

# CEC COP-11 ACTIVITIES

## 1. COP-11 SIDE EVENTS

**Date:** 8 October 2012 **Time:** 13:15 - 14:45 **Location:** Side Event Room 2 - HITEX 1 - Ground Level

### Programme

Time	Title	Presenter
1.15 p.m.	Introduction	Dr. V Shubhalaxmi
<b>Seminar 1: Status of Environmental Studies in academic institutions with emphasis on inquiry/project method</b>		
1.10 p.m.	Masters Programme in Environmental Science: An Overview	Dr. Sugghanda Shetye
1.20 p.m.	Environmental Studies in High Schools: Current Status, Challenges and Need of Student Motivation	Mr. Sarvesh Karkhanis
1.30 p.m.	Environmental Education as the Hub of Integrated Learning	Mr. Hector Andrade
1.40 p.m.	Discussion	
<b>Seminar 2: Role of Nature Interpretation Centres/Nature Education Centres</b>		
1.50 p.m.	Initiatives in Rishi Valley Education Centre- an Over view	Dr. Radha Gopalan
2.00 p.m.	Longest Running Global Animal Welfare Education	Rupa Gandhi Chaudhary
2.10 p.m.	Discussion	
<b>Seminar 3: Leadership skill development among the students for contribution to Nature Conservation</b>		
2.20 p.m.	Creating the next generation of Environmental Leaders	Fr. Savio Silveira
2.30 p.m.	Discussion	
2.45 p.m.	Conclusion	Dr. V Shubhalaxmi

### **Title: ROLE OF CONSERVATION EDUCATION IN DEVELOPING YOUNG GREEN CRUSADERS IN SOUTH ASIA.**

The BNHS will conduct the Conservation Education Symposium which will address following themes through three seminars;

- Status of Environmental Studies in academic institutions with emphasis on inquiry/project method
- Role of Nature Interpretation Centres/Nature Education Centres
- Leadership skill development among the students for contribution to Nature Conservation

The aim of the Symposium is to create opportunities for in-depth discussions on efforts of conservation education in South-east Asia. The focus of the Symposium is on conservation education questions, such

as whether environmental studies should be made compulsory in the syllabus? What are the pros and cons? What have been individual experiences in implementing environmental studies? How effectively environmental studies are implemented? Have the educators achieved the desired results by practicing environmental studies? How well the inquiry/project method is used and has it been effective? How important Nature Interpretation Centres and Nature Education Centres are for implementation of environmental studies? How leaderships skills among the students could be developed so that they to contribute to nature conservation?

The seminars that comprise the Symposium will consider theoretical, methodological and empirical issues related to Conservation Education, both in academic institutions where environmental studies is treated as an add on subject rather being treated as a multi-disciplinary subject. The aim is to discuss and expand the knowledge base of the field by experience and resource sharing. Seminars may also address on how educators can overcome the challenges encountered in implementing environmental studies in effective manner.

Following six presentations will be held during the symposium

**Seminar 1: Status of Environmental Studies in academic institutions with emphasis on inquiry/project method**

1. Masters Programme in Environmental Science: An Overview by Dr. Sugghanda Shetye, K.J. Somaiya College of Science and Commerce, Mumbai
2. Environmental Studies in High Schools: Current Status, Challenges and Need of Student Motivation by Sarvesh Karkhanis, Thane
3. Environmental Education as the Hub of Integrated Learning by Prof. Hector Andrade, Associate Professor, Flame School of Liberal Education, Pune

**Seminar 2: Role of Nature Interpretation Centres/Nature Education Centres**

4. EE Initiatives in Rishi Valley Education Centre- an Over view by Dr. Radha Gopalan, Andhra Pradesh
5. Longest Running Global Animal Welfare Education by Rupa Gandhi Chaudhary, IFAW-WTI Noida, NCR

**Seminar 3: Leadership skill development among the students for contribution to Nature Conservation**

6. Creating the next generation of Environmental Leaders by Fr. Savio Silveira, GreenLine, Don Bosco Provincial House, Mumbai.

**2. CEPA FAIR EXHIBITION**

**Date:** 8-19 October 2012 **Location:** Kiosk 6

**2.1 Exhibition of Materials for the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity (UNDP)**

**(A) Presentation of Posters**

- Impact of Online natural history hobby courses of BNHS by Dr.V.Shubhalaxmi and Priti Choghale: The poster will cover the indicators of success of the online courses conducted by BNHS. For more than a decade, BNHS has been offering correspondence courses for more than a decade however in past two years, two its courses have been converted into online. More than 500 students have taken up these courses. Some of the students became environmental activists while some pursued higher field research and for some it was helpful in having a career change. The paper will discuss the impact of learning on the students and how it has helped in the personal and professional lives.
- Volunteerism in Conservation Education- A community engagement initiative by BNHS by Dr.V.Shubhalaxmi and Priti Choghale: The CEC-Mumbai has been training volunteers for past 8 years. These volunteers have been actively helping CEC with its educational activities. The poster will highlight the volunteer role in conservation education as well as the method of developing a dedicated force of volunteers. More than 500 volunteers have

been trained till now, however 50 dedicated volunteers are currently retained at CEC.

### 3. CEPA FAIR SIDE EVENTS: Side Events Focusing on CEPA as a tool in support of the strategic plan and United Nations Decade on Biodiversity

**Date:** 16 October 2012 **Time:** 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. **Location:** Info-Kiosk 5

#### Programme

Time	Activity	Speaker
10.00 a.m.	Registration	Priti Choghale
10.15 a.m.	Introduction to BNHS and Side Event	Dr. V.Shubhalaxmi
10.30 a.m.	<b>Biodiversity monitoring and citizen science:</b> Be a Scientist for a Day: A citizen science project for biodiversity surveys at BNHS Nature Reserve (BNR)	Dr. V.Shubhalaxmi
11.15 a.m.	Tea Break	
11.45 a.m.	<b>Social networking and CEPA :</b> Role of Natural History E-groups in bridging the gap between Scientist and Citizens and their contribution to conservation of Indian Wildlife	Dr. V.Shubhalaxmi
12.15 p.m.	Panel Discussion	
1.00 p.m.	Conclusion	

#### 2.1 Theme: Biodiversity monitoring and citizen science

##### (A) PPT Presentations

- Title: Be a Scientist for a Day: A citizen science project for biodiversity surveys at BNHS Nature Reserve (BNR) by Dr.V.Shubhalaxmi and Kaustubh Bhagat

The BNHS Nature Reserve situated in Mumbai is a 33 acres forested land. In 2011, “ Be a Scientist for a Day”- a citizen science project was launched wherein the biodiversity surveys were carried out by involving amateurs and experts. Every month surveys were held for five themes viz. Plants, Insects, Moths, Herpetofauna and Birds. The moth studies were carried out in night and the herpetofauna survey was carried out during dusk. The surveys were carried out for a year. The survey dates were announced in newspapers and interested participants signed up for the surveys of their interest. Each survey was accompanied by a subject expert and 5-10 participants. During the survey five nature trails of BNR were surveyed in three seasons. With help of the expert, the participants collected field data and then fed the data into computers. The participants could use the knowledge gained to carry out such studies in their locality. The programme was well received by people and there was a demand for more such activities. In fact a number of schools and colleges want to include the programme module for their students to learn the research methodologies for field surveys. The students, especially from Biological sciences, found this initiative as practical approach supplementing the theory studied in college. Altogether 254 (143 adults, 111 school and college students) participants participated in the year long surveys. The feedback by the participants revealed more that 80 % of the participants found the programme to be effective. The presentation will deal with this case study of citizen science.

#### 2.2 Theme: Social networking and CEPA

- Title: Role of Natural History Egroups in bridging the gap between Scientist and Citizens and their contribution to conservation of Indian Wildlife: by Dr.V.Shubhalaxmi and Vijay Barve

There are several egroups on natural history in India. A decade ago yahoo groups was the most preferred e-group preferred by nature lovers, however with advent of Facebook, the number of subject-specific egroups increased tremendously. The upsurge was also due advent of digital photography which made natural history photography more easy and affordable. Very interestingly these e-groups were largely managed by passionate individuals rather organizations. The second author is one such person who created close to 20 egroups on Yahoogroups and Facebook. The members to this group are largely amateurs who want to get their photographs,

experts too get associated as they get interesting data from far and wide areas of India. The experts are both national and international. This makes these egroups a powerhouse of natural history information. The first author got to know about a new moth species from Arunachal Pradesh through one of the group emails. While the interactions are taking place on almost daily basis on some egroups, no study has been carried out to study the impact of this modern age science study method which is bringing scientists out of the closet into the public virtual domain. The presentation will cover the achievements of these egroups and the perception of the moderators, experts and members.

**CONTACT PERSONS: DR. V.SHUBHALAXMI at [vshubhalaxmi@gmail.com](mailto:vshubhalaxmi@gmail.com),  
MS. PRITI CHOHALE at [cecbnhs@gmail.com](mailto:cecbnhs@gmail.com)**

