



WWF

NEWS
LETTER

KERALA

2018

March-April 2018

Mruthika

Newsletter of WWF - India, Kerala State Office

FROM THE STATE DIRECTOR'S DESK

We now very much realize that climate change is not a fallacy of scientists, but a harsh reality as it is very much being manifested right around us as the average temperatures are going up every year. We have really started to feel the heat and its direct and indirect impacts on us humans, other lifeforms, ecosystems and other property. But have we started acting against it? No. We fail to realize that global warming and climate change is very much linked to our increasing energy consumption and production and also globalization and consumeristic lifestyles. We need to understand that global warming and climate change are not happening because world leaders are not agreeing upon limits on carbon emissions, but each one of us contributes to it directly or indirectly through our home energy use, transportation preferences, food choice, housing pattern and consumption of goods and use of services. For e.g., majority of Keralites think that we are dependent on our own hydroelectric projects, which is considered as a clean source of energy when compared to thermal and nuclear power, for meeting our electricity needs. But the harsh reality is that, less than half of the State's requirement is met from our own HEPs and the other half is derived from the Central Grid which is very much fed by the thermal power plants in Ramagundam, Andhra Pradesh and thermal power plants, whether it is run on coal, lignite, natural gas or LPG, is a major source of carbon emission. With regard to our transportation sector, the number of private vehicles on the roads are increasing daily and as per the statistics of the Motor Vehicles Department, the number of vehicles on the roads in Kerala doubles in every six years. And in Kerala, 99% of our vehicles are still run on fossil fuels i.e. petrol and diesel. With regard to our food, rather than being a producer state, we are a consumer state. Due to multiple reasons, our agricultural fields are left fallow. We get our vegetables, mostly poison laden, from Tamil Nadu, fruits and flowers from Karnataka and other states and food grains from the states in the central and north India belt. All this includes transportation over thousands of kilometers, mostly by road or rail. In the housing sector also, as per the

Economic Review, we have around 11 lakh houses in Kerala owned but unoccupied; but still we continue to build more houses and apartment complexes. We are a non-industry based economy and hence all our goods and services comes from across the world. So a Keralite has a very high Ecological Footprint which is a direct indicator of our unsustainability. Over the years, Earth Hour has been a global initiative of WWF to address this among the general public. Like in previous years, this year also we observed Earth Hour jointly with Dept. of Environment and Climate Change, Energy Management Centre, Kerala State Electricity Board Ltd NIMS, Indus Cycling Embassy and other institutions and individuals with multiples activities in the last week of March. The main Earth Hour event was organised at Shanghumugham Beach which pulled together a massive crowd and the presence of Dr. K. Vasuki, IAS, District Collector, Thiruvananthapuram accompanied by her kids was a real energizer. Our workshop on Nature Interpretation Skill Development organized at Vallakadavu within Periyar Tiger Reserve was also a very different experience for the hand-picked participants. WWF had the privilege of being selected to carry out the documentation of the birds of Kerala Raj Bhavan. The survey team was led by our Senior Education Officer and expert birder Mr. Sivakumar. It has been a long term wish to take up some conservation initiative with Southern Railways and this was made possible when we joined hands with People For Sustainable Development (PFS) to observe Earth Day 2018 in Thiruvananthapuram Central Railway Station with awareness sessions targeting the commuters including talk and exhibition. The project on Marine Turtle Conservation in Kerala is also progressing well with the Turtles coming in and making their nests and laying eggs, mainly in Chavakkad in Thiruvananthapuram district, where we are working with the four active Local Marine Turtle Conservation Groups (LMTGs). Since the nesting was slightly delayed than normal, we are now eagerly awaiting the completion of the 45 days incubation period for the hatchlings to emerge.

Renjan Mathew Varghese, State Director

IMPORTANT NEWS ON NATURE AND ENVIRONMENT

GLOBAL

Illicit trade of flora and fauna is pushing species to extinction in south-east Asia

Spread across more than 17,000 islands, the south-east Asian nation's dense tropical rainforests has some of the highest levels of biodiversity in the world, from Scaly Pangolins to the endangered Orangutan. However it is

also on the frontline of an illicit global trade estimated to be worth as much as \$23 billion per year – becoming a reason for taking some species to the brink of extinction. To tackle this problem, conservationists across the globe are making use of cutting edge technology - DNA barcoding to smartphone apps that can identify illegal wildlife sales. *"The criminals that are behind illegal wildlife trade are large organised syndicates that are extremely sophisticated"*, says Mathew Pritchett, Freeland Foundation. The Wildlife Conservation Society uses computer software to map criminal networks and extract data from seized electronic devices. Conservation group IAR examines crime scene evidence with the help of DNA barcoding – a method that relies on genetic sequences to identify species.

Conservationists are hoping to track down hunting hotspots and tracking routes and thereby appropriate measures can be taken to mitigate the problem (Source: *The Hindu*, 12 March 2018).

Great Barrier Reef: 30% of corals died in 'catastrophic' 2016 heat wave

Scientists have chronicled the "mass mortality" of corals in the Great Barrier Reef, in a new report that says, 30% of the reef's corals died in a catastrophic nine-month marine heat wave. The study, published in *Nature* and led by Prof Terry Hughes, Director of the ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies, examined the link between the level of heat exposure, subsequent coral bleaching and ultimately coral death. The extent and severity of the coral die-off recorded in the Great Barrier Reef surprised even the researchers. Hughes told that the 2016 marine heat wave had been far more harmful than historical bleaching events, where an estimated 5% to 10% of corals died. The Scientists mapped the impact of the heat wave on corals along the 2,300km length of the Great Barrier Reef. They established a close link between the coral die-off and areas where heat exposure was most extreme. The northern part of the reef was the most severely affected. The study found that 29% of the 3,863 reefs that make up the Great Barrier Reef lost two-thirds or more of their corals (Source: *The Guardian*, 18 April 2018).

NATIONAL

NBA calls for plan to manage import of exotic fish

National Biodiversity Authority has expressed concern over the increase in the import of ornamental fishes to the country as it is posing a threat to India's native freshwater fish population. It is noted by the NBA that the Government of India has only approved 92 species of ornamental fishes, but actual facts shows that there are between 200-300 species that are being imported and traded. Hence, it has urged the Government to come up with quarantine facilities at major seaports and airports. Dr. Meenakumari of NBA said that there is a huge market for Invasive Alien Species (IAS) which is turning out to be a major threat for India's aquatic biodiversity. These are mostly imported from south-east Asian countries. It is understood that the major hubs of trade are Chennai and Kolkata. The Chennai airport is mainly used for bringing in prawns meant for aquaculture and not for ornamental fish. There is an urgent need to educate and create awareness among customs officials at airports and seaports about the gravity of the situation. Under the Centre for Biological Policy and Law (CEBPOL), the NBA is trying to bring out a national list of IAS. So far, no attempt has been made by any scientific organisation to have a national IAS list across different categories like terrestrial plants, aquatic plants, inland fisheries, marine organisms, insects and microbes, says Dr. Meenakumari (Source: *The Hindu*, 2 March 2018).

Road-kills of wild animals in the Ghats

Valparai's road network meanders through the rainforest fragments and tea, coffee, eucalyptus and cardamom

plantations in the Annamalai Hills of the Western Ghats. This is a favourite place for tourists to drive through to spot wildlife since it is a major wildlife corridor which connects fragments of forests between 3 southern States in India. The Scientists at the Nature Conservation Foundation reported that the wildlife casualties along Tamil Nadu's Valparai Plateau is around 21 animals every 10 Km. The report published in the journal *Current Science* indicates that they surveyed an area of 1473.4 Kms in 2011-2012 and the total number of road-kills was 2,969. Out of this, 50% were amphibians – Toads, Frogs and Caecilians. Rodents and Shrews comprised a majority of the mammal kills. It also included the Lion tailed Macaques which are endemic to Western Ghats and is a protected species. The study also shows that the road-kill rates were 2.4 times higher during the monsoon and this is probably because many amphibians breed and so move across land during the monsoon period. The roads passing through the type of habitat also determined the plight of the animals. Those that pass through tea plantations followed by forest habitats saw highest deaths, 1402 and 948 respectively. The team's findings could help identify specific management measures for different habitats to prevent or reduce road kills in Valparai and similar places. The lead author Mr. Jeganathan (NCF) said that mitigation measures have to be taxa and habitat specific (Source: *The Hindu*, 4 March 2018).

The Terrapin races against extinction in the wild

Conservation measures in Bengal, UP, MP and Assam seek to save the most threatened freshwater species. The Terrapin is one of the five freshwater turtles among the world's 50 most-threatened turtles. Their fragile state is documented in *Turtles in Trouble* published in 2018 by the Turtle Conservation Coalition, a consortium of conservation organisations. India's "top five" at risk include *Batagur baska*, the Northern River Terrapin found in the Sundarbans, and the Red crowned Roof Turtle, *Batagur kachuga*, from the National Chambal Sanctuary, spread across Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. Others are *Chitra indica*, the South Asian Narrow-headed soft-shell Turtle in the Gangetic river system, *Nilssonina nigricans*, or Black soft-shell Turtle, encountered in temple ponds in north Bengal and Assam, and *Pelochelys cantorii*, the Asian Giant soft-shell Turtle in the east. The Northern River Terrapin, the Red-crowned Roof Turtle and Giant soft-shell Turtle are **Critically Endangered**, says the Red List of the International Union for Conservation of Nature, while the Black soft-shell is **Extinct in the Wild**, and the Narrow-headed soft-shell is **Endangered**. India has progressed with conservation efforts compared to other countries like China. The optimism comes from 20,000 hatchlings of *Batagur kachuga* released under the Riverine Hatchery Programme over a decade by TSA and Forest Departments of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. Turtle habitat is being lost due to infrastructure development, expansion of agriculture, and land and water pollution, besides consumption of the animals and their eggs (Source: *The Hindu*, 11 March 2018).

STATE

Sound Pollution: Police to act tough

Trivandrum District Police Chief informed that law enforcers would act on complaints about high decibel noises during the festival season. Citizens who felt bombarded by amplified music should call the police control room and report their grievances. The Police would protect the identity of the person who complained to insulate them from any reprisals in their locality. This comes as a welcome step from the authorities since the festival season coincides with the annual exams of schools and hence the school children have a tough time preparing for it amidst all this heavy noise. (Source: *The Hindu*, 1 March 2018).

About 10,000 people join hands to clean up Killi River

Around 10,000 people from all walks of life got together on either side of the Killi River for 'Killiyar Oruma', a mass drive for cleaning the river that has for long been dumped with all kinds of waste. The event was flagged-off by the Tourism Minister Kadakampally Surendran at Vazhayila. Ministers Dr T.M. Thomas Isaac, Adv. K. Raju, Mathew T. Thomas and Opposition Leader Ramesh Chennithala led the program at various locations along the river. Workers of the Mahatma Gandhi National Employment Guarantee Scheme and the Ayyankali Employment Guarantee Scheme, people's representatives, students, resident's association members, and cultural activists took part in the clean-up programme. Waste materials, acting as obstacles to the river's flow, were removed. Branches of trees that were blocking the natural flow of the river were cut. Large amounts of plastic waste, including pet bottles were removed. The project is being carried out over a 22-km stretch, beginning from Karinchathimoola, the origin of the river in Panavoor gramapanchayat, till the Vazhayila Bridge. The 31 canals and over 50 rivulets that flow into the river along this stretch will also be cleaned and check-dams constructed. Strengthening of the boundaries will be done by laying geotextiles and planting trees (Source: *The Hindu*, 14 April 2018).

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Quiz

1. Which endangered animal often gets caught in boat propellers?
Spotted Dolphin, Sperm whale, **Manatee**, Killer whale
2. What endangered animal is the largest member of the canine (dog) family?
Prairie Dog, **Grey Wolf**, Red Wolf, Coyote
3. How fast can a cheetah run?
45 Miles, **70 miles**, 65 miles, 80 miles
4. Which of the following does NOT cause animals to become endangered?

Pollution, introduction of exotic species, hunting and fishing, **increasing size of predators**

5. Which animal has the largest brain?
Chimpanzee, Asian Elephant, **Sperm Whale**, Bengal Tiger
6. What endangered animal is the largest land mammal?
Hippopotamus, **African Elephant**, Javan Rhinoceros, Asian Elephant
7. What country is home to the most snow leopards?
Pakistan, Russia, **China**, Ecuador
8. The endangered black rhinoceros is hunted for what?
Horns, skin, meat, eyes
9. Giant pandas mostly eat only one thing. What is it?
Carrots, Wheat, Small Rodents, **Bamboo**
10. The blue whale's tongue is about the same size as which animal?
Lion, Giraffe, **African Elephant**, Bison

MEMBER'S DESK

Avian migration

Winter cold soon approaches
Trees have shed leaves for dormant sleep
Snow has started to fall
It's time for me to go away
From the biting cold to summer shine

I gather my friends and family around
And prepare ourselves for the journey ahead
Who will lead? Who will follow?
We do not know how many of our flock
Will reach the summer place

At last the day of adventure dawns
We flap our wings, fall in formation
We reach great heights and start our journey
I turn to find that the line is long

We fly over oceans, and the forests
We fly over water bodies, and the mountains
Miles and miles pass behind us
As we journey onward to find summer shine
Across continents and oceans to haven safe

This is our migratory adventure
Year after year as seasons change
From autumn grey to winter cold
God gives strength for our wings of flight.

Reeba Grace Varghese
Class VI-D, Holy Angels ISC School, Nanthancode

SPECIES OF THE ISSUE

Nilgiri Marten (*Martes gwatkinsii*)



The Nilgiri Marten (*Martes gwatkinsii*) is the only species of marten found in southern India. It occurs in the hills of the Nilgiris and parts of the Western Ghats. It is similar to the yellow-throated marten, but is larger and essentially different in the structure of its skull – it has a prominent frontal concavity. It is unmistakable in the field; its pelage is deep brown from head to rump, with the forequarters being almost reddish, with a

bright throat ranging in colour from yellow to orange. It is about 55 to 65 cm long from head to vent and has a tail of 40 to 45 cm. It weighs about 2.1 kg. Very little is known about the Nilgiri Marten. It is diurnal, and though arboreal, descends to the ground occasionally. It is reported to prey on birds, small mammals and insects such as cicadas.

ACTIVITIES OF WWF-INDIA KERALA STATE OFFICE

Earth Hour 2018

The Earth Hour Team in Kerala did an extensive campaign across the State instead of focusing the entire energy on organizing major events in Thiruvananthapuram and Kochi. The efforts were started well in advance by the beginning of March itself. The initial efforts were all focused to get the word out on Earth Hour and establish maximum reach among the public via all available means. Letters were sent out to a long list covering individuals, institutions, NGOs etc. Other promotional activities done are promotion through regular mailing through our Yahoo and Google Mailing Groups, Facebook and Whatsapp Groups, Club FM with interviews of key persons, All India Radio, Press Conference called for in the Trivandrum Press Club.

Public Interaction Campaigns - Campaign were organized mainly during the evenings from 4.00 – 7.00pm in major locations like Statue & Palayam on 22nd & 23rd of March with the active involvement of our volunteers. Using stickers printed on the theme of Earth Hour, the volunteers interacted with the general public to make them understand about the significance of observing Earth Hour. Considering the suggestion that we received during



the public interaction campaign in 2016, in the last year and this year, the captions in the stickers were translated into Malayalam for easy and better understanding of the general public.

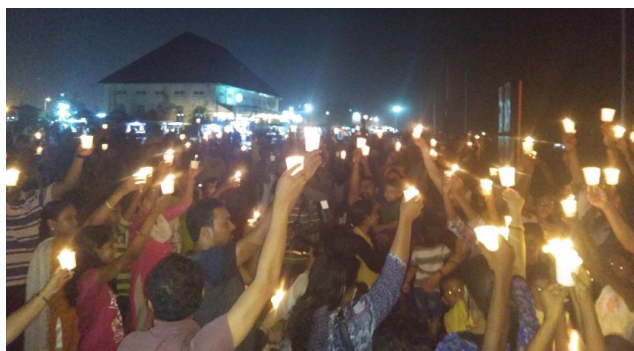
Cyclathon in association with Indus Cycling Embassy - Indus Cycling Embassy has gained popularity in Thiruvananthapuram City and other parts of the State with their regular cycling programmes – which are good for health and good for the environment too. They have been partnering with many other agencies to show their solidarity and support to various causes. ICE has been regular supporters of WWF, especially Earth Hour, over the past few years. In this regard, Cyclathon was organized on the morning of 24th at 6.30am from Manaveeyam Road to Statue - Palayam - Kawdiar - Vellayambalam and back to Manaveeyam. Around 60 cyclists participated. The State Director addressed the gathering before the start of the Cyclathon. Members of CET Cycling Club and the students of LNCPE also participated in this year's EH Cyclathon. Breakfast was given to the participants on completion. As part of EH 2018, we also sponsored a cycle to be given to a deserving girl student, Abhiya, as part of the 'Gift a Cycle Campaign' of Indus Cycling Embassy. The cycle was given away by the dignitaries in the evening main function.



Walkathon in the Museum & Zoo Compound - Since the start of observing Earth Hour in Kerala, we have been organizing interactive programmes in the Museum & Zoo Compound to engage with the early morning walkers. This time also, on 24th morning a similar programme was organized with the active involvement of WWF Volunteers. Stickers to express their support and solidarity to Earth Hour were supplied to all the early morning walkers in the compound and they were all enthusiastic to put it on their t-shirts to express solidarity to the campaign.



EH Major Event - For the Earth Hour evening major function, Shanghumugham Beach was selected as venue because of the general public present in large numbers, especially being the weekend, and the great public support that we received for Earth Hour in 2016 and 2017. On the evening of 24th March, the event got off to a start at 6.30am with Ms. Joann Rachel Cherian compering the event and giving the introductory remarks including EH history, the global ongoing campaign, Earth Hour in Kerala since 2009, its relevance and organizing partners. The stage was then handed over to SoulJam led by Dr. Abhilash Jacob for their Musical Performance. The musical programme was thoroughly enthralling with SoulJam entertaining the crowd with a mix of English, Hindi, Tamil and Malayalam songs. The musical performance continued till 8.15am and within this time, WWF staff and volunteers made all necessary arrangements for the switch off and the candle light vigil. The musical performance was temporarily concluded by 8.15pm. Mr. Renjan Mathew Varghese, State Director introduced Earth Hour 2018 and the organizing partners in Kerala and invited the guests. Dr. Vasuki, IAS, District Collector, Smt. Padma Mahanty IFS, Director, Department of Environment and Climate Change, Sri. Dhareshan Unnithan, Director, Energy Management Centre, Dr. C. Bhaskaran, Member, WWF-India State Advisory Board were the Chief Guests for the event. The guests addressed the gathering and called for conserving energy for a sustainable tomorrow. The Earth Hour 2018 Mementos to the organizing supporters and partners were handed over. The Free Cycle to Abhiya as part of the 'Gift a Cycle Campaign' of ICE was also given away by the guests. By 8.30pm, the high mast lights were switched off and the dignitaries lighted the EH 2018 main candle. The volunteers distributed individual candles and cups to all



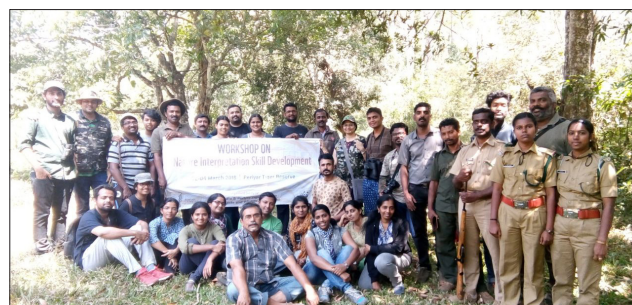
the people around and everyone joined in the candle light vigil. From the EH 2018 main candle, the flame was shared around and the crowd joined in the Candle Light Vigil. People, as individuals, as teams of friends and colleagues, as families enjoyed the candle light vigil by taking selfies and photographs with the guests.

Switch Off - The major landmarks switched off were Raj Bhavan and Museum & Zoo Compound. Justice P. Sathasivam, Hon'ble Governor observed EH 2018 with switch off and candle light vigil at Govt. Guest House, Kozhikode. Shri. Pinarayi Vijayan, Chief Minister of Kerala observed Earth Hour with Switch Off and Candle Light Vigil along with his family at his official residence. EH 2018 was observed independently by few apartment complexes and Residents Associations also. Similarly, many such institutions, associations, households and individuals have joined in Earth Hour 2018 to make it a real success and a people's movement against climate change in its real sense.

Workshop on Nature Interpretation Skill Development



Workshop on "Nature Interpretation Skill Development" was conducted at Periyar Tiger Reserve from 2nd to 4th March 2018 which was a joint venture of PTR and the Volunteer Engagement Programme (VEP) of WWF-India. Sixteen college teachers and ten volunteers from different districts of Kerala made this workshop very interactive and result oriented. It was a three days residential programme with the objective of nature interpretation skill development for associating teachers and volunteers. The three day's workshop was charted out with classroom sessions and field activities. The sessions were handled by A.K. Sivakumar, Senior Education Officer, Renjan Mathew Varghese, State Director, Priya T. Joseph, Range Officer, PTR Eco-Development, Pramod P., Wildlife Assistant, Dr. Gigi K. Joseph, Asst. Professor, Nirmala College, Muvattupuzha.



Inauguration of Nature Club of SN College, Chempazhanthy

The State Director was invited as Chief Guest to inaugurate the Nature Club at SN College, Chempazhanthy on 15th March 2018. The inaugural session was followed by a talk led by the State Director titled 'Conserve Wisely or Consume Carelessly? - The plight of species and landscapes in Kerala'.

Urja Kiran 2017-18



Sivakumar, Senior Education Officer and Murukan Pareparambil, an active volunteer of WWF and District Co-ordinator for Malappuram led the three awareness programmes on energy conservation in which Kudumbasree members were the participants, six public campaigns targeting general public and three orientation programmes for the members of District Co-operative Banks on the schemes of Renewable Energy promotion by ANERT, Kerala. These programmes were conducted at the panchayat level incorporating the Gramapanchayats falling under the legislative constituencies, Shornur, Pattambi and Thrithala. These events were organized from 14th to 16th March 2018 at Ongallur, Pattithara and Thrikkadeeri panchayats in the above mentioned constituencies. All the programmes were inaugurated by elected representatives of the local LSGs including MLAs. It was a very grass root level public targeted programme highlighting energy conservation and climate change.



Vana Suraksha - Jala Suraksha Rally (joint observation of World Forestry Day and World Water Day 2018)

As part of VEP, Kerala State Office conducted an activity based sensitization on the theme "Forests & Water" through a workshop and rally on 21st and 22nd March 2018, commemorating World Forestry Day and World Water



Day at JPM College of Arts & Science, Kattappana, Idukki district jointly with the college and the Social Forestry Wing of Kerala Forests & Wildlife Department. Recent studies have reported that the forest cover of Idukki is declining. The workshop was inaugurated by N. Ravindran, District Co-ordinator of Kerala State Biodiversity Board. An orientation on the importance of forests and water was given on 21st March to sixty Nature Club Members of the college by A.K.Sivakumar, Senior Education Officer and Dr. Johnykkutty J. Ozhukayil, Associate Professor (Rtd), MES College, Nedumkandam. After the morning session, the participants were asked to prepare all required collaterals for conducting a public rally on the next day, 22nd March. They made 60 placards and posters which were very attractive and carried messages to sensitize the public. On 22nd, the rally was conducted in Kattappana Town from 10.00am to 11.30am covering a distance of 2 kilometers. The rally passed through major junctions and bus stops of Kattappana Town. It was well appreciated by public as well as by the Teachers of the college.



World Forestry Day 2018





WWF was invited to be part of the observance of World Forestry Day 2018 at DB College Pampa, Parumala and Christian College, Chengannur in functions organized in the forenoon and afternoon respectively. The full exhibition set of WWF developed over the years was exhibited in both the venues. The State Director was the Chief Guest in both the functions and delivered the talk titled 'Forests: Primarily for Wildlife, then for People'.



World Water Day 2018



The State Director was invited to give the keynote address in the observance of World Water Day organized by the Federation of Engineers of KWA (FEKWA) at Jala Bhavan, Vellayambalam on 22nd March. The State Director was also invited as a guest to the observance of World Water Day by Kerala Sasthra Vedi in the event organized in the auditorium in Pettah on the same day.

Paaristhithikam - Action Programme



Punchakkari Wetlands, the bird hub of Thiruvananthapuram City, got a much required facelift with the installation and unveiling of two litter bins exclusively meant for plastic and glass bottles and the function was followed by a clean-up drive organised by WWF-India as part of Paaristhithikam 2017-18 (State Environment Awareness Campaign) of Department of Environment & Climate Change in partnership with Christ Nagar College of Teacher Education and Kalliyoor Gramapanchayat. The waste bins were unveiled by Smt. R. Jayalekshmi, President of Kalliyoor Gramapanchayat. Mr. Jayan, Mr. Manoj K. Nair, Ward Members and Mr. Sanil Kumar, Councilor of Melamkode Ward of Thiruvananthapuram Corporation were also present in the function and they addressed the volunteers and appreciated the efforts taken to conduct the clean-up drive. They assured that the Panchayat will ensure the prompt and proper disposal of the collected waste by assigning the responsibility to a local resident. The Volunteer Birders of WWF-India who visits the area frequently for birding will also monitor the litter bins to ensure that they are used for the purpose intended. Mr. A.K.Sivakumar, Senior Education Officer of WWF-India who co-ordinated the event gave the introductory remarks. The litter bins have been fabricated in the shape of a bottle to remind the public to put the used bottles in it. It has been colored green to merge with the surroundings. Following the inaugural function, 38 Volunteers participated in the clean-up drive conducted in and around the Kannukulichal Canal. They Volunteers were split into three groups and they collected more than 150 plastic bottles and 3 large bags of plastic waste including liquor bottles, water bottles, soft drink bottles and few pesticide bottles along with a variety of other plastic wastes. The water bottles were mostly seen floating in the canal which really shows our careless attitude. The collected bottles were deposited in

the newly installed bins as the person who manages the bin will get a small monetary benefit by selling them and this will be an added bonus for the person to meticulously carry out this work on a regular basis. The plastic waste collected in bags was removed from the area ensuring proper disposal. Encouraged with the outcome of this event, the College authorities have also ensured that they will plan few activities in association with WWF-India as part of their community living project as a follow up of this effort.



National Seminar on Human - Wildlife Conflict

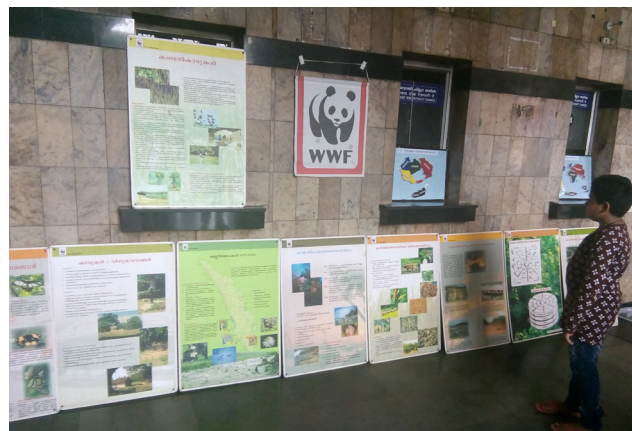
The State Director was invited to give the lead talk in the National Seminar titled 'Espousing the need for Eco-Governance of Forests & Wildlife' organised from 8 – 10 March 2018 at Govt. Law College, Ernakulam. The talk was titled 'Eco-centric Model of Conservation & Conflict Free Wildlife Management'. The talk was well received by the participants and was followed by a good time of interaction.

Documentation of the Birds of Kerala Raj Bhavan

Based on the request from the Office of the Comptroller of Kerala Raj Bhavan, we have conducted a short term documentation of the Birds of Kerala Raj Bhavan. A team of volunteers under the leadership of Senior Education Officer conducted a scientific survey within the campus including 4 times data collection during uniform morning hours, one random birding and two night sessions. We have recorded 41 species of birds and the report preparation is in progress.

Observation of Earth Day 2018

Kerala State Office observed Earth Day 2018 on 22nd April in association with PFSD (People for Sustainable Development) and Southern Railway, Thiruvananthapuram Division in which PCRA, EMC and Govt. College, Kottayam were also partners. The event was on the focal theme, 'End Plastic Pollution' with a formal inaugural session, a rally covering the five platforms of Thiruvananthapuram Central Railway Station, an exhibition on biodiversity, endangered species and other related topics. Since the event was at 9.30am, a busy time, and was held within the Thiruvananthapuram Central Railway Station, the event reached out to a large no. of passengers from different walks of life.



EDITORIAL BOARD

Mr. G. Vijaya Raghavan
Mr. Renjan Mathew Varghese
Mr. A.K. Sivakumar

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