



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

Nature keeps us emotionally, psychologically and physically healthy. There are mounting empirical evidences that interacting with nature delivers measurable benefits to people. Environmental education sheds light on the ecosystem to which we belong and help to know the interconnectedness of our biodiversity, forests, water bodies, and ecosystem as a whole. It 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 through re-connection to nature.

In this background, ICFRE-IFGTB imparted three day training on the theme “**Junior Rangers – Connecting Students with Nature**” to students from two Government schools viz., Govt. High School, Kuniyamuthur and Govt. Higher Secondary School, Othakkalmandapam of Coimbatore district. The training was imparted to instill ecological principles from a young age will help our society become more environmentally conscious. **The training was sponsored by Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India, under the Scheme of “Forestry Training & Capacity Building - Training of other Stakeholders”.**

This training programme was organized for students of 8th and 9th standards. The three day module was attended by 30 students along with two teachers. The students visited Anamalai Tiger Reserve, Tamil Nadu & Parambikulam Tiger Reserve, Kerala to understand the dynamics of protected area and landscape management and to learn floral and faunal diversity. They visited Interpretation Centre, Sethumadai. A trekking was arranged to Kariyanshola, an eco-spot in Anamali Tiger Reserve.

To witness the wild animals in their natural habitat, an exclusive Forest Safari was organized. Students were taken to Elephant Camp at Kozhikamuthi to know about

elephant management. In the evening, a cultural program was arranged for the students with tribal Artists to understand their way of life and their dependency on forests in various forms. The artists were performed with their traditional art forms.

Participants visited the reservoirs viz., Thunakadavu dam, Parambikulam dam, and Peruvairipallam dam. In Parambikulam, students visited Tribal Heritage centre. Kannimara teak, the largest living Teak tree was witnessed by the team. Students were also taken in Bamboo rafting in Parambikulam dam. Class room lectures by popular speakers on Indian Mammals, Butterflies, Beautiful Indian Birds, Experience sharing in Wildlife rescue and Management & Animal Diversity of Western Ghats. The participants visited Gass Forest Museum in ICFRE-IFGTB, Coimbatore to learn the importance of Natural History.

On the first day (20.02.2024), Shri P. Chandrasekaran, ACTO, the Course co-ordinator welcomed the students and teachers. He briefed the genesis of Junior Rangers program and activities to be covered in the three days module. The students were taken to Interpretation centre, Sethumadai and Shri. Thilagar, Forester explained the rich biodiversity of the Anamalai Tiger Reserve (ATR) and its key species.

On the way to Anamalai Tiger Reserve, Dr. S. Saravanan, Head - Extension, ICFRE-IFGTB interacted with students and explained about various types of Forests and major tree species. He briefed about the composition and characteristics of different tree species and their ecological role. To experience the microclimate effect, trekking was arranged in Kariyan Shola. During the trekking, he elaborated different families of tree species, wide variety of herbs, shrubs, Trees, climbers and medicinal plants.

Dr. N. S. Manoharan, Addl. Director of Vet. Sciences (Rtd.), TNFD, shared his experience in Wildlife rescue and Management especially elephant. He spoke on World of Elephants wherein he highlighted about the Elephants life cycle and its conservation strategies. Students were also taken to Kozhikamuthi Elephant Camp. Students were explained about the food allowances and general maintenance. Later, a cultural program by the tribal artists was showcased to the students. The dances portrayed their own distinct cultural practices and have traditionally linked in close association with the forest resources for their livelihood.

On 21.02.2024, the second day, the students were taken to Parambikulam Tiger Reserve, Kerala. Students were also taken in Bamboo rafting in Parambikulam dam. Shri. Natarajan, Naturalist, Parambikulam Tiger Reserve, explained in detail about the Parambikulam Tiger Reserve and its panoramic landscape, meandering streams, extensive water spread of the reservoir and valleys and wealth of biodiversity as located in the Western Ghats, a biodiversity hotspot. He also explained about the three man-made reservoirs namely, Parambikulam, Thunakadavu, and Peruvairippallam including irrigation channels, hydroelectric power generation, and water supply. Students were also taken to Tribal Heritage centre & Kannimara teak, the oldest living teak tree in the world

On the last day of 22.02.2024, Shri. OSAI K. Kalidasan, an environmentalist spoke on Animal Diversity of Western Ghats, Dr. P. Pramod, Sr. Principal Scientist, SACON, Coimbatore delivered lecture on World of Birds and Shri. Mohan Prashanth, Founder Tamil Nadu Butterfly Society, delivered a lecture on butterflies-their importance and conservation. Shri. P.Chandrasekaran, ACTO, conducted a tour to Gass Forest Museum.

In the valedictory session, a Certificate of participation, T-shirt with Junior Ranger logo, Cap, Bag, Steel water bottle and booklets on plants, birds, fishes, reptiles and mammals published by ICFRE-IFGTB were distributed to the students.



Interpretation Centre, Sethumadai, Anamalai



Dr.S.Saravanan, Scientist explaining about different types of forest



Trekking to Kariyan Shola, Anamalai Tiger Reserve



Dr. N. S. Manoharan, Addl. Director of Vet.Sciences (Rtd.) TNFD shared his experience in Wildlife rescue and Management



Students at Elephant camp

Cultural program by ATR Tribal Artists



Visit to reservoirs – Thunakkadavu & Parambikulam Dam



Animal Diversity of Western Ghats by
OSAI K. Kalidasan, an environmentalist



Dr. Pramod, Sr. Scientist from SACON on
World of Birds



Shri.P.Chandrasekaran, ACTO, IFGTB on
Gass Forest Museum



Feedback by students

Dr.R.Yasodha, GCR, ICFRE-IFGTB during
valedictory address



Certificate distribution

**Director
ICFRE-IFGTB**