



WWF
NEWS
LETTER

KERALA

2011

Mruthika

March - April 2011

Newsletter of WWF - India, Kerala State Office

FROM THE STATE DIRECTOR'S DESK

The months of March and April were really very hectic with some major projects, programmes and related events. March 26 witnessed Earth Hour 2011. This year the logo of EH was 60+, rather than last year's 60. This meant that we should go one step ahead rather than just celebrating EH on the proposed date and on a long run adopt atleast one lifestyle change which can make a longer and bigger impact on reducing our energy consumption and thereby mitigating climate change. This year we took maximum possible efforts to get the message of EH 2011 to different sections of the society in Kerala. The EH Organising Team consisting of mainly WWF, NIMS, EMC, CESS and others once again came together and pulled off a successful event at Gandhi Park on March 26. Another major event was the successful organizing of the 'Workshop on Strengthening Wildlife Law Enforcement in India' in Kochi on March 21 and 22. The workshop was organized by TRAFFIC-India, MoEF and DEFRA UK and the local logistics and arrangements were carried out by WWF-India Kerala State Office. The workshop was a landmark in that it brought together enforcement personnel from various departments and agencies like the Kerala Forests and Wildlife Department, Police, Marine Enforcement, Coast Guard, Railway Protection Force, Customs and the like. The two day workshop saw some really informative lectures led by experts and also active discussions and deliberations by the participants. We could also make some very new associations with institutions and people through our various environment education and outreach programmes. We commemorated World Forestry Day at DC School of Management and Technology, Vagamon on March 21 mainly targeting the business management students and faculty of the institution. A select group of

students were given a unique opportunity to trek into the nearby forest area. The technical sessions as part of the awareness programme saw experts in the respective fields take classes for the participants. Another major event was the National Environment Awareness Campaign 2010-11 programme at Karimadam Colony on March 27. An awareness session on 'Medicinal Plants and its Biodiversity Conservation' was held for the benefit of the adults and children in the colony. Following this saplings of medicinal plants were distributed to the households to develop a local medicinal plant garden. The Marine Turtle Survey along the Kerala Coast is progressing. The survey was initiated from the northern tip of Kerala and it has almost reached the central part of the State. We also tied up with Association of British Scholars to organize the three days event titled 'Addressing Climate Change through Arts' from March 30 in the Museum Auditorium. A leisure trip was also organised to Chathancode involving the staff and family of WWF-India Kerala State Office along with our volunteers, interns and network members. We also facilitated the meeting between the Western Ghats Project Team of WWF-India with the officials of Kerala Forests and Wildlife on April 18 at the Forest Headquarters. The Kerala State Office was also invited by the Kerala Forests and Wildlife Department to associate in the possible way in the upcoming Kerala Wildlife Census 2011. Through all these programmes we have learned many things, have been able to share our experiences with others, make new associations, strengthen existing ones and through all these take out the message of conservation to the masses. We hope that all our efforts will bear fruit in one way or the other, in the short or long run.

Renjan Mathew Varghese,
State Director

IMPORTANT NEWS ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURE

GLOBAL

**Has the Earth's sixth mass extinction already arrived?
The danger: Critically endangered mammals are at a
risk of going extinct in 1,000 years.**

With the steep decline in populations of many animal species, from frogs and fish to tigers, some scientists have warned

that Earth is on the brink of a mass extinction like those that occurred only five times before during the past 540 million years. In a study in *Nature*, University of California, Berkeley, paleobiologists assess where mammals and other species stand today in terms of possible extinction, compared with the past 540 million years, and they find cause for hope as well as alarm. The team's estimate for the average extinction rate for mammals is less than two extinctions every million years, far lower than the current extinction rate for mammals. After looking at the list of threatened species maintained by the International Union for Conservation of Nature

(IUCN), the team concluded that if all mammals now listed as 'critically endangered,' 'endangered' and 'threatened' go extinct, whether that takes several hundred years or 1,000 years, Earth will be in a true mass extinction (*Source: The Hindu, 3 March, 2011*).

Ozone hole has dried Australia, says study

The Antarctic ozone hole is about one-third to blame for Australia's recent series of droughts, say scientists. The hole has shifted wind and rainfall patterns right across the Southern Hemisphere, even the tropics. Their climate models suggest the effect has been notably strong over Australia. Many parts of the country have seen drought in recent years. The scientists behind the new study — led from Columbia University in New York — added the ozone hole into standard climate models to investigate how it might have affected winds and rains. The Columbia team found that overall, the ozone hole has resulted in rainfall moving south along with the winds. "This study does illustrate the important point that different mechanisms of global change are contributing to the climate impacts we're seeing around the world," observed Professor Myles Allen of Oxford University, a leading U.K. climate modeller. Ozone depletion is caused by chemical reactions in the stratosphere. The chemicals involved are derived from substances such as chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and their relatives, which used to be staples in air-conditioning, refrigeration and aerosol cans. Though the U.N. Montreal Protocol has significantly curbed emissions of these substances, they endure for decades in the atmosphere, and so their effects are still being felt (*Source: The Hindu, 25 April 2011*).

NATIONAL

Eco-sensitive areas of Western Ghats to be prioritised

The ecologically sensitive areas of Western Ghats, the hill range of which starts near the Maharashtra-Gujarat border running to nearly 1600 km along the States of Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala and ending at Kanyakumari, will be prioritized into five categories based on richness of biodiversity and other ecological factors. The Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP) has framed a general outline for the formation of Western Ghats Ecology Authority (WEA). The WGEEP was appointed by the Ministry to recommend steps to preserve, conserve and rejuvenate the ecologically-sensitive Ghats region. It was also asked to demarcate ecologically-sensitive zones in the region. The panel is of the view that no environmentally hazardous industries and activities should be permitted in the ecologically sensitive zones. Development activities will be permitted in the moderately sensitive and lower categories. Mining and such environmentally hazardous activities will not be permitted in the first two categories (*Source: The Hindu, 7 March, 2011*).

The tiger census counts 1,706; finds 12 per cent growth

India's wild tiger population has grown 12 per cent in the last four years. According to the 2010 tiger census, whose

results were declared on Monday, there are approximately 1,706 of the big cats in the country, which includes about 70 in the marshes of the Sunderbans, which have never been scientifically surveyed before. The 2006 census had estimated that there were 1,411 tigers, without including any from the Sunderbans. Thirty per cent of the tiger population lives in areas outside the government's reserves, giving conservationists a new challenge in the effort to protect them. The largest number of tigers lives in Karnataka — about 280 — and conservation efforts have been successful in the entire Western Ghats area, with Tamil Nadu and Kerala also seeing good results. The Terai belt of grasslands at the Himalayan foothills in Uttarakhand have also done surprisingly well in nurturing their tiger populations (*Source: The Hindu, 29 Mar, 2011*).

Cheetah is alien to Rajasthan, says expert

Concern among a section of conservationists over a new move to "re-introduce" cheetahs in Rajasthan has been echoed by the former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, V. D. Sharma. "The cheetah is alien to Rajasthan, so why introduce it here? They are using the word 're-introduction' but I would insist that this is going to be introduction of cheetah — as and when it takes place — in Rajasthan as it never existed here in the wild," he said. "We are planning to introduce an alien animal spending several hundreds of crores of rupees. The major concern is that introduction of cheetah is contemplated in basically tiger land. If there is money to spare, it should be for conserving the tiger habitats," said Mr. Sharma who has had a long association with Rajasthan's tiger habitats as Chief Wildlife Warden in the past. Mr. Sharma said Rajasthan has a long documented record of "shikars" (hunting expeditions) by the erstwhile rulers of Jaipur, Bikaner, Dungarpur and Jodhpur and others but there is no reference to cheetahs. "There is no record of shooting a cheetah anywhere in Rajasthan. The museums have no stuffed cheetah or preserved skin of this animal kept as trophies," he added (*Source: The Hindu, 6 April, 2011*).

Two rare vulture species seen in Baran

Reported sighting of two rare species of vultures in large numbers in Baran district of Rajasthan cheered environmentalists and bird watchers. "These two rare species -- White rumped and Long billed were sighted in large numbers on the banks of Villasi river in Kishangang and Kraye River in Shabad, respectively," SDM Muktanand Agrawal said. Noted bird watcher and vulture expert, Harshvardhan Singh, said, "In the past few years the population of White rumped had gone down by 95%. Since very few such vultures survived, these birds could not breed and their numbers were going down fast. However, the number of Long billed is more and these birds can be seen often but their numbers too are declining at a fast rate." He added, "It is good news, however, efforts should be made to continuously follow these birds." (*Source: Times of India, 13 April, 2011*)

'Humans and leopards have learnt to co-exist'

Contrary to the picture being painted by the media, humans and leopards are learning to co-exist in Western Maharashtra. The observations submitted by Project Waghoba to the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) and the statistics made available by the State Forest Department show that even as leopards' interference in human habitat has increased, their adaptability for each other is getting better. Project Waghoba was started in 2007 in association with the Forest Department, to understand the changing behavioral patterns of wild cats and humans. Vidya Athreya, in charge of the Project and a recipient of the Carl Zeiss Wildlife Conservation Award, is one of the contributors from Maharashtra for MoEF's report, on leopard-human conflict, that will be released soon. Ms. Athreya, said: "During our studies, a lot of farmers from the leopard-infested areas told us that the animal is a frequent visitor to the fields, where they faced no danger. This shows that both animals and humans have become empathetic to each other." "The wild cat does not turn into a man eater unless provoked. They venture into human habitats when they smell prey, which is the livestock of dogs and pigs. We have suggested to the MoEF that subsidies should be provided to build sheds for livestock to protect them from the leopards," Ms. Athreya said. (Source: *The Hindu*, 14 April 2011)

Mass hatching of Olive Ridley Turtles begins on Orissa coast

With the start of mass hatching of Olive Ridley eggs, Rushikulya, the major nesting site of the endangered turtles has again turned into a large cradle of budding life. During the two nights (22nd & 23rd April), more than four-lakh hatchlings have come out from around 50,000 nests on this coast. Lakhs more are to come out of the remaining nests in the next few days. Berhampur Divisional Forest Officer A.K. Jena, who is monitoring this mass nesting, said hatching is expected to continue for three to four nights more. This year around 2,54,000 mother Olive Ridelys have come to this coast in March to dig up nests in sand. Although around 100 eggs are laid in a nest, 80 hatchlings on an average come out of each nest. Buried in sand, the eggs incubate with the help of natural heat and hatch in 45 days. Hatching occurs during the night or before dawn. Guided by their genetic instincts, the hatchlings come out like bubbles from the depths of the sand to start their march to the sea on their own. Hatching also occurred in nests located beyond the protective net put to protect the Olive Ridley nests from predators. Volunteers from villages near the rookery with the help of the Forest Department helped these hatchlings reach the sea as the protective net had become a barrier between them and the sea.

Hundreds of people, including children of the area, who came together under the banner of the Rushikulya Sea Turtle Protection Committee (RSTPC), were seen picking up the stray hatchlings and releasing them into the sea. Bright lights of the industrial units and townships near the rookery have been ordered to be switched off during the hatching period to

check distraction for the hatchlings that are attracted to the light sources and travel towards land. This year, the Orissa Tourism Development Corporation (OTDC) has introduced an environmental tourism package in collaboration with the Forest Department for people interested in witnessing this phenomenon. To protect the nests and hatchlings from vandalism, tourists have been restricted to a particular stretch of the coast, while the nesting beach near the rookery remains a protected zone, said Mr. Jena. (Source: *The Hindu*, 24 April, 2011)

Supreme Court moved for ban on Endosulfan

A writ petition has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking a directive to the Centre to impose all-India ban on Endosulfan. The petitioner, Democratic Youth Federation of India, in its petition said it was constrained to approach the Supreme Court in compelling circumstances wherein the valuable life of a large section of people was directly affected because of the use of Endosulfan, a pesticide which was already banned in 81 countries and the use of which was not permitted in another 12 countries. The petitioner said several studies had documented that Endosulfan could also affect human development. It said researchers studying children from an isolated village in Kasaragod district, Kerala, have linked Endosulfan exposure to delays in sexual maturity among boys. It said Endosulfan was the only pesticide applied to cashew plantations in the hills for 20 years and had contaminated the village environment. Considering the harmful side effects on the people, the State of Kerala had imposed a ban on Endosulfan. Hence, the present writ petition seeking a directive to the Centre to prohibit the sale of Endosulfan in its present form or any other derivatives in the market throughout India; direct all the States to explain their stand towards such a ban and direct the Centre to provide appropriate and sufficient rehabilitation facilities to the victims affected by the application and use of Endosulfan (Source: *The Hindu*, 27 April 2011)

STATE

Panchayat takes first step to total solar energy use

Perumatty grama panchayat in Palakkad district has become famous for its successful fight against groundwater depletion by soft drink giant Coca-Cola. Now, another laurel is within its reach. The panchayat in Chittur taluk is set to be the first grama panchayat in the State to run entirely on solar energy. The pilot phase of the Rs.152-crore 'total solar panchayat project' was inaugurated by installing solar panels. "If the pilot project succeeds the entire taluk will go green. Each house and commercial establishment will produce solar power and will run on it. Switching to solar power, by minimising carbon emission, is necessary to protect environment," said. K. Achuthan, MLA. In his presidential address Bank President K. Krishnankutty said that in this project the house owners would not have to incur any expense. The panels would be put up by the implementing agency, Global Grid Power (GGP) Private Limited. This power thus produced would be given

to the Kerala State Electricity Board after entering into a power purchase agreement with it. The board would pay for the power after deducting the cost of the power consumed by the house or institution. This would virtually make every household a solar power producer, he said (Source: *The Hindu*, 2 March, 2011).

Comprehensive wildlife census after 9 yrs

A comprehensive wildlife census covering all the forest areas in the State will be carried out soon. The census, which is likely to begin in May 2011, is expected to give a clear indication regarding the wildlife wealth of the State. The latest survey comes after a gap of nine years. It was in 2002 that such a survey was held in the State last. Though the tiger and elephant populations of the State are estimated regularly, the latest data on other wildlife present in the Kerala forest are not available, says N.V. Thrivedi Babu, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest. While the tiger population estimation of the State was carried out in 2006 and 2010, elephant population was estimated only in 2010. Precious little is known about other wildlife species which are present in the biodiversity rich forest of the State, officials say. Census will be conducted in the 35 forest divisions involving all the Divisional Forest Officers. Agencies such as WWF – India and the Kerala Forest Research Institute have offered to participate in the exercise. It is estimated that around 2,000 officials and volunteers will have to be involved in the process. Before the 2002 census, a comprehensive survey covering the entire forest area was held in 1997. The earlier survey results had indicated a positive trend in terms of wild animal population (Source: *The Hindu*, 10 April, 2011)

Migratory fish spotted in Kole land

A recent study on ‘The impact of land use changes on Kole wetland’ has located four major migratory fish species usually seen in estuaries. The interdisciplinary study, led by John K. Thomas and S. Sreekumar of the Wetland Research Laboratory of Christ College, Irinjalakuda, found *Caranx carangus* (Bloch), *Lutjanus argentimaculatus* (Forsskal), *Megalops cyprinoides* (Broussonet) and *Lates calcarifer* (Bloch). “The species were spotted in Kole wetland in the post-monsoon period. Of them, *Lates calcarifer* and *Megalops cyprinoides* spawn in the sea,” Dr. Thomas says. An analysis of fish resources of Kole wetland, especially Muriyad Kole land, in the past one decade points to the impact of an increase in capture of exotic carps over indigenous fish species such as *Puntius*. Though a reduction in fish catch is reported during monsoon and post-monsoon seasons, revenue from fish has increased in the past four years. The study highlights the economic importance of kole lands. The average rice productivity in the State was 2,000 kg a hectare, which was less than that of the productivity of Kole lands (4000-5000 kg a hectare). According to local people and fishermen, there is 70 to 80 per cent decrease in fish catch, especially during monsoon, in certain sites in valley segments. During monsoon, many freshwater fish species (Cyprinids, Siluriforms, and Perciforms) were found to migrate upstream to Kole land

as this provided them spawning sites and extended areas for dispersal of fish larvae. Changes in waterways from construction of cross roads and barrages restrict the spawning migration of fishes. It has caused more than 70 per cent fall in fish catch in the valley segments. *Clarias batrachus*, the Indian catfish, was found to be rare. Only a single specimen was found in the region during a three-year survey (Source: *The Hindu*, 18 April, 2011).

Social costs of Endosulfan ignored

The Central Government is ruling out a national ban on Endosulfan or support for the cause at the Stockholm Convention on the ground that no cheap alternatives to Endosulfan are available to farmers. But the Centre seems to ignore the social and health costs of continued use of the pesticide in the country. A report of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee, presented to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, estimates that the increase in plant-protection costs from replacement of Endosulfan by chemical alternatives in India could be zero to 40 per cent, which translates into Rs.43 crore a year. At the same time, the package for Endosulfan victims, submitted by the Kerala government for Central aid, seeks Rs.127 crore in the first year. Victims are also likely to be found in the plantation areas of West Bengal and other states. Besides, the current use of Endosulfan in India causes significant non-quantifiable environmental and health costs including loss of biodiversity. The loss suffered by farmers of Kasaragod district rearing domestic animals and bees is yet to be fully quantified. A study has found that the losses to just 45 beekeepers in an area amount to Rs.29 lakhs a year (Source: *The Hindu*, 20 April, 2011).

Birds stay away from ravaged wetlands

Habitat loss is posing a severe threat to the avian population in the major wetlands in northern Kerala. Malabar Ornithological Survey 2011, an ongoing survey on the avian population in northern Kerala, being organised by the State Forests and Wildlife Department reveals the shocking status of major wetlands in these parts of the State. The survey shows that extensive sand-mining and new construction activities across rivers without any environmental impact assessment (EIA) are harming wetland birds in the region. The team surveyed forests and wetlands in Wayanad, Kannur, Kasaragod, Kozhikode, Malappuram and Palakkad districts covering major wetlands in the region such as Panamaram in Wayanad; Kattampally, Ezhome and Kuniyan in Kannur; Kalanad and Kumbala-Shiriya in Kasaragod; Mavoor and Velimukkuchali in Kozhikode and different segments of Bharathapuzha in Malappuram district. The team also surveyed all the major estuaries of north Kerala including Madakkara, Kadalundy, Korapuzha, Beypore as well as the seacoast at Ezhimala, Ezharakadapuram, Kizhunna and Muzhapilangad. The team found that almost all the wetlands were under threat and the bird population there was declining alarmingly. None of these wetlands comes under the Protected Area network of the State, though they host a large water bird

community, many of them globally threatened. If immediate steps are not taken to protect these wetlands, the bird diversity of the State will decline drastically, the survey warns. (Source: *The Hindu*, 25 April, 2011).

Twenty five ecologically sensitive areas identified

Twenty-five ecologically sensitive areas (ESA) have been identified in the State by the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP). The identification is based on the ecological sensitivity scores assigned to different parts of the ghats region in the State. The Union Ministry of Environment and Forests had asked the panel to assess the status of the ecology of the ghats region and identify areas to be earmarked for notification as ecologically sensitive zones. According to indications, Sholayar, Athirapally, Nelliampathy Hills, Attapadi, Vythiri, Malakkapara up to Munnar, Ranni and Konni, and some parts of Idukki district are on the Kerala list (Source: *The Hindu*, 28 April, 2011).

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Find out the ten different landforms of the earth from the jumbled words

V	P	Q	Z	P	R	M	S	I	T	N
Z	P	I	M	O	U	N	T	A	I	N
W	L	S	O	R	D	V	R	M	T	R
A	A	L	T	S	E	A	S	P	F	S
R	T	A	L	H	S	L	P	M	F	P
C	E	N	L	L	E	L	L	S	I	Q
E	A	D	I	M	R	E	A	T	L	W
Z	U	A	H	P	T	Y	I	J	C	Z
M	S	V	O	L	C	A	N	O	E	A
V	L	B	C	K	L	E	X	K	G	B
T	M	B	Z	Z	K	D	W	H	I	K

SPECIES OF THE ISSUE



Black winged Stilt

Black Winged Stilts are regular migratory birds to Kerala. This water bird wades in the shallow waters of wetlands across Kerala. The long red legs which are an adaptation for the

bird to feed in shallow waters gave its name 'stilt' in English and 'Pavizhakkali' in Malayalam. The white bird with black wings and beak are seen in groups and single. Though they are referred still as migratory, there are reports of nesting of this bird in the Sasthamkotta wetlands and wetlands of Ernakulam district. Normally this bird nest on a mount made of wet plant leftovers in pretty hot wetlands. This is an indirect indication of the rise in temperature in our State.

A.K. Sivakumar, Education Officer

ACTIVITIES OF WWF-INDIA KERALA STATE OFFICE

TRAFFIC Workshop on 'Strengthening Wildlife Law Enforcement in India'

The two day State level workshop being organised by TRAFFIC – India (Trade Records Analysis of Flora and Fauna in Commerce), Wildlife Institute of India - Dehradun, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Govt. of India, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Govt. of UK and Kerala Forests and Wildlife Department was conducted in Kochi at Hotel Avenue Regent on the 21st and 22nd of March, 2011. The workshop had a very good participation of about 40 selected officers from various enforcement agencies including the Kerala Forests and Wildlife Department, Kerala Police, Railway Protection Force, Marine Enforcement and Vigilance and the Customs. Mr. Samir Sinha IFS, Head, TRAFFIC-India, Dr.S.P.Goyal from Wildlife Institute of India and Mr. Khalid Pasha, TRAFFIC-India were the resource persons.



Teachers Training Workshop

As part of the series of TTW conducted with the support of CPREEC, Chennai, the last and 15th workshop for 2010-11 was organized at Peet Memorial Training College, Mavelikara on 3rd March 2011. It was attended by 80 Teacher Trainees from five Teacher Training Institutes.



College, Menamkulam, Thiruvananthapuram

A.K. Sivakumar, Education Officer delivered a multimedia presentation on 7th March as part of their Nature Club inauguration. The presentation was focused on the environmental issues of the State and had a participation of 120 Teacher Trainees.

Wetland awareness programme at Bharathiya Vidyabhavan, Parassala, Thiruvananthapuram

Education Officer delivered a multimedia presentation on 8th March as part of their Wetland Day observation of the year. The presentation was focused on "Wetlands and their related issues" and was attended by 140 school students.

Training Session on Biodiversity Conservation at Govt. College of Teacher Education, Thycaud, Thiruvananthapuram

Education Officer was invited to lead a technical session on 'Biodiversity Conservation Scenario of the State' on 14th March as part of their Annual State level Refresher Programme for School Teachers. The session was attended by 40 selected teachers from various schools of the State.

NEAC 2011

National Environment Awareness Campaign in association with COME Ministries, CED, Thiruvananthapuram and supported by MoEF was held on 27th and 30th March 2011 at Karimadom Colony, a slum of Thiruvananthapuram City. The programme was on biodiversity conservation with focus on medicinal plants. Awareness programme included technical sessions and magic show. Medicinal plant saplings were distributed to the residents of the slum and a medicinal plant garden also was setup as part of the action programme.



World Forestry Day 2011 DCSMAT, Vagamon, Idukki



World Forestry Day 2011 was observed at DCSMAT with diverse programmes. Thirty selected students were taken for a single day forest visit to the shola forests and grasslands of Vagamon on 20th March 2011. The single day awareness programme held at the Seminar Hall of DCSMAT was inaugurated by Brig M.C. Ashok Kumar, Director & Head of Operations of DCSMAT. A set of three posters on forest ecosystem were published in this connection and this was released by Major (retd) V.K.Premnathan. The technical sessions on "Forests of Kerala" and "International Year of Forests and Significance of Forests" were led by Dr.Jomy Augustin, Head of the Dept. of Botany, St. Thomas College, Pala and Dr.T.K.Kunhamu, Associate Professor in Forestry, Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur respectively. In the afternoon, Mr. A.K.Sivakumar mastered a Quiz on Forests. On the subject of 'Forests of Kerala', an amateur nature photography competition also was conducted.



Chinmaya College of Arts and Science for Women, Kannur

World Forestry Day 2011 on 21st March at Kannur was inaugurated by Prof. Syamala Ravindran, Principal of the college and technical sessions were led by Sri. T.P. Padmanabhan, NGC Convener of the District and Mr. M.P. Prabhakara, Forest Range Officer. Around 150 students attended the programme. An Inter Collegiate Quiz Competition on the theme of 'Forest Ecosystem' was also held.

World Water Day 2011

World Water Day 2011 was observed at Thrissur with single day awareness programme on 22nd March 2011. Around 160 students from Teacher Training Institutes and other educational institutions attended. The programme was led by Sri. Jain J. Therattil, District Coordinator of WWF-India.

Earth Hour 2011



Earth Hour observance in Thiruvananthapuram on March 26th received overwhelming response from all walks of life. The events started with the 'Walk for Mother Earth' in the Museum and Zoo Compound involving the early morning walkers including ministers, bureaucrats, high ranking officers and such. For the evening Earth Hour event at Gandhi Park Smt. K. Chandrika, Mayor of Thiruvananthapuram



Corporation was the Chief Guest. There was a treat of instrumental music by the group 'Manthalam' from Thrissur. J.P.Ajit from Trivandrum Gems really enthralled the crowd with his magic on 'Energy conservation'. Felicitations were given by Dr.R.V.G.Menon (KSSP), Shri. Dhareshan Unnithan (EMC), Shri Sreekantan Nair (Dept of Env't and Climate Change, GoK), Ms. Bindhu (NIMS). Individuals, institutions, residents associations, corporates and other various such establishments supported Earth Hour 2011 by 'Switching Off'.

Addressing Climate Change through Arts

WWF-India, Kerala State Office was organizing partner with Association of British Scholars, British Council, Kerala Agricultural University, Museums and Zoos and other associates in organizing the 3 day multi event programme titled 'Addressing Climate Change through Art'. The 3 days events included painting competition, media workshops etc mainly targeting school and college students.

Class at Model HSS, Venganur for NSS Camp

Education Officer led an interactive session for the NSS volunteers of Christian College, Kattakkada on 'Biodiversity of Kerala' on 5th April 2011 and the programme was attended by 60 volunteers. The session elaborated on the biodiversity scenario of Kerala and the threats for the same.

Chathancode trip for staff members and volunteers

The staff members with family and volunteers of WWF-India had a single day nature orientation trip to Chathancode, a tribal hamlet falling under the Peppara WLS of Thiruvananthapuram district on 9th April 2011. About 21 people participated and they enjoyed the forests, streams and waterfalls. It was a good opportunity for the family members and volunteers to interact between themselves and with Mother Nature.



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Mr. A.K. Sivakumar

Do You Know?

Manufacture, stocking, distribution, sale, use, transportation, collection, segregation, recycling and disposal of

- plastic carry bags of less than 20 x 30 cm
- plastic cups
- bottle
- packaging material
- plastic carry bag / Container made of halogenated material is **BANNED** in the State.

} less than
30 micron
thickness

Violation of

- manufacture, reuse, recycle l11ay please be reported State Pollution Control Board / Police
- stocking, distribution, sale, use, transportation may please be reported to Local Authority / Police
- prohibition on transportation of banned articles into the State may please be reported to Commercial Taxes Department

Penalties

- handling of banned plastics upto 10,000 no. punishable under section 188 of I.P.C. attracting upto 1 month imprisonment or Rs. 200 fine or both
- handling of banned plastics greater than 10,000 no. punishable under the Environment (Protection) Act attracting upto 5 years imprisonment or Rs. 1 lakh fine or both and Rs. 5000 per day for continuing the violation



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e-mail: kspcb@keralapcb.org Fax: 2318152 web: www.keralapcb.org

Published by WWF-India, Kerala State Office, Moolavilakom, Vanchiyoor P O, Thiruvananthapuram-695035
Phone:0471-2302265, E-mail: wwfklso@gmail.com, Web:www.wwfindia.org
Computer Graphics: Soft and Soft, Sasthamangalam, Phone: 9447451314, Printed at: G.K.Printers, Kochi