of three educator skills training programme was organized at Rangunia-Chittagong, Sherpur, and Birishiri-Durgapur. The objective of the three day programme is 1) to empower teachers of all kinds to introduce and teach about the vexed topic of human-elephant



conflict and a partial solution to human-elephant coexistence HECx and 2) to demonstrate innovative teaching and learning techniques designed to change human attitudes and behaviour for the better.

At Rangunia 45 participants took part in the programme. It was attended by teachers, forest department personnel, village heads, college teachers, NGO members, journalists, farmers and individuals who live in elephant area who are involved in education. At Sherpur participants were all from the HEC localities of the District and the group also had a set of officials from the forest department apart from agriculturalists. The group had a total of 33 participants. At Birishiri-Durgapur about 36 participants took part

in the training programme which included majority of teachers, journalists, lawyers, NGOs, village heads and agriculturalists. During the



programme 6,000 ele-kit packets, 130 drama kits, were distributed. A teaching manual developed exclusively for Bangladesh was also given to each participant.



The 9 day programme included 7 trainees who attended all three workshops as interns, 5

educators from WTB and also 2 from FFI, Sumatran Elephant Conservation Programme, Indonesia. Resource person from ZOO, WTB and Elephant Sanctuary handled the sessions. The entire programme was sponsored by USFWS. Other funding partners are Elephant Family, Twycross Zoo, Columbus Zoo and Schonbrunn Zoo.

IZE membership sponsorship

Zoo Outreach Organisation paid IZE membership fees for selected eighteen (18) active SANIZE South Asian Network of International Zoo Educators members from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. They were selected on the basis of their performance in carrying out education activities in their region. The total amount was paid to IZE US\$500.

Asian Zoo Educators conference

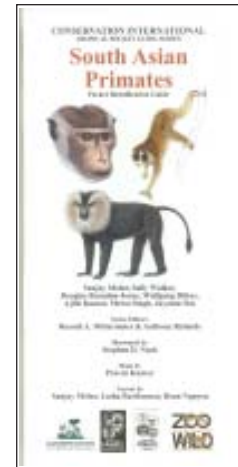
ZOO circulated upcoming AZEC conference information and details to the potential SANIZE members to encourage them to apply and attend. The conference will be held in Hong Kong in October 2009.

New Education materials for Wildlife week

1. Climate Change and YOU ! - Standard packet of booklet, FAQs, games, and other small items to use in programme with youngsters.

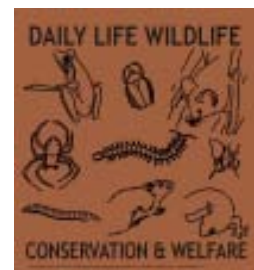


2. Ele-calendar 2010 (NEW) - "I Won! I kept the coconut!" Calendar Poster illustrating the foolishness of fighting an elephant and giving some tips to avoid conflicts that you can't win!.



3. South Asian Primate Pocket Guide - full colour identification guide researched and written by people from South Asian Primate Network and produced by IUCN SSC Primate Specialist Group and Conservation International.

4. All Frogs are Amphibians, but all Amphibians are not Frogs! A new and fresh version of our amphibian packet with beautiful four colour pictures and some new material.



5. Daily Life Wildlife (Revised): A new version of our standard Daily Life Wildlife packet. Teaching animal welfare by pointing out how we should be kind to the little animals we encounter every day. Smaller and simpler for youngsters

Education programme by the HECx workshop participants

Arun Narsingh Rana, Conservation Education Assistant, Central Zoo, Nepal

HCEX –Education Report from Central Zoo, Nepal: The Conservation Education Section of National Trust for Nature Conservation, NTNC/Central Zoo organized a two-day program entitled "Wildlife Excursion Tour to Shivapuri" held on 7-8 May, 2009. There were 40 students from different schools. This program was based on two themes in two parts: a. Biodiversity and b. Human Elephant Co-existence HECx. It was conducted by CE Officer Rachana Shah, and CE Assistants Matisara Dahal and Arun Rana.

The programme included sessions on importance of biodiversity in environment, Know each other with animal sounds, Protected Areas of elephant in Nepal, do's and don't's of humans in respect to elephants, difference between Asian



and African Elephant, Elephants in our culture and mini dramas on a. Human Elephant Conflict, b. Poaching and hunting c. Why does my village attract Elephants? d. Rescuing elephant but avoid dangers. There was a field visit with student's rally and reach to Hattisar. Also we identified some differences between Asian and African elephant with the help of Pawankali who is the Asian elephant of Central Zoo. On the second day all the students were taken to Shivapuri National Park, Kathmandu. Information Sheets were given to the students: 1. Elephant Etiquette and 2. Differences in African and Asian Elephants.

Debapratim Saha, Teacher, Baghajatin Vidyapith High School, Siliguri, West Bengal

Human elephant conflict to Human elephant co-existence education programme: The programme was held at Baghajatin Vidyapith High School, Siliguri on 2 June 2009 for 20 students and they were selected on the basis of their previous experience with elephant depredation, other than that students of class 10-12, teachers & working staff also attended the programme. The duration of the programme was 1-5 pm. Mr. Ranajit Mitra was the resource person.



A minute silence was observed to mourn for the death of victims in HEC as well as death of elephants caused by the Indian rail. After that these activities were conducted: assessment techniques, past and present distribution and status of Asian elephants by map, mini-drama, energizer games, resource round-up and elephant etiquette. At the end of the session all took oath to mitigate the conflict between elephant and us by growing awareness among people and to save nature.

Mr. Yogendra Lama, NTNC Biodiversity Conservation Centre, Chitwan, Nepal

Nature Guide Training in Nepal: The overall objective of the training programme is to provide local employment opportunity in tourism of Chitwan National Park to develop tourism quality and to promote awareness of the biodiversity of Chitwan National Park to youth and involve them in community conservation. The 6 day - training was scheduled from 23 - 28 March, 2009 in Biodiversity Conservation Center, Sauraha, at Chitwan district. There were 21 young participants.



Among many themes and sessions there was a two hour special session on Human Elephant Coexistence HECx. As guided

by HECx curriculum and taught by Zoo Outreach Organisation during the training held at Chitwan earlier in March, I introduced the several topics which were covered in the Nature Guides Workshop, teaching and leading discussion. Trainees enjoyed the information/ activities and energetically participated. The topic utilized for this module of the Guides training were: The meaning of



Human - Elephant Co-existence and mitigation of conflict; Elephant status and distribution in the World and Nepal: Past and Current; Asian Elephant in Asian Culture and Mini dramas.

Bhim Acharya, Malpur Secondary School, Sauraha, Chitwan, Nepal

HECx education programme: Many activities such as games, dramas were conducted with the students and teachers of



Malpur Secondary School, Sauraha. The students love to do these different activities. We also conducted a workshop for teachers on Friday afternoon. Some of the teachers were very enthusiastic about the program. Other activities are described below.

Drama about conserving elephants and their habitats for our future generation was conducted. The second drama illustrated the tragedy of habitat loss of elephant and other wild animals

Students Rally: Students of class 10 learned about Human Elephant Conflict and Co-existence and the ELE-KIT was distributed to all 47 students in the groups and explained, and they wore elephant mask and tied the rakhi and committed to help wildlife. They also carried placard as they joined in the rally saying slogans on elephant conservation.

Ram Maya Lama, Chairman, Children and Women Group Committee, Bachhauli, Chitwan-

HECx programme for orphan children: The target groups of the program were the orphan children and other village children as well. In total, 17 children were participated



in the program that includes 6 girls and 11 boys. The program was organized on 23rd May, 2009 at the Orphan Center of Bachhauli, Chitwan – Nepal. The Orphan Center is located

adjacent to Government Elephant stable of Chitwan National Park – Sauraha. The program was basically facilitated by me. In the program, I taught and shared the knowledge and ideas that whatever I learnt in the training program. In this regard, I played the games/dramas to the kids and shared /passed the knowledge and information.

Education programme by SANIZE partners Zoos & Zoo Volunteers

S.K. Mahato, Curator, Tata Zoological Park, Jharkhand

Tata Zoo Environmental Camp: The Tata Steel Zoological Park initiated a programme to orient school children towards preserving nature and wildlife. The first two camps were held in 2007 and 2008. This was a 3-day residential camp, attended by 46 girl children and 4 teachers from 4 schools D.B.M.S. English School, Motilal Nehru Public School, K.S.M.S. Sakchi, & Rajendre Vidalaya, Sakchi. The participants were exposed to different colours of nature, an interactive quiz session on environment & wildlife, were taken on a nature trek within the zoo campus and oriented towards identification of wild birds and taught about husbandry & behavior of wild animals at the zoo and ecosystem and human well being.



Ashwini Shitole, Education Officer, Rajiv Gandhi Zoological Park, Pune, Maharashtra

Rakshabandhan Festival Education programmes at Pune Zoo: Celebrated *Rakhipoornima* by conducting *Rakshabandhan* programme. Ninety one students of 8th standard were invited from Bharati Vidyapeeth Kanya Prashala, Dhankawadi on 4 August 2009. A plantation programme was organized. They were taught about the nursery development and its maintenance. An activity of making 'Rakhi' using seeds was conducted. Students were highly enthusiastic and used their creativity and came





up with colourful and attractive *rakhis* to tie on their brothers' hands. They were instructed to sow the seeds used in the *rakhi* to their own garden later.

RGZP also celebrated '*Rakshabandhan*' on 6 August 2009 with 100 students of 9th standard of

SPM English Medium School, Sadashiv Peth, Pune. They were informed about the Do's and Don'ts of the zoo. The programme was initiated by distributing education packets received from Zoo Outreach Organisation. Two themes viz. 'STOP Dancing Bear shows' and 'Conservation-Careless or Conservation-Conscious Zoos' were the highlight of this programme. Spoke to them on Sloth Bears, their importance in nature and threats to their lives and how students could help stop Dancing Bear shows. Also focused on various aspects of zoo management and what an individual can do to become 'Conservation-Conscious' visitor of the zoo.

Akansha Mukherjee, Education Officer, Madras Crocodile Bank Trust, Tamil Nadu

Bat Kit program during summer camp: During the summer vacations, two day camp were held for 25 children between the ages of 10 and 14 at the Madras Crocodile Bank.



They went on a night safari in Croc bank and took a trip to Nemelli, a village situated close to the Croc Bank, which has a large banyan tree and is a known roosting place for fruit bats. The trip to the bat colony was aimed at getting children familiar with the denizens of the night! They saw a large number of roosting fruit bats. The kids saw many seeds dispersed by the bats near this roosting tree and thus learned first-hand about the importance of these bats in seed dispersal and pollination. Most of them had never seen such a large colony of bats. The Education Officer gave them all the information about these 'flying foxes'. The kids tried hanging from the banyan tree to get a feel of what it would be like to hang from a tree like the

bats. All the children were given the Bat education kits developed by ZOO and they quickly wore the mask, tied the *rakhi* to each other and promised to protect the bats. They were given information about different types of bats, the threats to bats and their importance. They were also given the Fruit Bats of South Asia (pocket cards). There was a question and answer round to clarify all the myths they had about bats. All in all it was some time spent going batty about bats!!!

Latha Tampi, Lecturer, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

Amphibian education programme at Thiruvananthapuram: As part of the World Environment Day celebrations in Trivandrum, ZOOWATCH members chose to do a "sandwich" session, i.e. we conducted an Amphibian Crisis public education event between World Environment Day on 5 June and the World Ocean Day on 8 June 2009. This program was held as usual in the Trivandrum Zoo on June 7 in the morning. By using the amphibian flex boards that we had designed, our members managed to convey the dire global situation for amphibians. We especially focused on encouraging people to avoid using pesticides and to create their own amphibian habitats at home. Our program was also reported in detail by the press and ACV TV. Especially the TV interviews were repeatedly shown that same evening so that the message of amphibian conservation got very wide coverage.

D.H. Tanuja, Zoo Volunteer, Mysore, Karnataka

Summer Camp at Mysore Zoo: I could interact with three batches of Summer Camp students. For first batch I used ZOO's Bear educational material. The session began with students telling what they knew about bears, they were aware of the dancing bears; a few knew it was illegal and wouldn't hesitate to complain about it to the police. The theme for the second batch was Daily Life Wildlife, Conservation and Welfare. The programme began by asking students to name a few of the wildlife they had seen around their house, school, park or playground. The students pledged to look, learn and protect the invertebrates around them. Bats and Rats was





the theme of the third batch. Students were happy to wear the bats, rodents mask and to tie the rakhi on one another. The students with rodent mask walked like rodents while the bats tried their hands hanging upside down.

Amphibian education programme at Sethu Bahndan Trust Summer Camp: There were two batches of students, younger ones (below 6 Standard) and older ones (7 Standard and above) from different schools around Mysore. I conducted a programme on amphibians. I told about the threats to frogs like insecticides, pesticides, disease, habitat destruction, etc., the role of amphibians in our environment, how they consume disease vectors that harm our crops, how they help us by controlling mosquitoes.



We handed out the Amphibian packet and introduced all materials. Students put on their mask and played frog by croaking and hopping which they enjoyed. We ended the programme with their commitment to help frogs survive.

Daily Life Wildlife Programme: Kaliyuva Mane, a school run by Divya Deepa Trust, located about 20 Kms from Mysore. A programme was conducted on 20 June 2009 by using ZOO's education packet Daily Life Wildlife for 25 students. The discussion began by asking them what was meant by environment? and what did that constitute? What are things they notice in the environment and their importance? The discussion veered towards the domesticated and non-domesticated animals, and they were asked if only animals found in the forest were wildlife? The students were told about amphibians and geckos, and their importance in our everyday life.

Amphibian colouring book programme at Ekalavyanagar Learning Centre, Mysore: On 15 July with 11 students the programme started. They noticed a lot of birds, insects and animals around them. They also noticed different calls of



frogs and they said they were more vocal when it started raining. Students were introduced to the word 'Amphibian' and told how important frogs are to us. They knew frogs control mosquitoes. A few of them had killed frogs for no specific reason, although they killed garden lizards thinking money would come to them if they buried the dead reptiles, although no money had ever come. This was a perfect opportunity to undermine the myth underpinning killing innocent creatures around us.

The Amphibian colouring book was distributed and students happily started colouring. They were told that prey of each amphibian was on the facing page. They promised not to kill any frogs or garden lizards.

Amphibian follow-up and elephant education programme: Government Primary school, Jayalakshmpuram, Mysore, had a follow up programme on amphibians 18th July 2009. Students of 4 & 5th standard were asked to





recap what they had learnt in the last session on amphibians. They were given an assignment to collect as much information as possible on frogs, such as songs, stories, proverbs, paper clippings, etc. They were encouraged to continue to pursue the assignment. The students were asked to name the largest living mammal on land, 'elephant' and to list how elephant is used in our culture and tradition. They narrated the story of how Lord Ganesh got his head and related seeing elephants at Mysore Dasara procession. One student had seen it in the Mysore zoo. They were told how difficult it is for elephants to stay in the forest, as their natural home is being encroached. They were led to answer why elephants left the forest and raided surrounding plantation crops. They were told how much food and water an elephant requires per day. They were given the Ele-kit packet and were led through the activities with rakhi, commitment, wearing masks, etc.

Monkey Manners Programme: in Nanjangud, Karnataka 25 July 2009: This programme was held at Sri Acharya Gurukula Shishuloka, Kadakola, Nanjangud taluk on 25 July 2009. Twenty one primary students participated. The students were asked if they had seen monkey, where and what it eats? Yes, they had seen monkeys near their house, temples, forest and in zoo. One even said, a monkey had visited his house. Following to this, the children were given South Asia Monkey colouring book and asked them to colour it. To end the programme the children chattered like monkeys. The children promised to respect the monkeys to leave them alone and not to stone them.

Lanka Dharmadasa, Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage, Sri Lanka

Human Elephant Conflict HEC during WED : Elephant Orphanage Pinnawala organized an environmental education and awareness program to celebrate World Environmental Day on 5 June for school students from different schools of Pinnawala. About 95 advance level students, 30 environmental cadet students and 8 teachers participated in it. The aim of the program was mainly to understand the causes and concerns of human elephant conflict in Sri Lanka as well as in other parts of the world. Finding out solutions, suggestions to get rid of the human elephant conflict also was an objective. Participants were divided into three groups and taught about elephant features,

present status of Sri Lankan elephants, human-elephant conflict increased in Sri Lanka in past two centuries during the colonial period, past and current methods used to avoid human-elephant conflict in Sri Lanka and other Asian countries. A quiz program was conducted with ten students randomly selected from each group. At the end of quiz program students presented activities about environmental problem or issue with songs, short dramas and dialogs.

Educational Institutions

Mamtha, Teacher, DPIRS, Mysore, Karnataka

Getting along with Elephants HECx at Sunshine Camp, Karnataka: About 57 Chiranthana Camp Sunshine students from various backgrounds and aged 8-14 years, participated in this



program conducted end of April 2009. The programme was based on Human Elephant Coexistence but used South Asian primates and South Asian bats colouring books. The objectives of the programme was for the students to understand meaning of wildlife, know Elephant Etiquette, understand the problems of today's elephants, to learn to appreciate elephants' behaviour, and to have a better understanding of primates and bat.

Amphibian Education programme: The programme was conducted at Balakiyara Baal





Bhavan on 22 May for 45 girl students aged 10-17 years. These children are enthusiastic learners, but they do not have access to hand on materials to support their learning. Objectives of the programme were: a) to understand the meaning of amphibian, chytrid sickness, endemic, etc b) the difference between frog & toad. c) to recognize three groups of amphibians. d) why do frogs matter so much? e) to know why should we worry about frogs? f) to know the Indian Amphibian status and g) to encourage the learner to be part of AArk! ZOO's AArk packet was used. The children were happy to receive Amphibian Ark tool kits. They tied *Rakhi*, done activities such as frog race, drawing, skit on 'frog talk' and role-play.



Amphibian colouring book: On 16 May 2009, twenty two students took part in Amphibian Ark art activity. Sethu Bandha Trust organized the programme at Simha Bhavan, Mysore. ZOO's Amphibian colouring was used in this programme. A "Rain" game was played to introduce amphibians. The students sang folk song related to frogs and shared their knowledge on songs, stories, and myth. With the help of the drawing book and Amphibian Ark tool

kit, it was easy to teach them the facts about amphibians. Kids were encouraged to sign the AArk petition. Frog race was conducted for the small children. Finally, kids selected their favourite page to colour. While colouring, they were allowed to narrate 'frogs talk' as assessment tool.

World Environment Day at DPIRS, Mysore: On the occasion of World Environment Day, a series of activities were conducted in the school campus. Mini drama on "climate change" was conducted by using ZOO's drama kit. Principal and staff along with their respective class students took part in tree planting. Twelfth grade environmental studies students delivered talks on primates, bats and amphibians. Fourth to seventh grade students took part in this drawing competition.

Jessie Jayakaran, Chennai, Tamil Nadu

Count Down 2010 Programmes: CD 2010 at NESSA Office Chennai: Educational packets by Zoo Outreach Organisation funded by



international organizations were distributed to students aged from 11 to 15 on 29 March 2009 at NESSA office. With rakhies, placard, sticker, and information booklets, students also were given depth knowledge about the topic. One student enacted a role play on frog. Amphibian educational games were also conducted along with discussions about the location of water-beds where the frogs are seen.

Countdown 2010 at SVK International School: A Biodiversity programme was conducted in SVK



International School in Kannanur, Chekanurani, Madurai. Free education packets designed and produced by Zoo

Outreach Organisation were distributed by the

co-ordinator of the programme along with a calendar for two years to record monthly activities. The resource person highlighted Amphibian Crisis citing reasons for amphibian loss: habitat loss, climate change, pollution and pesticides, over-collection for food and pets, and chytrid fungus. Rakhis, masks and stickers were distributed to the students in educational packets. There were also games and quizzes for children along with drawing a frog using a computer with an Amphibian Ark Cap offered as a prize. Construction workers working on the school construction site were also involved in the day's programme receiving bumper stickers featuring AArk.

Joel Revingston & Rani Kirubairaj, Schaffter H.S.School, Tirunelveli, Tami Nadu

World Wetland Day: National Green Corps Students celebrated World Wetlands Day featuring the Amphibian Crisis with slogans:



*Let us not pollute the wetlands.
Do not convert wetlands into apartments.
Amphibians are important to earth, ecology,
environment, people, animal and plants
You are important to amphibians
Appreciate All the Amphibians
Frogs connect the food chain.*

Students took the pledge to conserve and protect the Amphibians, their habitat the "wetlands". Zoo Outreach Organisation sent educational materials for students to create awareness. The Head master of Schaffter Higher Secondary School, W. Joel Revingston, introduced the importance of wetlands. The NGC Co-ordinator Rani Kirubai Raj conducted drama on Amphibians.

Non-Governmental Organisations

Hari Adhikari, Butwal, Nepal

Bat Awareness Program in Nepal: This BCI sponsored education project (assisted by



Natural Resources Research/Conservation Center (NaReCon) and ZOO/CCINSA/SANIZE targeted Palpa district which is rich in biodiversity and has an agricultural land over 2000 hectares. Large numbers of insectivorous bats consume large numbers of insects in the area. These bats have been helping local people by reducing their expenses in using fertilizers and pesticides. But local people in that area have not realized their importance. Along with insectivorous bats, fruit-eating bats such as *Pteropus giganteus* also have been roosting in that area. Other roosting sites of bats (caves and trees) are present in Palpa district, such as Siddhapani Cave, Hattilake Cave, Gure cave, Siddha Cave, Balsiddha Cave, Ridika Cave and Siddesor Cave. An awareness campaign on bats was conducted from Jan - Nov 08 in Madanpokhara Valley of Palpa district. Different programs were organized to make people familiar with bats. Positive impact has been observed in that area after this campaign. Now, many misconceptions related to bats have been replaced by accurate knowledge.

Bijaya Kumar Kabi, APOWA, Orissa

Celebration of 60th Vana Mahotsava Week 1-7 July 2009: Vanamahotsava, a great festival of tree planting is being celebrated all over India in the First week of July every year. APOWA celebrated the 60th - Vanamahotsava festival 2009 with a message to love and care for nature as our



future sustenance. This year, we celebrated the festival in USAK High School, Arua Kadaliban. It was a special event, celebrated by: showing documentary play & drama by children refer to awareness of forest resources, deforestation, and necessity of reforestation, self created poems, songs about nature, environment, awareness of types of pollutions, drawing and essay competitions about nature and human caused pollution and children planted trees on this occasion

Observation of International Mangrove Action Day: A poster and photo exhibition programme was organized at Sivananda Sishu Mandir at Rajanagar, Orissa on 26th July by APOWA. More than five hundred children and people of the nearby schools and villages visited the exhibition. The visitors enjoyed the activity and projects on mangroves were prepared by the children of various schools. Students up to primary level were gathered for colouring and painting activity and asked to draw a picture of the mangrove ecosystem that they find in the surrounding villages and forest. Once the activity was over all the drawings were put up for display on selected spots at the venue. A panel discussion on 'Mangrove Ecosystem for Coastal Disaster Risk Reduction' was convened.

Debojit Phukan, Megamix Nature Club, Assam

On 19 October 2008 an education programme was conducted by Gramya Bandhu (NGO) in Dhakuakhan for 20 civil society organizations invited to discuss disaster reduction issues at Dhakuakhana. Another programme was conducted on 08 Feb. 2009 at Moderguri, Dhakuakhana for adolescents of the flood-affected areas to empower them to protect community health and environment. Training activities included classroom style, outdoor demonstrations, interaction and quizzes. They learned about environment from the ground up. Megamix Nature Club conducted another programme especially designed for the 21 'ASHA' health workers to provide a capacity building training held on 05 April 2009. Topics aimed were nutrition, safe food (Chemical-free) and about the secrets of healthy environment. On 11 April 2009 four nests of long-billed vulture were collapsed in huge storm. This is a globally threatened species. Due to fatal injury, one killed another three nestling were rescued and handed over to the Vulture Conservation Breeding Centre, Rani, Assam.



K.V.Rao, Science Centre, Mangalore, Karnataka

World Environment Day 2009 in Mangalore: World Environment Day celebrations in the District were conducted at two stages. On 5 June 2009, the celebrations were inaugurated. Lectures and competitions such as on Environmental songs, quiz, painting, elocution were conducted. On 9 June 2009, about 1500 students, Govt, Officials and public gathered at



Pilikula to participate in one day workshop for Eco-club teachers of the district. Saplings were distributed to all and prizes were distributed to the district level winners. The Eco-club teachers training programme was well attended. About 200 teachers from all over the district listened to guest speakers. They spoke on topics Climate Change, Conservation of Biodiversity and Our earth and its atmosphere. Resource materials which were kindly donated by Zoo Outreach Organisation, Coimbatore and CEE Bangalore were distributed to the teachers. An exhibition was also organized on the occasion.

Vinod Kumar Damodar, Conservation of Nature Society, Calicut, Kerala

World Environment Day 2009 - Considering the increasing cruelties to captive elephants a special half-day programme for public and students was arranged on WED. The State faces problems with conflict between elephants and farmers, in particular. Also two elephants died in a train accident on 03 June 09 in which they were on the tracks. Participants petitioned the Ministry of Environment & Forests and Project Elephant to look into this. In the recent 6 years 12 Elephants had been killed similarly.



Discussion included how Kabini river had been converted into a roaming area for elephants in the summer as the water there is available no matter the temperature. Participants from the area reported that elephants are freely roaming there. The participants thanked Zoo Outreach Organisation for the Ele-kit learning packet and other materials provided for the programme.

World Ocean Day 2009 - Conservation of Nature Society and Dolphin Protection Committee organized local World Ocean Day 2009 in Calicut where threats faced by animals of the seas (dolphins, turtles, etc.) despite being protected by the Indian Wildlife Act were discussed in the programme. The continuous death of the dolphins in Calicut and seeming lack of effective action by the authorities were discussed. The audience also discussed the huge felling of mangroves in Calicut District. The Society requested the Kerala Forest Department to tackle the area where increasing fishermen and their boats can affect the Dolphins which faces also threats in the Calicut area seas.

Dilip Chakravarthy, Centre for Environment Education, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

World Environment Day : CEE MP State Office was involved in a number of events of WED 2009 at different locations with different participants.



The collaborators are National Environment Awareness Campaign (NEAC), State NGC Nodal Agency EPCO (Environment Planning and Coordination Organization), Capital Project Administration, (CPA), Bhopal, Regional Science Center, Bhopal and EPCO under NEAC program at Indore. The target groups were teachers, principal, representative from NGOs, students and park visitors. In these programmes talks, exhibition, quiz and painting competition on climate change, tree plantation, nature trail were held. CO₂ Pick Right kit was distributed to all participants.

Surajit Baruah, WWF India, Guwahati, Assam

World Environment Day: Chautaki is a remote village which came into global focus last year for taking up mega plantation drive by communities in collaboration with the local administration for planting 2.84 Lakhs saplings within a day in a wasteland in the Bongaigaon district of Assam. The target groups were local villagers, NGOs, rural school and college students, district administration officials, gram panchayats. Nearly the whole village took part in a procession in the morning carrying environmental slogans. Later the local villagers and students planted thousands of tree saplings in Choutaki.

Wildlife Week 2009-supply of education materials from ZOO/SAN-IZE

ZOO provided education kits and other material to 55 individuals during WLW 2009. Orders received from 10 zoos, 5 forest dept. personnel, 26 NGO's, 10 education institutions and 2 Central Government institutions and 2 volunteer environmental educators. Sixteen kinds of 15000 items were supplied.

Material and number of items supplied:

- An Art AArk Colouring Book of Amphibians-1120
- All Frogs are Amphibians, but all Amphibians are not Frogs!-1470
- Amphibian Crisis Countdown 2010 Poster+ Calendar-1485
- South Asian Primate Pocket Guide-1342
- Mind your Monkey Manners-583
- Western Hoolock Gibbon Packet-610
- Hoolock Countdown Poster-161
- Status of South Asian Non-Volant Small Mammals, CAMP Summary-300
- Fruit Bats of South Asia-Packet-645
- Fruit Bats of South Asia - Pocket Cards-365
- South Asian Bat Coloring book-476
- Daily Life Wildlife packets-1640
- Ele-kit - packet-565
- Ele-calendar 2010 (NEW) - "I Won! I kept the coconut!"-1302
- Your city Zoo... and even YOU-785
- Climate Change and YOU !-2000

Sponsors -These packets were sponsored by Chester Zoological Gardens, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Zoological Society of London, Conservation Breeding Specialist Group, Elephant Family, Bat Conservation International, Universities Federation for Animal Welfare, Awley Wildlife People and Appenheul Primate Park, Alertis, Conservation International and Busch Gardens-SeaWorld, USA.