



NEWS
LETTER

KERALA

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Mruthika

Newsletter of WWF - India, Kerala State Office

FROM THE STATE DIRECTOR'S DESK

The Tiger is one of the most charismatic animals, and as everyone knows, it is an endangered animal under the IUCN Red Data List and included under Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife Protection Act. Efforts are on at the global, national and local level to protect the Tiger. For India, Tiger is very important as it is our national animal and the global community is very much looking to India for sustaining this species as more than 50% of the global population, i.e. 1700 out of the 3000 odd Tigers are in India. WWF is also in the process of launching a project TX2 envisaging to double the Tiger population of the world. With this enormous attention on the Tiger, the International Tiger Day is observed globally on July 29. The State Director was invited to be the guest in the morning talk show of Jaihind TV on the day to explain the significance of protecting the Tiger, status of Tigers at the global, national and local level and also to explain on what Governments and organizations like WWF are doing to save the Tiger. Following this, an article was prepared titled 'Why Save the Tiger?' and it was published in Kerala Calling – the official magazine of the Kerala Government published by I&PRD. Also a travelogue on the recent visit of the State Director and Senior Education Officer to the Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve was prepared, translated into Malayalam and published in Aranyam, the official magazine of the Kerala Forests and Wildlife Department. Through all these efforts, we hope that the general public will understand the significance of protecting the Tiger in the context of the global web of life. Sunday Bird Walk is a monthly regular activity which is gaining good momentum, wide publicity and highly in demand also. Many budding bird watchers are able to sharpen their skills through these walks. The walks are usually taken to nearby prominent birding locations like Arippa, Veli-Akkulam, Ponnudi, and Punchakari wetlands. Other nature enthusiasts make it an opportunity to travel around, observe nature and surroundings, identify major changes, capture them through

their camera lenses etc. The Monsoon Camp at Vazhachal with 16 participants was a unique experience for most of the participants. Rather than staying indoor as in the usual case during monsoons, the adventure and excitement of venturing out into the wilderness in the rains was very different. And this year, by the blessing of Mother Nature, Kerala has got abundant rainfall, filling all its reservoirs and wetlands. And hence the topic of water conservation gains much more significance because we need to ensure that the water available through the few monsoon months are stored up in our surface and sub-surface water sources to make it available to us during the later monsoon lean months. The Teachers Training Workshops on the theme of 'Water Conservation' was organized at Kasargod and Kannur in July and in Kattapana, Kozhikode and Wayanad in August. We hope the participants of the workshops will translate their awareness into action at individual, household and institutional levels. The Kerala State Office Annual Report for 2012-2013 was compiled and published and proudly presented to our network members. WWF-India organized its first joint meeting of the Landscape Coordinators and State Director's meeting in New Delhi and this was a unique opportunity of interaction, learning and experience sharing for all including the State Director from Kerala. WWF-India and World Institute of Sustainable Energy (WISE), Pune has recently completed a very relevant study for Kerala titled 'Kerala going 100% Renewable Energy by 2050'. The draft report and findings were presented and discussed in the stakeholder's workshops organized in Thiruvananthapuram and Kochi in August end. The State Office also organized an inter-state nature camp covering Nilambur, Mudumalai and Bandipur. Like in previous years, we could organize the Wild Wisdom City level quiz competition also in Thiruvananthapuram.

Renjan Mathew Varghese,
State Director

IMPORTANT NEWS ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURE

GLOBAL

Cane toads wiping out Australian crocodiles

Australia's noxious Cane toad is wiping out populations of a unique miniature crocodile, researchers warned. A team from Charles Darwin University found "significant

declines" in number of dwarf freshwater crocodiles after the amphibians' arrival. Dwarf crocodiles, which are about half the size of other freshwater crocs, are thought to be stunted due to a lack of available food and researchers believe the crocs started gobbling up the Cane toads when they came along. Cane toads — warty, leathery creatures with a venom sac on their heads, toxic enough to kill snakes and crocodiles — were first introduced from Hawaii to control Scarab beetle populations in the 1930s and are now advancing across north-western Australia at a speed of 50 km a year. (Source: *The Hindu*, July 4, 2013)

Push for Bermuda Marine Reserve

Officials from the Pew Charitable Trust and one of the famed underwater explorers Jacques Cousteau's grandsons were in Bermuda calling for the creation of the Atlantic's biggest marine reserve. The ambitious "Blue Halo" plan would create a vast reserve in ecologically rich waters between the tiny mid-Atlantic territory's coastal fishing areas and its 322-km exclusive economic zone boundary. Advocates of the reserve say it would safeguard significant parts of the Sargasso Sea, a 3-million-sq-km body of warm water in the Atlantic that is a major habitat and nursery for numerous marine species. It would potentially start 80 km from Bermuda's shore and ring the territory, ensuring that anglers could still fish offshore. Bermuda is the only island within the Sargasso Sea, known for its mats of brownish Sargassum seaweed and as the spawning place for European and American eels. (Source: *The Hindu Aug 12, 2013*)

NATIONAL

U.K. aid for marine biodiversity conservation in Andamans

The U.K. based Whitley Fund for Nature has decided to extend financial support to BNHS India's marine biodiversity conservation programme in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Chief Operating Officer of Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) Deepak Apte has been awarded the Continuation Funding Grant for developing Giant Clam species recovery plan and identifying potential sites for marine conservation reserves in the Andaman and Nicobar islands. The grant of £70,000 (about Rs. 63 lakh) was awarded to Dr. Apte recently after a rigorous review and discussion, for a two-year programme, according to BNHS spokesperson. Union Ministry of Environment and Forests also provided Rs. 27 lakh to BNHS for the Giant Clam studies. (Source: *The Hindu July 4, 2013*)

STATE

An incredibly rare catch off Vizhinjam coast

An oddly shaped fish, generally found in deeper tropical waters, got entangled in the nets of fishermen at work off the Vizhinjam coast. It was unlike anything their nets had unearthed from the seas before as they brought the 'Ocean Sunfish' to the landing shore at Valiathura, first recording of such a catch off the coast of Thiruvananthapuram. Described as an incredibly rare catch, scientists at the Vizhinjam office of the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) said the one previous sighting of the fish was off the Malabar coast, near Kozhikode, in 2007. The eastern seaboard of the country has had better luck as the fish is said to thrive in the marine sanctuary of the Gulf of Mannar off Tamil Nadu. Even so, Chennai's last recording of a Sunfish catch was also in 2007, with none

reported after that. They are not putting it up for sale and have buried it as they do not want to take the risk of selling something whose quality is questionable. (Source: *The Hindu, August 4, 2013*)

No clearance yet for airport, Sonia tells Sugathakumari

Congress President Sonia Gandhi has written to poetess cum environmentalist Sugathakumari that the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) has not yet cleared the proposed airport project at Aranmula. The project has been put on hold by the Minister due to several representations received from NGO activists and eminent citizens, the letter said. In a telephonic conversation with *The Hindu*, Ms. Sugathakumari said she had received a letter in this regard from Dhiraj Srivastava, Private Secretary to Ms. Gandhi, on Tuesday. KGS Group, promoters of the private airport project, had earlier claimed to have procured all requisite clearances. (Source: *The Hindu Aug 28, 2013*)

SPECIAL FEATURE

A TREE FRIEND

Rizwana



I am Rizwana. I am 13 years old. Me, my sister Shifana and baby brother Mohammed have been here in front of the Trivandrum Secretariat along with our mother Jaseera for nearly a month now. I am sure you are wondering why. It is because our home and the sea shore of the village Madayi in Kannur District is in real danger. My mother who grew up in the village knows the sea and the shores like the back of her hand. When we stayed away from Madayi we had forgotten about the sound of waves, the smell of the sea and the cool breeze. But when we came back a few years ago, we saw that the sea which was very calm, the beach with white sand that glistened on many moon lit nights had changed. The waves seemed near and huge, the beach very narrow and noisy with many people walking up and down with big loads of white sand. This was when my mother started her arguments and talk.



We were surprised to see the transformation in her. She spoke with clarity and commitment to prove the fact that if more sand is removed it would mean loss of land and danger to houses. My mother does not speak for herself or for us. She speaks for the seashore and the sea which she says has given so much support to so many that we should not kill that. It is this clear vision of hers and the love she showers on us in spite of all the hardships and uncertainties that make us want to be with her. We have been with her always. She has taken us to the Police Station in Puthiyangadi, to the Collector's office in Kannur and now here to the capital.

We arrived here in this city on a rainy morning. Since then, we have seen rain and shine, moonlight and sunshine, dark and lighted up streets. We have been the foursome for many nights; we have had few companions and a huge mass of people for some days. We have had groups coming to us as a procession with supporting slogans; we have had individuals joining for a few hours or a day. We have seen people pass by and then come back to talk and enquire why we are here. Some have got us sweets, others books, some have told us stories and wondered about our studies and life. We have seen friendly police men and women, as also angry and irritated ones.

A few days back, some Child Rights people came to take us away. But we did not want to go. Since then me and my sister go to a school to study during the day. My sister is very intelligent and can grasp quickly. I am a bit lazy. But I love to read stories and poems. My little brother also likes books. He will pretend like he is an elder and keep staring at the pages. We laugh a lot when we see that. He is a very loving and happy child. He does not cry or become restless. As long as my mother or one of us is there, Muthu (as we call him) is peaceful. He is yet to talk clearly. But I think he talks through his eyes and smiles.

I wonder how long we will have to be here. On our festival day, my mother went with some friends to make Biriyani. Many people came to see us that day. Some big channels came to interview and then mother had to rush back. The rice for Biriyani got overcooked and so we had Biriyani Payasam that day. How we all laughed, though it was tasty. My mother usually makes excellent food. She says the

masalas and rice were very good but it was because she left the kitchen of the friend's house to come for interview that it got a bit overcooked. Any way, everyone liked it.

Since the day we came, the big tree standing at the Secretariat gate has been giving us shade and coolness. When it was raining, the leaves would rain down on us even after the rain had stopped. A friend came and told us that this is a Mahogany tree with small leaves. I look up and wonder how many struggles this tree might have seen, how many slogans and speeches it must have heard. It must have seen peaceful and violent strikes. I wonder if it has ever seen the likes of us – 3 kids and a mother for so many days. I wish I could talk to the tree and hear its story.

The other day, a friend came and told us the story of a Giving Tree which shows how human selfishness and greed destroyed a tree. Sitting under the huge tree, I thought of how the sea is also so giving but humans take everything away. Is that not why my frail mother is here to speak up for the sea and seashore? When I see the squirrels that stay on the tree and watch the many birds that rest in the shade, I understand how the tree is home to so many living forms. My mother explains that seashore is also not just for humans. There are the huge sea turtles that come to lay eggs. There are so many crabs and seashells which hide in burrows in the sand. There are varieties of birds that feed on the seashore - some we know are here all the time, others fly in from far away and stay for a few days. Many nest in the sand. We humans also need the seashore and the sea. After all do we not live on the shore? What about all the activities we do on the shore? What about keeping the nets and boats? The ways in which we cast nets, the hauling in of vessels and nets, the cleaning and drying of fishes, the repairing of nets... so much happens on the shore. If the shore goes, will the sea not come into the land and take away homes?

Are these not reason enough for anyone concerned about the safety of land and life to be with my mother in her struggle? So goes my thoughts as I watch the sun lighting up the small green leaves of the big tree who has become my friend. I like to see the tree best from the other side of the road, it looks really grand like a grandfather. When we go away home after we get an answer from the Government assuring us that no more sea shore sand will be taken, I think I will miss the tree and all the friends who have come to be with us the most...

N.B: Jaseera's lone battle against indiscriminate sea shore sand collection in her village Madayi and also other places has crossed a month in front of Secretariat. Though the Chief Minister met her and verbally promised all necessary support, the report from Kannur Collector on the issue has been damaging and derogatory. Jaseera demands that the CM gives it in writing that all the assurances given to her will be implemented and directions given.

As narrated to Ms. Anitha, Tree Walk, Thiruvananthapuram. Av Photos: Suresh Elamon and Praveen Ramachandran

CHILDREN'S CORNER

KNOW OUR TREES

Match the following English names of different trees to their names in your native language, Malayalam.

Indian Elm	Venthekku
Indian hog Plum	Perumaram
Dita Bark	Thekku
Rosewood	Chandanam
Iron wood tree	Ambazham
Naked beauty of the Forest	Chamata
Satinwood	Rudraksham
Yellow Teak	Othalam
Sandalwood	Eetty
Bead tree	Yezhilam Pala
Tree of heaven	Kaattu Karivepp
Flame of the Forest	Kadamaram
Indian Laburnum	Manja Kadambu
Ebony	Karimaram
Teak	Manjadi
Crocodile Apple	Kanikkonna

Answers: Indian Elm - Rudraksham, Indian hog Plum - Ambazham, Dita Bark - Yezhilam Pala, Rosewood - Eetty, Iron wood tree - Kadamaram, Naked beauty of the Forest - Venthekku, Satinwood - Kaattu Karivepp, Yellow Teak - Chamata, Sandalwood - Chandanam, Bead tree - Manjadi, Tree of heaven - Perumaram, Flame of the Forest - Rudraksham, Indian Laburnum - Manja Kadambu, Ebony - Karimaram, Teak - Manjadi, Crocodile Apple - Kanikkonna.

SPECIES OF THE ISSUE

Rafflesia



Rafflesia is a genus of parasitic flowering plants. It contains 15-19 species, all found in Southeastern Asia. They have

no leaves and hardly any stem, just a huge, leathery, speckled five-petalled flower. *Rafflesia arnoldii* is the largest individual flower on earth. The flower can have a diameter of up to 106 cm. and can weigh up to 10 kg. Although technically a member of the plant kingdom, it lacks chlorophyll and is therefore incapable of photosynthesis. The flowers have a penetrating, repulsive smell like rotting meat and many of its local names translate as 'corpse flower'. The Rafflesia plant is itself not visible until the reproduction stage when flowers first bud through the woody vine and then open into the magnificent spectacle that is world-renowned today.

Anjali Warriar, Student (B.Sc. Zoology), All Saints College.

EXPERT'S TALK

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM CORPORATION MASTER PLAN 2011 - 2031: A REVIEW

After a gap of a quarter of a century, the new Master Plan (draft) for Thiruvananthapuram Corporation has been published. The one in force today dates back to 1984. It is sad to notice that the Dept. of Town and Country Planning has prepared the draft master plan for the Corporation so negligently that it has failed to suggest practical solutions for the acute problems faced by the city. The 20 year perspective Master Plan was expected to be prepared with very clear vision on where the City should go in the next two decades, based on the existing population, infrastructure and other details, projections to be made and projects and plans proposed to cater to the needs of a growing and developing City and its population. But the proposed plan has failed to address any such.

The draft master plan is nothing but a 400 page report, mostly dealing on the problems faced by the Corporation which are already well known and discussed and debated in many forums. The 400 page document confines the summary and findings to just 6 pages and the sectoral proposal for the next 20 years to just a mere 18 pages.

In 2011, the Master Plan was expected to be prepared taking a good time span of around a year, conduct various rounds of discussions and meetings with the various stakeholders, compile all relevant data and information from all available sources, develop a vision and plan for the administrative capital and propose required projects and plans with timelines of implementation. Unfortunately none of this happened. When the deadline of the submission was December, the first meeting of the stakeholders was called for in the end of November. Both the organizers and the participants, around 150 in total, hardly had any idea regarding what was to be said and done in the meeting.

Lack of proper planning and coordination is evident all throughout. Very few problems have been properly addressed or solutions suggested to cater to the increasing demands for the situations in 2021 or 2031. And to be frank, what more can be expected of a document which has been prepared in a time span of maybe 6 months, with very little concerted effort from the agency assigned the task to compile the master plan?

WWF-India was the only agency outside the government departments to be invited to be part of this process and we were included under the Town Planning Group which included environment and related sectors. We engaged manpower to cover all the major departments to collect relevant data and information since environment is a subject encompassing all the sectors. Unfortunately it was then that we came to know that no formal intimation had been sent from the Corporation or the Regional Town Planning Office on the ongoing process of master plan development requesting to provide all relevant information about their respective sectors. Only when our people explained the situation, were the officers convinced and shared whatever information was readily available with them.

With much effort on compiling data, some brainstorming sessions were conducted among concerned individuals and institutions. WWF prepared the chapter on environment and submitted the document in the working group and also conducted a multimedia presentation to take the feedback and inputs from others, maybe way back in the month of February – March 2012. Since then, there were no working group meetings convened and finally some weeks back, from a third party source, we came to know that the Master Plan (draft) has been prepared and published and is ready for comments.

Going through the draft document, one feels so perplexed to see that, it details more on historical aspects, laments on the drawbacks in the existing system and some general statements and comments on what we need to correct or stress upon. Though the RTP has given some due consideration on critical issues like sewerage system, drinking water, solid waste management etc., no practical solutions have been suggested to mitigate or solve the burning issues. Certain areas like tourism, transportation etc. have been addressed satisfactorily in the draft master plan.

The major draw backs of the draft plan are:

- While the plan has identified the existing sewerage system of Thiruvananthapuram as defective, outdated and serving more than the designed population, it has failed to suggest effective methods for proper sewerage management, which will become more complex by 2031.
- Food security is an important issue which needs addressing, and as part of that, protection of the

remaining paddy fields and wetlands, and promotion of agriculture/ horticulture should be stressed.

- No innovative solution has been suggested to tackle the shortage of fresh water supply in the Corporation, other than to increase the height of Peppara dam by 4cms (which was proposed earlier also and did not work out because of the objection from the Forest Department).
- The issue of lack of space for existing major hospitals within the present location has been identified, but unfortunately solution remains unspecified.
- An effective remedy has not been suggested for proper SWM inside the Corporation and to the controversial Vilappilsala issue which had made much uproar.
- An effective source for power generation has not been suggested to keep in track with the power consumption which is expected to reach the global average of 2500KWH/ person/ year which is almost touching the global average.
- The draft remains silent on the burning issue of impacts of global warming and climate change, particularly its impacts at the micro level, and mitigation and adaptation strategies which are of utmost importance for maintaining a healthy environment and thereby a healthy society.
- The current plan confines its recommendations and plans to Thiruvananthapuram Corporation area in most parts. Key development areas like Technocity, Nedumangad which hosts institutions like IIST, IISER are outside the scope of the geographical limits of the current master plan. Hence the scope of the master plan must be extended to Attingal, Neyyatinkara and Nedumangad regions and should encompass the already urbanized areas.

The plan document lacks any real plan to cater to the needs of the City and its increasing population in the coming 20 years. This can be mainly attributed to the careless attitude and carefree nature of our administrators in addressing such cases. As said 'prevention is better than cure'. But over the years, in spite of all our bad experiences, we still take the curative approach, rather than the preventive approach.

Revathy A.S., (Student of BA, LLB (Hons), School of Legal Studies, CUSAT, Kochi, was doing internship at WWF-India, Kerala State Office)

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Renjan Mathew Varghese

The views and opinions expressed by the individuals are not necessarily endorsed by the organization they are attached to.

കോത്തഗിരിയിലെ പ്രകൃതി സഹവാസ ക്യാമ്പ്

കെ. ശിവപ്രസാദ്, സായിഗംഗ, വട്ടിയൂർക്കാവ്

WWF ഇന്ത്യ സംഘടിപ്പിച്ച കോത്തഗിരി ക്യാമ്പിനെക്കുറിച്ചു പറയുമ്പോൾ അതിനുവേണ്ടി തിരഞ്ഞെടുത്ത സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ കിടിലം എന്ന് പറയാതെ വയ്യ. നിരവധി തവണ കോത്തഗിരി വഴി പോയിവന്നെങ്കിലും അതിനുചുറ്റും ഇത്രയധികം സാധ്യതകൾ ഉണ്ടെന്ന് മനസ്സിലായിരുന്നില്ല. മേട്ടപ്പാളയത്തു നിന്ന് ഏകമനസ്സോടെ ക്യാമ്പിലേക്ക് നീങ്ങി. കാതറിൻ ഫാൾസിനടുത്തുള്ള താമസസൗകര്യം തികച്ചും ശാന്തവും സുന്ദരവുമായ ഒരു കിളിക്കൂട് തന്നെയായിരുന്നു. സംഘാടകർക്ക് അഭിനന്ദനങ്ങൾ. വരാതിരിക്കുന്ന കാഴ്ചകളുടെ അനുഭവങ്ങളുടെ തുടക്കം മാത്രമായിരുന്നു ലോങ്ങ്വുഡ് ഷോലയും കോടനാടും ജീൻപൂൾ ഗാർഡനും.

രണ്ടാംദിവസം പുലർച്ചെയുള്ള കാതറിൻ ഫാൾസിലേക്കുള്ള നടത്തം ഊർജ്ജദായകമായി. ശേഷം ബിക്കാപതിമണ്ടിലേക്കുള്ള യാത്രയും തോടർ ഗ്രാമത്തിലെ അനുഭവങ്ങളും ജീവിതത്തിൽ കിട്ടാവുന്ന നല്ല നിമിഷങ്ങൾ ഞങ്ങൾക്കു സമ്മാനിച്ചു. തോടരുമായുള്ള ഞങ്ങളുടെ സംവാദം അവരുടെ സംസ്കാരത്തെക്കുറിച്ചും ജീവിതത്തെക്കുറിച്ചും അറിയാനേറെ സഹായിച്ചു. പതിനാറ് ഗോത്രങ്ങൾ, സസ്യഭുക്കുകൾ, പോത്ത്/എരുമ പുണ്യമൃഗം, സ്ത്രീകൾക്ക് ദേവലയ പ്രവേശനമില്ല, സഹോദരനെ ഭർത്താവാക്കാം, വിവാഹപൂർവ്വബന്ധം പാപം... ഇതൊക്കെ പുതിയ അറിവുകളായിരുന്നു. പൂത്തുക്കുളി എന്ന പാരമ്പര്യ വസ്ത്രനിർമ്മാണവും കണ്ടു. ക്ഷേത്രവും വീടും സാമ്യമുള്ളതും അപൂർവ്വവും മനോഹരവുമാണ്.

മൂന്നാംദിവസത്തിൽ “തൈവസോലൈ” (Banagudi Sholai/ Sacred Grove) യിലെ പഞ്ചപാണ്ഡവർ ആണ് ഞങ്ങളെ എതിരേറ്റത്. പഞ്ചപാണ്ഡവരുടെ പ്രതിമയും ആദിവാസി ക്ഷേത്രവും മറ്റൊരു ലോകം ഞങ്ങൾക്ക് കാട്ടിത്തന്നു. ആടി മാസത്തിലെ മൂന്നാം നാൾ ഉത്സവത്തിന് ഞങ്ങളെ ക്ഷണിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്...! അവിടെ നിന്ന് മാമരം കാട്ടിലേക്ക് പോയത് കാട്ടാനകളെ കാണാൻ തന്നെയായിരുന്നു. നിർഭാഗ്യം. ചൂടാറാത്ത ആനപ്പിണ്ഡം കണ്ടു തൃപ്തിപ്പെടേണ്ടി വന്നു. മാമരം കാട്ടിലെ കുഞ്ചപ്പനെ വാട്ടർ ഫാൾസും ലഞ്ചും മറക്കാതെത്താമോ? മടക്കയാത്രയിൽ, കുഞ്ചപ്പനെ ഗ്രാമം വരെയുള്ള 40 മിനിറ്റ് കയറ്റം... സുഖകരമായ ക്ഷീണം സമ്മാനിച്ചു.

പക്ഷിനിരീക്ഷണത്തിനു പറ്റിയ സ്ഥലങ്ങളാണിവ. കാട്ടുപോത്ത് (Indian Gaur) കണ്ണിനു വിരുന്നായിരുന്നു ഇവിടെ. യാത്ര പറയുമ്പോൾ അടുത്ത ക്യാമ്പ് എന്ന്, എവിടെ എന്നായിരുന്നു അംഗങ്ങൾ ചോദിച്ചത്.

WWF-നും ഞങ്ങൾക്ക് നല്ല മൂന്നു ദിവസം സമ്മാനിച്ച ശ്രീ. ശിവകുമാറിനും സെന്തിലിനും അഭിനന്ദനങ്ങൾ.

ACTIVITIES OF WWF-INDIA KERALA STATE OFFICE

International Tiger Day

Renjan Mathew Varghese gave interview for Jaihind TV for the day and explained on the status, issues and

concerns of the Tiger, various conservation initiatives by the Government and various agencies and also WWF's proactive role and initiatives in the various landscapes for Tiger conservation. Also made a writeup on Tiger conservation and submitted to be published in Kerala Calling, the magazine published by I&PRD as the voice for the Government of Kerala.

Sunday Bird Walk



July 2013 - The monthly bird watching programme, the Sunday Bird Walk was conducted in Kallar – Ponnudi on 7th July 2013 and was attended by 15 bird enthusiasts. The team led by Mr. Sivakumar and Mr. Kiran Karakulam observed around 28 species of birds' inspite of the heavy rain.



August 2013 - The monthly bird watching programme, the Sunday Bird Walk was conducted at Punchakkari Wetlands on 11th August and was attended by 12 bird enthusiasts.

Monsoon Camp at Vazhachal



A team of 16 nature enthusiasts along with the WWF organising team took head on the heavy shower of south west monsoon in the forests of Vazhachal, the treasure trove of biodiversity. The camp was organized from 19th to 21st July 2013.

Teachers Training Workshops at Kasaragod and Kannur



Two Teachers Training Workshops on the theme of Water Conservation were conducted by WWF-India with the support of CPREEC, Chennai at Kasaragod and Kannur on 24th and 25th July 2013 at Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Perya, Kasargod and Sir Syed Institute for Technical Studies, Taliparamba, Kannur. The workshop at Kasaragod was organized in local association with the National Green Corps (NGC) and had the participation of 31 Teachers. The workshop at Kannur was also attended by 32 Teachers.



Three Teachers Training Workshops were conducted at Kattappana, Kozhikode and Wayanad on 13th, 29th and 30th August respectively with average participation of 35 Teachers in each of the workshop.



Travelogue to Nagaland



A panoramic view of the capital Kohima City

A travelogue on the recent 4 days visit by the State Director to Nagaland was prepared and the same along with relevant photographs were submitted to Kerala Tourism magazine for publishing.



Dogs ready to be butchered for its meat

Wild Wisdom 2013

The State Office has been providing all possible field support for WW 2013 in Kerala like compiling of the addresses of schools and their contact details, booking the venue for the city level etc. The City level quiz competition of Wild Wisdom 2013 was held at Museum Auditorium, Thiruvananthapuram on 19th August. Thirty six students from 18 schools of the City participated in the Quiz. Mr. Athul Chandra from Quiz Works mastered the quiz.



Travelogue to Ranthambhore TR and Keoladeo NP

The travelogue on the trip undertaken last year by Mr. Renjan and Mr. Sivakumar was prepared and the same

along with relevant photographs were submitted to 'Aranyam' magazine published by the Kerala Forests and Wildlife Department.



Wildlife Orientation Camp at Nilambur - Muthumalai - Bandipur Tiger Reserves

A team of 14 nature enthusiasts along with the WWF organising team camped at Nilambur Forests and Muthumala - Bandipur Tiger Reserves from 22nd to 24th August.



Class at KITTS & IMG

Mr. Sivakumar, SEO was invited to take a session on Bird Watching for the fresh batch of MBA students of KITTS on 20th August. Mr. Renjan, State Director was invited to take a 3 hour session on 'Environment and Natural Resources' for the 30 Women Ward Councilors of Thiruvananthapuram Corporation.

Kerala going 100% renewable energy by 2050

The Climate Change and Energy Programme of WWF-India had commissioned a study titled 'Kerala going 100% renewable energy by 2050' through the World Institute of Sustainable Energy (WISE), Pune. The energy modeling attempts to estimate the electricity, heat and fuel demand across diverse sectors: Domestic, Commercial, Industry,



Agriculture, Public Utilities and Transport. The study also reassesses renewable energy potential of the State and uses GIS (Geographic Information System) to assess potential for grid-tied wind and solar. On a broad level, the project findings are striking and indicate that while the existing patterns of growth (business as usual growth) would lead to overdependence on fossil fuels, there is an alternative of curtailing this demand without sacrificing economic growth. Aggressive interventions in energy efficiency, energy conservation and carrier substitution have the potential to reduce the demand. More important, the curtailed demand scenario has the potential to drastically reduce our dependence of fossil fuels and achieve a near 100% RE penetration by 2050. In this regard, two sessions of half-day Stakeholders' Workshops were organized in Thiruvananthapuram on 26 August 2013 at Vivanta by Taj and on 27 at Hotel Avenue Regent, Kochi. The workshop was organized with the aim to discuss the project report and obtain feedback from the stakeholders on the project findings and recommendations. The participants included Sri. K. Sivasankar IAS, Chairman, KSEB, Mr. G. Vijaya Raghavan and Sri. C.P. John, Members, State Planning Board, Dr. R.V.G. Menon, Dr. V.K. Damodaran, Sri. Dharsan Unnithan, Director, EMC and other experts in this field.



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