



WWF
NEWS
LETTER

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Mruthika

Newsletter of WWF - India, Kerala State Office

FROM THE STATE DIRECTOR'S DESK

The start of the project on 'Laterite Quarrying/ Mining and its Environmental Impacts' is revealing some very disturbing facts. We have collected some baseline information from the Dept. of Mining and Geology, Govt. of Kerala. But this is just the district wise approved laterite quarries in Kerala where the major activity is cutting laterite hillocks for laterite bricks which is used for both house and compound wall construction. These quarries have the proper approval and work on an extensive area in a particular location. But on the wider horizon, this is just the tip of the iceberg with regard to laterite quarrying/ mining in the State. Much more happens on the unorganized sector where locally laterite hillocks are grazed down for various development activities like widening and straightening of roads, construction of houses, erecting high rise residential buildings etc. In these areas, JCBs excavate the loose laterite soil, which is then dumped into tipper lorries, and transported to surrounding or far away locations to be used for wetland and paddy field reclamation. Whereas the organized sector can be quantified and its impacts measured to a great extent, this unorganized excavation is happening across Kerala, is unaccounted for with regard to its extent and depth and measuring its impacts is next to impossible. In discussion with the Department of Geology, University of Kerala we are moving forward with the project to try to make the impossible possible. The recent ventures of the Social Forestry Division of the Kerala Forests and Wildlife Department to give more emphasis to protection of habitats and its biodiversity outside the forest areas is really to be applauded. They are mainly looking at the possible protection of coastal habitats with regard to Marine Turtles and also protection of our wetlands with regard to Waterfowl. The most positive aspect is that, unlike from previous years, they are adopting a totally participatory bottom-top approach in these conservation initiatives. Meetings of the relevant stakeholders including active NGOs in the respective fields from across Kerala were called for Marine Turtles in Kozhikode and for Waterfowl in Ernakulam. The Senior Forest Officers shared their concerns with regard to the effective protection of wildlife outside forest areas especially with the limited manpower available with the Forest Department. There was very good time of interaction

with the stakeholders to understand the field reality and what needs to be done where, how and through whom. WWF is also involved in these initiatives and we feel that over the next few years we will be able to make a remarkable change in protecting our coasts and wetlands and thereby its biodiversity including Marine Turtles and Waterfowl, both resident and migratory birds. To garner more public participation towards such efforts, like in previous years, this year also we commemorated the Salim Ali Day and HSBC Bird Race in November with major bird watching events covering prominent birding locations in Kerala. With deep burden in our hearts, we fondly remember our dear conservation comrade Antappan who met with a very untimely death about a year back. His friends and well wishers have come together and decided to do something for the financially backward family of Antappan's parents, wife and son. WWF could contribute a good amount to the Antappan Family Welfare Fund and this along with a Certificate of Appreciation (Posthumous) was handed over to Antappan's father in a informal function organized in Alappuzha by Green Community. Some of the other remarkable milestones achieved during this period is the function organized in Thiruvananthapuram as part of releasing the final report on the recently concluded project titled 'Kerala Going 100% Renewable Energy by 2050' which is very relevant for Kerala. Sufficient copies of the report were made available to be distributed to all the Members of the State Planning Board so that in the days ahead, we can move to an implementation phase. In the background of the concerns raised with regard to the protection of the freshwater Sasthamkotta Lake, a recon survey was conducted by a team from WWF. A detailed note has been prepared in this regard and will be taken up at the appropriate level. WWF could establish the first of its kind Bird Park inside the Technopark Campus right in front of the Park Centre by putting up 10 bird houses, 3 feeders and 3 bird baths. This initiative was supported by Allianz Cornhill. Through all such efforts, we have been able to target various sections of the society, right from top level government officers, administrators and bureaucrats to the bottom level school students to look in the right direction of sustainable development needed for our State.

Renjan Mathew Varghese,
State Director

IMPORTANT NEWS ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURE

GLOBAL

American energy firm fined \$1 million for bird deaths

A U.S. energy firm has been ordered to cough up \$1 million in fines and community service payments after authorities discovered numerous Golden Eagles and other protected birds, including hawks, blackbirds, larks, wrens and sparrows, had been killed due to collisions with infrastructure at the firm's wind energy plants in Wyoming. This week Duke Energy Renewables Inc. pleaded guilty to criminal charges brought up by the Department of Justice relating to the violation of the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), under the head of "unpermitted avian takings." It was found that 14 Golden Eagles and 149 other protected birds had perished at Duke's "Campbell Hill" and "Top of the World" wind projects in Converse County between 2009 and 2013, plants that comprised 176 large wind turbines sited on private agricultural land. (Source: *The Hindu*, November 24, 2013)

Plan for vast Antarctic Sanctuary fails

Plans to create two vast Ocean Sanctuaries in Antarctica to protect the pristine wilderness failed for the third time with Russia and China blocking the bids, delegates at multi-nation talks said. The proposals for two huge Marine Protected Areas were on the table at the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) meeting in Hobart, which brought together 24 countries and the European Union. But the 10-day talks ended in disappointment with the nations unable to agree to a US-New Zealand proposal for a protected zone in the Ross Sea and another by Australia, France and the European Union for a Sanctuary off East Antarctica. Environmentalists said an ocean wilderness that is home to 16,000 known species, including whales, seals, albatrosses, penguins and unique species of fish, was at stake. (Source: <http://phys.org/news/2013-11-vast-antarctic-sanctuary.html#jCp> November 01, 2013)

NATIONAL

Satellite tagging of Amur Falcons in Nagaland

Migratory Amur Falcons in Nagaland have been fitted with satellite tags to monitor their movement for their conservation. The Ministry of Environment and Forests, the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun and other environment agencies along with the Nagaland Forest Department have taken up the joint scientific mission to satellite tag the raptors, Nagaland Principal Chief Conservator of Forests M Lokeswara Rao told PTI. Along with the other environment partners, UNEP/ Convention

on Migratory Species Office - Abu Dhabi, the mission in Nagaland's Doyang area of Wokha aims to provide new insights into the ecology of the Amur Falcon, particularly during its short stay in Nagaland and subsequent traverse across India. It should also provide the Nagaland people with knowledge about the origins of their annual falcon visitors which spend about one month at Doyang every autumn and feast on insects to gain fitness for their immense onward journey to Africa, Rao said. (Source: *The New Indian Express* November 10, 2013)

India a rising solar power, says World Bank

The Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission Phase-1 (JNNSM) is poised to make India a global leader in the development of solar power as its green growth agenda increased the installed capacity from around 30 MW to more than 2,000 MW, a World Bank report said. What is significant is that JNNSM has been instrumental in bringing down the cost of power to a level that is competitive across the world, says the report. It has reduced the costs of energy to \$0.15 per kWh, making India amongst the lowest cost destinations for grid-connected Solar Photo Voltaic (SPV) in the world. The report, 'Paving the Way for a Transformational Future: Lessons from JNNSM Phase1,' says solar power can reduce India's dependence on imports of diesel and coal for power generation, cut greenhouse gas emissions and contribute to energy security. Growth in this sector will help India increase its share of clean energy and meet its target of reducing emissions per unit of its GDP by 20-25 per cent by 2020 over the 2005 levels. (Source: *The Hindu* December 13, 2013)

STATE

Tiger estimation begins in Kerala forests

The eight-day phase-one of the All India Tiger Estimation 2013-2014 by 2,088 field staff began in the forests of the State on 16th December. The estimation, at the initiative of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), is a countrywide exercise conducted every four years to assess the status of wild tigers, co-predators, prey species, and their habitat. This time, it comprises three phases. The first phase is the responsibility of the respective State Governments. Phase two and three of the estimation will be conducted by the Dehradun-based Wildlife Institute of India (WII) using remotely sensed data and camera traps. While during the 2006 and 2010 tiger estimations, the forests of the State were divided into four landscapes for the assessment, this time the State has been divided into five landscapes — Wayanad, Parambikulam, Nilambur, Periyar, and Agasthyamala. These landscapes have been further divided into 39 divisions, and the divisions segregated into 696 blocks. Each block, comprising about 20 sq km, will be covered by three personnel headed by a Section Forest Officer. Since the forests of Kerala, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu are interlinked, the phase one of the estimation,

which involves field data collection, is being carried out simultaneously in the three States. (Source: The Hindu December 17, 2013)

Wildlife in Kerala at risk of contracting FMD

Wild animal populations of Kerala are at risk of contracting foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), which may prove fatal. The outbreak is most likely to affect ungulates, wildlife experts say. Two instances of gaur deaths owing to acute FMD infection were reported from the Kottayam region recently, and animal disease experts fear the disease has spread to wild populations. V. Gopinathan, Chief Wildlife Warden, Kerala, said there existed a real threat to the wild animal population of the State. Cattle grazing and movement of human beings were contributing to the spread of the airborne disease, and the wild animal population of the State was under severe threat, he said. Management of the disease would not be possible in the wild. The epidemic had hit the cattle population in the State in an unprecedented manner. It could also impact the wild animal population on an unparalleled scale, he said. P.O. Nameer, Head of the Wildlife Division of the Kerala Agricultural University, said two-hoofed herbivorous mammals, namely Wild Boar, Mouse Deer, Spotted Deer, Sambar, Barking Deer, Gaur, and Nilgiri Tahr were susceptible to the epidemic. Wild elephant populations were also vulnerable to the disease. Two cases of captive elephants contracting the disease from cattle were reported from Thrissur and Kottayam. Till now, no instances of carnivores falling prey to the disease had been reported, Dr. Nameer said. (Source: The Hindu December 19, 2013)

considered as a dry wetland bird of our neighboring states. But recently wide distribution is observed across Kerala from north to south in most of the wetlands. Our paddy fields, abandoned marshes, swamps, rivers and other such water bodies have become its preferable habitat.

SPECIES OF THE ISSUE

Asian Open bill



Asian Open bill (*Anastomus oscitans*) a large water bird belongs to the group of storks. The grayish white plumage with black primaries at the tip of wings and tail makes this bird colorful. Pink slender legs and grayish white thick beak adds to its beauty. Most significant part of this bird is the specially adapted beak which is open in middle that facilitates the bird to easily feed on the mollusks like pila and snails and. Hence the name also. This bird was

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Find the renewable forms of energy below:

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

Answers: Geothermal, Solar, Wave, Tidal, Biofuel, Hydr

EXPERT'S TALK

കിണർ റീച്ചാർജിങ്ങ്

ഡോ. ജോസ് സി. റാഫേൽ
ടീം ലീഡർ, മഴപ്പൊലിമ, തൃശൂർ

മഴകഴിഞ്ഞാൽ പിന്നെ കിണറിലെ ജലനിരപ്പ് താഴാൻ തുടങ്ങുകയായി. എല്ലാവരും കിണറുകളിൽ മോട്ടോർ വച്ച് പമ്പുചെയ്യാൻ തുടങ്ങിയതോടെ കിണറുകളിലെ ജലനിരപ്പ് പെട്ടെന്ന് താഴുവാനും തുടങ്ങി. കിണറിൽനിന്ന് തുടിച്ചു കോരിയിരുന്ന കാലം ഒരുപക്ഷേ നാം ഓർക്കുന്നുണ്ടായിരിക്കണം. അന്നൊക്കെ കിണർവെള്ളത്തിന് നല്ല സ്വാദുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. എന്നാൽ പമ്പു ചെയ്തു വരുന്ന വെള്ളത്തിന് ആ സ്വാദ് ഇല്ലതാനും. ഇക്കാലങ്ങളിൽ കിണറിന് ഉൾവശം നോക്കിയാൽ പലയിടങ്ങളിലും അനക്കമില്ലാത്ത ഒരു പാട നിലനിൽക്കുന്നതായി കാണാം. കിണറും മനുഷ്യനും തമ്മിലുള്ള ബന്ധം അറ്റുപോയതുപോലെയാണ്. ഈ അവസ്ഥയിലാണ് നാം കിണർ റീച്ചാർജിങ്ങിനെ കുറിച്ച് ചിന്തിക്കുന്നത്.

മൊബൈൽ ഫോണുകൾ വരാൻ തുടങ്ങിയതോടെ റീച്ചാർജിങ്ങ് എന്ന പദം ഏവർക്കും മനസ്സിലാകുന്ന ഒരു വസ്തുതയാണ്. ബാറ്ററി റീച്ചാർജ് ചെയ്യുന്ന പോലെ തന്നെ ചെയ്യാവുന്ന ഒരു സംഗതിയാണ് കിണർ റീച്ചാർജിങ്ങ് എന്നു പറയുന്നത്. ഇതിന് വൈദ്യുതി വേണ്ട, എന്നാൽ വേണ്ടത് മഴവെള്ളമാണ്. മേൽക്കൂരയിൽ നിന്നുള്ള മഴവെള്ളം പാത്തികളിലൂടെ അല്ലെങ്കിൽ പൈപ്പിലൂടെ കിണറിനരികത്തേക്ക് കൊണ്ടുവന്ന്, ഫിൽട്ടർ സംവിധാനം ഘടിപ്പിച്ച് മഴവെള്ളം കിണറിനകത്തേക്ക് കൊടുക്കണം. മേൽക്കൂരയിലെ അഴുക്കുകൾ ഫിൽട്ടർ ചെയ്യുവാൻ അരിപ്പുസംവിധാനം ഇതിലുണ്ട്. ആദ്യമഴയിൽ പെയ്യുന്ന അഴുക്കുകൾ കളയാൻ ഒരു ഫസ്റ്റ് ഫ്ളെഷ് സംവിധാനവും ഇതിൽ ഘടിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. കാലവർഷത്തിലേയും തുലാവർഷത്തിലേയും



ലേയും മഴവെള്ളം ഈ വിധത്തിൽ കിണറിൽ ഇറക്കണം. എന്നാൽ വേനൽമഴയ്ക്ക് കിട്ടുന്ന മഴവെള്ളമാണ് ഇതിനേക്കാൾ ഫലം ചെയ്യുക. ഇങ്ങനെ ചെയ്താൽ വേനലിൽ നമ്മുടെ കിണറിൽ യഥേഷ്ടം വെള്ളമുണ്ടാകും.

ഏകദേശം 3000 രൂപ ചെലവേ ഇത് ചെയ്യുവാൻ വേണ്ടിവരും. അല്ലെങ്കിൽ ഇതിന്റെ പാത്തിക്കും പൈപ്പിനും വേണ്ടിവരുന്ന ചെലവും രണ്ട് പ്ലമ്പർമാരുടെ ഒരു ദിവസത്തെ കുലിയും മാത്രമാണ് ചെലവ്. ഗ്രാമസഭയിൽ കിണർ റീച്ചാർജിങ്ങ് ആവശ്യം ഉന്നയിക്കാമെങ്കിൽ ഗ്രാമപഞ്ചായത്തിന് കിണർ റീച്ചാർജിങ്ങ് പദ്ധതി തികച്ചും സൗജന്യമായി ചെയ്തുതരുവാൻ സാധിക്കും. തൃശൂർ ജില്ലയിൽ ഈ പദ്ധതിയെ 'മഴപ്പൊലിമ' കിണർ റീച്ചാർജിങ്ങ് എന്നാണ് പേരിട്ടു വിളിക്കുന്നത്. നമ്മുടെ ജില്ലയിൽ 7000 കിണറുകളിൽ ഇത്തരത്തിൽ കിണർ റീച്ചാർജിങ്ങ് ചെയ്ത് വേനൽ ജലനിരപ്പിന്റെ കാര്യത്തിൽ ഗുണമുണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ട്.

കിണർ റീച്ചാർജിങ്ങ് പരിപാടിയിൽ പൊതുജനങ്ങൾ ഉന്നയിക്കുന്ന ഒരു പ്രധാന ചോദ്യം മഴക്കാലത്ത് കിണർ നിറഞ്ഞു കിടക്കുമ്പോൾ ഇതു ചെയ്തിട്ട് കാര്യമുണ്ടോ എന്നാണ്. ഇതിന് ഉത്തരം, മഴക്കാലത്ത് കിണറുകൾ നിറഞ്ഞു കിടക്കുന്നതായി കാണുന്നത്, കിണറിലെ ജലം മണ്ണിന്റെ അടുക്കുകളിലൂടെ സഞ്ചരിച്ച് അരികപ്പെട്ട്, അതിന്റെ ജലപത്തായങ്ങളിലേക്ക് സഞ്ചരിക്കുമ്പോൾ ഉണ്ടാകുന്ന സഞ്ചാരസമയദൈർഘ്യത്തെയാണ് ഇത് കാണിക്കുന്നത്. ഇത് മണ്ണിന്റെ തരം, ഓരോ കിണറിൽ നിന്നും ചുറ്റുവട്ടത്തുള്ള മറ്റു കിണറുകളിൽ നിന്നുമുള്ള ജലത്തിന്റെ ഉപയോഗം, സ്വേദനം, മഴയുടെ തോത് തുടങ്ങിയ കാര്യങ്ങളുമൊക്കെ ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട് ഏറ്റക്കുറച്ചിലുണ്ടാകാം. മഴ നിന്നാൽ, ഒന്നോ രണ്ടോ ദിവസത്തിനുള്ളിൽ കിണറിലെ ജലനിരപ്പ് വേഗം താഴുന്നതായി കാണാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നതാണ്. അതായത് കിണറിൽ നിറഞ്ഞു കിടന്നിരുന്ന ജലം അതാത് കിണർ ഉറവകളിലേക്ക് എത്തിച്ചേർന്നു തുടങ്ങി എന്നർത്ഥം. ഈ പ്രക്രിയയിലെ സമയദൈർഘ്യമാണ് കിണർ നിറഞ്ഞു കിടക്കുന്നതായി കാണുന്നത്.

കേന്ദ്ര ഗവൺമെന്റിന്റെ ഭൂജല ബോർഡും കേരള സർക്കാരിന്റെ ഗ്രൗണ്ട് വാട്ടർ അതോറിറ്റിയും കിണർ റീച്ചാർജിങ്ങ് പ്രവർത്തനം നടത്തുന്നുണ്ട്. അടാട്ട് ഗ്രാമപഞ്ചായത്ത് ഇത്തരത്തിലുള്ള 500-നുമേൽ കിണർ റീച്ചാർജിങ്ങ് യൂണിറ്റുകൾ 2009 മുതൽ ഏറ്റെടുത്ത് ചെയ്ത് വേനൽക്കാല കിണർ ജലനിരപ്പ്

ഉയരുന്നതായി കണ്ടിട്ടുണ്ട്. ദാരിദ്ര്യരേഖയ്ക്കു താഴെ വരുന്ന ജനവിഭാഗങ്ങൾക്ക് ഈ പദ്ധതിയുടെ ഗുണം തികച്ചും സൗജന്യമാണ്. എന്നാൽ ഇത്തരത്തിൽ പദ്ധതി നടത്തിക്കിട്ടിയവർ കിണർ റീച്ചാർജിങ്ങ് സംവിധാനങ്ങളെ വേണ്ടത്ര പരിപാലിച്ചില്ലെങ്കിൽ ഗുണം കുറവേ ലഭിക്കും. പഞ്ചായത്ത് കുടിവെള്ളം പൈപ്പിലൂടെ തന്നെ കിട്ടണമെന്ന് ശ്രിക്കുന്നതിനേക്കാൾ ഒരു പക്ഷേ നല്ലത് സ്വന്തം വീട്ടുമുറ്റത്തുള്ള കിണറിനെ ജലസമ്പുഷ്ടമാക്കുകയായിരിക്കും.

ജില്ലാകളക്ടർ ചെയർമാനായ മഴപ്പൊലിമ പദ്ധതിയുടെ തൃശൂർ ഓഫീസ് അയ്യന്തോൾ ഗ്രൗണ്ടിന് സമീപമാണ്. വിളിക്കാവുന്ന ഫോൺ നമ്പർ: 0487-2363616.

MEMBER'S DESK

Report on Chathancode trip

Legs and arms were aching but the spirit was high and the promise made to Sivakumar Sir had to be kept. So I took up this assignment of writing a few lines about our yesterdays trek to Chathancode, a Nature Orientation Camp. Started typing as soon as I had my late Sunday lunch and before I would launch into my Sunday afternoon siesta.

The thorny pricks on my fingers reminded me of our encounter with the 'antiseptic tree', the bark paste of this tree is used for rubbing on the body before bathing by the native tribesmen. It has excellent anti-fungal properties. City folks 'lifebuoy' equivalent. The day was sunny. We were hardly aware of the sun, there was so much on the ground to watch and enjoy. The number of butterflies, almost 15 varieties. And the knowledge sharing about the different flora that we saw.

The water-stream gave us constant company. We even crossed the river twice, once over a huge tree that had fallen across the river forming a natural bridge. Of course, we were all lined up on this tree-bridge for a group photograph. This was my second trip to this place, still my excitement for these salubrious waterfalls was high. And the place never lets you down. It is just over 45 kms from the city.

The trek was mostly over rocks. The hills are made of huge rocks. Slowly we moved from deciduous to semi evergreen forest. We took our first break at 'level one' of the Vazhuvanhol waterfalls. Those who wanted to take rest stayed back here and the rest of us made to the level two of the waterfalls. It is a ten minute hard trek from here to level three and one of the most special places, for it is the pure oxygen filled air that is thrilling and unforgettable. This is the evergreen forest. Here the trees never shed their leaves, hence the name 'evergreen'.

We were looking forward to the bath under the falling waters. The water was cool and falling thunderously. We could shake off all our tiredness under this aqua pura falling on us. Several of us tried the water cave experience.

Going inside the sheet of falling water, under the rock, and behind we found a cool cave-like place. Fun could not be better than this. Once dried up, we felt our rumbling tummies and headed straight for our packed lunch of dosa and kadala curry. It was downed in no time with some more place for bananas, biscuits and the like. After this we started our return trek. This was birding time. And we were not disappointed, we sighted Indian Pitta, Black-rumped Flameback, Hill Mynah, Yellow-browed Bulbul and more. It was time for the bus-ride back and a game of Antaakshari on the bus.

By Neha Waikar

ACTIVITIES OF WWF-INDIA KERALA STATE OFFICE

SYP Campaign in Schools



The renewable energy awareness hoardings prepared as part of the Seize Your Power campaign was distributed to around 10 major schools in Thiruvananthapuram City. Ms. Rahana and Ms. Rajalekshmi, Project Officers of KLSO conducted the awareness programme among the school students and helped them in putting up the hoardings in their school campuses.

Green Partnership Programme

The State Director was invited by the Kerala Forests and Wildlife Department to attend the State level Planning Workshop on Marine Turtle Conservation organized at Kozhikode on 11 Nov, 2013.

The Senior Education Officer was invited to attend a discussion initiated by Kerala Forests & Wildlife Department on conducting Asian Waterfowl Census, Heronry Monitoring and Common Bird Monitoring Programme in the State. As an outcome of the meeting, WWF-India, Kerala State Office was asked to submit a comprehensive proposal on the same to conduct the AWC in the three southern districts of Kerala.

Salim Ali Day 2013

Multimedia presentation on Birds of Kerala - Kerala State Office prepared a multimedia presentation on 'Dr. Salim Ali and Birds of Kerala' and this was sent to all nature clubs, associates and supporters to conduct sessions on the same on their own in their local area. This helped to observe Salim Ali Day across our entire network within the State.

Orientation Session on 'Birds of Kerala' - Senior Education Officer conducted an orientation session for the nature club members of Govt. Victoria College and Mercy College, Palakkad on 1st November 2013 with an objective of capacity building of the participants on bird diversity and bird watching. The presentation was shared with the participants and they were asked to deliver similar presentations in nearby schools as part of outreach of the observation of Salim Ali Day.

Sunday Bird Walk

The monthly bird watching programme was conducted in Kallar Forests on 3rd November and was attended by 14 bird enthusiasts.





The monthly bird watching programme in December was conducted on 8th December 2013 in and around Punchakkari Wetlands and this was attended by 15 bird enthusiasts.

Friday Forum

The monthly open forum for school students of Thiruvananthapuram was held on 8th November 2013 with the theme 'Ecological Footprint' and the lead talk was delivered by Sri. Renjan Mathew Varghese, State Director. Around 150 students from six educational institutions in the City and their teachers attended the programme. The students had a unique opportunity to understand and assess their own carbon footprint as per their lifestyle.



Friday Forum for the month of December was organized on 6th December 2013 on the theme of 'Pollution' and this was led by Er.K.Vijayabhas, Chief Environmental Engineer (retd) from Kerala State Pollution Control Board. He clarified the various aspects of pollution – caused by humans and otherwise and also its impacts on various

living and non-living forms. The interactive session was very dynamic since most of the students had many questions on the topic in connection to their day to day life activities itself.

Kerala Bird Race at Thiruvananthapuram



The seventh HSBC Kerala Bird Race at Thiruvananthapuram was held on 10th November. The teams came out with the observation of 149 species of birds from the seven birding sites. The bird watchers, divided into teams, were out in the field from 6.00am to 4.00pm covering wetlands, forests, villages and urban green spaces in and around Thiruvananthapuram.



The evening valedictory session and get together held at Hotel Pankaj had around 120 participants. The get together was inaugurated by Sri. Kollam Thulasi, Cine Actor. The Book "Kallarum Kadannu", a travelogue by Kum. Serah Mariyam Binny, a collection of events of the last year's Bird Race and the subsequent monthly Sunday Bird Walks was also released in this event. Sri. A.K. Sivakumar, the Bird Race Coordinator, Sri. Renjan Mathew Varghese, State Director of WWF-India and Sri.Santhanu, Branch Head of HSBC Thiruvananthapuram also spoke on the occasion.

Teachers Training Workshop on Water Conservation

A Teachers Training Workshop on Water Conservation was conducted by WWF-India with the support of CPREEC, Chennai at Bhavans Vidya Mandir, Vadakkanchery on 21st November 2013.



Project on Kerala Going 100% RE by 2050



This study conducted by WWF-India in association with WISE was completed, the final report compiled and released in a function organized on 30 December, 2013 at Lotus, Hotel Maurya Rajadhani, Thiruvananthapuram. Around 50 people mainly from the energy sector and otherwise attended the function. There was a press meet also at the venue as part of the function. Dr. Sejal Worah, Dr TS

Panwar, Mr G.M. Pillai, Mr. Suhas Tendulkar, Mr. Renjan Mathew Varghese led the event. Mr. G. Vijaya Raghavan, Member, State Planning Board was the Chief Guest of the function.



Conservation interventions for Sasthamkotta Lake

Based on the suggestions in the just previous SAB that WWF should look into the possible interventions for the conservation and protection of the Sasthamkotta Lake, the State Director took a reconnaissance survey of the lake and its surrounding areas on 17th December, 2013 along with Dr. Appukuttan, Mr. Vinod and Mr. Madhu (KSSP). The findings and recommendations would be tabled in the next SAB meeting for discussion and charting the way forward.



Installation of Bird Park at Technopark Campus



Kerala State Office installed a Bird Park in the Technopark Campus with 10 bird huts, 3 bird feeders and 3 bird baths with the support of Allianz Cornhill Pvt. Ltd. They also entrusted WWF-India with the weekly maintenance of the Park and other necessary technical support for its

maintenance for the next 3 years. It was inaugurated on 4th December 2013 by Smt. B. Sugathakumari, renowned writer and environmentalist of Kerala. This initiative has come in as a big success as the adjoining Infosys Campus has expressed their interest to install a similar facility.



International Day of Mountains 2013

Kerala State Office observed the International Day of Mountains by partnering with Kottayam Nature Society (KNS) at Kottayam by organizing an exhibition and awareness programme on “Biodiversity of the Western Ghats” on 11th December 2013. Around 1000 people from different walks of life visited the exhibition.

Nature Orientation Trip to Chathancode

A team of 23 nature enthusiasts were taken to the Vazhuvanthol waterfalls inside the Chathancode forests falling under Peppara Wildlife Sanctuary. It gave the participants a unique opportunity to know more about the tribals, their life, different types of forests and its inhabiting butterflies, birds and so on during the trip.



Participation/ Attendance

- The State Director participated in the public rally organized on 25 Nov, 2013 by the Western Ghats Protection Council asking the Government to implement the Gagdil Committee Report to ensure the protection of the Western Ghats.
- The State Director attended the Swadeshi Science Congress at Kottayam from 6-8 Nov, 2013

- Certificate of Appreciation (Posthumous) and Financial Support of Rs 25,000 to Antappan Family Welfare Fund handed over to Antappan’s Father in a function organized at Alappuzha on 12 Nov, 2013.



- Senior Education Officer attended a single day Workshop on e-waste Management at Hotel Mercy, Ernakulam organized by CPREEC, Chennai and Kerala State Pollution Control Board.
- The State Director and Senior Education Officer led the Quiz on Nature and Environment for the three sections of UP, HS and HSS in the Children’s Ecological Congress organised at Kanakakunnu on 15 Nov, 2013 by Kerala State Biodiversity Board.
- The State Director attended the Kerala Education Congress 2013 organised at Priyadarsini Planetarium on 16 Nov, 2013 and presented a paper on ‘ESD-Developing Methodologies for the Future’. The paper and the presentation were well appreciated and witnessed very good interaction from the participants.

Nature Gallery reopened

The Nature Gallery which was set up in the space adjacent to the State Office a few years earlier has been reopened with the objective of promoting counter sales. The range of products available includes paper products, such as desk and wall calendars, diaries and notebooks, greeting cards and non paper products like wind cheaters, rucksacks, sleeping bags, tents, posters, photo frames, bird lapel pins, etc. We expect the sales to pick up in the days to come and expect your whole hearted support and co-operation.

EDITORIAL BOARD

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