

## **Report on Bat Education Materials sponsored by Chester Zoo, UK and Bat Conservation International, USA**

The Chiroptera Conservation and Information Network of South Asia *CCINSA* is a group of bat specialists and enthusiasts hosted by Zoo Outreach Organization. *CCINSA* acts as the South Asian Regional Representative of the IUCN SSC Chiroptera Specialist Group, SSC/IUCN. The inspiration for *CCINSA* had its roots in the Conservation Assessment and Management Plan (CAMP) workshop for Indian Mammals, which was conducted in 1997 organized and coordinated by Zoo Outreach Organization/CBSG India. The purpose of this group and its relationship with Chiroptera Specialist Group is to join bat field researchers throughout the South Asian region into a communication network so that a clearer picture of the status and distribution of bats in South Asia can emerge and lead to conservation action.

One of the important tasks of the group is to prepare education materials on bats at different levels on for conveying to policy makers, politicians and the public of all ages and languages. Another task has been to involve bat researchers in public education by providing printed education materials and guidelines for how to conduct an education programme.

Zoo Outreach Organisation has been developing awareness materials since the CAMP workshop and supplying this to *CCINSA* members, zoos, forest department personnel, education institutions, other NGO's and volunteer educators. Western Zoos/Organizations have sponsored this material for many years.

This year for the 58<sup>th</sup> Indian Wildlife Week, which is a very popular event of India, we developed the bat education kit themed "End of "Year of the Bat" but Threats remain.." with the generous sponsorship of Chester Zoo, UK and Bat Conservation International, USA. The packet item includes a booklet of bat truths and untruths, a placard, a bookmark, *rakhi* (wristband) and a colourful sticker. The 12 pages booklet has answers for many myths people believe about bats. The bookmark features true facts about bats.

ZOO invites the most active educators to conduct a programme with a group of 30-50 students or other participants who will utilize the packet items to learn about bat behaviour, qualities and problems. We require them to conduct a complete programme using all the materials in their packet to make it more interesting. We also ask organisers to provide a report to us when they are done. Detailed and illustrated reports on the Wildlife Week bat education programme were generated and published in ZOOS' PRINT, and are reflected below in brief.

We printed 2000 education kits and in which 1495 were distributed to 31 organisers for wildlife week. The remaining packets we have kept for upcoming events.



**List of Institutions/Individuals celebrated Wildlife Week with Bat Education materials**

<b>S.No</b>	<b>Name &amp; address of the person</b>	<b>No. Pkts</b>
1	Mr. Vinod Kumar Damodar, Jt. Sec., Con. of Nature Society, Kerala	40
2	Mrs. Jessie Jeyakaran, Ramapuram, Chennai, Tamil Nadu	50
3	Mr. S. Sivakumar, Prog. Offi. Sundaravan, Ahmedabad, Gujarat	50
4	Mr. Mangal Kachhap, RFO, Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary, Jharkhand	50
5	Mr. A.K. Jha, Director, PNH Zoo. Park, Darjeeling, West Bengal	50
6	Dr. C.M. Seth, Chairperson, WWF-India, Jammu & Kashmir	50
7	Mr. T.J. Ravikumar, DCF (WL), Shimoga, Karnataka	50
8	The Head Master, Lalitha Primary School, Kallidaikurichi, Tamil Nadu	50
9	Ms. R. Aiswariya, Trustee, Tree Trust, Kallidaikurichi, Tamil Nadu	50
10	Ms. Payal Narain, Senior Manager (CP), WWF India, New Delhi	50
11	Dr. A.Kumaraguru, Biodiversity Cons. Foundation, Trichy, Tamil Nadu	50
12	Ms. Sangita Saxena, State Director, WWF-I, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh	50
13	Mr. Bablu Dey, Exe. Dir., Green Heart Nature Club, Kokrajhar, Assam	50
14	Mr. H.J. Bhandary, Director, Dr. S.K. Pilikula Biological Park, Karnataka	50
15	Mr. Ajith Kumar Bhowmik, Director, Sepahijala Zoological Park, Tripura	50
16	Mr. D.N.F. Carvalho, Dy. Conservator of Forests, Panaji, Goa	50
17	Mr. Anil M. Anjankar, Director, V J B Udayan & Zoo, Mumbai, Maharashtra	50
18	Mr. Satyanarayan Mishra, Curator, IG Park Zoo, Rourkela, Odisha	50
19	M. Mathivanan, Co-ordinator, ATREE, Manimutharu, Tamil Nadu	30
20	Dr. Goutam Sharma, Young Scientist, J.N.V. University, Jodhpur, Rajasthan	50
21	Mr. A.K. Sivakumar, Senior Education Officer, WWF-India, Kerala	50
22	Mr. Amitabh Agnihotri, Director, National Zoological Park, New Delhi	50
23	Dr. Sitaram Taigor, Sec. Gen., Chambal Cons. Initiative, Gwalior, MP	50
24	Dr. Puja Vijay Sukhija, Exe. Dir., OASIS, Mumbai, Maharashtra	50
25	Mr. P. Ramesh, Founder - Nethaji Snake Trust, Usilampatti, Tamil Nadu	50
26	Dr. Amita Kanaujia, Assoc. Prof., University of Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh	50
27	Mr. Bhim Singh Rawat, Proj.Offi., PEACE Institute, New Delhi	50
28	Mr. W. J. Revingston, HM, Samaria St. Johns HS School, Thisayanvilai, TN	50
29	Dr. Anil Kumar Chhangani, Assoc. Prof., MG Singh Univ., Bikaner, Rajasthan	50
30	Dr. Sanjay Molur, Exe. Director, ZOO, Coimbatore, TN	10
31	Mr. Rengaswamy, Nilgiri Biosphere Nature Park, Coimbatore, TN	15
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1495</b>

## Short reports of some organizations utilizing the bat education materials

### **ATREE, Manimuthar, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu**

ATREE- Agasthyamalai Community-based Conservation Centre (ACCC) conducted drawing competition and procession on 5 October 2012 with the involvement of school students to mark the Wildlife Wee. About 100 students from Government High School, Padmaneri, Tirunelveli participated in this event. Since 2011-2012 has been declared as International Year of Bat, bat conservation theme was adopted. Drawing competition was conducted in the morning and afternoon a lecture on bats was delivered by Mathivanan, followed by Mr. Sekar, Deputy Director of Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve (KMTR) gave a talk on wildlife week and fauna of KMTR. The Deputy Director distributed the prizes to the winners of drawing competition and all participants received the bat kit, sponsored by the Zoo outreach organization. Following the ceremony saplings were planted in the school premises and later students participated in the procession in the theme of Bat conservation adorning bat badges and masks. The students voiced the slogans in the procession. After the procession, the School Head master Mr. Arumugam Pillai greeted the students. **Submitted by: M. Mathivanan, Coordinator. mathi@atree.org.**



**Government School student's bat conservation procession**

### **Indira Gandhi Park Zoo, Rourkela, Odisha**

Horticulture Department, SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant celebrated Wildlife Week for three days from 4-6 October, to create and spread awareness among the school students. The education materials provided by Zoo Outreach Organisation (ZOO), Coimbatore, TN helped to organize different interactive sessions among the students. On 4 October 2012, at the Indira Gandhi Park a programme was organized for 40 students along with 2 teachers from Ispat Vidyalaya, Sector - 18, Rourkela. About 1000-bat population in Indira Gandhi Park attract many wildlife lovers to know about the unique animals. Sri S. Mishra, Curator, Indira Gandhi Park, Rourkela Steel Plant conducted an interactive session on bats. The students were allowed to play a game 'A blind can see'

which was related to the vision in nocturnal animals like bat. Then the students were briefed about the echolocation mechanism by which a bat can detect any kind of objects. The students enjoyed the game. At the end of the programme, the education materials provided by Z.O.O., Coimbatore were given to the students which were full of fun materials like rakhi /wrist bands, placards, information booklet, posters, stickers, etc. **Submitted by: Mr. Satyanarayan Mishra, Curator. satyanarayanster@gmail.com**

### **Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling, West Bengal**

Wildlife week 2012 was celebrated at Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling. The focus of this year's programme was on changing attitudes of children towards wildlife. About 400 students and 40 teachers from West Point School, Kumudini Homes Higher Secondary School, Divya Jyoti School, St. Robert's Higher Secondary School, Gyanoday Niketan, Living Stones Academy, Bright Academy, Kanchanjunga Primary School, Municipal Boys' Primary School and Hill Social Welfare Society participated. Educational materials received from Zoo Outreach Organization on "End of the year of the Bat Threats remains", which includes posters, postcards, and different masks of animals were used. They were explained about the Bats- types



**Dignitaries at the Indira Gandhi Park Zoo's bat awareness programme**





**The teachers trained at the Darjeeling zoo conducted bat awareness programme at their schools**

of bats, their role in the ecosystem and their conservation values. The students were asked to tie *rakhi* as a symbol of their commitment to conservation. Posters were given to the teachers and asked them to hang on their school notice board. The animal masks were distributed to the primary level students.

**Submitted by: Mr. Alankar.K. Jha, Director.** [alankarkjha@gmail.com](mailto:alankarkjha@gmail.com)

#### **Peace Institute, New Delhi- Bat Awareness Preprogramme**

On 21 November 2012, an hour bat awareness programme on the theme "Save the Bat" was conducted at Ramda, Muzzafar

Nagar in Uttar Pradesh. The participants were Yamuna Eco-Scholar (YES) students of Vidhya Bharti Public School and other local schools and they are studying 5-8 Std and their ages between 10-15. Mr. Sompal Singh of Yamuna Gram Samiti was the resource person. Zoo Outreach Organization's bat education kit was used. By using the kit the valuable information about the species, habitats and the ecological importance of the bats were shared among students. **Submitted by: Bhim Singh Rawat, Project Officer.** [we4earth@gmail.com](mailto:we4earth@gmail.com).

#### **Montfort Mt. Higher Secondary School, Chennai, Tamil Nadu**

On 10 Oct. nearly 220 students of standard VIII in Montfort Mt. HSS Chennai celebrated wildlife week on the theme Bats in the International Year of Bat. Bro. KN Thomas, The programme started with Correspondent's inspiring speech on wildlife, Mrs. Jessie Jeyakaran's introductory talk and the distribution of bat education kit by Bro. Arul Deeparaj, The Principal and Mr. Paul Jeyakaran. The students divided into four groups and each group taken each activity such as tying of rakhi, holding the placard, learning from the bookmark and reading the truth and untruth of Bat. Pictures on the cover had leaded them by self-learning. Participants were excited to know about the insectivorous and frugivorous bats. The 180 observers learnt a lot from the students. Elucidatory questions were asked at the end. The role-play with the mask of family members Govt and forest officials add the real spirit. Identification of the bat pollinators from the fruit bat was very interesting. The drawing sheets and the clay model have thrown new knowledge to the onlookers. Students given their feed back at the end and they says: very informative; interesting and entertaining; excellent gifts with the pictures of bat; the assumptions about



**PEACE Institute's save the bat programme**



**Montfort School Students taking an oath for bat conservation by holding bat placard**



**Montfort school students teaching about South Asian fruit bats by using colour cards to the observers**

bat (wild, bad) are erased from my mind; wish to spread the news; on the spot questioning about the bat was appreciated; very proud to be a part of ZOO, India. The Principal distributed the gifts (post card, sticker with bat) to the winners of drawing clay model and on the spot answering. Ms. Susan and Ms. Nancy the teacher coordinators shared this to 106 science club students and 105 eco club students in the same week. Ms. Kanthimathi the reporter from The Hindu witnessed the entire program for publishing in the daily. **Submitted by: Mrs. Jessie Jeyakaran.** [jessiejey@rediffmail.com](mailto:jessiejey@rediffmail.com)

#### **Sepahijala Zoological Park & Wildlife Sanctuary, Tripura**

During 58 Wildlife Week a district level competition was held at Sepahijala on 16 October. In this programme we explained about

the materials received from Z.O.O among students of Schools & Colleges and photographs were taken. The students and the teachers were very much enthusiastic and pleased to have the materials. The materials received from Z.O.O were very much useful for generating awareness programme among youths. Submitted by **Mr. A. K. Bhowmik, Director.** [dszoo141@gmail.com](mailto:dszoo141@gmail.com).

#### **Sundarvan, Ahmedabad, Gujarat**

Sundarvan designed and conducted activities for different walk of people during wildlife week. A bat awareness programme for general public was arranged on 1 October. The education material received from Zoo Outreach Organisation (ZOO) was used during the occasion to enhance our regular activities. **Submitted by: S.**



**Mr. A. K. Bhowmik explains about wildlife conservation including bats**

**Sivakumar.**  
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#### **Dr. Shivaram Karanth Pilikula Biological Park, Mangalore, Karnataka**

During wildlife week 400 children participated in various competitions such as drawing and quiz.

A public function was conducted, more than 1,000 zoo visitors and students attended. H. J Bhandary, Director spoke on importance of the Wildlife week celebration. Chief Guest Sri Ajith Kumar Hedge, Executive Director, Pilikula Nisarga Dhama distributed the prizes to the winners. Education kits supplied by the Zoo Outreach Organization, Coimbatore on bats was distributed to the participants and also a informative session on bats conducted by Dr. Vibha, Veterinary Officer and Vikram Lobo, Scientific Officer, Pilikula Biological Park. Mr. H. J Bhandary, Director, Pilikula Biological Park thanked the Zoo Outreach Organization for providing bat education materials for the participants. **Submitted by: Mr. H.J. Bhandary, Director.** [pilikulazoo@gmail.com](mailto:pilikulazoo@gmail.com).

#### **Veermata Jijabai Bhosale Udyan-Zoo, Mumbai, Maharashtra**

The Wildlife Week festivities were flagged off on 1 October 2012 by a pledge-taking ceremony; written in Marathi, Hindi and English, which was led by Mr. Anil Paranjpe, Education-cum-PRO, where-in the Municipal School teachers and students from the private schools took oath and promised to "value and conserve the wildlife of our country". The Educational packet on the topic bat was received from the Zoo Outreach Organisation, Coimbatore. A demonstration on how to use the bat education materials for creating empathy and awareness about these non-charismatic animals bats in particular and wildlife in general was given to the teachers participated in zoo awareness programmes. The bat packets were supplied to the students and teachers after that. The teachers expressed that the





**Bat education materials are being described to the teachers at the Mumbai zoo awareness programme**

Balasubramaniam, Secretary of the College shared some rare information about the fruit eating bats. Mr. Ravichandran, Forest Ranger described about the Indian Wildlife Protection Act. Mr. Ramesh, Founder of Nethaji Snake Trust gave detailed information about bats. He explained in very detail about ZOO's bat kit to the students. They all took an oath by tying rakhi each other and holding placard to save bats. Mr. Masanam, President of the college gave vote of thanks.

**Submitted by: P. Ramesh.**  
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**The Devar College students shouting bat conservation slogans by holding bat placard**

material is highly useful for conducting awareness programmes in their schools.

**Submitted by: Mr. Anil M. Anjankar, Director.**  
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**Nethaji Snake Trust, Usilampatti, Madurai, Tamil Nadu**

NEST conducted an education programme on bats during

wildlife week. On 04 October the programme was held at P.M. Thevar College, Usilampatti, Madurai. About 800 students participated. Mr. Balakrishnan, Supt. of Police, Madurai was the chief guest and he talked to the students about the need to conserving wildlife including bats. Dr. V. Muruganandan, Principal of the college talked about the global warming. Mr.

**Lucknow University, Uttarpradesh**

Department of Zoology celebrated Wildlife Week sponsored by Zoo Outreach Organisation's Educator Network (ZEN), and Regional Science City, Lucknow. It was conducted at Regional Science City involving more than 700 students of class 4-8, High School, Intermediate, as well as Graduate, Post-graduate, N.S.S. (National Service Scheme), N.C.C. (National Cadet Corps), Rover & Rangers (Bharat Scouts & Guides) from about 35 schools, colleges and Universities of Lucknow. On 2 October, on the occasion of birthday of Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri, students participated in fancy dress competition, family quiz and logo competition. During the programme, a rakhi tying ceremony was conducted in which the teachers, parents and students tied bat rakhi to each other and took an oath to protect



**The Lucknow University students interacted with school students on bat conservation**





**HAL student's on the spot skit on bats conservation**

and conserve bats. Zoo Outreach Organization's Educator Network (ZEN) provided materials on bats explained and distributed to them. On 4 Oct. Students from HAL School presented on the spot skits on bats conservation with the help of awareness materials received from ZOO. On 6 Oct. more than 70 students from different schools and colleges visited ZOO materials display at the department and they interacted with us and learned a lot about wild fauna

and flora including bats.  
**Submitted by: Dr. Amita Kanaujia.**  
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**Maharaja Ganga Singh University, Bikaner, Rajasthan**

Prof. A.K. Gehlot, Vice Chancellor of Rajasthan Veterinary University on the 1 October 2012, inaugurated the wildlife week-2012 organized by Department of Environmental Science. Prof. M. M. Saxena, Dean and Dr. Meera Srivastava

Head, Department of Zoology, Doongar College gave their views on the role and responsibilities of academicians in the education and awareness for wildlife involving the youth in wildlife conservation researches and studies. Elocution competition on the topic "Wildlife Conservation" was organised 4 Oct. in which 19 students participated.

After this, education and awareness materials provided by the Zoo Outreach Organization including bat were explained and distributed and they also trained how to carry out an education programmes at the schools. On 6 and 7 Oct. and, the trained participants were sent in small teams to various schools and colleges of Bikaner city and also the places where children who do not go to school. They organized bat awareness programs through play, talk in local language and distributed the education and awareness material provided by the Zoo Outreach Organisation.  
**Submitted by: Dr. Anil Kumar Chhangani.**  
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**The trained students went to nearby villages to teach illiterate children the need to save bats**



