



GOVERNMENT OF NAGALAND
**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT FORESTS &
CLIMATE CHANGE**



**WILDLIFE WEEK
CELEBRATIONS 2017-18**

WILDLIFE WING

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INTRODUCTION

With the creation of the State from Assam in Dec 1963, the State Forest Department inherited little of the Government owned forests that existed at the time and being managed by the Assam Forest Department. Initially, the Forest administration and management of the entire state was placed under the charge of a Forest Officer with headquarters at Dimapur. Subsequently, a Director of Forests was posted early 1963 with headquarters at Kohima. The Department now has 13 Territorial Divisions, 2 Wildlife Divisions and 4 functional divisions.

The young Himalayan mountain ranges of the North East is home to many unique animals that are endemic to this region. Nagaland, which shares a border with Myanmar in the east is bestowed with rich biodiversity and is an integral part of the Indo-Myanmar Biodiversity Hotspot region.

Every year Wildlife Week is celebrated in October first week (1st Oct – 8th Oct) by the Government, the public - environmentalists, activists, educators, village councils amongst others who come together to organize, to participate, to celebrate and to accelerate the awareness of wildlife conservation among the people. This year too, during October first week, several conferences, awareness programmes, various competitions and public meetings among the nature lovers were held throughout the state as a planned effort to increase conservation awareness, to educate the children and public, to bridge the gap between nature, wildlife and us - humans. The Department coordinated with NGOs, village councils, schools and educational institutions to organize events such as wildlife related photo exhibitions, movie screenings, painting competitions/essay writing/ debate competitions for young children with wildlife as the theme.

ORIGIN OF WILDLIFE WEEK

In the year 1952 with a view to preserve the fauna of India, particularly to take urgent steps to prevent extinction of any species, the Government of India established the INDIAN BOARD OF WILDLIFE (IBWL). Along with that, it was also decided to organize Wildlife Week that would be celebrated every year between 1st to 8th of October.

The main objective of the annual campaign is to promote the preservation of fauna i.e. animal life - all forms of life to progress alongside us, humans.

CELEBRATION IN THE STATE

DIMAPUR

With the theme - “Understanding the voiceless animals”, the program at Dimapur on 6th Oct 2017 was marked by essay writing competition, quiz and painting competition at the Government Higher Secondary School, Half Nagarjan, Dimapur. The students were highlighted the success story of the Amur Falcon (*Falco amurensis*). The awareness campaign also consisted of examples on the reduction of the number of Indian vultures due to



Figure 1: Program at Government High Secondary School, Half Nagarjan, Dimapur.

the contamination of the food-chain by the chemical - *diclofenac*, which is lethal to them when they consume animal carcasses treated with the chemical. The role of the humble bee in pollination and in the propagation of plants was highlighted. Experts from Blyth Tragopan Conservation and Breeding Centre, Kohima gave an insight into the distribution, population, reproduction, the threat to bird and conservation status accorded to the state bird.



Figure 2: Wildlife photo mugs and photo frames distributed by Nagaland Zoological Park, Rangapahar, Dimapur.

to all visitors and special interactions with the zoo staff marked the day. Wildlife photo mugs, photo frames with wildlife photos from the zoo were distributed to the visitors. Dedicated zoo staff were also felicitated. Wildlife Quiz for the staff was also conducted to mark the occasion. As a token of gratitude for their services in the zoo, all Animal Section staff comprising of - animal attendants, cooks, grass cutters and store keeper were presented with gifts. Shri. Thiru, Zoo Biologist was felicitated by the Director for his constant dedication and sincere services in the Zoo.

Entry was made free



Figure 3: Token of gratitude and interaction of wildlife staff at Nagaland Zoological Park, Rangapahar, Dimapur

KIPHIRE

The Department set up a camping site at Likhimro Bridge (near Thanamir village), Pungro subdivision, Kiphire on 1st



Figure 5: Children with certificates after painting and drawing competition at Likhimro Bridge camp-site area, near Thanamir village, Kiphire.

Oct 2017 in order to give a taste of wilderness to the staff. The staff along with volunteers from Fakim and Thanamir villages cleared the area off weeds and set up the camp site for hosting a program for students and public on 3rd Oct 2017 using locally available materials. Camping tents and tent materials were provided by Fakim and Thanamir villages. The program was attended by Thanamir, Fakim, Vongsuvong, Tsundang, Penkim, Salomi, Khongsa villages along with Khongsa Area Public Organisation (KAPO).

An awareness program was held to encourage the students to participate in the painting contest and the public to enjoy nature's beauty in the wild. The unique land holding pattern in

Nagaland in which any conservation initiatives from the Forest department cannot be implemented effectively without the community involvement was explained to the participants. Legal provisions in our Constitution and laws such as Wildlife Protection Act 1972 were discussed and highlighted - hunting or poaching of wildlife listed in the Schedules of the Act will result in not only in a hefty fine but also imprisonment of up to 7 years, depending on the wildlife species. Painting competition for the Government Primary Schools (GPS) saw good participation by the students. A total of 130 participants took part in the program.



Figure 7: Students participating in painting competition at El Beth High School, Kiphire Town.



Figure 4: Participants at Likhimro Bridge camp site, Pungro, Kiphire.



Figure 6: Children participating in painting competition at Likhimro Bridge campsite, Pungro, Kiphire.

At El Beth High School, Kiphire Town celebrated on 6th Oct 2017 with the theme – “Listen to the young voices”. Quiz and painting competitions were held on the topic “Forest and Wildlife”. The quiz competition was largely based on the wildlife matters concerning Nagaland and India. The partici-

pants were asked to write a small essay on the topic “Personal contribution in the wildlife conservation”. After the programme, the questions asked in the quiz were discussed and the participants were given a brief background of the different Acts and Regulations concerning wildlife in Nagaland and India. Contributions and efforts of Bhutan Glory Eco Clubin spreading the awareness of wildlife conservation was mentioned. Almost a 100 students participated in the event.



Figure 8: Participants at painting competition at El Beth High School, Kiphire Town.

On the same day - 6th Oct 2017, at Muytei Project Area near Anatongre village which is about 22



Figure 9: Students, scouts, guides and participants at Muytei Project Area, Anatongre village, Kiphire.

Kms away from Kiphire town, a program was conducted in collaboration with Greenland Society – an NGO. The program was marked by painting competition, Quiz and essay writing contest for students from Government Primary School (GPS) Anatongre, Christian School Anatongre, Government High School (GHS) Anatongre and also by Kiphire Bharat Scouts and Guides who all took part in the competitions actively.

Agriculture Department, Kiphire who graced the occasion explained beautifully about the importance of all types of wildlife from big to small including microorganisms like bacteria. They cited the examples of how bees single handedly help in pollination and how their disappearance will affect the food chain. They also cited the example of an apex predator like tiger which keeps the food chain in balance. The missing of a top predator means that an increase in lower food chain animals that leads to that leads to imbalance in the ecosystem. The Forest Department exhorted to take an empathetic view in conservation of the voiceless wildlife.

A female dance troupe – Kiukhian-Kiuphulong, Anatongre village presented the public with a mesmerizing cultural dance performance marked the end of the program. More than 200 people participated in the program with 45 participants in the various competitions.

KOHIMA

On 4th Oct 2017, a ‘student special’ program with the theme “Securing the future, start young”, wherein different schools of Kohima participated in quiz and essay. The topic of the essay competition was “Role of student in protection and conservation of wildlife and forests”. The winners in the competitions were given prizes by the Department. Senior officers and experts from the Department gave PowerPoint presentations on importance of wildlife

conservation and the role of students in conservation. Short videos on important wild animals and varieties of slides on wild life were presented during the program.



Figure 10: Active participation of school students at Kohima.



Figure 11: Department interacting with the young citizens at Kohima.

vation were discussed. The program was attended by Department officials, SAPO officials, village councils, local functionaries of the villages, student unions, women society and church workers.

A second phase of the program involved an awareness cum community consultation program conducted in collaboration with Southern Angami Public Organization (SAPO) on 6th Oct 2017 at Kigwema village for nearby villages. Issues related to forest fires and their prevention, community participation in wildlife and environmental conser-



Figure 12: Awareness cum Community Consultation Program conducted at Kigwema village, Kohima.

LONGLENG

From 1st October 2017 to 7th October 2017, various competitions i.e. essay, painting etc. were organized in schools to create affinity for wildlife among students and children.



Figure 13: Participants from Government Schools at Nyengching, Longleng.



Figure 14: A happy kid after completing his painting at Government Primary School Nyengching, Longleng.

Wildlife Week 2017 was celebrated by the Department on 6th Oct 2017 by Government Middle School Trongar 'A' Eco Club and Government Primary School Nyengching, Longleng.



Figure 15: A little kid drawing on the theme of Environment with innocence.



Figure 16: Winners of the painting competition at Longleng

On 7th October 2017, International wildlife week celebration was held at Yaongyimchen village in Longleng district, in combination with seminar on – Human and Animal conflict and 5 Years (2012-2017) Commemoration Program of Community Projects, launched under Lemsachenblak- A development society under Yaongyimchen, Alayoung and Sanglu. Shri Pankaj Kumar, IAS, Chief Secretary, Government of Nagaland and the Chief Guest, appreciated the efforts of Yaongyimchem of converting hunters into conservationist and appealed to the Forest Department to extend financial and technical support to the villagers in their noble endeavor. Shri. Imkonglemba Ao, IAS Principal Secretary & Agriculture Production Commissioner and Chairman, Nagaland Bamboo Mission, Government of Na-



Figure 17: Participants at painting competition at Longleng



Figure 18: Shri Pankaj Kumar IAS, Chief Guest at Longleng

galand and the Guest of Honour spoke on the policies of the Government for Agriculture Development. He stated that International Project titled “International Fund for Agriculture Development” is likely to be launched very soon in the State. The economy of the people of the State would improve. Shri Roy P. Thomas, IFS Joint Director (Wildlife), Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi, the Special Guest, stated to be very happy by seeing the condition of forest and wildlife in surrounding villages. He stated the Government of India is committed in extending its support, both technical as well as financial, for protection of forest and wildlife. Shri Satya Prakash Tripathi, Chief Wildlife Warden, Nagaland, spoke on the occasion on policies/ projects of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India. He stated that the Ministry has sanctioned 15 (fifteen) Community Conservation projects in the for protection of wildlife in the State during 2017-18. He appealed to the people to come forward for giving their land for Community Reserves for possible funding by the Ministry.

Wildlife Sunday Worship was observed on 8th Oct 2017 at Longleng Town Baptist Church inculcating a spirit of conservation amongst the participants. Shri. P. Roy Thomas, IFS Jt Director (wildlife) MoEFCC delivered a sermon at the church.



Figure 19: Audience listening enthusiastically to the Chief Guest at Yaongyimchen village, Longleng



Figure 20: Audience participating at Longleng



Figure 21: Shri Roy P. Thomas IFS, Joint Director delivering a speech at Longleng

MON

On 7th Oct 2017, the Department celebrated in United Christian Higher Secondary School (UCHSS) at Naganimora, Mon by conducting an essay competition for the school children on the topic “Conserving Wildlife for Future”. Department discussed as to how conservation of wildlife is in the interests and benefit of humankind. How our creator has created all living beings and each living being as equally important. There was also a special number by the UCHSS teachers. Around 300 participants attended the event.



Figure 22: Teachers of United Higher Secondary School teachers performing a number at Naganimora, Mon



Figure 23: Participants with certificates at Naganimora, Mon



Figure 24: Naganimora Forest Range Office staff at the event

Wildlife Week was celebrated at Singhpan Wildlife Sanctuary in Mon on 8th Oct. 2017 at Namthai Village Konyak Baptist Church. The program was attended by 80 people including members of the church, village council, youth and students along with the department frontline staff.

The Department highlighted the importance of wildlife and its conservation and called upon the local masses to be responsible to safeguarding the wildlife heritage of Singhpan and its habitat from all



Figure 25: Program at Namthai Village Konyak Baptist Church, Mon

kinds of illegal destruction. A short speech was also delivered by field staff in local Konyak dialect



Figure 26: Department interacting with participants at Namthai Village Konyak Baptist Church, Mon

enlightening the participants about the importance and the key role being played by insects, birds and wild animals in maintaining our ecosystem balance. Various speakers from the participants also spoke their view on conservation in the informal discussion time. The programme ended with planting of ornamental trees in church premises.

PEREN

Week-long celebration on the theme – “learning, loving and living with wildlife” was undertaken in Peren.

On the first day, 2nd Oct 2017, flex and banners were put up along the highways with messages of conservation. On 3rd Oct 2017, in solidarity with the national initiative towards “Swachhata Hi Seva” the department organized cleanliness drive in which important public spaces like Women Welfare Organization halls, campuses and public locations



Figure 27: Important message being conveyed to the participants at Peren.

were cleared and banners and flex with profound messages towards Wildlife Conservation were erected.



Figure 28: Painting competition at College of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry, Jalukie, Nagaland

On 4th Oct 2017, the Department visited all the market places,

Government offices, schools, and churches with the message of Wildlife conservation and had put up flex and banners in their campus with strong Wildlife message, altogether 39 flex and banners and locations were identified to



Figure 29: Painting competition at College of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry, Jalukie, Nagaland

spread the message of Wildlife Conservation.

On 5th Oct 2017, in keeping up the momentum, the Forest Department in collaboration with the College of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry, Jalukie, Nagaland celebrated the occasion by organizing an inter-college/school quiz cum spot painting competition in the campus of the college.

On 6th Oct 2017, an awareness programme was organised at Jalukie for public. The public were reminded to be aware of their calling for stewardship in wildlife conservation with a strong call – “Humans give your hands towards conservation, not to destroy them. If this world ceases to exist, then where is your future?”. Life that should be viewed from cosmos-centric and not anthropos-centric perspective and not to reduce the kingdom of God just to soul saving and individual greed. A comparison between the creation as depicted in the bible and the Science of creation was made. The beautiful earth that we live here is God’s blessing, we did not inherit it but borrowed from our children.



Figure 30: Choreography at Ao Baptist Church, Peren.

On the days 7 – 8th Oct 2017, as a culmination of the weeklong celebration Jalukie Town Ao Baptist Church youth department conducted a worship service in which Choreography based on Wildlife Conservation was performed. At this congregation, the public were reminded of their role in conservation of wildlife with the thought - “creation as the reflection of God’s image”.

A meaningful and inspiring choreography was presented by Ao Baptist Church youth depicting the life of wilderness in Savanna Forest. The College of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry with a sincere view to arouse interest towards conservation and at the same time teach the people presented a wonderful act. In the act the main story line was towards how unmindful, merciless and rampant killing bring collateral damaged to the equilibrium in the animal kingdom.

A free distribution of saplings in flower vase with wildlife week celebration written and with a message that let us plant it to make a rich habitat for Wildlife to grow and save this planet earth.

PHEK

On 7th Oct 2017, the Department observed Wildlife Week in the pristine area of Krokropfii Community Conservation Area, Lephori with Government High School, Kamaleah, Lephori. Painting competition and essay writing competitions were held for the students. An exhibition consisting of wildlife photography, wildlife banners, awareness placards and quotes on wildlife were displayed for the participants to view, learn and interpret. A special number was presented by the students. The winners in the contests were presented with certificates and mementos.



Figure 31: Participants from Government High School, Kamaleah, Lephori, Phek



Figure 32: Conservation conversations at Krokropfii Community Conservation Area, Lephori, Phek



Figure 33: Conservation messages being displayed at Krokropfii Community Conservation Area, Lephori, Phek



Figure 34: Painting competition being conducted at Krokropfii Community Conservation Area, Lephori, Phek

TUENSANG

The Department organized the celebration of wildlife week 2017 program under the theme “Wildlife and Nature” on 7th October 2017 at Hakushang School, Tuensang. The concept of all living organisms holding a place in the food chain was explained to the participants. Extinction of one species in food chain can threaten and alter the physical environment as well. The students were encouraged to reach out to influence and engaged their parents, neighbours and communities to promote awareness on wildlife conservation. Competition was held in three categories - painting, essay and quiz competition to spread awareness and create consciousness towards wildlife conservation and protection.



Figure 35: Participants from Hakushang School, Tuensang



Figure 37: Winning paintings at Tuensang



Figure 36: Winners of the painting competition with Department at Hakushang School, Tuensang.



Figure 38: Winning paintings at Tuensang



Figure 39: Winning paintings at Tuensang



Figure 40: Winning paintings at Tuensang

WOKHA

On 7th October 2017, the higher secondary students of Don Bosco School, Wokha were treated to a special Wildlife Week Celebration. In a first of its kind in Wokha, bird watching and nature walk sessions conducted for school students in the wee hours of Saturday, marked the much-anticipated occasion of the Wildlife Week Celebration to provide the students a firsthand experience and to promote as well as to garner the interest of the young minds to the hobby of bird watching and thereby participate in conservation. Early mornings and evenings being the most active period for birds, the session started at 6:00 am and was held at Vankosung, during which the students sighted a good number of birds



Figure 41: Higher Secondary students from Don Bosco School setting out to bird watch at Wokha.

with the likes of Barbet, Pied Bushchat, Stonechat, Leaf Warblers and Flycatchers among others. As part of the nature walk session, students were also informed on various aspects ranging from important fruit trees for wildlife to the different types of forests and types of habitat for birds and animals and the need for conservation besides the methods to sight and identify birds and the use of field guide books.



Figure 42: Bird watching by participants at Wokha.

Following this, wildlife quiz competition was held at the forest office premises for the high school students from different schools. The participants were enlightened about Wildlife Week and the need for conservation. It was also stressed on how Wokha district is blessed with important wildlife such as the Amur Falcons and elephants and the rediscovery of extinct-in-wild turtle species- the Black Softshell Turtle. The people of Wokha have been recognized globally for the efforts in conserving the Amur Falcons, the participants were encouraged to continue the good job with the same spirit.

At the end of the program, the high-octane documentary “The Hunt” narrated by the much-acclaimed wildlife commentator Sir David Attenborough was screened. The film includes the story of the extremely tough journey of the migratory Amur Falcons at Doyang, Wokha, which covers an astonishing distance of about 22,000 km every year for their survival.



Figure 43: Participants of Bird Watching, nature walk and quiz competition at Wokha.

WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

As a build up to the Wildlife Week, an in-house wildlife photography contest was conducted for all the officers and staff of the Department. A total of 92 photos were submitted by 14 participants. Shri Prasenjeet Yadav, National Geographic Explorer (NGS), National Geographic Creative Photographer (NGP) judged the contest which was won by Shri Onenjungshi, Photographer, Office of Chief Wildlife Warden, Dimapur for his beautiful and picturesque photograph of Amur Falcons with a sunset backdrop in Intanki National Park.

The second place was secured by Ms. Lhingoikim Touthang IFS, DCF Silviculture Division for her macro photography of an insect laying eggs.



Figure 44: Winning photo of Amur Falcons at Intanki National Park by Shri OnenJungshi, Photographer, Office of Chief Wildlife Warden, Dimapur.



Figure 45: Second place by Ms Lhingoikim Touthang IFS, DCF Silviculture Division, Kohima.



Cover photo credit : Shri. Onenjungshi, Photographer, Office of Chief Wildlife Warden, Dimapur.

