



TRAINING REPORT ON

“JUNIOR RANGERS- CONNECTING STUDENTS WITH NATURE”

SPONSORED BY
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS & CLIMATE CHANGE,
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

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ICFRE - INSTITUTE OF FOREST GENETICS & TREE BREEDING, COIMBATORE

Half of the world's population live in the urban environment. Lifestyle changes have led to spending more time indoors and less in nature. Environmental education bestows students with appropriate skills, knowledge and attitude to cope with a rapidly changing world and climate and promotes both personal and social transformation towards more sustainable lifestyles. Fostering a sense of connection to nature has an impact on students' well-being, learning and (re)connect with nature.

In this background, ICFRE-IFGTB imparted three day training on the theme “**Junior Ranger – Connecting Students with Nature**” to the three Government school students *viz.*, Govt. High School, Gandhi MaNagar, CCMA Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School, Raja Street and Govt. Higher Secondary School, Kavundampalayam of Coimbatore district. The training was imparted to the government school students to raise awareness of issues impacting the environment upon which we all depend, as well as actions we can take to improve and sustain it. **The training was sponsored by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India under the Umbrella Scheme of “Forestry Training & Capacity Building- Training of other Stakeholders”.**

This training programme was organized for students of 8th, 9th and 11th standards. The three day module attended by 30 students along with three teachers. The students visited Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, Nilgiris to understand the need for Tiger Conservation and different strategies that are being implemented. Cave Arts of Kothagiri Hills and Honey collection methods of local tribes were explained to the team. To witness the wild animals in their natural habitat, an exclusive Forest Safari was organized. A visit to Mudumalai Elephant Camp and feeding centre was also arranged. Students were explained the elephants enrolled in the camp, their food allowances prescribed by Veterinarian. Video documentaries on Mudumalai Tiger Reserve were also showcased to the participants. During the field visit, the students were exposed to different forest types and multistory agroforestry system. Class room lectures by popular speakers on World of Butterflies, World of Elephants, Eco camps and trekking experiences and Introduction to LiFE Mission were organized. The participants visited Gass Forest Museum in IFGTB, Coimbatore to learn importance of Natural History.

On the first day, Shri.P.Chandrasekaran, ACTO welcomed the students and teachers. He briefed the genesis of Junior Rangers Program and activities to be covered in the training programme.

On the way to Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, Dr. C. Kunhikannan, Director IFGTB interacted with students. He explained the various types of Forest. Then, proceeded to Longwood Shola, wherein Director explained the composition and characteristics of different species and their ecological role. To experience the microclimate effect of Shola forest, trekking was arranged. During the trekking, Director elaborated different families of Shola species. The students interacted with Shri. R. Kannan, Freelancer Environmentalist, on the Cave arts of Mudumalai Tiger Reserve.

On the 2nd day, the students were taken to forest safari to observe the wild animals and biodiversity as to learn as part of their nature education strategy. They could observe elephants, bear, spotted deer, Malabar giant squirrel, Common Langur, Bonnet Macaque in wild and several bird species. In the 'Meet the Ranger' event, Shri. Manoj Kumar, the Forest Ranger, Mudumalai Tiger Reserve briefed the duties of Forest Range Officer. Visits were made to plantations of exotic (Eucalyptus) and indigenous species (Teak) and Dr. S. Saravanan explained its role in economic development and importance of its site selection, phenology etc.

On the final day, Dr. Mohan Prashanth, Founder Tamil Nadu Butterfly Society, delivered a lecture on butterflies-their importance and conservation. Prof. P. Kandasamy, Hon. Wildlife warden (STR) delivered a lecture on Eco awareness, a path to Eco-literacy., Shri. OSAI K. Kalidasan, an environmentalist spoke on World of Elephants wherein he highlighted about the Elephants life cycle and its conservation strategies. Shri. P. Chandrasekaran, ACTO, conducted a tour to Gass Forest Musuem. Shri. Vigneswaran, Program Officer, ENVIS, delivered a lecture on Introduction to LiFE Mission.

In the valedictory session, a Certificate of participation, T-shirt with Junior Ranger logo, Cap, Bag, Steel water bottle, nature encyclopedia and booklets on plants, birds, fishes, reptiles and mammals published by IFGTB were distributed to the students. Students showcased their talents on environmental conservation through small skit as the feedback of the programme. Shri. Pandia Rajasekaran, District Educational Officer (Secondary), Coimbatore was the Chiet guest of the function.

**Director
IFGTB**



Dr. C. Kunhikannan, Director, IFGTB flagged off the Junior Ranger program



Briefing about "Forest types of India"



Trekking to "Longwood Shola"



'Forest Safari' at MTR



'Forest Safari' at MTR



Visit to Elephant Camp and Feeding Centre



Mudumalai Teak Plantations



Shri. Mohan Prasath, Founder, Tamil Nadu Butterfly society

Meet the Ranger - Shri. Manoj Kumar, FRO, MTR



Prof.P. Kandasamy, Hon. Wildlife Warden on Eco awareness, a path to Eco-literacy



Shri.K.Kalidasan, President, OSAI on World of Elephants



Visit to Gass Forest Museum



Mono-Act play on Save Trees by a Junior Rangers



Certificate Distribution