

Government of India
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
(Ministry of Environment & Forests)

Tansen Marg,
New Delhi-110001.

No. 13(6)/2010-11/NMNH

Dated the January 23, 2013

To

Shri R.K. Agarwal,
Deputy Secretary (GC),
Room No.1030, Ministry of Environment & Forests,
Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex, Lodi Road,
New Delhi-110003.

Sub: Monthly Report for the Cabinet – reg.

Sir,

Please find enclosed the Monthly Report of the National Museum of Natural History for the month of January, 2013.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

(Dr. B. Venugopal)
Director

Copy to:

Shri M.M. Pandey, Under Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex, Lodi Road, New Delhi-110003.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

MONTHLY REPORT FOR JANUARY, 2013

NMNH HQ, New Delhi

John H. Falk and Lynn D. Dierking, Sea Grant Professors in Free-Choice Learning, Oregon State University, USA were the Guests and Resource Persons for the workshop. Sh. G. S. Rautela, Director General, NCSM gave the introductory talk. Dr. B. Venugopal, Director, NMNH was also present during the inauguration of the workshop.

The participants were introduced to Free-Choice Learning in museums and Contextual Model of Learning. There was talk on Museums as Societal Institutions and as nearly every museum offer special programmes and tours to the school groups, interaction with the visitors is important. There was another talk on Understanding Physical Dimensions of Learning in the museums. Good design of the exhibitions and properly designed labels make the things easy and visitor friendly. Introducing to Museum Evaluation, the points discussed were: what is evaluation and why it is important? How to ensure that evaluation is integral part of all exhibitions / programmes development and various types of evaluation: Front-end evaluation, Formative evaluation and Summative evaluation. It was emphasized that Evaluation is a process, a set of tools to use during all phases of project development and series of feedback loops within development process to incorporate learner's views into exhibition or program. This was followed by a talk on how to conduct visitor research. Research Guidelines were discussed using some case studies done in American Museums. To evaluate the visitors a discussion was held on Designing Questionnaire in such a way to make the whole process a pleasant experience for the visitors.

In the end it was emphasized that museums should work collaboratively for & with citizens to identify content that is valuable, empowering and meets needs of community, rather than deciding what community needs to know?

School visits and Family groups/General visitors

2326 Students & teachers/coordinators from 35 schools/institutes in Delhi/NCR visited museum. 1923 general visitors visited museum during the month.

The educational staff interacted with the visitors and provided information on the exhibits displayed in galleries.

The visitors were also requested to fill the Feedback forms giving their remarks and suggestions regarding the facilities available in the museum.

Nature on Screen:

Films on the themes of Environment, Nature and Wildlife are screened in the museum auditorium twice a day at 11 am and 3 pm, for the visiting public and school students.

Staff training:

Dr. Reena Dey, Scientist-C and Sh. K. S. Attri, Sr. Educational Assistant participated in a National workshop on Museum Evaluation and Visitor Research held at National Science Centre, New Delhi during 17th to 19th January, 2013. The workshop was conducted by John H. Falk and Lynn D. Dierking, Sea Grant Professors in Free-Choice Learning, Oregon State University, USA

Foreign Visitors:

On 21st January, John H. Falk and Lynn D. Dierking, Sea Grant Professors in Free-Choice Learning, Oregon State University, USA visited National Museum of Natural History, New Delhi and discussed with staff of the Museum. They shared their experiences of working with Museum visitors in US with the staff of NMNH.

On 22nd January 2013 Ayako Iwatami, Associate Professor from Hiroshima University visited the Museum and discussed with the Director about possible collaboration on Intangible Natural heritage especially with reference to the ecological aspects of Kalbelia in Rajasthan

RMNH, MYSORE

Winter Nature Camp

RMNH, Mysore conducted Winter Nature Camp- 2012-2013 at Sita Nadi Nature Camp in Someshwara Wildlife Sanctuary on 09th & 10th January, 2013 for rural High School students of Pandavapura Taluk, Mandya District. 15 No. of students from 11 different schools registered their participation for the above camp through a written test on environment.

At Someshwara Wildlife Sanctuary, the participants were exposed to the tropical rain forests of Western Ghats through lectures, slide shows, nature trails, film shows and nature games. The participants also had an opportunity to explore the biodiversity of tropical rain forest through a trek to Sita Nadi as well as Kodlu Theerta falls. The bounty of nature was very much appreciated and admired by all the participants of the camp. The participants were honoured with the participatory certificates by the Range Forest Officer of Someshwara Wildlife Sanctuary.

The participants of the camp also visited Kavi Shyla i.e. Dr.Kuvempu's Museum at Koppalli in Theerthalli. Shimoga Dist. on their return journey to pandavapura.

Visitors

During the month, a total number of 15,449 visitors from different schools, organizations, institutions and family groups visited the Museum.

Film Shows:

Daily film shows on environment were shown from 12.00 Noon to 1.00 pm and from 4.00 to 5.00 pm.

R.M.N.H., BHOPAL

Winter Nature Camp at Pachmarhi:

A Winter Nature Camp (WNC) was arranged at Pachmarhi during January 2-4, 2013. Twenty selected participants from various schools of Bhopal participated in this nature camp. Shri Manoj Kumar Sharma, Taxidermist, Shri Anil K. Sonparatoo, Projectionist and Shri Devender Sharma, Carpenter were involved.

Wildlife Fortnight:

Regional Museum of Natural History, Bhopal organized a programme on wildlife fortnight on 6th January, 2013. On this occasion, the prizes and certificates were distributed to the awardees and participants of three programmes, namely Poster design competition, Quiz competition and Winter nature study camp at Pachmarhi conducted earlier during 24th Nov., 2012, 05th Dec., 2012 and 2nd to 4th Jan., 2013 respectively. Dr. U. R. Singh, Former Director (R&T), EPCO, Bhopal and Dr. Avinash Karera From M.P. Pollution Control Board were the Chief Guest and Guest of Honour.

Participation:

EPCO and Education Edge-the news magazine, Bhopal organized a paper presentation programme – ‘Green in my school’ on 17-01-2013. Dr. S. Sethuramalingam, Scientist-E, Smt. Alpna Mishra, Editor of Education Edge, Dr. Sadhna Tiwari from EPCO, Bhopal and Dr. Joshi from M.P. Pollution Control Board, Bhopal were the Judge of the programme.

Visitors

A total number of 7211 public visited the Museum during December 20, 2012 to January 19, 2013. 5 groups of students/teachers were provided guided tours at museum's galleries during December 20, 2012 to January 19, 2013.

Film Shows:

Film shows on environment were shown to public daily at 3.00 p.m.

R.M.N.H., BHUBANESWAR

Winter Nature Camp-2012-13:

Winter Nature Camp 2012-13 was organized on 7th & 8th January 2013 at Bhitarkanika National Park for the 20 selected students born between 1st April 1996 to 31st March 1999. The objectives of the camp was to explore the mangrove bio-diversity, to provide first-hand field knowledge about flora & fauna, to make students aware of the conservation aspects of the mangrove ecosystem, to orient students about wildlife, to expose them to the habitat of Olive Ridley nesting sites and to make them understand the impact of socio-cultural aspects of Bhitarkanika National Park. Publicity was made through banners and circulars. Registration was held from 4 to 6 December 2012.

National Seminar on Folklore & Intangible Natural Heritage (12 – 14 Jan-2013):

A three day national seminar on folklore and intangible natural heritage was organized from 12th to 14th January in collaboration with Folkland-international centre for folklore and culture, Kasargod, INTACH, Bhubaneswar, CIIL, Mysore. The themes were Nature worship and folklore, ecology, modernization and folklore, displacement, migration and nature, documentation of folklore in the digital world, voices of the voiceless and intangible heritage etc. Dr. B. Venugopal, Director, NMNH delivered the key note address on the theme Museums, traditional knowledge , Intangible Heritage and folklore. The seminar was inaugurated in the presence of Dr. Sivaramakrishna Head, Centre for Lexicography & Folklore, CIIL, Dr. S. N. Barman, Former Director, CIIL, Dr. Mahendra Kumar Misra, Eminent Folklorist of Odisha, INTACH, Shri Anant Mahapatra, Advisor, INTACH, Shri A. B. Tripathy, Convener, INTACH-Odisha Chapter and Dr. B. Venugopal, Director, NMNH, New Delhi. Shri G. N. Indresha, Scientist-C & H.O., RMNH, Bhubaneswar welcome all the dignitaries and guests followed by the introductory address by Dr. V. Jayarajan, Chairman, Folkland International Center for Folklore & Culture.

Environmental Awareness Programme-2012 for JNVs of Odisha at JNV, Angul Dist and JNV, Ganjam Dist.:

Environmental Awareness Programme-2012 for JNVs of Odisha was held at JNV, FCI, Talcher, Angul District on 18th January-2013 and at JNV, Surangi, Ganjam District on 20th January-2013. The programme included a written quiz on environment of 30 minutes duration followed by film show on nature, environment & wildlife of 30 min. duration, presentation on poisonous and non-poisonous snakes and interaction with the participants. A total no. of 202 students participated in the quiz competition and about 980 students took part in the interaction session about the nature conservation, biodiversity and ecology through Power Point Presentation by Scientist-C & H.O. The winners of each school were awarded with cash prize of Rs. 1,000/-, Rs. 750/-, 500/- as Ist, IInd and IIIrd prize respectively along with 05 consolation prizes of Rs. 200/- each and certificates in the presence of the Principal and staff of the respective schools.

Visit of public:

During the month the visitor's book recorded a total number of **38,525** visitors from different organizations, institutions & family groups.

RGRMNH, SAWAI MADHOPUR

Development of Exhibition

The development of the Exhibition on "Biodiversity of Rajasthan" is the final stage.

Visit:

Mr. Mohd Yunus visited Desert National Park Jaisalmer and held discussions at Jaisalmer and Jodhpur with different agencies for the organisation of a Workshop on Desert INH planned in March