

FROM THE STATE DIRECTOR'S DESK

We are coming to the end of another financial year. Looking back, we are proud to say that this year has been a very dynamic one for us with regard to fulfilling our mission of nature conservation and environment protection. Almost all the months were packed with programmes which included observation of environmentally significant days like Ozone Day, Wildlife Week, Coastal Cleanup Day, Tourism Day, Wetlands Day, National Science Day etc where we organized environment education, awareness and sensitization programmes in different parts of Kerala for students, youth and general public. We have initiated some projects for conservation of species and habitats which includes 'Carbon sequestration aspects of Mangroves of Kannur District' funded by Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India, 'Development of Sustainable Livelihood Index for the Ramsar Site (Vembanad) of Kerala' funded by Environment Management Agency Kerala, 'Biodiversity study, documentation and preparation of signages, information panels and handbook for the Thiruvananthapuram Museum and Zoo Complex' funded by Directorate of Museums & Zoos, and 'Design, preparation and installation of Information Panels for the Deer Park in Thenmala' funded by Thenmala Ecotourism Promotion Society. Like in the past few years, we have been able to organize in association with CPREEC, Chennai, about 15 Teachers Training Workshops covering almost all the districts of Kerala training teachers and teacher trainees on Environment Education and Education for Sustainable Development. We have about 100 Nature Clubs in the State. The three-day 'Environment Education Planning Meeting' convened at Thrissur with the District Co-ordinators of Nature Clubs gave a real boost to the programmes at the district level and we have been able to organize various programmes like workshops, seminars, lectures, classes, competitions, green gatherings, nature camps etc for its

members. This has been a year in which environmentalists, conservationists, nature lovers and others have come together in the Capital City under the banner of 'Haritha Kootayma' to protect the urban tree cover from being unwantedly felled for road widening and WWF was also an active partner in that effort. We have also been active in making our concerns heard with regard to the new upcoming regulatory framework for Wetlands Conservation. We have also been able to put together many other programmes like putting up awareness exhibition in stalls at Youth Forum 2008 at Kochi, Annam - National Food and Agro biodiversity Festival at Thiruvananthapuram, Tech Fest at Model Engineering College, Kochi, World Tourism Day programme at Mar Ivanios College, Thiruvananthapuram. WWF was the local co-ordinator for Thiruvananthapuram for the national level 'Bird Race 2008' organised every year with support of HSBC. We were also instrumental in protecting the heronry in Pandy, Alappuzha. Our greatest success story for this year has been our intervention with regard to protection of the marine turtles. We have been trying out various approaches since the last many months and in the month of January, in association with Kerala Forests and Wildlife Department and with the support of Union Ministry of Environment and Forests, we have been able to organize the State-level Workshop on Olive Ridley Turtle Conservation in Thiruvananthapuram bringing together people from various sections of the society and also from different parts of the State. It has been a great success in that it has helped to initiate and boost conservation efforts at the local level by local environmental groups and also with the Kerala Forests and Wildlife Department as facilitator. We plan to take this ahead in full steam to ensure that our marine friends, not just turtles, are protected. Looking ahead, we already see many new areas of intervention and already we have initiated the thought process to put in genuine conservation efforts in a coordinated manner to ensure that we leave a living planet for our future generations also.

Renjan Mathew Varghese, State Director

IMPORTANT NEWS ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURE

GLOBAL

Pink iguanas discovered on Galapagos Islands

A team of Ecuadorian and Italian researchers have discovered a unique species of pink land iguanas living on the Galapagos Islands, the scientist who wrote the report told AFP. "It is surprising to have made a find of this

magnitude in the 21st century," said Washington Tapia, head of research at the Galapagos National Park.

The first pink iguanas were discovered in 1986, and after years of research, scientists concluded that it was a unique species. "We have not yet determined the size of the population, but we estimate that it is small because we have only captured 36 pink iguanas for research up to now," Tapia said. This can be up to 1.8 meters (6 feet) long as measured from tip to tail, and unlike the other land iguanas does not have a row of spines running up its back. "It is a unique species," Tapia said. "But more research is needed to better determine its unique characteristics." (Source: www.chinapost.com, 7th Jan 2009).

Fourteen percent (14 %) drop in coral growth seen in the Great Barrier Reef

The effects of global warming have shown up in a definite way in the Great Barrier Reef of Australia. A paper in the latest issue of the Science journal notes unprecedented effects of increased CO₂ on the Great Barrier Reef. Scientists found the rate at which corals were able to build skeletons dropped by 14 per cent during the period of study (1990 to 2005). Coral reefs are considered as the rain forests of the ocean as they support great biodiversity. Any drop in growth of the reefs of the Great Barrier Reef is hence worrying. What makes the study significant is that scientists studied 328 colonies from 69 reefs, and the duration of study was 15 years. Though the scientists note that the precise “causes of decline” in calcification are not known, their study suggests that increased temperature stress and increased acidity of sea water are the most likely causes. (Source: *The Hindu*, Jan 08, 2009)

NATIONAL

Project Snow Leopard launched

The government on Tuesday launched ‘Project Snow Leopard’ to safeguard and conserve India’s unique natural heritage of high-altitude wildlife populations and their habitats by promoting conservation through participatory policies and actions. The Project Snow Leopard is an initiative for strengthening wildlife conservation in the Himalayan high altitudes, covering Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim. It aims at promoting a knowledge-based and adaptive conservation framework that fully involves the local communities, who share the snow leopard’s range, in conservation efforts.

Launching the project, Minister of State for Forest and Wildlife S. Regupathy said predators such as the snow leopard — at the apex of ecological pyramid — suffered the most partly on account of their relatively smaller population and also because of man-animal conflict. This situation got aggravated by the hostile landscape forming its habitat.

With nearly 750 snow leopards in the country, the project will facilitate a landscape-level approach to wildlife conservation by developing scientific frameworks for comprehensive surveys, rationalising the existing protected area network and improving protected area management. The project will encourage focused conservation and recovery programmes for endangered species, promote stronger measures for wildlife protection and law enforcement and better understand and manage human-wildlife conflict. It will reduce existing anthropogenic pressures on natural resources and promote conservation education.

According to Director-General (Forests) P.R. Mohanty, Project Snow Leopard will be treated on a par with other flagship species programmes of the country such as Project Tiger and Project Elephant. (Source: *The Hindu*, Jan 21, 2009)

Avian additions at Kolleru Lake

A team of ornithologists from the Birdwatchers’ Society of Andhra Pradesh (BSAP) has made two additions to the avifauna list of Kolleru Lake after a three-day field trip to

the wildlife sanctuary made at the request of the Forest Department. BSAP team recorded the presence of the Spoonbilled Sandpiper and the Watercock for the first time in the area. The team sighted 117 species of birds in three days.

A report sent to the Forest Department said the spotting of the Spoonbilled Sandpiper was the first on record in the region. It said the sighting of this “critically endangered and coastal species” in the sanctuary significantly increased the need for further protection of the area. The team also sighted the Watercock, a shy bird that is difficult to spot, at Atapaka on January 26. It is an addition to the list of Kolleru birds. The team-members were unable to sight the Great White Pelican that was reported and even photographed at the lake earlier. They, however, sighted over a dozen Bank Mynahs that were reported to be relatively rare in Andhra Pradesh. Some of the species sighted are classified as ‘Highly Vulnerable and Critically Endangered’ in the IUCN Red Data Book. (Source: *The Hindu*, Feb 25, 2009)

STATE

Mapping the world of birds

Following in the footsteps of legendary ornithologist Dr. Salim Ali, who mapped Kerala’s bird population for the first time 75 years ago, the Kerala State Biodiversity Board and the Kerala Forests and Wildlife Department are joining hands to undertake a bird survey. In 1933, it was the Maharaja of erstwhile Travancore State who initiated the scientific survey on the birds and their habitats in the State with the involvement of the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS). The survey was led by Dr. Salim Ali with the assistance of the then curator of the Thiruvananthapuram Zoo N. G. Pillai. They started the survey on January 3, 1933, and completed it on December 31 the same year. The outcome of the survey was an exhaustive book titled ‘Ornithology of Travancore and Cochin’ published in 1953. Later, it was revised and reprinted after further studies in the erstwhile Malabar State in 1969.

The Kerala State Biodiversity Board and the Forest and Wildlife Department are planning to do exactly what Dr. Ali did, sticking to the same dates, periodicity of survey and localities of observation, but using modern gadgetry that would help avert the need to capture the birds for examination. The survey would, thus, begin on January 3 and end on December 31, 2009. Once again, the survey would be done through the Salim Ali Wild Wings Trust under the BNHS. The idea is to compare the findings in 1933 and the situation 75 years later to study the changes that have come about in the various parameters of bird life and their habitats in Kerala.

In 1933, the study was conducted at 19 stations over 172 days. Of these, three stations are now in Tamil Nadu. During the 1933 survey, bird specimens were collected and different parameters of each bird was recorded and skin was processed and stored at the Bombay Natural History Museum. Each collection centre was marked using magnetic compass and the altitude of each station using altimeter. No attempt was made to study the population or density of each species. This time round, modern equipment such as digital camera, GPS, binoculars and call recorders would

be used in the study, to be conducted in two phases, beginning with the former Travancore region. As in 1933, the 170-day study would result in a report and a book to be prepared by the BNHS. (Source: *The Hindu*, Jan 01, 2009)

Norms issued for parading of jumbos

Those wishing to parade elephants for festivals should henceforth seek prior permission from the District Collector or an official authorised by him. Elephant owners applying for such permission must produce the ownership certificate given by the Chief Wildlife Warden; certificate showing that the elephant has been registered in the State; certificate proving that a microchip has been affixed on the elephant; animal's medical fitness certificate; documents showing that the elephant's owner has taken insurance cover for not less than Rs.2.5 lakh for the mahouts; agreement between the owner and the festival committee for preventing any harassment of the animal from people who come for the festival; and the documents showing time-bound insurance cover (along the lines of the third party insurance cover for vehicles) for damages caused by the elephant, if it turns violent.

If more than five elephants are being paraded, a public liability insurance cover is compulsory. The presence of an elephant squad and veterinary surgeons must be ensured during the festival. In addition to this, there should also be a certification from the District Police Superintendent or from an official authorised by him regarding the crowd expected at the venue of the festival and that there is sufficient space for all the elephants being paraded to move about. (Source: *The Hindu*, Jan 29, 2009)

Ecologically Fragile Land Act to be amended

The Government would amend the Kerala Forests (Vesting and Management of Ecologically Fragile Lands) Act in a bid to solve the problems being faced by small and marginal farmers, Forests Minister Benoy Viswom has said. Replying to questions in the Assembly on Tuesday, Mr. Viswom said the State Government would fix a ceiling for the land holdings of small and marginal farmers and exempt them from the Act. A special committee would be set up to look into the complaints about the proposed amendments. The Government had so far taken over 32,641.24 acres of land as per the provisions of the Act. (Source: *The Hindu*, Feb 18, 2009).

SPECIES OF THIS ISSUE

Ashoka *Saraca indica*

"*Saraca indica*" locally known as Ashoka is a small flowering tree found across in our State in gardens, homesteads etc. This tree has been considered both as a garden as well as a medicinal tree. Ashoka is an evergreen plant with a height of 3 -5 meters with enough branching with long dark green leaves. This tree comes under the family leguminaceae and the red bunchy flowers forms an inflorescence. Like all leguminaceae plants, fruit is a pod with dark brown colored seeds inside. The seeds grow in moist soil and the tender leaves are drooping with pink colour.



The flowers and bark are being used for medicinal purpose in ayurveda. Flower of ashoka had been widely used for the uterine related disorders. There is a significant position for this plant in our culture also. In the Ramayana, it is mentioned as Seetha sitting under this tree while she was taken by Ravana in Lanka. It is also believed to be the tree under which Buddha was born.

A.K.Sivakumar

ACTIVITIES OF WWF-INDIA KERALA STATE OFFICE

Teachers Training Workshops

Three Teachers Training Workshops were conducted during these months at Kalpetta, Kuthuparamba and Mavelikara in association with CPREEC, Chennai on 15th and 16th January and 18th and 19th February respectively.

Wayanad

Forty eight teachers from different parts of Wayanad District participated in the workshop conducted at Govt.Vocational Higher Secondary School, Kalpetta that was inaugurated by Smt.N.I.Thankamony, Deputy Director of Education, Wayanad in a function presided over by Sri.A.Hussain, Principal of the school. Sri.Jayarajan, District Co-ordinator of NGC welcomed the participants and guests. A.K.Sivakumar, Education Officer from WWF-India, Kerala State Office introduced the workshop and organizers. Sri.T.S.Saji delivered vote of thanks.

Mr.Patheep of Ferns, Mananthavady, and Mr.Sivakumar led the technical sessions on Local environmental issues of Wayand, Environment Education and ecosystem interpretation. Activity session also was done on "Animals in our culture".

Kuthuparamba

The Teachers Training Workshop at BRC, Kuthuparamba was inaugurated by Sri.Srinivasan, Municipal Chairperson, Kuthuparamba in the function that was presided over by Sri.Sahilraj, Coordinator of the BRC. Sri.Bhaskaran welcomed the participants and guests. SriC.Sunilkumar, Wildlife Board Member and Senior Photographer of

Mathrubhoomi daily and Education Officer led the technical sessions. The game on "Elephants in our Culture" was done as a practical session

Mavelikara

The Teachers Training Workshop held at Peet Memorial Training College, Mavelikara on 18th and 19th February 2009 was meant for the Teacher Trainees from six different training institutes and was attended by 78 trainees. Adv. Hari Shankar, Educational Standing Committee Chairperson of Alappuzha inaugurated the workshop in the session that was chaired by Dr. Ashok Alex Philip, Principal of the College. Sri. Abraham Thomas welcomed the guests and participants and Sri. Pramod P.M., Secretary, Honeycomb Nature Club proposed vote of thanks. Dr. Mollykutty T.M., of St. Thomas Training College, Pala felicitated the workshop.

The technical sessions on need for Environmental awareness and consciousness, Environment Education and



Education for Sustainable Development etc were led by Sri. K.J. Sureshkumar, Lecturer, NSS Training College, Changanassery, Sri. A.K. Sivakumar, Sri. Abraham Thomas of the Peet Memorial Training College.

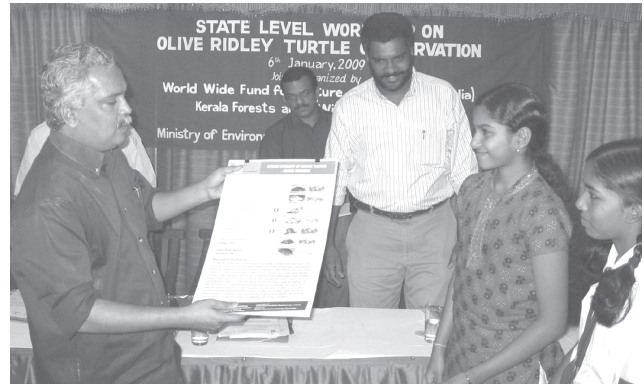
Activity session on "Linking Economy, Environment and Society for the understanding of ESD" was also done. As part of the activity session, the participants were grouped to conduct a field study at six different sites. They did a socio-economic and ecological analysis and prepared sample environment education programmes to address the same.

ORT Workshop on 6th January

A State level workshop on 'Marine Turtle Conservation' was jointly organised by World Wide Fund for Nature-India (WWF-India) and Kerala Forests and Wildlife Department with support from Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India on Tuesday, the 6th of January at Hotel Pankaj, Thiruvananthapuram. The workshop was inaugurated by Shri Binoy Viswam, Hon'ble Minister for Forests and Housing in the function presided over by Sri T.M. Manoharan, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests. During the inaugural address Sri. Binoy Viswam appreciated the initiative of WWF in organizing such a workshop and bringing together people from different groups involved in marine turtle conservation.

Dr. K. Vijayakumaran, Senior Scientist, CMFRI, Mangalore delivered the key note address and Dr.

Bijukumar, Lecturer, Dept. of Aquatic Biology, University of Kerala gave a presentation on Status, Threats and Conservation of Olive Ridley Turtles. Dr. Vinod M., Senior Coordinator, Marine Conservation Programme, WWF-India also spoke on the occasion. Representatives from NGOs, R&D institutions, educational institutions, government departments participated in the workshop. NGOs working for turtle conservation at the local level like Naithal from Kasargod, Theeram from Kozhikode, Green Habitat from Thrissur and Thanal from Thiruvananthapuram shared their experiences in the field.



The afternoon session witnessed active discussion from the participants and the workshop has put forward the following recommendations: (1) Strict enforcement and punitive measures for violators of the Wildlife Protection Act (2) Local participation involving local self government, schools, colleges, youth clubs etc with the Forest Department as facilitator (3) Education and awareness programmes for the different sections of the society (4) Possible co-ordination between the various enforcement agencies like Forest Department, Coast Guard, Fisheries Department etc

During the valedictory session Shri K.P. Ouseph, IFS, Chief Wildlife Warden of the State called for developing successful models of participatory conservation with regard to marine biodiversity and offered all possible support from the side of the Forest Department towards the same.

Pandy Environment Education programme

As part of the Heronry Conservation at Pandy, three educational programmes were conducted. Education Officer did a powerpoint presentation of importance of wetland conservation and wetland birds at Govt. HSS, Ayaparambu on 9th January 2009. About 100 students attended the programme.

Following this, in the evening a slideshow on the same topic was conducted at Govt. LPS Pandy for the nearby residing students and local public and was attended by nearly 30 individuals. The support extended by the local public was commendable.

On the next day a birdwatching trip was conducted for the students of the area and bird enthusiasts from different parts of the State. Fifteen students from Peet Memorial Training College, Mavelikara also participated in this programme.



Green Gathering at Kozhikode

A gathering of 100 students with green mind was organized under the auspices of World Wide Fund for Nature-India (WWF-India), Kerala State Office at Prestige Public School, Mankavu on 17th and 18th January 2009.

The gathering was inaugurated by the well-known and committed environmentalist Prof.S.Sobheendran in a function that was presided over by Sri.N.Rama-chandran Nair, Principal of Little Daffodils School, West Hill. Mrs.Sahirabanu, Principal of Prestige Public School welcomed the guests and participants. Janab N. Ummarkoya, Chairman of the school and Janab Abdul Majeed, Vice president of PTA of the school felicitated the function. Mrs.Anju Anand proposed vote of thanks.



The event was organised with an objective of providing knowledge on nature and environment as well as to create a network of nature loving youngsters. It also envisaged the gathering of school students who loves Mother Nature and to share their concern over her. Technical sessions on Biodiversity of Kerala, Birds & Butterflies, Mangrove forests, Climate Change and Carbon emission were led by Mr.A.K.Sivakumar, Dr.T.N.Vijayakumar of NSS College, Manjeri, Dr.Kishorkumar of MNHS and Dr.Sabu.P.G of MAMO College Mukkom respectively with the aid of PowerPoint presentations.

Students prepared and presented PowerPoint presentations on given topics like global warming, endangered animals, water conservation, aquatic animals, birds, butterflies, water pollution and local environmental issues. The students did their job in a very excellent mode

and the youngsters from Beeline Public School, Kuttikkattoor bagged the first prize and Hilltop Public School, Puthiyara and Mices Public School, Areacode bagged second and third prizes respectively for these presentations. The participants organized a well explanatory poster exhibition also on the topics. Nature watch, discussions, skits, songs related to nature and environment also were part of the Green Gathering.

Haritha Kootayma

WWF-India joined hands with a number of like minded organisations and individuals in the public campaign against the indiscriminate tree felling in the name of road widening within the Thiruvananthapuram City. The team was actively involved in putting anti felling slogan boards on trees, meeting Ministers in this regard, signature campaign and raising public support. WWF also brought out a sticker in connection with this.

Tech Fest at Model Engineering College, Kochi

As part of this programme, on request by the students, WWF organised an exhibition on Biodiversity of Kerala, Wildlife Quiz and Seminar at the College Auditorium on 24th of January. The programme was attended by about 100 participants mainly school and college students.

World Wetlands Day 2009

World Wetlands Day 2009 was observed with the participation of 150 students from different educational institutions in and around Cherthala at NSS College, Cherthala on 2nd February 2009. The event was organized jointly by WWF-India, Kerala State Office and NSS Unit of the college with the support of Thenmala Ecotourism Promotion Society (TEPS).

The programme started off with the welcome address by Sri.Sakthibabu R.L., NSS Programme Officer of the college. The programme was inaugurated by Sri.A.Thilothaman MLA in the function that was presided over by Prof.K.V.Surendranath, Principal of the college. Sri. Renjan Mathew Varghese, State Director of WWF-India introduced the programme. Sri.T.P.Narayanankutty IFS, Ecotourism Director pointed out the impacts of water scarcity and national environment policy for the



conservation of wetlands. He highlighted the importance of ecotourism also while releasing the sticker set published in connection with the programme. Following this A.K.Sivakumar, Education Officer from WWF-India conducted a Quiz Competition on Wetlands. Dr.Vinod M., Senior Coordinator, Marine Division of WWF-India and Sri. Renjan Mathew Varghese, State Director of WWF-India led the technical sessions on "Wetlands of India" and "Issues and Concerns on Wetlands".

The activity session on understanding our wetlands also was done with the active participation of the student community. It was a self study event and a knowledge sharing programme. During the presentation session they performed skits, mini drama, posters etc. A Photo Exhibition on the various aspects of Mangrove Ecosystem, one of the most productive type of wetlands, were also arranged in an adjacent classroom for the better understanding and benefit of the students.

Camp at Periyar Tiger Reserve

A Nature Education Camp was conducted at Vallakkadavu forests of Periyar Tiger Reserve from 10th to 12th February 2009 with the participation of 17 Nature Club Members from Sri Ayyappa College, Eramallikkara. The Camp was led by Education Officer, Mr.Biju and Nitheesh, volunteers of WWF-India. As PTR is rich in its biodiversity, the participants had a wonderful experience of knowing and feeling evergreen, deciduous forest and its wildlife. The orientation session by Dr.Jiji.K.Joseph, Nature Education Officer of Periyar Foundation was interesting, informative and though provoking. During the field trips they could observe a number of birds, Sambar deers, Barking deers, Malabar giant squirrel, Bonnet macaques, Nilgiri langurs, Elephants, Wild boars, Otters etc....



Session on Water birds at SN College, Punalur

In connection with the Wetland Conservation awareness programme organized in association with Kerala State Biodiversity Board, Education Officer had presented a PowerPoint show on Wetland Birds of Kerala. Both resident and migrant birds seen across the State were introduced to them. The importance of wetlands and its conservation also was highlighted in the presentation. Adaptations of wetland birds, ecological roles and life style were well explained.

Winter Camp at Munnar

A three day Winter Camp was conducted for the regular camp participants of WWF-India at Eravikulam National Park, Marayur, Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary and Mannavanshola of Anamudishola National Park under Eravikulam Wildlife Division on 22nd, 23rd and 24th February 2009. The insightful feeling and experience within the Naemakkad Shola was an unforgettable experience for the participants. The complex ecological processes and uniqueness of shola forests was described and they did a short meditation in the cool refreshing air.

At Marayur they could observe the production process of Marayur Jaggery, the famous and indigenous practice. The dolmens, locally known as Muniyaras believed as the burial place of the ancient communities of megalithic age who lived around here was another important and exciting attraction for the participants at Marayur.

During the full day nature watch within Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary, the participants got a clear concept on rain shadow regions and the dry thorny scrub jungles. Lot of birds, butterflies, Bonnet macaques, Hanuman langurs, Sambar deers, Spotted deers, Grizzled giant squirrels supplemented to their real experience in the wild. The sighting of elephant herd of twelve including a calf and sub adults was the bonus point for them at Chinnar.

On the third day, the team got in to the Mannavan Shola, part of Anamudi Shola National Park, 18 kms far from Marayur and thus completed the journey which was started at Naemakkad Shola. The Rhododendron trees in bloom, Giant tree ferns, moss coated shola trees, cool and soft humus of the forest floor and the streams with crystal clear cool water sensitized them on uniqueness and conservation value. The campers could see a handful of endemic species like Anamalay Salea (a lizard), Black and orange flycatcher, Nilgiri pipit, Nilgiri Wood Pigeon, etc.



National Science Day 2009

National Science Day 2009 was celebrated by WWF-India, Kerala State Office in association with Kerala State Council for Science Technology and Environment and supported by Department of Science and Technology, Govt of India. The programme was observed as a workshop on the focal theme "Expanding Horizons of Science – Ornithology, the Science of Bird watching". The workshop was organised with field sessions within the premises of Zoo, Thiruvananthapuram and technical sessions were held at Women's Center, LMS Compound, Thiruvananthapuram.

The programme was attended by 58 people including students, birdwatchers and other professionals. The programme included both field and technical sessions. As part of the field study entire team exercised 2 hrs bird watching under the leadership of Sri.A.K.Sivakumar, Education Officer and Mr.P.B.Biju, Volunteer of WWF-India within the Museum and Zoo campus, Thiruvananthapuram. They reported forty species of birds. Each team was provided with binoculars and reference books.

The technical sessions on the avian diversity of Kerala, issues and concerns on avifauna of Kerala, practical aspects of bird watching, great Ornithologist of India and Kerala were led by Sri.C.Susanth, Coordinator of Warblers and Waders, Dr.E.Kunjikrishnan, Lecturer, University College, Sri.A.K.Sivakumar, Sri. Renjan Mathew Varghese respectively.



First post lunch session was a game title "Spots and Stripes". The game lifted the energy level of the programme and the participants had a nice exercise of observation.

The last session was a movie screening on Birds of Kerala prepared by Sri.Suresh Elamon, the well known wildlife photographer and videographer of South India. The movie provided a clear understanding on the appearance and behavior on birdlife of Kerala. It described about another 50 species of birds in Kerala.

During the valedictory session the participants expressed their feed back on the programme and every one appreciated the efforts taken by WWF-India and KSCSTE for making the Science of Ornithology into a simple topic as a laymen's science.

UPCOMING EVENT

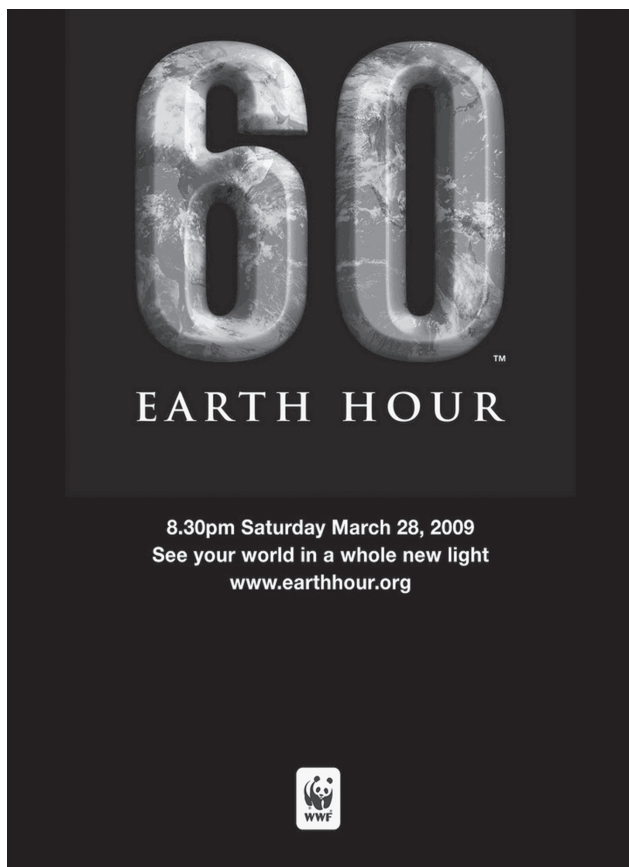
Earth Hour 2009

75 countries including India have committed to participate in WWF's Earth Hour in 2009. The campaign, which hopes to reach out to more than one billion people in 1000 cities around the world, encourage individuals, businesses and governments to switch off lights for just one hour on Saturday March 28, 2009 at 8:30pm to convey their support for action on climate change. Cities already committed to Earth Hour include Los Angeles, Las Vegas, London, Hong Kong, Sydney, Rome, Manila, Oslo, Cape Town, Warsaw, Lisbon, Singapore, Istanbul, Mexico City, Toronto, Dubai and Copenhagen.

2009 is a critical year in terms of the political decisions that will be made at global climate negotiations in December 2009. Earth Hour, aims to highlight the voice of the people of the world and represent a visual mandate for meaningful policy on climate change.

Actor & Filmmaker Aamir Khan joins Earth Hour 2009, as the face of the campaign in India

"Climate Change is undoubtedly and regrettably, the biggest immediate long-term environmental challenge we face. A failure to come to sound policy outcomes on climate change will not only have a negative environmental impact but also social and economic consequences for all of us. Stand up and join us in the fight against climate change. Support Earth Hour." Aamir Khan, Noted Bollywood actor & filmmaker



EDITORIAL BOARD

Mr. A.V. George
Mr. Renjan Mathew Varghese
Mr. A.K. Sivakumar

DO YOU KNOW?

The Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India have notified ambient air quality standards in respect of noise.

| Category of Area/ Zone | Limits in dB (A) (leq) | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|------------|
| | Day time | Night time |
| Industrial area | 75 | 70 |
| Commercial area | 65 | 55 |
| Residential area | 55 | 45 |
| Silence zone | 50 | 40 |

Prescribed Authorities to redress grievances

Industrial noise - Kerala State Pollution Control Board
(Working of industries)

Social noise - Police Department
(loud speakers, public address systems)

Automobile noise - Motor Vehicles Department



Kerala State Pollution Control Board

(under the Department of Environment of the Government of Kerala)

Head Office of the Board is at Thiruvananthapuram. Regional Offices at Thiruvananthapuram, Ernakulam and Kozhikode, District Offices in all the districts. The Central Laboratory of the Board is at Ernakulam.

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