



NEWS  
LETTER

KERALA

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# Mruthika

Newsletter of WWF - India, Kerala State Office

## FROM THE STATE DIRECTOR'S DESK

WWF-India hosted the global workshop on the Smart Fishing Initiative led by Germany at The Gateway Hotel, Kochi. In continuation of that, the field recon survey along the coast of Thiruvananthapuram undertaken by Ms. Louise Heaps, Consultant, Marine Programme, WWF-UK, Ms. Ema Fatima, Programme Officer, Marine Programme, WWF-India along with me was a real great learning and experience sharing process. The interactions with the representatives of fishermen communities i.e. Mr. Peter of NFF and Mr. Anto of KSMTF helped us to identify and understand the coastal land, its people, available resources and related issues. The contributions by Fr. Eugene Pereira and Dr. Sanjeev Ghosh were exemplary that it helped us to get a comprehensive and current picture of the coast along Thiruvananthapuram which is a small representation of the coastline of the State. Ms. Heaps has agreed to share success stories from across the world on marine fisheries regulation, management and habitat protection with the local fishermen groups so that they can learn from such case studies and examples and can be benefitted. A major and newly emerging threat to the biodiversity in the State is that from Invasive Alien Species. There are both flora and fauna which are invasive, which has very virulent growth and reproduction and can withstand drastic conditions and hence can easily subdue native species and establish their dominance ultimately in the long run totally replacing the native ones. African Snail, African Catfish, plants like Mikania, Eupatorium etc. are classic examples. KFRI organized a workshop on this aspect as part of the conclusion of their FAO sponsored ongoing project in which both India and Maldives are involved. With our previous interactions with Dr. Sajeev, Invasive Species Expert of KFRI, we were invited to the workshop. The experiences and learnings from the project were shared by both the teams and it was a really great learning process. Towards the conclusion of the workshop, the discussion was streamlined towards what can be done in the days ahead to combat this threat

and what each one can contribute. In this regard, we have given concrete suggestions on how we need to work against the alien species, especially in making the general public aware about which are the invasive alien species that are now commonly seen around us, its negative impacts and how they can be removed. Like the common saying goes "all that glitters is not gold", our people should understand that "all that is green is not good for the environment". We plan to take this forward in the days ahead in association with Department of Environment and Climate Change and Kerala State Biodiversity Board under Government of Kerala, mainly initiating awareness and action programmes on invasive alien species by mobilizing NSS, NCC, MNREGS Workers, Boomitrasena, Eco Clubs and others to cater to the necessary manpower required across the State. Mitigation of invasive alien species will be recommended as the main focus for many ongoing and upcoming projects, programmes and schemes funded by Central and State Governments like National Green Corps, National Environment Awareness Campaign, Paaristhithikam – State Environment Awareness Campaign, People's Biodiversity Register etc. to make sure that necessary funding is also available to ensure the successful implementation of this initiative. WWF made its strong representation towards the move of the Central Government to revise the National Marine Fisheries Policy. WWF has over the years been working with fishermen organisations like NFF and KSMTF. We were invited to the workshop that was organized in the Trivandrum Press Club and we contributed actively in the discussions and deliberations. Many points in the submission made by WWF were well received and appreciated by the participants. The submission was translated into vernacular language i.e. Malayalam and published in the newsletter of KSMTF 'Alakal'. Through such initiatives, we are very much able to live out our mission in the State.

**Renjan Mathew Varghese,**  
State Director

## IMPORTANT NEWS ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURE

### GLOBAL

#### Countries met only half of emissions target: UN report

The message from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Emissions Gap Report launched in

Geneva is clear. Only a dynamic Paris Climate Agreement in December can help keep global warming under the 2°C threshold, as the current levels of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to be cut by 2030 — 11 gigatonnes — is only about half of the total required. This is even if all conditional and unconditional Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) of countries submitted by October 1 are fully implemented, as emissions will still be 12 gigatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (GtCO<sub>2</sub>e) beyond the level that gives a likely chance of limiting global

temperature rise to 2°C this century. (Source: *The Hindu*, 7 Nov, 2015)

### Antarctica Sanctuaries talks fail

Unfortunately, this year too the meeting of the Commission for Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) ended without reaching an agreement on the establishment of the Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). The goal of CCAMLR, now numbering 25 members (24 nations and the European Union), is to preserve marine life and environmental integrity in and near Antarctica. It meets every year in late October to deliberate on the establishment of MPAs in the Antarctic Ocean. The marine protected areas are those where certain activities are limited or prohibited to meet specific conservation, habitat protection, or fisheries management objectives. The creation of an MPA to protect 946,998 sq.km. of East Antarctic waters would allow exploratory and research activities within the MPA if they are consistent with its objective — protection of biodiversity. (Source: *The Hindu*, 16 Nov, 2015)

## NATIONAL

### Driven by drought, crocodiles leave Manjeera River, enter fields

A crocodile was caught in the sugarcane field near Narayanakhed. This was not an isolated incident, as in the past few weeks as many as seven crocodiles were spotted in fields: three at Manoor, one each at Zaheerabad, Nyalakal, Regod and Marpally in Ranga Reddy district. It is said that the crocodiles ended up in the fields in search of water, sending shivers down the spine of many farmers. Lack of rains for the past two years has had an adverse impact on the crocodiles as well. The course of the river, spread over 32 kilometres from Singoor Reservoir to Manjeera dDm, provides ample space for about 580 crocodiles in addition to three big and 32 small crocodiles at the Crocodile Park at Manjeera Dam. The Narinja vagu located near Zaheerabad had already dried up, forcing crocodiles to look for alternate habitats. (Source: *The Hindu*, 20 Nov, 2015)

## STATE

### Wildlife trade thrives on myths

While the Capital City has been witnessing several attempts to sell protected animals and their parts, the racket has largely failed, owing to the proactive efforts made by a team of forest officials. Information gathered by Beat Forest Officers of the Intelligence Wing on such attempts are usually passed on to the Divisional Forest Officer (Flying Squad) and his team prior to launching operations to trap the perpetrators. Very often, the investigators have come across strange theories, some bordering on myths, while deducing the objective of wildlife trade. “Even though such notions have no scientific basis, they continue to find

acceptance among numerous people. It might come as a shock to many that even well-placed officials have fallen prey to such traps,” says Mr. Ani JR, DFO (Flying Squad). (Source: *The Hindu*, 6 Nov, 2015)

### Online green nod system on the blink

The Online Submission and Monitoring of Environmental Clearance (OSMEC), a system designed to speed up the approval of projects, has been held up in Kerala due to the delay in providing the necessary infrastructure. In July, Union Minister for Environment and Forests Prakash Javadekar had launched the State portal for the OSMEC. But four months later, the online platform for projects requiring approval from the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) remains bogged down. The authority says repeated requests and reminders to the government for the required facilities had failed to elicit a response. An SEIAA meeting here on October 1 observed that Kerala was one among very few States that had not implemented the online platform. (Source: *The Hindu*, 15 Nov, 2015).

### Two genetically different populations

The Lion-tailed Macaques (*Macaca silenus*) which are found only in forests from the central to the southernmost tip of the Western Ghats are not a single entity. A recent scientific study has shown that the 4,000 monkeys that survive now comprise two genetically different populations. The most prominent break in the Western Ghats is the Palakkad Gap, which is about 40 km wide. The study says that although the Lion-tailed Macaque has a relatively wide range south of the gap, its area of occupancy is small and severely fragmented. Small populations in isolation, especially in fragmented landscapes, are known to lose genetic variability, suffer from inbreeding depression, and become genetically differentiated among themselves. (Source: *The Hindu*, 28 Nov, 2015)

## SPECIES OF THE ISSUE

### ഭീമൻ മരച്ചിലന്തി (Giant Wood Spider)



മിക്കവാറും നമ്മുടെ കാടുകളിലെല്ലാം സർവ്വസാധാരണമായി കണ്ടുവരുന്ന ഒരു ചിലന്തിയാണ് ഭീമൻ മരച്ചിലന്തി. ആദ്യമായി കാട്ടിൽ പോകുന്നവർക്ക് അതിശയകാഴ്ചയാണ് ഇതും ഇതിന്റെ വിസ്താരമേറിയ വലയും. കറുത്ത നിറത്തിൽ തിളങ്ങുന്ന മഞ്ഞവരകളും പുള്ളികളുമാണിതിന്റെ നിറം. മുൻവശത്ത് കറുത്തകാലുകളും പുറം ഭാഗത്ത് നെടുക്കെ രണ്ടു മഞ്ഞവരകളും കാണാം. തലയ്ക്ക് മുഷിഞ്ഞ വെള്ളനിറവുമാണ്. പക്ഷേ ഇതിന്റെ അടിവശം വളരെ മനോഹരമാണ്. കാലുകൾ തുടങ്ങുന്ന ഭാഗത്ത് രണ്ട് മഞ്ഞപ്പുള്ളികളും കാലുകളിൽ ഇടയ്ക്കിടെ മഞ്ഞപ്പുള്ളികളുമുണ്ടായിരിക്കും. കാണാൻ ഭീകരനാണെന്ന് തോന്നുമെങ്കിലും അതിസുന്ദരിയാണ് ഈ ചിലന്തി. പെട്ടെന്നു കാണുന്ന വലിയ ഈ ചിലന്തികളെല്ലാം തന്നെ

പെൺചിലന്തികളാണ്. ആൺചിലന്തികളിൽ അവയുടെ ഏതെങ്കിലും ഒരു ഭാഗം ചുവന്നനിറത്തിലായിരിക്കും. നമ്മുടെ നോട്ടത്തിൽ ഒട്ടും ചേർന്ന ഒരു ഭർത്താവല്ല എന്നുതന്നെ തോന്നും. കാരണം പെൺചിലന്തിയെക്കാൾ വളരെ ചെറുതാണ് ഇവ. പെട്ടെന്നു കണ്ടാൽ ചിലന്തിക്കുഞ്ഞാണെന്നുതന്നെ തോന്നും. ഇവയുടെ വല ചിലപ്പോൾ പേരു സൂചിപ്പിക്കുന്ന പോലെത്തന്നെ രണ്ടുമീറ്ററോളം വിസ്താരത്തിൽ കണ്ടിട്ടുണ്ട്. മിക്കവാറും ചിത്രശലഭങ്ങളും ചെറിയ മറ്റുപ്രാണികളുമാണ് ഇതിൽ കൂടുതലുള്ളത്. കാട്ടിലെ സാദാവിക കിടനാശിനിയായി ഇവ പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്നതിനാൽ വളരെ വലിയൊരു പാരിസ്ഥിതികധർമ്മമാണ് ഇവ നിർവ്വഹിക്കുന്നത്. വേഴാമ്പലുകൾ ഉൾപ്പെടെ വലിയ പല പക്ഷികളും ഇവയെ ആഹാരമാക്കാറുണ്ട്. ഒരു മനുഷ്യനെ കൊല്ലാനുള്ള വിഷമൊന്നുമില്ലെങ്കിലും നല്ലൊരു ചൊരിച്ചിൽ സമ്മാനിക്കാനുള്ള വിഷം ഇവയ്ക്കുണ്ട്. അതിനാൽ കാട്ടിൽ പോകുമ്പോൾ ഇവയെ കണ്ട് ആസ്വദിക്കുകയല്ലാതെ നേരിട്ട് ഉള്ള കളികൾ ഒഴിവാക്കുകയാവും നല്ലത്!

## EXPERT TALK

### WWF Note on Invasive Alien Species for the FAO Regional Workshop at KFRI on 1 Dec 2015

#### Positive impacts of IAS

1. Increases greenery of the area and thereby primary productivity
2. Increases the visual ambience of the area with thick green cover and attractive flowers
3. Regulates water and soil erosion to a very great extent
4. Traps dust and particulate matter and reduces air pollution
5. Increases the insect biodiversity of the area
6. Acts as a bio fence in some cases

#### Negative impacts of IAS

1. Vigorous growth and hence establishes itself very easily
2. Threat to the endemic vegetation of the area

#### Action points against IAS

1. Proper study and documentation of the origin, behaviour, growth and reproduction
2. Awareness creation among the people



3. National Service Scheme (NSS) Units, National Cadet Corps (NCC) and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGS) Workers can be directed to dedicate their work hours to eradicate these alien species
4. Awareness and eradication of Invasive Alien Species can be taken as themes for various national and state level programmes like National Green Corps (NGC), National Environment Awareness Campaign (NEAC), Paaristhithikam - the State Environment Awareness Campaign (SEAC) etc.
5. Awareness and eradication of Invasive Alien Species can be made part of school and college curriculum
6. R&D on Invasive Alien Species should be encouraged with proper funding and technical collaboration locally, nationally and internationally
7. Projects from students and youth can be invited and rewarded for innovative solutions
8. Co-operation and involvement of Govt. departments, R&D institutions, people's movements and NGOs to be encouraged for efficient communication and effective action programmes with both short and long term approaches and strategies
9. Training and capacity building of enforcement personnel at critical entry points like Customs, Coast Guard, Marine Enforcement and Vigilance, Port Authorities etc. on identification and quarantine procedure for Invasive Alien Species
10. Training and capacity building of farmers, farm workers, plantation owners and workers on identification, control and eradication of Invasive Alien Species
11. Possible association with ongoing massive awareness drives like Seed of Mathrubhoomi and Mazhathulli of Malayala Manorama
12. Use print, visual and social media for awareness creation and encouraging action on Invasive Alien Species
13. Govt. should identify one suitable day in a year, maybe associated with any environmentally important day, and declare it as 'Day against Invasive Alien Species' and promote awareness drives and action programmes.
14. Develop a mobile app on 'Identification of Invasive Alien Species' using interns from engineering colleges
15. Incorporate sensitization on Invasive Alien Species in the curriculum for the in-service training for forest staff co-ordinated from PTP Nagar Campus of Forest Dept.
16. Incorporate sensitization on Invasive Alien Species in the curriculum of the environment management programmes for the in-service training for government employees conducted by Institute of Management in Government (IMG).

**Renjan Mathew Varghese**  
(State Director, WWF-India)

## CHILDREN'S CORNER

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

Rivers are considered to be the arteries and veins running across the length and breadth of Earth. They are the main water sources for most of the drinking water supply schemes. Find out the following rivers from this puzzle.

- BRAHMAPUTRA
- CHENAB
- GANGA
- GOMTI
- INDUS
- KOSI
- KRISHNA
- NARMADA
- SABARMATI
- SUTLEJ
- TAPI
- YAMUNA

## MEMBERS DESK

### കബനിയിലെ കാഴ്ചകൾ

വന്യമൃഗങ്ങളുടെ വിഹാരഭൂമിയായ കബനിയിലേക്ക് ഒരു യാത്ര എന്നത് മനസ്സിൽകൊണ്ടുനടക്കാൻ തുടങ്ങിയിട്ട് നാളുകൾ ഏറെയായി. കഴിഞ്ഞ നവംബർ മാസം അവസാനനാളുകളിൽ (25-11-2015) ആ യാത്ര യാഥാർത്ഥ്യമാകുവാൻ പോകുന്നുവെന്ന് അറിഞ്ഞപ്പോൾ ഉണ്ടായ സന്തോഷം പറഞ്ഞറിയിക്കാൻ പ്രയാസം! അതും WWF ഒരുക്കുന്ന ഈ യാത്രയ്ക്ക് Sr. Education Officer Mr. Sivakumar ആണ് നേതൃത്വം നൽകുന്നത് എന്നറിഞ്ഞപ്പോൾ ഇരട്ടിമധുരമായാണ് അനുഭവപ്പെട്ടത്. ഞങ്ങളുടെ ബസ്സ് താമരശ്ശേരിചുരം കയറാൻ തുടങ്ങിയപ്പോഴേ മനസ്സും ശരീരവും ആവേശത്തിലായി. വയനാടിന്റെ അഭിമാനമായ തോൽപ്പെട്ടി വന്യജീവിസങ്കേതത്തിൽക്കൂടി ഒൻപതുപേരടങ്ങിയ ഞങ്ങളുടെ സംഘം രണ്ടു ജീപ്പുകളിലായി യാത്രതിരിച്ചു. തോൽപ്പെട്ടി കഴിഞ്ഞ് കർണ്ണാടകയിലെ അതിർത്തിഗ്രാമമായ കുട്ടവഴി നഗർഹോളെ നാഷണൽ പാർക്കിലൂടെ (Rajeev Gandhi National park) യുള്ള യാത്ര അത്യന്തം ആവേശജനകമായിരുന്നു. കാമ്പനപാതയുടെ ഇരുവശങ്ങളിലും മേഞ്ഞുനടക്കുന്നതോ വിശ്രമിക്കുന്നതോ ആയ മാൻകുട്ടങ്ങളും കാട്ടുപോത്തിൻപറ്റങ്ങളെയും ധാരാളമായി കാണുവാൻ സാധിച്ചു. വനപ്രദേശങ്ങളും കാമ്പനപാതയും പിന്നിട്ട് ജനവാസകേന്ദ്രങ്ങളിലൂടെയുള്ള റോഡിന്റെ ഇരുവശങ്ങളിലും സമൃദ്ധമായി പരന്നുകിടക്കുന്ന പച്ചക്കറി കൃഷിപ്പാടങ്ങളും കടന്ന് കബനി വന്യജീവിസങ്കേതം ലക്ഷ്യമാക്കി ഞങ്ങൾ മുന്നോട്ടുനീങ്ങി. നേരത്തെ ഇടപാടു ചെയ്ത ഒരു ലോഡ്ജിൽ ബാഗും മറ്റും ഇറക്കിവെച്ച് ഉച്ചയുണുകഴിച്ച് അല്പം വിശ്രമിച്ചശേഷം ഉച്ചകഴിഞ്ഞുള്ള സഫാരിക്ക് തയ്യാറായി ഞങ്ങൾ കബനി വനപാലകരുടെ ഓഫീസിൽ എത്തി. ഇവിടെനിന്നാണ് സഫാരിക്കുള്ള വാഹനം പുറപ്പെടുന്നത്. ഞങ്ങളെക്കൂടാതെ പലസ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽനിന്നുംവന്ന ഏ

ഴുപേരു കൂടെ ബന്ധിച്ചുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. വാഹനം പതുക്കെ സഫാരി വഴിയിലൂടെ സാവധാനം മുന്നോട്ടു നീങ്ങി. ഞങ്ങൾ ആകാംക്ഷയോടെ രണ്ടുവശങ്ങളിലേക്കും നോക്കിയിരുന്നു. കൂട്ടംകൂട്ടമായി മേഞ്ഞുനടക്കുന്ന മാൻകുട്ടങ്ങളും കാട്ടുപോത്തിൻപറ്റങ്ങളും കബനിയിൽ ധാരാളമായി കാണാൻ സാധിച്ചു. കബനി ജലാശയത്തോടു ചേർന്നുള്ള ചതുപ്പിൽ വെള്ളം കൂടിക്കാണെത്തിയ ഒറ്റയാൻ ആനയുടെ ജലകേളി ഞങ്ങൾ കൗതുകത്തോടെ നോക്കിക്കണ്ടു. ക്യാമറയിലും പകർത്തി. കുളികഴിഞ്ഞ് അവൻ നേരെ ഞങ്ങളുടെ ബസ്സിനെ ലക്ഷ്യമാക്കി മുന്നോട്ടുവന്നപ്പോൾ ഞങ്ങൾ വണ്ടി വിട്ടുപോയി! വേറൊരിടത്തുവെച്ച്, ഏകദേശം 3 വയസ്സു തോന്നിക്കുന്ന ഒരു കുട്ടി കുറുമ്പി കൂട്ടത്തിൽനിന്നും വിട്ട് ഞങ്ങളുടെ ബസ്സിനു നേരെ ചാർജു ചെയ്യാൻ ശ്രമിച്ചത് രസകരമായ ഒരു കാഴ്ചയായിരുന്നു. ഒരു കുറുമ്പി (Indian Jackal) വണ്ടിയുടെ മുൻപിൽ കൂടി ഓടി അല്പസമയം ദർശനം നൽകിയിട്ട് ഓടിമറഞ്ഞു. സഫാരിയുടെ



സമയം തീരായപ്പോഴും ആശിച്ചുവന്ന എന്തെങ്കിലും കാര്യങ്ങളെക്കുറിച്ച് പ്രതികരണങ്ങൾ നൽകാനും നോക്കി. എന്തായാലും ഒരു ദിവസംകൂടി ബാക്കിയുണ്ടെന്ന പ്രതികരണങ്ങൾ തിരികെപ്പോയി. അടുത്തദിവസം രാവിലത്തെ ട്രിപ്പിനു ഞങ്ങൾ റെഡി. തലേദിവസം കണ്ടുപോലുള്ള കാഴ്ചകൾ - മാന്യം, കാട്ടുപോത്തും, ആനയുമൊക്കെ! എന്നാൽ രാവിലെ ആയതിനാൽ ധാരാളം പക്ഷികളെ കാണാൻ സാധിച്ചു. ചുട്ടപ്പരുന്ത്, കിന്നരിപരുന്ത്, ഹിൽ മൈന, ജംഗിൾ മൈന, ബ്രാഹ്മിണിമൈന, ബ്ലൂവിംഗ് പാർക്കീറ്റ് മുതലായവയാണ് അവയിൽ പ്രധാനപ്പെട്ടത്. സഹാരികഴിഞ്ഞ് തിരികെ പോരുമ്പോഴും ഒരാഗ്രഹം ബാക്കിയായി. ഒരു കടുവയെയോ ഒരു പുലിയെയോ കാണാൻ സാധിച്ചില്ലല്ലോയെന്ന്. നമുക്ക് അടുത്തയാത്രയ്ക്കായി കാത്തിരിക്കാം.

ഒ.എം. മാത്യു  
കുന്നുകുഴി, തിരുവനന്തപുരം

## ACTIVITIES OF WWF-INDIA KERALA STATE OFFICE

### Meeting on Smart Fishing Initiative



WWF International convened the meeting on 'Smart Fishing Initiative' in Kochi on 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> November at The Gateway Hotel. Participants from around 40 countries, mainly from WWF Offices, attended the two days' workshop followed by field exposure. The State Director joined Dr. Sejal Worah, Programme Director, WWF-India and Mr. Vinod Malayilethu, Senior Co-ordinator, Marine Programme in providing all possible logistics and local support.

### Recon visit to understand the land and its people and their issues along the Thiruvananthapuram Coast

After the SFI Meeting in Kochi, the State Director was requested to accompany Ms. Louise Heaps, Consultant, Marine Programme, WWF-UK and Ms. Ema Fatima, Programme Officer, Marine Programme, WWF-India on a recon visit along the coast of Thiruvananthapuram on 22<sup>nd</sup> November to understand the land, its people and



their issues. Interactions were also arranged with the various stakeholders including local fishermen, leaders of fishermen movements like Mr. Peter of NFF and Mr. Anto of KSMTE, Fr. Eugene Pereira of the Latin Catholic Church and Dr. Sanjeev Ghosh, Additional Director (retd), Fisheries Dept., Govt. of Kerala.

### Pavizhamalli - Honouring Sugathakumari Teacher



On 1<sup>st</sup> November, friends and well-wishers of Sugathakumari Teacher organized Pavizhamalli – an event at Kanakakunnu Palace to honour Teacher and her various contributions in the different fields. It included a seminar in the morning, recital of Teacher's poems, environmental NGOs meet, photography exhibition, collash etc. WWF also partnered and contributed in the event by preparing a collash from newspaper clippings of Teacher over the years in connection with her contribution to the green movement in the State. The State Director and the Senior Education Officer took active participation in the day's events.

### Salim Ali Day 2016



The event was organized with the support of the Social Forestry Extension Unit, Kollam on 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> November at Catholicate College, Pathanamthitta. On 12<sup>th</sup>, the workshop was inaugurated by Sri.I Siddique, Deputy Conservator of Forests in a function that was presided over by Dr. Mathew P. Joseph, Principal of the college. The technical sessions were led by Mr. A.K.Sivakumar, Senior Education Officer and Mr. C.Harikumar, Volunteer and Resource Person of WWF-India. Around 120 students attended the awareness programmes. Inter school quiz and poster designing competitions were arranged for school students in the college auditorium on 11<sup>th</sup> November.

## Friday Forum



The Friday Forum for the month of November was organized in the usual venue i.e. the Museum Auditorium on the theme of 'Birds of Kerala and Bird Watching'. Mr.C.Harikumar was the resource person of the programme. Around 60 students from three schools in Thiruvananthapuram City attended the half-day programme. There was very good interaction from the participants.

## Session on Application of GIS in NRM at Thrissur Govt. Engg. College



The State Director was invited by the Kerala GIS Community to deliver a lead talk on 'Fundamentals of GIS and its various applications in Natural Resource Management' on 20<sup>th</sup> November at Govt. Engineering College, Thrissur. Around 120 participants were there including students of B.Arch and B.Tech and their faculties.

## Wildlife Camp at Kabini



A Wildlife Orientation Camp was organized for wildlife enthusiasts at Kabini, part of Nagarhole National Park from 26<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> November. The main objective of the camp was to get some good Tiger and Leopard sightings and capture them on camera. The camp was led by the Senior Education Officer and Mr. Murukan Pareparambil, Volunteer of WWF-India with 8 participants.

## Golden Jubilee Celebrations of TKM College of Arts & Science at Kollam



An exhibition was arranged as part of the above from 30<sup>th</sup> November to 6<sup>th</sup> December in the college campus. WWF was given a stall and it was manned by Mr. Harish Kumar, Administrative Assistant.

## Regional Workshop on Revision of National Forest Policy

The State Director and Mr. Thomas Samuel from the Western Ghats Nilgiris Landscape Programme attended the Regional Consultation Workshop organized by IIFM, Bhopal on the revision of the National Forest Policy at IWST Bangalore on 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> November and actively contributed to the discussions and deliberations.

## People's Climate March from Vazhachal to Athirappilly



The march was taken out on 29<sup>th</sup> November. WWF supported the initiative by mobilizing communication through our network and also providing 300 A3 size posters printed in color on 300 GSM sheets with images and attractive captions, some in Malayalam and some in English, on the theme of global warming and climate change.

## Public Consultation by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science, Technology, Environment and Forests in Kochi

The State Director was specially invited to the Public Consultation of the Parliamentary Standing Committee organized at Taj Malabar, Kochi on 25<sup>th</sup> November. Around 33 representatives of various NGOs were present in the meeting. The State Director submitted the WWF

Submission on Environmental Issues of Kerala and particularly Kochi in written to the Committee.

### **KFRI Workshop on Invasive Alien Species**

KFRI has an ongoing FAO funded project on Invasive Alien Species involving both India and Maldives. The project is coming to a close. To discuss the findings of the study and to see how the outcome of the project can be taken forward, a workshop was organized in the Conference Hall of KFRI at Peechi, Thrissur on 1<sup>st</sup> December with the involvement of the project teams from both the countries. With our earlier interactions with Dr. Sajeev, the Invasive Alien Species Expert of KFRI, the State Director was invited as a Special Guest to the workshop. The State Director took part in the discussions and deliberations and also listed out the possible ventures that we can take in future jointly by WWF, KFRI and Central and State Government Departments like MoEF&CC, KSBB, and DoECC.

### **KSMTF & NFF Workshop on National Marine Fisheries Policy**

The Central Government is in the process of revising the National Marine Fisheries Policy and the work has been entrusted to CMFRI, Kochi. They have put out a list of 80 plus questions which can be answered in a Yes/ No mode as public response to the policy formulation. Raising their voice against such an approach and also addressing their apprehensions about the policy, the National Fishermen Federation and Kerala Swathanthra Matsya Thozhilali Federation organized a workshop at the Fourth Estate Hall, Trivandrum Press Club on 4 December. The State Director was invited for the workshop. The State Director took part in the discussions and deliberations and also presented the WWF submission on the same. The submission was well appreciated and later, on request, the same was translated into the vernacular language, Malayalam, and published in their fortnightly newsletter Alakal.

### **Nature Education Camp at Periyar Tiger Reserve**

Eight M.Sc Environment Management Students from TERI University accompanied by their Professor Dr. Sudipto Chatterjee along with the State Director and Mr. Murukan, Volunteer visited Periyar TR as part of the 4 days Nature Education Camp from 9-12 December arranged by WWF-India on their request. On the evening of the first day, the opening session was led by Sri. Joseph Karoor, Deputy Director (Retd.), Wildlife Education, Kerala Forests and Wildlife Department and long term good friend and supporter of WWF-India. The next day morning, a trekking was arranged accompanied by a EDC guide cum field expert. The rich biodiversity, including flora and fauna was explained to the students. Post lunch, the team visited the adjacent tribal village Manakudi and interacted with the local people and EDC members. Sri. Ramesh Babu, Ecologist of Periyar Foundation led the evening session. The next day morning, a vehicle safari was arranged to Gavi.



In the afternoon, the campers were divided into 4 groups of two each and they carried out a socio-economic survey among the various stakeholders of Periyar and Kumily. The evening session was led by Sri. Mani Sudarsanan, Range Officer, Eco Development. After the technical session, the students got the opportunity to interact with Mr. John, Additional Field Director, PTR. The campers also took active participation in a role play game on the theme of 'Human Animal Conflicts'. On the last day, the campers enjoyed boating through the Periyar Reservoir.



### **Participation in the exhibition as part of Annam 2015**



As in previous years, CISSA invited WWF to take part in Annam 2015 organised at Kochi from 10 – 14 December by providing us an exhibition stall free of charges. WWF put up the stall with our exhibition panels, standees and other materials. The work was co-ordinated by Mr. Harish Kumar and intern Mars Joseph.

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**വൈകുന്നതിനു മുൻപേ പ്രതികരിക്കൂ**

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