



**iNaturewatch Foundation Activity Report  
(16 January – 31 March 2020)**



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**iNaturewatch Foundation**  
**Progress Report ( Jan- Mar 2020)**

## 1. SUMMARY

iNaturewatch Foundation Activity Report is summarizing the activities conducted by the Foundation in from 16 January to 31 March 2020. To fulfill the organization's aim of developing environmentally sensitive citizens by engaging them. iNaturewatch had conducted a diverse range of innovative activities including projects, programs & online courses. We conducted three online courses, 1 corporate volunteering programme, 4 nature works and 1 webinar. Altogether we reached to 211 people. We also secured two new CSR projects worth Rs. 90 lakhs. We also moved to new office. During the lockdown the team has been working from home. The details of our activities is given below.

## 2. PROJECTS

### 2.1 ONGOING PROJECTS

- **Butterfly Habitats for students at Divya Vidyalaya Jawhar (2018-2021)**

The DCB Bank very graciously approved our CSR project to create an open-air butterfly garden for special children of Divya Vidyalay, Jawhar in Maharashtra. This project is outsourced to Ladybird Environmental Consulting LLP. We have planted 3000 plants in Jawhar School to create an open butterfly habitat where the butterfly life histories could be witnessed by the students. We conduct periodic plantation and butterfly assessment along with butterfly awareness programmes for the students. The DCB staff have been engaged in volunteering for the plantation, and habitat maintenance works throughout the project duration. Gardeners were appointed to take care of the plants, and now the results are evident of their good work. Students also help in the activities like removing of the invasive plant species in the butterfly habitat. The project duration is from September 2018 - August 2021 with review visit once after every six months.



Figure 1 Before



Figure 2 After

A review visit was done on 28 August 2019 in the Butterfly Habitat that was developed in October 2018 in collaboration with DCB Bank and Ladybird Environmental Consulting LLP. The Butterfly Habitat here has turned into a small mini forest making the place a lot greener. The mortality recorded was 10.28% with 2514 plants surviving out of 2774 during the review visit on March 2019. During the August 2019 survey we found that some of the plants like Lantana, Periwinkle, Curry leaves and Peacock were affected due to the heavy rains, while some like Wedelia and Bryophyllum had regenerated in large numbers. The butterfly's sightings have also increase but on the review visit we did not find many species due to the cloudy climate and rains. However, we could still could see 10-12 butterfly species and caterpillars.



**Divya Vidyalaya Jawahar**

## **2.2 New CSR Projects by DCB bank**

Now all CSR projects of Ladybird Environmental Consulting are conducted by iNaturewatch Foundation.

- **Achari Kunta Lake Rejuvenation Project, Hyderabad ( 2020-2022)**

The proposed project will entail technical interventions to improve ecological health of the lake, community mobilization and awareness generation towards the preservation of the lake. This will be a 18 month project wherein the lake surroundings and biotic (plants and animals) and abiotic (soil, water, temperature) parameters will be improved, educational and recreational value will be enhanced. The project will be governed by iNaturewatch Foundation (INW) and implemented by Ladybird Environmental Consulting LLP (LEC). The project cost is **Rs. 3111352/-**

- **Afforestation Project of Taloja Watershed (2020-2024)**

The current proposal plans to developing a mini native forest habitat by afforesting the Taloja Watershed in Navi Mumbai. An area of 5 ha (12 acres) will be vegetated by planting 5000 native species. ft. The local communities will be trained to raise forest nurseries which will be helpful in the plantation process. A nature trail along the hill will be developed to boost tourism to the site. The project duration will be 3 years. The project cost will be **Rs. 67,22,900/-** which will be

managed by iNaturewatch Foundation and implemented by Ladybird Environmental Consulting LLP (LEC).

### 3. PROGRAMMES

In span of three months we conducted 6 events and 3 courses catering to 211 participants. The details are mentioned below:

| TYPE OF PROGRAMME        | TOTAL NO OF PROGRAMMES | TOTAL NO OF PARTICIPANTS |
|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Corporate Volunteering   | 1                      | 25                       |
| Nature Walk              | 2                      | 38                       |
| Marine Walk for Students | 2                      | 103                      |
| Online Courses           | 3                      | 25                       |
| Webinar                  | 1                      | 20                       |
| <b>Total</b>             | <b>9</b>               | <b>211</b>               |

#### 3.1 Corporate Volunteering Programmes

Now all corporate employee volunteering programmes of Ladybird Environmental Consulting are conducted by iNaturewatch Foundation

- **22 Feb 2020: Habitat Restoration at Kharghar Valley**

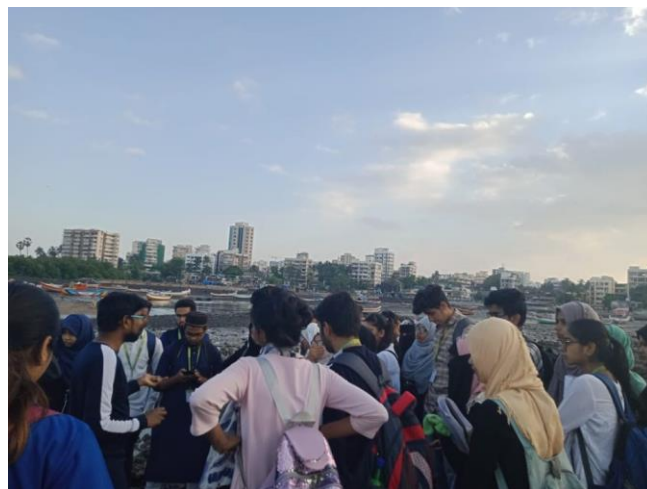
On 22nd Feb, 25 Volunteers From Piramal Foundation participated in the restoration works of Kharghar hills. The programme started with the nature trail conducted by Issac Kehimker and Nishtha Raut. participants learnt about flora and also learnt about the birds and the insects. Post trail the participants were divided into two groups where they worked on the nature trail development by digging and lining of the stones and the other team worked on making the pond barrier.



### 3.2 Events

- **29th Jan 2020: Free Marine Walk at Chimbai Beach for Rizvi College Students**

iNaturewatch in collaboration with United Way Mumbai conducted a Marine shore walk from 7:30 to 9:30, for Rizvi college 36 students and professors at Chimbai Beach, Bandra, The walk was conducted by our marine biologist Mr. Satish. We came across different varieties of marine organisms like a dead sea snake, different gastropods, bivalves, crab species, sea anemone, Gobi fish, amphipods, barnacles, decorator worms, sponges and mangroves. The walk aimed at creating awareness about the huge marine biodiversity that the rocky beach is a home to. Pic credits: Mr. Satish, Mr. Tushar(United Way Mumbai)



- **13 Feb 2020: Marine Walk at Chimbai Beach for Rose Manor International School**

We conducted a marine walk for 57 enthusiastic students of Rose Manor International School from 8.30am to 10.30am. Students explored the rocky beach of Chimbai and learn about the different marine organisms dwelling the rocky beach. They were amazed to see the sea anemone in the small rock pools. Hermit crabs, bivalves, barnacles, gastropods, and crabs were the other highlights of the walk.



- **15 Feb 2020: Homi Bhabha Balvaidnyanik Competition**

This year we mentored one student from Standard VI to excel in this competition. He took up project work of assessing green projects of Ladybird Environmental Consulting at Urban Haat. Additionally our Trustee, Ms. Jyoti Palekar was invited as judge to assess the project works of students all over Maharashtra.

- **16 February 2020: Free Marine Walk at Chimbai Beach**



We conducted a two-hour free Marine walk at Chimbai beach today for Mumbaikar's. The walk was conducted by Mr Sudan. 10 participants attended the walk and explored the neglected hidden marine life of the rocky shore of Chimbai beach. They observed pistol shrimp, rock crabs, mollusc shells, hermit crab, sponges, sea anemone and decorator worm, etc.



- **23 Feb 2020: Birdwatching at Talwe**

A birdwatching event was arranged at Talawe Wetlands in Nerul to witness the congregation of migratory waders. An enthusiastic group of 18 was led by Dr. Ketki Martak, iNaturewatch Trustee. The group sighted larger number of waders as well as forest birds.



- **15 Mar 2020: Carbon Sequestration Tree Walk**



Inspite of Covid-19 scare, 20 people ventured out with us inside Green Valley Park to learn all about trees. The students from SIES college dominated the group. The walk was conducted by Isaac Kehimkar & Dr. Shubhalaxmi. The participants were introduced to different aspects of tree ecology and later on they carried out the

exercise of calculating carbon sequestration by trees. They worked in 7 groups and each group measured 5 trees. Altogether 40 trees were measured. The highest carbon content was found in Tennis Ball tree. It's 168 cm girth trunk stores 780 kg carbon which it created after absorbing 2850 kg carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Such facts about the trees were new to the participants.

- **25 March 2020: Wednesday Webinar on Insect Architecture**

As a response to Covid-19 lockdown, we launched series of free Webinars and the first was conducted on the first day of lockdown. We received an overwhelming response. Dr. Shubhalaxmi conducted the first webinar.

#### 4. ONLINE COURSES

**We launched and completed following Online Courses:**

- Birds for Beginners: We had 9 participants
- Trees for Beginners: We had 11 participants
- Gardening for Wildlife: We had 8 participants

#### 5. OTHER OFFICIAL WORKS

**5.1 New Office:** We shifted into new office in Kharghar. The new office is larger and the rent is lesser than previous one. The office is being shared alongwith Ladybird Environmental Consulting. The rent as well as new furniture expenses are mutually shared.

**5.2 Covid-19 Crisis:** Responding the Covid-19 crisis we shut down the office on 18 March 2020 and since then the entire team is operating from home.

**5.3 . Financial Status:** We have accounts details upto February as due to lockdown March figures are not available. As of February end our income was Rs. 19,43,905.09/- and expenses were Rs. 7,69,015.31/- and surplus is Rs.1174,890/- The figures may change as new project income as well as expenses loan money of Dr. Shubhalaxmi need to be included.

**5.4 Future Plans:** We are applying for FCRA as it will be helpful to get bigger projects. Also we will be planning WFH policies to operate in post lockdown phase. We are also developing new online courses on butterflies and fishkeeping.

**THANK YOU**