



WWF

KERALA

2024

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Mruthika

Conservation Highlights of WWF-India, Kerala State Office

FROM THE STATE DIRECTOR'S DESK

The Living Planet Report (LPR) 2022 said species population numbers plummeted by 69% on average in the last 50 years. And the latest Living Planet Report 2024 released a week back raises the percentage to 73% clearly stating the Planet is in peril. The five anthropogenic reasons for this biodiversity loss clearly enlisted in the LPR are (1) Extensive and drastic sea and land use change (2) Over-exploitation (3) Pollution (4) Invasives, and (5) Climate Change. A major section of our human society is not bothered about these numbers and for most others, they would ask "Are these figures really true?" Let us look at one example from our own state of Kerala - God's Own Country - known so for the luxuriant green cover all along and the inhabiting rich biodiversity". The newspaper clipping from The Hindu dated 7 September 2024 titled "Chinnakkanal's Wild Jumbo Population on the brink" clearly explains the startling situation of Wild Elephants in Chinnakkanal of Idukki District..... Over the past 14 years, the Elephant population here has nearly halved, and Elephant Expert Dr P.S. Easa warns that local extinction is a possibility until and unless conservation initiatives are put in place on a high-priority basis. A study recorded 30-34 Wild Elephants in the Chinnakkanal

and Anayirangal regions in 2010. However, by 2024, within just 14 years, the number has dropped to 17, i.e., a loss of 50% of the local Wild Elephant population. This could result in inbreeding with higher risks. In recent years, Chinnakkanal has lost three tuskers - Arikompan was relocated in April 2023, Cigarette Komban died by electrocution in February 2023, and Murivalan Kompan died this August, maybe from infighting and injury. An unnamed Senior Forest Official says that Human-Elephant Conflicts in the region have led to the Forest Department to categorize Chinnakkanal as a Red Zone. The urgent need is to ensure connectivity between Chinnakkanal and the larger Munnar Landscape by establishing Elephant Corridors to facilitate the easy movement of Elephants. Also recommended is the voluntary relocation of the 301-acre and 80-acre colonies at Chinnakkanal to further reduce human-elephant conflicts. The Living Planet Report is a "Health Card" for our Planet Earth taking into account changes in monitored wildlife populations across the globe. And it clearly says that "Our Planet is in Peril". So the time to act is now - change the conversation, translate awareness into action, set timelines, be advocates for change.

Renjan Mathew Varghese
State Director

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN NATURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Global

Wildlife numbers fall by 73% in 50 years, global stocktake finds

Human activity is continuing to drive what conservation charity the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) calls a "catastrophic" loss of species. From elephants in tropical forests to hawksbill turtles off the Great Barrier Reef, populations are plummeting, according to a stocktake of the world's wildlife. The Living Planet Report, a comprehensive overview of the state of the natural world, reveals global wildlife populations have shrunk by an average of 73% in

the past 50 years. The report is based on the Living Planet Index of more than 5,000 bird, mammal, amphibian, reptile and fish population counts over five decades. Among many snapshots of human-induced wildlife loss, it reveals 60% of the world's Amazon pink river dolphins have been wiped out by pollution and other threats, including mining and civil unrest. (Source: BBC, 10 October 2024)

Earth had its hottest August in 175-year record

August 2024 was Earth's hottest August in NOAA's 175-year climate record. The sweltering month was also the 15th month in a row of record-warm months and wrapped up the Northern Hemisphere's warmest meteorological summer on record, according to scientists and data from NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information. The average global land and ocean surface temperature in August was 2.29 degrees F (1.27 degrees C) above the 20th-

century average of 60.1 degrees F (15.6 degrees C), ranking as the warmest August in the global climate record. (Source: NOAA, 12 September 2024)

Surging seas are coming for us all, warns UN chief

The United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has said that big polluters have a clear responsibility to cut emissions – or risk a worldwide catastrophe. The Pacific is today the most vulnerable area of the world,” he told the BBC at the Pacific Island Forum Leaders Meeting in Tonga. The World Meteorological Organization’s State of the Climate in the South West Pacific report says this region faces a triple whammy of an accelerating rise in the sea level, a warming of the ocean and acidification – a rise in the sea’s acidity because it’s absorbing more and more carbon dioxide. (Source: BBC, 27 August 2024)

National

India’s Cheetah conservation plan is losing steam

Two years after their introduction, not a single adult cheetah roams free in India. Conservation experts question the plan’s viability and impact. The surviving 12 adult cheetahs of the original 20 imported from Africa and 12 of the 17 cubs born in India are held captive in enclosures at Kuno. Not one cheetah is ranging free in the wild. The grassland/open forest dependent species, both avifaunal and faunal, have suffered a more drastic decline than any other species adapted to other biomes, simply because these habitats have undergone the most qualitative and quantitative decimation of all ecotypes in the subcontinent. (Source: Frontline, 14 September 2024)

Toxic fallout: Why Delhi’s waste-to-energy plants may have a negative impact on health

A report submitted to National Green Tribunal by CSIR-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute regarding waste-to-energy plants has stated that the mass burning of mixed waste with high moisture content and low calorific value results in incomplete combustion as the combustion temperature drops below 850 degrees Celsius. The mixed wastes are likely to contain chlorinated plastics (polyvinyl chloride), which can lead to emissions of highly toxic dioxins and furans if the incineration temperatures fall below 850 degrees Celsius. The incomplete combustion also results in the release of suspended particulate matter, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxide, and sulphur dioxide, exceeding the permissible discharge limits. Waste to energy plants based on mass burning of mixed wastes may not be feasible in India, as these are against the prevailing Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016. (Source: The Times of India, 10 September 2024)

Abundant microplastics in personal care products sold in India: new research

Researchers at the environmental sciences department, Cochin University of Science and Technology (Cusat), found the microplastics when they extracted ‘microbeads’ from 45 products, both national and international, bought online and offline. Most of these were labelled ‘eco-friendly’, ‘organic’, and ‘natural’. “We extracted the microbeads from all these products and studied them for the presence of microplastics. The gels and scrubs enter the water bodies and add to the pollution. These are primary plastics which can be checked with govt intervention through policy and regulation,” said Prof Suja P Devipriya, School of Environmental Sciences, who authored the study. (Source: The Hindu, 1 September 2024)

Invasive Plant Species Threaten Himachal’s Native Ecology, Medicinal Plants at Risk

The rapid spread of invasive plant species in Himachal Pradesh is posing a serious threat to the state’s native vegetation, particularly medicinal plants. Among the major invasive species disrupting the local ecosystem are Lantana camara (ghaneri), Ageratum conyzoides (visaduri) and Parthenium hysterophorus (carrot grass). Research conducted by the Botanical Survey of India has revealed that these species, initially introduced for horticultural purposes, have now grown into a significant ecological concern. Carrot grass poses a different challenge by releasing chemical elements that suppress the growth of surrounding vegetation, further degrading the environment. (Source: The News Himachal, 6 October 2024)

State

New species of damselfly discovered at Manjadinnavila in Kerala

A group of researchers from the state and outside has discovered a new species of damselfly from Manjadinnavila in Thiruvananthapuram district. Named Agasthyamalai Bambootail (Agasthyamala Mulavalan in Malayalam), the damselfly is a rare species belonging to the group of bambootails. The long cylindrical abdomen resembling a bamboo stalk fetched them the name Bambootail aka Mulavalan Thumbikal. The research team that discovered the rare species includes Vivek Chandran and Dr Subin K Jose of Christ College (Autonomous), Irinjalakuda, Reji Chandran of the Society for Odonate Studies, and Dr Pankaj Koparde and Arajush Payra of MIT World Peace University, Pune. (Source: The New Indian Express, 10 October 2024)

Kerala college student receives Indian patent for method to produce methane from plastic waste

In a remarkable achievement, Abel Abraham Jacob, a Commerce student at Saintgits College of Applied Sciences,

Kottayam, Kerala, has been awarded an Indian patent for his innovative research on converting plastic waste into methane. His invention, titled “Production of Methane from Plastic Waste by Combined Autogenic Pyrolysis and Fluidized Bed Gasification,” was officially patented on August 29, 2024, following a year-long journey of determination and experimentation. (Source: On Manorama, 11 September 2024)

Wayanad tunnel road: Kerala govt firm despite environmental concerns

The Kerala government is proceeding with the ambitious Wayanad Tunnel Road Project, with the construction tender being awarded to a Bhopal-based company on Thursday (September 5). After completion, the project will significantly ease traffic between Wayanad and Kozhikode through the congested Thamarassery Ghat Road on NH 766. The Anakkampoyil-Kalladi-Meppadi road will connect three districts – Wayanad, Kozhikode, and Malappuram. It begins at Maripuzha, Anakkampoyil in Thiruvambadi Panchayat at one end and concludes at the Kalladi Meenakshi Bridge in Wayanad. Dilip Buildcon won the tender, competing against 13 other companies. Asked about the possible environmental impact, especially in the wake of recent landslides, Linto said, “The state government has done extensive studies, even on the environmental aspect. During his Norway visit, the chief minister had elaborate talks with Norwegian Geotechnical Institute officials. In 2022, Dominik H Lang, its director, visited the places where the tunnel was to come up. We have picked up places where there is minimal environmental damage.” After the recent landslide disaster in Wayanad, some environmental groups had raised concerns about the construction of a tunnel in the region. However, political parties across the spectrum in the state are in favour of building the tunnel, which they hope will lead to comprehensive development in the hilly region. (Source: The Federal News, 7 September 2024)

SPECIES OF THE ISSUE

Indian Lily Moth *Polytela gloriasae*



It belongs to the family Noctuidae. They are commonly seen in India and has pinks, yellows and whites on its body. The larval host plants are *Cirum asiaticum*, *Zephyranthus sp.*, *Gloriosa superba*, *Hymnocalis littoralis* etc.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

- Which sense do most spiders use to find their food
a. Smell b. Sight c. Sound d. Touch
- What do Unfertilized eggs of a queen Honeybee develop into?
a. Female workers b. Drones c. Queens d. Kings
- How do earth worms breathe?
a. Lungs b. Gills c. Nose d. Skin
- Biggest moth in the world
a. Grey moth b. Atlas moth c. Peacock moth d. Tiger moth
- Offspring of a dragonfly called
a. Larva b. Maggot c. Naiad d. Grub
- Clownfish has a symbiotic relationship with which sea creature
a. Sea anemone b. Sea Urchin c. Shark d. Octopus

ANSWERS: 1. d, 2. c, 3. b, 4. b, 5. a, 6. a

ACTIVITIES OF WWF-INDIA KERALA STATE OFFICE

Monthly Moth Observation

The monthly Moth Watch was conducted on September 26th in the Museum & Zoo Compound, near the Butterfly Garden. Around 15 species were observed between 7:30 pm and 11:45 pm. Jaichand Johnson, Sujith V. Gopalan, Rahul E.R., Shyama and Mohammed Roshan participated in the Moth Watch. In the month of October, Jaichand Johnson, Abhirami G S, Anupama R, Ayusha G S, Ganga and Sarath Babu along with Anushreedha S S participated in the Moth Watch.

Dragonfly Festival 2024

The Dragonfly Festival National Orientation Session was held on 15th September. In Kerala, because of the Onam festival, the State-level Orientation was held on 25th September. There has been a total registration of 32 Volunteers for the 3 wetlands. The online program was hosted by Anushreedha S.S. from Kerala State Office. The State Director, Renjan Mathew Varghese spoke to the audience about WWF-India's volunteering programs and the idea behind Dragonfly Festival. Dr. Sujith V. Gopalan took the orientation session and explained the methodology for biomonitoring. A.K. Sivakumar gave the vote of thanks. Around 25 Volunteers attended the program.



The first on-ground Wetland Biomonitoring was conducted in the month of September in Vellayani Lake and Kole Wetlands and the teams were led by Govind Giriya and Subin K.S. respectively. A total of 35 participants took part in the event. The Vellayani Team observed 24 species of odonates and the Kole Team observed 15 species.

For October, the Wetland Biomonitoring was conducted in Vellayani Lake and Kole Wetlands and the teams were led by Dr. Sujith V. Gopalan and Subin K.S. respectively. The Bharathapuzha team observed 19 species on October 2nd in their first Biomonitoring and 23 species on their second Biomonitoring on October 13. Vellayani Team observed 14 species of odonates and the Kole Team observed 18 species on their 2nd Biomonitoring on 20th October.

Kerala State Office coordinated and hosted the expert talk of the month by Dr. Sujith V Gopalan titled “Migratory Dragons – Revealing the Mysteries of Dragonfly Migration”. Around 55 participants attended the program from 7:30 to 9.00 PM on 26th October 2024 on the Zoom platform.



Magical Mangroves

Six Volunteers have carried out outreach sessions in September. Ten sessions were conducted by them with a total outreach of 267. Sixteen Outreach sessions were carried out by 12 Volunteers in October 2024 and the total outreach was 1041. Our volunteer and mentor, Mr. Raphy Neelamkavil continues to spread the message of Magical Mangroves, and his outreach sessions at 3 schools and 325 participants attended his talk.



Mangrove Trail



The First Mangrove Trail was conducted on 19th October at Aayiramthengu, Kollam. Seventeen people including 8 MM volunteers, 2 students each from Amritha College and MG University participated in the program. Haritha P S, Doctoral Student at Amritha Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Kollam was the expert for the Trail. Sreekrishnan Ravi, Graduate from Amritha Vishwa Vidyapeetham, provided logistics and ground support. The participants appreciated the on-ground session and thanked the expert, Haritha P S and the WWF-India team. Lunch was served at 1:30 pm and everyone dispersed at 2:30 PM.



Beach Combing



Beach Combing, the monthly monitoring program of shore birds of Thiruvananthapuram District, was held on 7th September 2024 with the participation of 6 Volunteers under the leadership of Reji Chandran and Jayakrishnan. It was conducted in two sites - Perumathura and Poovar. The weather and the fish availability was poor, hence the observers noted only Brahminy Kites, Egrets and Cormorants.



The monthly monitoring program of shore birds of Thiruvananthapuram District was held on 7th October 2024 with the participation of 6 Volunteers under the leadership of Reji Chandran at Poovar. The found 29 species of birds including migratory shore birds like Lesser Sand-Plover, Greater Sand-Plover, Kentish Plover, Whimbrel, Common Sandpiper, Sanderling, Bridled Tern, Gull-billed Tern, Whiskered Tern, Lesser Crested Tern and Great Crested Tern.



A.K. Sivakumar conducted a multimedia presentation on Shore Birds of Kerala at the Christian College, Kattakkada, on 17 October 2024. The presentation was a capacity-building event for the students on Beach Combing, attended by 80 students. The college is close to Poovar, one of our monthly beach combing sites.

Annual Vulture Count 2024

The students from Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (KVASU), Pookode registered for the Annual Vulture Count and attended the Orientation Program on 6th September. Social Media Campaign was conducted on 7th September 2024 by putting posts in Facebook Pages and 4 WhatsApp groups. Hume Centre for Ecology and Wildlife biology, a partner organization for the Vulture Count organized Vulture Awareness Campaigns at Navodaya Vidyalaya, Pookode, Wayanad. Dr. Ratish R.L., Professor, KVASU took a session on the importance of Vultures in the ecosystem and the threats faced by them. Around 200 students participated in the program. The Vulture poster was handed over to the school. The poster was also given to the Dean of KVASU, Pookode, Dr. Maya S. The on-ground vulture count is planned for October 1st week.



Onam Bird Count

An Orientation Session to kick-off the Onam Bird Count in Thiruvananthapuram District with the participation of 6 colleges as a pre-runner of the upcoming Great Backyard Bird Count and Campus Bird Count was organized at the Nodal Office of Christ (Deemed to be University), Vazhuthacud, Thiruvananthapuram, with 65 participants. The sessions were led by A.K. Sivakumar and Govind Girija, Volunteer and Expert Birder. Abhirami G.S., Student Co-ordinator of Onam Bird Count, and our Volunteer coordinated the whole program. The Onam Bird Count was conducted from 13-16th September. In Thiruvananthapuram district, under the coordination of WWF-India, came to the top in the number of eBird Checklists (665) with 125 species during the count.



Campus Bird Count as the follow-up of Onam Bird Count

As a continuation of the Onam Bird Count started in September 2024, the monthly Bird Counts in six colleges were conducted.



World Cleanup Day 2024 at Vellayani Lake



Kerala State Office conducted a cleanup drive at Vellayani Lake, on the waterfront of Kanthari, an International Institution with the cooperation of the Indus Cycling Embassy (ICE), Sustera Foundation and the 'Swachhata Hi Seva' campaign of Kerala Suchitwa Mission. Around 42 Volunteers attended the event. The Volunteer Team of ICE joined in by cycling from Manaveeyam Veedhi. Half of the team collected the water hyacinth from the lake and transferred it to the land. The other half, who were on the land spread it out evenly in order to dry for further processing. The event came to an end with a traditional breakfast, steamed tapioca and spicy chutney.



Onam Celebrations at WWF-India Kerala State Office

Onam celebrations were held at the office on 20th September. Staff and family came together and made "Pookkalam". Lunch, "Onasadhya" was arranged at Mother's Veg Plaza. Back at the office, everybody participated in some fun games.



Wild Wisdom Global Challenge



Renjan Mathew Varghese, State Director was invited by Saravanan, Senior Education Officer, WWF-India Tamil Nadu to be the Quiz Master for the Wild Wisdom Coimbatore City-level held on 23rd October. Around 78 school teams participated.



The State-level Quiz in Kerala was conducted at St. Mary's College, Thrissur, on 25 October 2024 from 11.30 AM to 3.00 PM. Student teams and teachers from 60 schools attended the quiz. The program was inaugurated by Dr. P. O. Nameer, Professor (Wildlife) & Head, Centre for Wildlife Studies, Forestry from Kerala Agricultural University. The function was presided over by Dr. Dalie Dominic A., Vice-Principal & IQAC Co-ordinator, St. Mary's College. Renjan Mathew Varghese, State Director, WWF-India, Dr. Divya Menon K., Department of Botany, St. Mary's College, and A. K. Sivakumar, Senior Education Officer, WWF-India, spoke on the occasion.



The elimination round with 60 teams across the State was facilitated by WWF-India officials and volunteers from the College. The top five teams were selected with strict evaluation and a tie-breaker quiz. Dr. Sandeep Das, National Post-Doctoral Fellow from SERB led an interactive session on snakes of Kerala named "Scales and Slither" during the evaluation period. The top 5 teams took part in the State Level Finale mastered by Dr. Jain J. Therattil, Asst. Professor, St. Aloysius College, Elthuruth, Thrissur.



Ibnu Hibban and Shravini Arunthiga of PM Shri Kendriya Vidyalaya, Kanjikkode bagged the first position to represent the State of Kerala in the Semi-Finals of the National Level Challenge of the Wild Wisdom Global Challenge 2024, which will be held online on 6 November 2024. Aashish Sachraj &

Advaith Menon of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Valanchery and Abhimanyu T S & Skandan K S of Bhavans Varuna Vidyalaya, Thrikkakkara shared the second position. Lekshmipriya B and Nanma Praveen Nair of NSK International School from Thumpamon bagged third, and Harinandan Sandeep and Adnan Shafeek of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Akamala bagged the consolation prizes. The prizes were distributed during the conclusion session of the program.

Beach Cleanup Drive under the Swachhata Campaign



WWF-India joined hands with the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST), Thiruvananthapuram and Nirmaan, Social Outreach Club, IIST in partnership with Indus Cycling Embassy, Sustera Foundation, and NCC Unit of All Saints College for the Beach Cleanup Drive along Vettucaud Beach as part of the Swachhata Campaign 2024. It was a collective two-hour effort by a team of 125 Volunteers. Cyclists from Indus Cycling Embassy gathered together at Manaveeyam Veedhi at 6.15 am and the ride towards Vettucaud started at 6.30 am and the team reached

Vettucaud by 7.15 am. The 12 Volunteer Teams collected 19 sacks of waste weighing 210 Kg. Plastic Fishers, specialized in plastic waste management, were engaged to dispose of the collected waste. Post the cleanup, Clinus Rozario L., Ward Councilor, Vettucaud addressed the team and appreciated the initiative.



Wildlife Week 2024

The Wildlife Week 2024 was observed by KLSO through multiple programs. An open house was organized at the office for visitors. The State Director, Senior Education Officer and Project Officer were invited for talks and KLSO was requested to put up stalls in schools.



Open House at WWF-India, Kerala State Office and WWF-India's resource materials were put on display for visitors. A photography exhibition was also organized at the entrance and students from the nearby Popcorn School visited the office. There were around 20 visitors from the school including students and staff. A set of resource materials like foldout of birds, butterflies and some activity books were handed over to the staff for use in their school library.



Orientation Workshop on “Making Known the Lesser Known”

As part of Wildlife Week 2024, Kerala State Office conducted a two-day Orientation Workshop jointly with Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary on 5 and 6 October 2024 for 35 teacher trainees of 7 colleges from Kollam and Thiruvananthapuram districts. The workshop was inaugurated by K N Syam Mohanlal, IFS, Conservator of Forests of Agasthyavanam Biological Park. T. S. Saju, Asst. Wildlife Warden, welcomed all the participants and guests to the camp and A. K. Sivakumar, Senior Education Officer, WWF-India gave a brief on the camp, its objectives, and the follow-up process. S. Heeralal, Wildlife Warden, delivered the presidential address. Aswathy Raj, Wildlife Assistant, proposed the vote of thanks. Abhirami GS, Student Coordinator of the Camp, was the inaugural session's anchor. The focal theme of the camp was “Making Known the Lesser Known” and was focused on Butterflies & Moths, Dragonflies & Damselflies and Amphibians & Reptiles. The technical sessions were led by Dr. Sujith V. Gopalan, A. K. Sivakumar, Anish Mohan Thampi, S. Heeralal, and Sudha. G (Ecotourism Program Officer of the Sanctuary) and R. Anupama (Intern, WWF-India). A. K. Sivakumar and Reji Chandran led the field and activity sessions. The camp was interactive, and the participant teacher trainees committed to outreach to 100 students each through 70 different events. The presentation of the activity sessions by all college teams was truly dynamic, funny, and conveying. Thirty-five new volunteers signed in to the volunteer website and participated in the program. Thirty volunteers from five colleges conducted 31 different types of awareness sessions, like awareness sessions, sharing the camp experience, role play, storytelling, skits, caption writing contests, photo exhibitions etc. and outreach to 13 institutions and 2480 individuals.

Invited Talk at Mar Ivanious College, Thiruvananthapuram

Renjan Mathew Varghese, State Director, was invited by the Dept of Zoology, Mar Ivanios College, Thiruvananthapuram, to talk about “Wildlife Unveiled: From Species War to Co-Existence” as part of Wildlife Week Observation. About 120 Four Year Under-Graduate Programme (FYUGP) students attended the program.



Session at St. Josephs’s HSS, Thiruvananthapuram

A.K. Sivakumar led a session on the importance of Wildlife Conservation on 8th October 2024 at St. Joseph’s HSS, Thiruvananthapuram, from 11 am to 12 noon. Josephine Joseph, HSST Botany of the school introduced him, and the session was attended by 180 students.



Session at Kerala University College of Teacher Education, Anchal



WWF-India Kerala State Office was invited by Kerala University College of Teacher Education, Anchal to give a talk on the occasion of Wildlife Week. Dr. Lesha M.S. welcomed the guests and participants, and Dr. Sheeba L., Principal, inaugurated the Session. A.K. Sivakumar led a session on the theme “Making Known the Lesser Knowns” on 9th October 2024 at Kerala University College of Teacher

Education, Anchal from 10.00 am to 11.00 am. Another session on communicating Wildlife Conservation through Workbooks was led by Anupama R., an intern from WWF-India session was attended by 60 teacher trainees.



Session at Mar Thoma College, Ayur

A.K. Sivakumar led another session on the theme “Urban Wildlife” on 9th October 2024 at Mar Thoma College, Ayur from 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm. Prof. Dr. K. Jacob, Principal, inaugurated the session, and Dr. Harikumar proposed the vote of thanks. The session was attended by 60 members of the Biodiversity Club.



Wildlife Week 2024 by Department of Museums & Zoos, Government of Kerala.



Renjan Mathew Varghese, State Director, attended the inaugural session of Wildlife Week 2024 organized by the Dept. of Museums & Zoos at the Museum premises on 4th October 2024. A. K. Sivakumar, Senior Education Officer, was honored with a memento by the Department for mentoring their Zoo Bio Club and guiding their activities. Smt J. Chinchurani, Minister for Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development handed over the memento to A. K. Sivakumar. Few of our other volunteers Dr. Sujith V. Gopalan, Reji Chandran, Dr. A K Anilkumar and. Abhirami G S were also honored with mementos.



Invited Talk at Mar Theophilus Training College, Thiruvananthapuram

Anushreedha S S, Project Officer, was invited to talk on the occasion of National Wildlife Week 2024 on 8th October 2024. She spoke on the topic “Citizen Science and Wildlife Conservation” on the Google Talk platform. WWF-India’s initiatives like Dragonfly Festival, City Nature Challenge, Magical Mangroves etc., and the various birding activities were covered in the talk, and she emphasized the role of citizens in conservation of wildlife, both in urban as well as protected areas. Around 45 participants including students and faculty attended the program.

Exhibition at Govt. Model HSS Thycaud

Harish Kumar and Anandu Krishnan managed the exhibition at Government Model HSS, Thycaud on 8th October as part of Wildlife Week and 300 students visited the exhibition.

Exhibition on Odonates at St Mary's HSS School and Mar Ivanios Vidya Nagar

Ms. Abhirami G.S., WWF-India Volunteer conducted exhibitions at St Mary's HSS School and Mar Ivanios Vidya Nagar on 17-18 October as part of Wildlife Week observation 2024. There were around 680 students visited the exhibition at St Mary's School and 120 in Mar Ivanios Vidyanagar.

Invited Talk at SB College, Changanassery

Renjan Mathew Varghese was invited by the Zoology Association of SB College, Changanassery to deliver the inaugural address in their Wildlife Week Celebration on 7 October 2024. The talk as delivered titled "Wildlife Conservation through Co-Existence". About 120 students from the graduate and post graduate streams of botany and zoology attended.



Session on Biodiversity Conservation and Birds & Bird Watching at KITTS



Renjan Mathew Varghese and A.K. Sivakumar were invited by The Kerala Institute Tourism and Travel Studies (KITTS) to lead sessions on Biodiversity Conservation and Birds & Bird Watching on 9th and 10th October 2024 respectively. The sessions were organized for the upcoming naturalists and guides of Eco Development Committees (EDC) and Vana Samrakshana Samithis (VSS) under the Kerala Forests & Wildlife Department as part of their capacity building. About 30 participants attended the session.



Handing-over of Set of Children's Books

A kit of children's books sent by the secretariat was handed over to Mr. Krishna Kumar, Headmaster of SKMJ School, Wayanad, in the presence of the few students and teacher, Smitha E.R. on 5th October 2024. The school has around 1500 students from 1st to 10th grade.

Public Lecture on Frogs

Anushreedha S S attended the public lecture – "Frogs: Window to Life on Earth" by renowned "Frogman of India", Dr. S D Biju on 23rd October organized by Kerala State council for Science, Technology and Environment, at Kerala State Science and Technology Museum and Priyadarshini Planetarium.

Communicating Conservation

Tiger Conservation Posters prepared using captions coined by volunteers during Global Tiger Day 2024

Selected photographs of tigers were projected in front of teams of volunteers and they were asked to write attractive captions which could be used to promote tiger conservation. The best captions were used to create the layout of the posters.





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