

Government of India
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
(Ministry of Environment & Forests)
Tansen Marg, New Delhi-110 001

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

Dated the January 24, 2014

To

Shri R.K. Agarwal,
Deputy Secretary (GC),
Room No.1030, Ministry of Environment & Forests,
Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex, Lodi Road,
New Delhi-110 003

Sub: Monthly Report for the Cabinet – reg.

Sir,

I am directed to enclose herewith the Monthly Report of the National Museum of Natural History for the month of January, 2014.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

Naaz Rizvi

Scientist D

Copy to:

Shri M.M. Pandey, Under Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex, Lodi Road, New Delhi-110 003.

Monthly Report for the month of January, 2014
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

NMNH HQ, NEW DELHI

Louise Braille Day (4th January 2014):

To commemorate Louise Braille Day, Division of Educational Services, NMNH organizes competitions for visually challenged children from Delhi & NCR.

On 29th January 2014 visually challenged children from different schools for the Blind in Delhi & NCR are invited to participate in Essay Writing in Braille in two categories.

The topics for the two categories are as following:

Junior category (classes V-VII): “Pollution is Killer, Stop it; Conservation is the Healer, Start it”

Senior category (classes VIII-XI): “Love the Nature, Worship the Green, Keep the Surroundings & Water Clean”.

On 31st January 2014 visually challenged children from different schools for the Blind in Delhi & NCR will participate in Declamation Contest. The contest is for the students from classes VIII- XI. The topic of the Declamation Contest is:

“If Our Environment has Life, Only then We can Survive”

Special Visits:

1. 31st December, 2013: 25 trainees undergoing training programme for NSGPM/s Pharmacy College Students from Nashik at National Institute of Animal Welfare (NIAW), visited NMNH for the Guided Tour of the museum and Film show along with Faculty member and other staff members.
2. 11th January, 2014: 150 Trainee Teachers pursuing Diploma Course in Elementary Teacher Education (ETE) from Vidya Training Institute, New Delhi and 15 Teacher Educators visited NMNH.
3. 18th January, 2014: “Shades of Happiness”, an NGO visited NMNH with a group of 40 children in the age group of 8-18 yrs and studying in Government Schools, to get the information about Nature and Environment.
4. 19th January, 2014: 15 students of M.A. & M.Sc. Museology of Department of Museology, University of Calcutta along with 2 Assitant Professors visited NMNH.

School Visits and Family Groups:

6,399 school students and teachers from 37 schools/institutes in Delhi & NCR visited NMNH museum galleries. 3,161 family groups/general visitors visited the museum. The educational staff interacted with the students and general visitors in the museum galleries for exhibit interpretation. Their queries were satisfied and information on exhibits displayed in the gallery was provided. Publication material was also provided to them on request.

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.

RMNH, MYSORE

Chief Engineer, CCU, MoEF visit on 28-12-2013:

Sh. Malhotra Chief Engineer, CCU, MoEF visited RMNH, Mysore on 28-12-2013 for the inspection of ongoing civil construction work of the Museum. During his visit the need of ramp for the children dormitory, provision of electronic equipments like projector and screen for eco-theatre etc., were discussed in detail. EE, AE and JE from CCU Bangalore were present during inspection.

WINTER NATURE CAMP 2014:

The winter nature Camp has been organized for 15 Rural Students of class 10 & PUC at Bandipur National Park, Chamarajanagara Dist. for 3days from 2nd to 4th January 2014. Sh. K. Manu, Mysore Amateur Naturalist, Mysore and Sh. Ravi Raj, CPR foundation, Ooty and Mr. Girish, High school Teacher, Kallur Naguvanahalli were engaged as resource persons. The students were taken to Jungle Safari on 2nd Evening and 3rd Morning of January 2014. The participants are so enthusiastic to see the wild life in their natural Sh. K. Manu, Mysore Amateur Naturalist, Mysore and Sh. Rajkumar, Honorary Wildlife Warden and wildlife Biologist he has briefed about the Tiger census, tiger combing operation etc. The participants were visited to the Madhumalai Tiger reserve center information center and Later Sh. Ravi Raj, CPR foundation, Ooty has taken the session for complete day with lot of his programme experiences organized for various communities of visitors at BNP. An interactive session has been arranged with Mr. Girish, High school Teacher, Kallur Naganahalli during the evening session. The participants were also experienced the art of rearing elephants in camp, elephant feeding and the other behavioral aspects and while returning back they were taken to the Himvad Gopalswamy hill to show the patch of shoal habitat and high altitude vegetation. Participatory Certificates were issued to all participants at the end of the programme.

School visits and Family groups/General visitors:

Total Number of visitors were 6241 which included 4665 (84 groups) of students group from different Institutions, 503(36 groups) of general visitors and 1073 nos. of individual visitors, visited museum during the month.

Nature on Screen:

Films on the themes of Environment, Nature and Wildlife are screened in the museum auditorium twice a day at 12 am and 4 pm, for the Museum visitors.

RMNH, BHOPAL

Winter Nature Study Programme at Madai:

A Winter Nature Study Programme was arranged at Madai (Satpura Tiger Reserve, Hoshangabad) during January 16-17, 2014. Thirteen selected participants from various school participated in this nature study programme. Scientist-B, Dr. Praveen Kumar Verma, was deputed to Madai alongwith Shri Manoj Kumar

Sharma, Taxidermist, Shri Gautam Singh Yadav, Photographer and Shri Sushil Kumar Chourey, Stenographer III (Hindi) to organize this programme. Dr. Sangeeta Rajgeer and Mohd. Khaliq from Bhopal Birds (NGO) were the resource person of the programme. Nature walk, Wildlife film show, Visit of park, Birds watching, Nature painting, Nature photography and interaction with tribal community were arranged during this programme.

Collaborative Programme:

(a) Madhya Pradesh Blind Association, Bhopal organized one day workshop on the occasion of 205th Birth Anniversary of Louise Braille with the logistic support of RMNH, Bhopal on January 5, 2014.

(b) Special interactive session with the M.P. Council of Science & Technology, Bhopal was arranged on January 18, 2014 as a part of Vigyan Manthan Yatra 2013-14 by Shri Manik Lal Gupta, E.A. and Ms. Madhu Chatterjee M.I. (Cont.). There were 105 selected students of class 8th, six teachers from all M.P. and officials of MPCST, Bhopal attended the programme.

NGO Collaboration Programme:

The activities of “The museum school” by Parvarish have been continued during this period also along with approximately one hundred deprived children.

Foot Falls:

A total number of 5188 public visited the Museum during December 20, 2013 to January 19, 2014.

Visits of Organized Groups:

6 groups of students/teachers were provided guided tours at museum’s galleries during December 20, 2013 to January 19, 2014.

Film Shows:

Regular film shows from 3.00 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. were arranged for visitors in the eco- theatre of museum. The rare films received during the CMS Wild Life Film Festival were screened which gained greater applause from the wild life enthusiast and general public.

RMNH, BHUBANESWAR

Visit of public:

During the month, the visitor’s book recorded a total number of 21364 visitors from different organizations, institutions & family groups.

Interactive programme with International Crocodile Expert Dr. H. R. Bustard:

An interaction programme with Dr. H. R. Bustard, Former Chief Technical Advisor, Crocodile Project, UNDP/FAO/GOI was organized in the museum on 16th January, 2014 from 11.00 am to 2.30 pm. During his interaction with about 100 students from M.Sc. (Forestry), B.Sc. (Forestry) from Orissa University of

Agriculture and technology, M.Sc. students from Botany and Zoology of Utkal University, Researchers, NGOs and media, Dr. Bustard who was instrumental in the successful implementation of 34 crocodile projects across India was of the view that Odisha has a huge scope for wildlife conservation especially crocodiles and crocodiles projects in the state the best and most successful in the country. He answered the questions of the students about various aspects of wildlife research, conservation-potential, issues and challenges especially crocodiles. Wildlife Experts Dr. L. A. K. Singh and Dr. Sudhakar Kar also participated.

Orientation workshop for school teachers (17th-18th January, 2014):

Orientation workshop for school teachers was organized from 17th-18th January, 2014 for 25 teachers from various schools. Teachers were given orientation to the various aspects of biodiversity and conservation with special reference to the state of Odisha and role of school teachers through a power point presentation by Scientist-in-Charge Shri.G. N. Indresha. He emphasized the role of teachers in imparting knowledge on various aspects of biodiversity through class room teaching and field experiences by organizing field activities for proper understanding, to develop skills, values, attitudes and commitment to conserve biodiversity. It was followed by orientation in the galleries on biodiversity of the state, northeast biodiversity, Herpetofauna diversity and how best the museum resources can be utilized for enriching class room teaching learning process.

In the afternoon session teachers were oriented about preparation of models of animals and birds through plaster of Paris, clay and fiber glass medium by providing hands on experience to teachers. Later teachers were given orientation about preservation of dead specimen in formalin, alcohol and dry preservation techniques for insects. Followed by preservation of specimens, teachers were given practical training on maintenance of aquariums and analyzing various water parameters like temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH etc with the help of water analysis kit. A film on “Symphony of Chilika” was screened prior to their visit to Chilika and a field visit to the largest brackish water lagoon Chilika was made to study the biodiversity of the brackish water lake ecosystem on 18th January, 2014. The objective was to explore the fresh water and brackish water bio-diversity, to provide first-hand field knowledge about flora & fauna, to make teachers aware of the conservation aspects of the both ecosystem, to orient teachers about wildlife, to make them understand the impact of socio-cultural aspects of ecosystem. The activities included bird watching, identifying the flora and fauna, understanding the importance of Irrawady dolphin conservation project through visit to project site etc. At the end of the programme, certificates were given to teachers in a function organized in the museum.

Forthcoming programmes:

1. Winter Nature Camp for P. G. Life Science students (27th-29th January 2014 at Bhitarkanika National Park.
2. Awareness programme on wetlands during World Wetland Day-2nd February at Ansupa-Wetland of National Importance.

RGRMNH, SAWAI MADHOPUR

During the period following works has been done in different sections of the museum:

Modelling Section:

- a. Mould of the Great Indian Hornbill and Chinkara has been prepared. Now it is ready for casting in fibre.
- b. Clay modelling, moulding, casting & finishing of Treepie, Kingfisher & Red wattled Lapwing has been completed.
- c. Clay modelling of sparrow (male & female) has been completed.

Art Section:

- a. Colour on Red wattled Lapwing.
- b. A painting (2"x4") has been prepared on canvas.

Library & Reception:

Counter of Library & Reception are complete & handed over to RGRMNH.

Transfers of books: About 72 Books are transferred to the library of RGRMNH, SWM from NMNH HQ, New Delhi.

Handing over-Taking over:

Elevator (lift) handed over to RGRMNH, SWM.

Forth coming programmes:

Elimentary work related to selection of the 20 candidates 9th to 12th class from different schools of in and around Sawai Madhopur for Winter Nature Camp-2014 has been completed. About 35 entries have been made for Winter Nature Camp.

Winter Nature Camp for two days i.e. 24th and 25th Jan., 2014 will be organized. It is planned to visit **Ranthambhore National Park, Sawai Madhopur** which is famous for project tiger & other faunal diversity & other **Rameshwar Ghat (Khandar)** which is famous for fresh water crocodile as well as local migratory birds.

Special Visit/Meeting:

- (A) Shri Rajendra Singh, Audio-Visual Assistant, Shri Rakesh Pal, Librarian & Information Assistant & Shri Jagdev Sharma, Field Collector deputed from NMNH, New Delhi (04.01.13 to 08.01.13) to this museum for systematic arrangements of books & to complete pending works related to multimedia/digital panels etc.

- (B) Shri B. N. Malhotra, Chief Engineer, CCU, New Delhi has visited this museum on 10th January, 2014 along with SC, EE, AE (both Civil & Electrical) etc. In connection with a inspection of hostel as well as auditorium work of RGRMNH.
- (C) A team of Mrs. Naaz Rizvi, Sc-'D', NMNH, Sh. M.M. Pandey, Under Secretary, MOEF and Sh. Hukam chand, UDC, NMNH visited officially to this museum during 20th to 22nd Jan., 2014 (including journey period) in connection with pending works of RGRMNH and preparatory works related to inaugural function of RGRMNH building.