

Karuna

[A monthly newsletter about the activities of Acton for Protection of Wild Animals (APOWA)]

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From the President's Desk:

For more than 11 years we have been working tirelessly, to save the animals in crisis and distress program focuses on eliminating suffering of animals, and the rehabilitation of rescued animals. All thanks to the dedicated team of APOWA, who acting as the protector of animals. In its wildlife and habitat conservation program, APOWA promotes the conservation of endangered olive ridley sea turtles in Orissa coast.

As a registered non profit organization the cost of running the animal rescue home and other activities is met through members contribution and local donations and fundraising programme, which is not sufficient. Please support in our continuous efforts to save the innocent animals in distress.

Sincerely,



Bijaya Kumar Rout, President, APOWA

Rescue of Animals in Distress

In March 2010, we received many calls for animal rescue in distress. On 12th March, a King fisher bird was rescued by APOWA volunteers. Four stray dogs from different places were rescued & sent for rehabilitation to rescue home through out the month. This month a cow was also rescued from a well by our team. All these rescued animals and birds were sent back to their natural habitat after treatment.

On 24th, APOWA team received a call from Nilakanthapur village that a stray bull was lying injured. We requested VAS, Pattamundai Dr A.C.Pradhan to help us rescue the injured bull. The doctor team of Pattamundai was come forward along with our team to rescue the huge bull, later with help of Dr. Pradhan, the bull was transferred to APOWA rescue home. The bull was till now under the APOWA care. We are providing round the clock service like; treating animals in pain and distress.



(Treatment of a rescued stray bull by APOWA team)



(A bird was rescued)

Olive ridley sea turtle conservation programme

The rare second phase of mass nesting of endangered Olive Ridley sea turtles have been happened at the Gahiramatha and its nearby beach of Kendrapada district in Orissa, one of the most important nesting grounds in the world for the creatures.

We are focusing on non-protected areas as the majority of the nests get predated by feral animals and people where there is no protection pertain by the concern authority. The sporadic nests contribute equally to that of arribada (mass nesting) of turtles hence it is highly required that sporadic nests are protected.

APOWA has been continuing to save, protect and help conserve the endangered sea turtles and their habitat along the Orissa coast. APOWA has taken dynamically unique approaches to long-term sea turtle and their habitat conservation. The following activities were conducted this month:

a) Nest Protection:

A large part of this project work is devoted to direct protection of the turtles and their nests. The six casual workers from the sea side villages have been appointed as Turtle Guard for 24x7 Nest & turtle protection along the project sites. They have been protecting the turtles and their nests from feral dogs, jackals, wild boar and other wild and domestic animals and human poachers. The casual workers, project team and APOWA members closely monitored the nesting beaches of Paradeep, Jatadhari river mouth to record sporadic nesting and protection of the nests from predation.



b) Formation of monitoring units:

Three monitoring units have been formed by involving local groups, CBOs, youths, fisheries communities and others as members along the project sites. This has an effective method for protection of Olive Ridley sea turtles on sustainable basis and long run of the projects through community participation.

c) Community Awareness, Education Program:

A major focus of the sea turtle conservation programme is involved a broadly based community awareness campaign and awareness about the need to protect the endangered

(A turtle guard monitors and protecting a female olive ridley during lay egg)

olive ridley turtles. The community awareness campaign's objective is to begin the difficult process of changing community perceptions and attitudes towards turtles. Community led conservation of sea turtles and their habitat will ensure their partnership and sustain their association. The awareness and education programme have been organizing at various places of the nesting areas.

The Public Awareness programme has been conducted in a variety of formats: display of turtle hoardings, informal community meetings, involvement of school children, informing visitors on the beaches etc. In addition, Turtle Guards are regularly informing and educating beach visitors in the course of their monitoring duties.

With our sustained determination, commitment and extreme persuasion combined strongly with field protection, networking with other conservation groups, comprehensive innovative awareness campaign with the related coastal villages the result has been extremely advantageous and has greatly helped for the protection and conservation of the Sea Turtles. We pledge to continue in these efforts.

World Water Day 2010

In order to increase the awareness with regard to water resources conservation, APOWA (Action for Protection of Wild Animals) in association with EARTH, Pattamundai have come forward to observe the World Water Day on 22nd of March 2010 at Sandhapalli the most water scarcity village of Kendrapara district.

There were children from different schools have been participated in essay competitions on this year's theme of 'clean water for a healthy world'. Many dignitaries have also participated in this observation in the public meeting at Sandhapalli on 22nd March 2010. The chief guest of the programme was Dr Mihir Pattnaik, Forest Range officer, Rajnagar Mangrove Forest Division. Dr Pattnaik explained the extent of the

threat of ground water, the ways to combat the problem, awareness building approach, some alternate technologies for supply of safe water such as Rain-Water Harvesting, and others.

Mr. Basanta Kumar Nayak, secretary, EARTH delivered the welcome address followed by the talk by Mr. Manoj Kumar Satapathy, Eco club teacher, Ucha Sikhya Srama Arua Kadalibna. In his speech, Water is critical resource of human consumption, agricultural use or sanitation. If more sustainable ways of water use are not put into place without delay, we will have to face serious water crises in near future.

The chief speaker of the programme was Mr. Akshya Kumar Biswal, journalist, The Dharitri, Pattamundai. Highlighting the importance of the day, he stressed upon the need of ensuring access of common man to healthy environment and clean drinking water. The president of APOWA, Mr. Bijaya Kumar Rout was presided over the meeting. Finally, the chief guest distributed prizes to winner students of the essay competition. The vote of thanks presented by Mr. Gyana Ranjan Dhal. Among others villagers, teachers, CBOs, youths and school students participated in the program. At the end of the programme, each participant pledge to conserve the water resources.

Water Supply to Animals

As the temperature climbs, so does the water scarcity for animals increases. Every summer, stray animals like cattle, dogs, sheeps, goats etc thirst for water in the sweltering heat. This year too, APOWA started the water supply in major places near pavements and grazing fields. The thirsting cow or working bullock, running stray dog or cat will have drinking water facility. APOWA is plan to construct more water troughs through out the district.

APOWA needs your support to construct more water troughs and help these animals in this summer.

Observation of Mahavir Jayanti 2010

Mahavir Jayanti, the birth anniversary of Lord Mahavira, was celebrated with traditional gaiety and fervour by the animal welfare organization Action for Protection of Wild Animals (APOWA) on 28th March 2010. Mahavir Jayanti is being the most important day observation of the APOWA since its inception in 1999.



Special prayers were offered by the Kindness club members in the starting of the programme. Mr. Manoj Kumar Satapathy, teacher in charge of Kindness club, Ucha Siksha srama Arua Kadaliban was the chief guest on the occasion. Mr. Manoj who spoke briefly about Mahavir's birth, childhood days, quest for truth highlighted the social reforms preached by him thousand years ago. Among others Mr. Bijaya Kumar Kabi, Director, APOWA recalled the teachings of Lord Mahavira. He stressed on his teaching of non-violence. He said the teaching of the Lord needed to be propagated. Lord Mahavira believed in equality of men. He taught peace and non-violence, vegetarianism to humanity. Apart from that Mr. Satyabrata Panda, lecturer, N.K. Mo-

havidyalaya was invited as the guest of honour. He also asked the participants to show kindness towards all living creatures. He also explained the nutritional values of vegetarianism. His speech was followed by Mr. Bijaya Kumar Rout, President, APOWA. He insisted the students to be compassionate towards animals and environment. He also asked all the participants not to use the leather products. All the staffs of APOWA were present at the programme.

The highlight of this programme was the wide range of enthusiasts. There were students from different schools were participated in debate and art competitions in the morning session on theme of 'Lord Mahavir'. The prizes were distributed to all the participants at the end of the programme. At the end of the programme, each participant pledge to become a compassionate citizen.



(A student busy in art work on Lord Mahavir, on the occasion of Mahavir Jayanti organized by APOWA)

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