

Mruthika

Newsletter of WWF - India, Kerala State Office

FROM THE STATE DIRECTOR'S DESK

We all know that with Kerala's heavy dependence on hydro power plants for its energy generation and no much scope of developing any more hydro plants in the State because of its environmental impacts, and no scope for thermal power plants because we do not have the fuel to operate them sustainably and profitably on the long run and absolutely no scope for nuclear power plants because of their environmental risks involved and we do not have vast barren tract of land along the Coast to setup a nuclear power plant – the only option in front of Kerala is to Switch to Renewable Energy and also emphasize on energy conservation. The WWF Study and Report titled 'The Energy Report – Kerala Going 100% Renewable Energy by 2050' and the pilot study specifically conducted for Palakkad District finds much relevance in this regard. At the field level, as part of 'Going beyond the Hour for Earth Hour', we, in association with Kerala State Electricity Board Limited, Energy Management Centre and Dept. of Environment and Climate Change has been carrying forward the scheme of providing CFLs freely especially to families from the economically backward section of the society. In this regard, a CFL distribution event was organized at Kattilapara under Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary jointly with the Kerala Forests and Wildlife Department. Sri.K.Raju, Hon'ble Minister for Forests inaugurated the event. Around 400 CFLs, two each to a family, were distributed to the houses in the tribal settlement there. Following this, four such events were organized in various parts of Neyyattinkara Municipality and also another event in a slum in Thiruvananthapuram City itself. As in previous years, as part of the Green Partnership Programme, we took the initiative to organize the Common Bird Monitoring Programme or Onam Bird Count in the month of September. This is an event which has helped us to take bird watching to the common people and attract specially students and youth toward this effort. Orientation programmes were organized at different locations under the leadership of the Senior Education Officer and many of our Expert Birders cum Volunteers, namely Jaichand, Govind, Neha, Harikumar, Sujith, Arun and many others also contributed. People who were interested to take part in this activity were invited to the orientation programmes and then they were equipped with the Mobile App 'Kili' and also

Field Booklet titled 'Common Birds of Kerala' printed and available with us. The birders, after their field observations, can just start their individual account in the e-bird portal and submit their observations. Such efforts are making bird watching and documentation process more participatory. The observance of the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer was organized this year at Kerala University College of Teacher Education and the Wildlife Week 2016 was observed with the main event at NSS College, Kottiyam. In the Wildlife Week event, the recent poster brought out by TRAFFIC on Elephant Poaching was released by Sri. Shanavas, Wildlife Warden, Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary. At the policy and advocacy level interventions, we were able to make some significance contributions. In the background of the Thiruvananthapuram Corporation gearing up for the submission of the Smart City Proposal to the Central Government, contributions were invited from all and we at WWF organized an internal brainstorming session and came up with many valid and practical suggestions for the improvement of the facilities of the City, especially with regard to green spaces, urban biodiversity, addressing issues like climate change etc. The various suggestions were refined and compiled into a WWF Note and submitted to the Thiruvananthapuram Corporation Authorities. The APCCF (ED&TW) of Kerala Forests & Wildlife Department had called for an Expert Consultation on Ecotourism in Protected Areas in Kerala. Since this was a topic very much connected to our area of work, the matter was circulated among the WWF-India network and contributions taken. Ms. Vishaish Uppal from Secretariat and Mr. Tiju Thomas from the WGNL Team contributed. The points were compiled into a 'WWF Note on Ecotourism in Protected Areas in Kerala' and tabled in the meeting. On the protection of our Coasts, MCiTRA Calicut organized a workshop to discuss the Shailesh Nayak Committee Report on CRZ and WWF was specially invited for the workshop. The necessary inputs on this topic were taken from Mr. Vinod Malayilethu, Senior Co-ordinator, Marine Programme and the State Director represented WWF in the meeting and took active participation in the discussions and deliberations.

Renjan Mathew Varghese, State Director

IMPORTANT NEWS ON NATURE AND ENVIRONMENT

GLOBAL

CO₂ in oceans leads to ice age every 100,000 years

Oceans may be responsible for making the Earth move in and out of ice ages every 100,000 years, finds a study. According to a paper published in the journal *Geology*, oceans sucking carbon dioxide (CO₂) out of the atmosphere

may have triggered this phenomena. By studying the chemical make-up of tiny fossils on the ocean floor, the team discovered that there was more CO₂ stored in the deep ocean during the ice age periods at regular intervals every 100,000 years. This suggested that extra carbon dioxide was being pulled from the atmosphere and into the oceans at this time, subsequently lowering the temperature on the Earth and enabling vast ice sheets to engulf the Northern Hemisphere. (*The Hindu, 31 Oct, 2016*)

African jumbos 'suffer worst decline in 25 years'

Africa's Elephant population has suffered its worst drop

in 25 years, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) said, blaming the plummeting numbers on poaching. Based on 275 estimates from across the continent, a report by the conservation group put Africa's total Elephant population at around 4,15,000, a decline of around 1,11,000 over the past decade. It is the first time in 25 years that the group's African Elephant Status Report has reported a continental decline in numbers, with the IUCN attributing the losses in large part to a sharp rise in poaching. "The surge in poaching for ivory that began approximately a decade ago - the worst that Africa has experienced since the 1970s and 1980s - has been the main driver of the decline" said IUCN in a statement. (Source: *The Hindu*, 26 Sept, 2016)

NATIONAL

New species of Pika discovered in the Sikkim Himalayas

Researchers at the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), Bengaluru have identified a new species of Pika, high up in the Sikkim Himalayas. In their recently published study, the group, including Dr Uma Ramakrishnan and her collaborators, probed the genetic origins of the little mammal, only to discover an entirely new lineage, with a unique evolutionary past. Their work is expected to pave the way for a deeper understanding of biodiversity in the Himalayan region. Regions such as the Himalayas are well-known for their biodiversity. Such habitats often have an abundance of species owing to factors such as topology and climate. Nevertheless, the discovery of a new mammalian species in this region highlights the fact that there is still much to learn about the biota of this unique landscape and that additional studies may lead to more such discoveries. (Source: *The Hindu*, 30 Sept, 2016)

Union Cabinet approves ratification of climate deal

The Union Cabinet gave the go-ahead for ratifying the Paris Climate Deal on October 2, in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement at the BJP's National Executive Meeting. Post-ratification, India will have to confirm to the United Nations-brokered agreement to ensure that global temperatures do not rise more than 2 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial levels. The country will have to provide continuously a detailed inventory of its emissions to the U.N. Secretary General and ensure that its growth trajectory is significantly reliant on clean energy. The ratification requires India to submit a document giving details of its action plan, called the Nationally Determined Contributions, to the U.N. Secretary General. (Source: *The Hindu*, 29 Sept, 2016)

Vehicle makers must share noise, emission data from April 2017

All automobile manufacturers, including makers of electric rickshaws and electric carts, will need to give a detailed declaration about the emission levels of the vehicles starting April next. In a recent notification, the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has amended

Form 22 under the Central Motor Vehicles Act, through which manufacturers provide the initial certification of compliance with pollution standards, safety standards of component quality and road worthiness certificate for all vehicles. (Source: *The Hindu*, 18 Oct, 2016)

STATE

Efficient waste disposal system at major Railway Stations

Twenty Railway Stations in Kerala coming under the A+ and A categories, among 408 such stations across the country, have been earmarked by Railways to be equipped with an efficient waste disposal system. The system envisages separate dustbins for collection of biodegradable (wet) and non-biodegradable (dry) wastes on the platforms and all passenger interface areas. The move is part of an Indian Railways initiative for environment-friendly disposal of waste. All railway zones have been directed to train the staff engaged in cleaning duties for collection and further handling for final disposal of segregated dry and wet waste from the dustbins. Railway zones were directed to provide the facility in all A+ category Railway Stations with immediate effect and at the A category Railway Stations by the end of the year. It means that Thiruvananthapuram Central, Ernakulam Junction, Thrissur and Kozhikode stations will be equipped with the system before the end of this month. (Source: *The Hindu*, 24 Sept, 2016)

Gloomy tidings from Idukki reservoir

Despite normal level of power generation, the water level in the Idukki reservoir was on the decline during October, as data of the Dam Monitoring and Research Station at Vazhathoppe shows. Usually, the water level in the dam reaches the season's maximum by November - December and only on rare occasions, either a drastic increase in power generation or a considerable drop in south-west monsoon, the level starts declining by October. This time, the minimum water level prior to the monsoon was at a low, in addition to the poor south-west monsoon and the weak north-east monsoon beginning mid-October. (Source: *The Hindu*, 26 Oct, 2016)

393 elephants have no ownership certificates

The Forest Department has given the information in reply to an RTI inquiry by the Thrissur based Heritage Animal Task Force (HATF). The HATF said that according to a document submitted by the Forest Department in the Supreme Court in January 2016, the State had only 289 Elephants without proper ownership certificates. "The Forest Department called for applications for issuing new ownership certificates on February 23, 2016. We sought details of people who submitted application for ownership certificates through the RTI" V.K. Venkitachalam of HATF, said. However, the Supreme Court stayed the

Kerala Government notification dated February 26, 2016, which offered an amnesty period to those who kept the 289 Elephants without ownership certificates. It had directed the Government not to issue any fresh ownership certificates. According to the RTI document given by the Forest Department on October 16, 2016, 393 people have given application for ownership of 393 elephants. (Source: *The Hindu*, 26 Oct, 2016)

EXPERT TALK

Urban Wildlife

We observe and celebrate Wildlife Week in the first week of October every year and call for the protection of more charismatic species like Elephant, Tiger, Leopard, Gaur, Sambar and so on which are rather considerably protected within our forests. But no one pays attention to the wildlife found just in front of our gate, within our homestead or city, in our school/ college campuses, around our offices or villages. The Wildlife Protection Act 1972 says that any life form which is not domesticated can be referred as 'wildlife'. If so, there is so much wildlife around us which we can call as urban wildlife and the diversity among them can be referred to as urban biodiversity. It ranges from a tiny Ant to a Toddy Cat. The major urban wildlife that we can list out includes a wide range of birds, butterflies, dragonflies, insects, amphibians, reptiles and mammals. The urban avifauna mainly includes House Crow, Jungle Crow, Purple rumped Sunbird, Long billed Sunbird, Pale billed Flower pecker, White cheeked Barbet, Rufus Treepie, Black rumped Flameback, Asian Koel, Greater Coucal, Black Kite, Cattle Egret and Shikra. Out of this, Cattle Egret and Black Kite are representatives of solid waste dumps within cities. The sunbirds and flowerpeckers fulfil the job of pollinators and make our gardens live with lovely chirps. House Sparrows makes every garden noisy and gets their food by feeding on the spill over grains. Barbets do a great job of seed distribution. Definitely Oriental Magpie Robins offers city dwellers a very good song in the morning and evenings and they act as pest controllers also by feeding on them. The Flamebacks, Treepie, White throated Kingfisher and Coucals keeps pests under control by feeding on them and their caterpillars and helps us to maintain the ecological balance taking on the role of natural pesticides. Owlets and Barn Owls keeps the rodent population under control to a great extent and prevents the outbreak of epidemics. There are so many other birds also seen in and around our surroundings.

The insects and butterflies seen around us play a vital role in transforming flowers into fruits, which is a great boon for many people engaged in terrace farming and kitchen farming. They also add beauty to our gardens and parks. The fishes and frogs seen in our streams and ponds puts

a check over the ever increasing menace of mosquitoes by controlling their breeding. The main reason for this menace can be attributed to the drastic deterioration in the quality of our water bodies which has taken out all the natural pesticides. Garden Lizards, Rat Snakes, Whip Snakes etc. plays a major role in pest control. Though we don't like Spiders, they along with the House Gecko keeps check of the cockroach population.

In the world of mammals, squirrels meticulously carry out their job of seed distribution and makes our homesteads very active with their high frequency alert calls on seeing any predators. A comparatively good population of Common Mongoose now seen in urban areas controls the population of rats, shrews, snakes, small birds and even kittens. The fairly good population of Toddy Cats plays a major role in keeping the ecological balance in urban areas by way of seed distribution. Since they are nocturnal and very elusive, we seldom fail to realize their presence around us.

In spite of the good urban biodiversity around us, on the flip side, sprawling urbanization, unscientific developmental activities, loss of vegetation, solid waste dumping, wetland reclamation etc. leads to habitat loss for all the above mentioned urban wildlife/ biodiversity posing threat to their life and long-term sustenance. Though we benefit from the many direct and indirect values and services from these animals, maybe going to crores of rupees if converted into monetary terms, we knowingly or unknowingly do injustice to them.

A.K.Sivakumar

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Many wildlife has nicknames. Try to match the nick names given in Column 1 with who they are (species) given in Column 2.

Nick name	Species
Whistling Hunter	Jacana
Saddleback	Redline Torpedo Barb
Pearlspot	Butterfly
Joey	Nilgiri Tahr
Whistling School Boy	Dhole/ Wild Dog
Flying Frog	Etroplus
Lilly Trotter	Nightjar
Blood Sucker	Young one of kangaroo
Miss Kerala	Malabar gliding Frog
Red Helen	Malabar whistling Thrush

MEMBER'S DESK

A story told by a Grandma tree

The Falcon's wings beat the air as it propelled itself across the hot desert. The sun's rays scorched everything in sight. The Falcon bent its head downwards, searching the barren land for a place to rest awhile before he continued his search for breakfast. He was out of luck as the only thing he could see was yellow sand, for miles and miles, until the horizon, where the calming blue sky merged with the orange land. He changed his direction, hoping that he could rest for some time before his tired wings gave up and his body thumped onto the burning angry ochre toned sand.

After a while, he noticed a dark silhouette against the sand. Uttering a cry of happiness, he zoomed closer to the ground and saw a huge Willow Tree. He was astonished. How could there be a Willow Tree in the desert? He was curious but tired too, so he hopped onto one of its branches and slept for a while, the yellow leaves protecting him from the sun's rays and the extreme heat of the land.

"Bird? Bird, are you alright?" a voice asked him. He jumped up, startled at being disturbed. Then the bird realised the Tree was speaking to him. "I'm fine, although I would prefer you called me a Falcon. I am no ordinary fowl. I am a Falcon." The Tree branches shook, and he thought the tree might be laughing, but the motion ceased as quickly as it began.

"Okay, Falcon. Why are you here, resting? Shouldn't you be back in your nest by this time?"

"I am very hungry. You see, because of the heat, I haven't been able to eat for nearly a week"

"Hmm," the Tree gently mumbled. "I have neither food nor water to offer you. All I can provide is shade and a place to rest for a while". "Thank you, Tree" said the Falcon gratefully.

"In the meantime, would you like to hear a story?" asked the Tree. The Falcon agreed that it would be nice, as long it wasn't one with delicious grubs as he couldn't bear to think about his hunger.

The Tree began her story about a city. It was a very prosperous city and had many trading centres. Its people lived in tents as there were frequent storms and they couldn't afford to keep building houses. The people of the city were good and wanted only what was best for each other. They had no excessive greed, and was rather content with what they had. Towards the north of the city, there was a great, big mountain chain.

One day, a young traveler was walking along the feet of the mountains and he saw something in the ground, glittering.

He took his shovel and started digging; it was gold! Soon news spread that the mountains had tonnes of gold and even hidden treasures. People came to the city in search of the gold; entire forests on the mountains were cut down to find the elusive treasure. Soon the mountains were reduced to mere hills and after many years, they ceased to exist. Many people went home rich and happy but the city itself was in ruins. Earlier, the mountains had brought water into the city and the forests gave them their food. After the mountains disappeared, severe drought prevailed in that area. The people of the city were forced to move out.

"In short, an entire community was destroyed due to someone's greed", concluded the Tree. The Falcon blinked. Something about that story seemed familiar to him. He shook it off. It was probably just the hunger affecting his brain. Thanking the Tree for the story and for letting him stay there, he wished the Tree good luck and took off. Once airborne, he looked back towards the forlorn Tree standing amidst the dry land. He had forgotten to ask her something, he'd forgotten that too; he kept on flying.

Gouri Nair (IX A)

L'ecole Chempaka, Sreekaryam, Thiruvananthapuram

SPECIES OF THE ISSUE

White breasted Waterhen

(കുളക്കോഴി)



This bird is a native of India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, southern China, and the Philippines. They are seen very commonly near ponds and marshes. They are dark slate colored birds with a clean white face, breast, and belly. The body is flattened laterally to allow easier passage through the reeds or undergrowth. Both the male and female are similar, but the female is smaller in size. The younger birds are born black and slowly start to grow white feathers. They are often seen moving around, in open marshes or even drains near busy roads, stepping slowly with their tail cocked upright. Since they are one of the most common

birds in Kerala, they are easily seen around, but they are not heard till the monsoon arrives. These birds act as a sort of harbinger of the monsoon as these otherwise silent birds suddenly start making huge noise with the onset of monsoon as it is their breeding season. After the first rains, these birds are seen making loud croaking noises. The nests are seen to contain 6 or 7 cream or pinkish white eggs streaked and blotched with reddish brown patches. These birds usually eats insects, worms, mollusks, small fishes, grain and shoots of paddy and marsh plants. This is why it survives so easily – because it eats anything.

ACTIVITIES OF WWF-INDIA KERALA STATE OFFICE

Free CFL distribution as part of 'Going beyond Earth Hour'

As part of the Eco-Development and Tribal Welfare initiatives of the Kerala Forests and Wildlife Department, the Department joined hands with WWF on 3 September to freely distribute CFLs to the tribal households in Kattilapara under the Shendurney WLS. This is an extension of our Earth



Hour programme. WWF, KSEB Limited, EMC and Dept. of Environment & Climate Change have been partnering over the past few years in distribution of CFLs freely to families from the most economically backward sections of the society. Same was organized on 6th October in association with COME at Gundukadu Colony – a prominent slum



located right inside Thiruvananthapuram City. Another similar event was organized on 12th October in association with AMAS Neyyattinkara in the Rameswaram Ward of Neyyattinkara Municipality in which around 400 CFLs were distributed. The Municipality Chairperson was the Chief Guest of the event. Similar events were organized



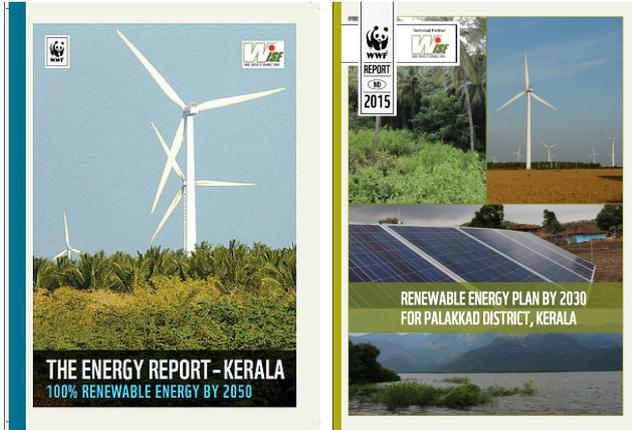
at Amaravila on 16th October, Karode and Kavalakulam on 24th October respectively.



Liaison work for Climate Change and Energy Programme

Since the study on 'Kerala Going 100% Renewable Energy by 2050' and the second part of the study exclusively for Palakkad District have been completed and the reports released in two earlier functions organized at Palakkad and Thiruvananthapuram, with the present change in Government in Kerala, to look at how the outcomes and recommendations of the report can be implemented in Kerala with the involvement of the stakeholders like KSEB Ltd, EMC, ANERT and others, it is proposed to have a Round Table Meeting with the participation of all stakeholders in Thiruvananthapuram. The meeting will conclude with the presentation of the 'Ten Point Action Agenda' to the Minister for Power and taking his feedback on the same. The necessary liaison work in this regard with WISE, State

Government and Minister's Office is being carried out as of now.



Talk at Satellite Symposium on Climate Change & Aquatic Ecosystems



Dept. of Aquatic Biology & Fisheries and Dept. of Environmental Studies of University of Kerala had jointly organized a Satellite Symposium titled 'Climate Change and Aquatic Ecosystems' on 23 Sept 2016. The State Director was specially invited as a Resource Person and the talk was delivered on the title 'Addressing Climate Change – From global to local' with special emphasis on the contributing and impacted sectors of climate change in the context of Kerala and India and how we can mitigate and adapt to it. The talk was well appreciated.

Common Bird Monitoring Programme



“Green Partnership Programme - a network of NGOs working in the field of bird documentation across the

State has come together to conduct the Common Bird Monitoring Programme (CBMP), also known as Onam Bird Count as the same happens during the Onam holidays, from 16th to 19th of September 2016. WWF-India is the coordinating agency for the three southern districts. We have conducted the Orientation Programme for Onam Bird Count for Thiruvananthapuram and Kollam districts on 5th and 6th September 2016 at Govt. Women's College, Thiruvananthapuram and SN College, Kollam respectively. This was a day-long (10.00am to 4.00pm) programme with three sessions conducted with the support of Social Forestry Wing of Kerala Forests & Wildlife Department. The event at Thiruvananthapuram was inaugurated by Sri. J.R. Ani, Asst. Conservator (SF) Thiruvananthapuram and at Kollam by Sri. Koshy John, Asst. Conservator (SF) Kollam. The sessions were led by Senior Education Officer,



Mr. Govind G., Mr. Sujith V. Gopalan and Mr. Jaichand Johnson, WWF- India Volunteers and Expert Birders. We have given orientation to more than 60 students and individuals in both the districts. The participants observed the birds in the field from 16-19 Sept for 15 minutes time slots and the observations have been uploaded on www.ebird.org. Our volunteers and staff also became part of this participatory programme. The data submission and analysis is still going on.

International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer 2016



State Director and Senior Education Officer were invited by Kerala University College of Teacher Education, Kollam in connection with the observation of the Ozone Day 2016. State Director led an interactive session titled 'Ozone, Climate Change & You' and Senior Education Officer led the session titled 'Ecological Footprint and Sustainability'.

The State Director was invited as the Chief Guest for the Ozone Day Programme at S.N. College, Punalur organized on 30 Sept. The day's programme was inaugurated and the talk on 'Ozone, Climate Change & You' delivered by the State Director in the function presided over by Dr. Jayadevan, Principal of S.N. College.

Bird Atlas

Under the Green Partnership Programme, Kerala State Office was engaged in the field survey and preparation of the Bird Atlas of Thiruvananthapuram district for the wet season. The field level observations in pre-determined samples were carried out in 162 locations in non-forest areas. Under the co-ordination of the Senior Education Officer, 12 teams covered the entire district looking for birds during the time slot from 6.30am to 10.30am. All the leaders were in the field, accompanied by one or two volunteers, even during holidays. The team went to each predetermined sample cell and collected 2 sets of observations, each spanning 15 minutes. Though it was started on July 23rd, the work was completed by 11th September. Around 150 species of birds have been documented through this intensive task.

Wildlife Week 2016



Kerala State Office observed Wildlife Week 2016 at MM NSS College, Kottiyam on 5th October 2016. Sri. Shanavas A., Wildlife Warden of Shendurney WLS inaugurated the programme in the function chaired by Dr.G.Girijadevi, Principal of the college. Session on 'Wildlife - issues and



concerns' was led by Sri. Renjan Mathew Varghese, State Director and 'Urban Wildlife' by Sri. A.K.Sivakumar, Senior Education Officer. In the afternoon session, the documentary 'Home- Our Garden of Eden' was screened for the benefit of the Participants, to understand the wildlife around our homes itself.



Orientation Programme for WWF Nature Club affiliated to AMAS

The State Director was invited on 12th October to address the gathering of Nature Club Members of AMAS, Neyyattinkara. Around 15 Members were present in the gathering organized at 2pm in the AMAS Office.



Sri. Rajendran, Director, AMAS gave the welcome and introductory remarks. The State Director talked to the students on the increasing environmental issues that we have around us and the need for youth to stand up and respond to such issues through awareness and action oriented programmes. As an outcome of this meeting, it has been decided that AMAS and its Nature Club Members and other Volunteers will be incorporated into the VEP co-ordinated by the State Office.

School visit in connection with WIPRO earthian programme 2016



Senior Education Officer visited L'ecole Chempaka, Saraswathy Vidyalaya and Holy Angels ISC Schools in connection with ipro - earthian programme. He checked the projects and suggested necessary corrective measures too.

Printing and supply of Biodiversity Posters for Social Forestry Division, Idukki

200 sets of a series of 10 Biodiversity Posters on the theme of 'Biodiversity of Kerala' were prepared, printed and handed over to the Social Forestry Division, Idukki on demand by the Asst. Conservator to be distributed during their awareness and outreach programmes in schools and colleges.

WWF Exhibition Stall at GHSS Manacaud

As part of the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations of Manacaud GHSS, they organized a Science based Exhibition titled Inspire 2016 in the school campus from 21 – 23 October 2016. WWF was also specially invited to put up our exhibition stall. Our exhibition panels and conservation



products were arranged in the two stalls allotted to us and the same was manned by Mr. Harish Kumar, Administrative Assistant and Mr. Sujith, Volunteer.

Friday Forum



Friday Forum for the month of October 2016 was held in an open venue within the Museum and Zoo Compound, Thiruvananthapuram on the theme 'Wildlife Conservation'. Around 75 students and teachers from 5 institutions participated and Sri. S. Radhakrishnan, Dy. Director, Wildlife Education, Kerala Forests & Wildlife Department led the session. It was a rather new experience for students to hear a session on Wildlife sitting right in the midst of wilderness.

Smart City Proposal for Thiruvananthapuram Corporation

An internal discussion and brainstorming session was conducted to come out with creative comments and suggestions as response towards Thiruvananthapuram Corporation's invitation towards giving inputs for the Smart City Proposal of the Corporation. The points were tabled, discussed and compiled into a WWF Note and submitted to the Corporation authorities.

Meeting on Ecotourism in Protected Areas

The APCCF (ED & TW) Ms. Prakriti Srivastava had called for a meeting to discuss on the very important topic on 'Ecotourism in Protected Areas'. Most of the experts in Kerala working on forests, wildlife, biodiversity etc. and also experts from the ecotourism sector were present in the meeting. WWF was also specially invited to the meeting. As part of the preparations, the inputs from the Secretariat were taken and Ms. Vishaish Uppal contributed proactively towards the same. The various inputs were compiled into a WWF Note on Ecotourism in Kerala and submitted in writing to the APCCF. The State Director also took active part in the day's discussions and deliberations.

Meeting on Shailesh Nayak Committee Report on CRZ



The State Director was invited to the meeting organized by MCiTRA at Hotel Nalanda, Kozhikode on 29th October. The keynote speaker of the programme was Dr.K.V.Thomas, Former Senior Scientist, NCESS, Thiruvananthapuram and presently Adjunct Faculty, Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies, Kochi. The State Director had taken the necessary inputs from Mr. Vinod Malayilethu, Senior Co-ordinator, Marine Programme on this subject and took active role in the day's discussions and deliberations.

EDITORIAL BOARD

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