ACTIVITY REPORT

SUMMARY | 2020-2023

OPSA

ODISHA PARYAVARAN SANRAKSHAN ABHIYAN TRUST ®

SUMMARY REPORT TITLE

'Activity Report 2020-23,
Odisha Paryavaran Sanrakshan Abhiyan Trust'

DISCLAIMER

This summary report has been prepared for the purpose of briefly describing the impact of OPSA Trust (NGO) over the past 3 years (2020-2023). OPSA Trust has disclosed all concerned information within this report for its intended purpose as required.

REPORT STRUCTURE & DESIGN

Berjis Driver
Immortal PCS
For OPSA Trust (NGO)

ACTIVITY REPORT

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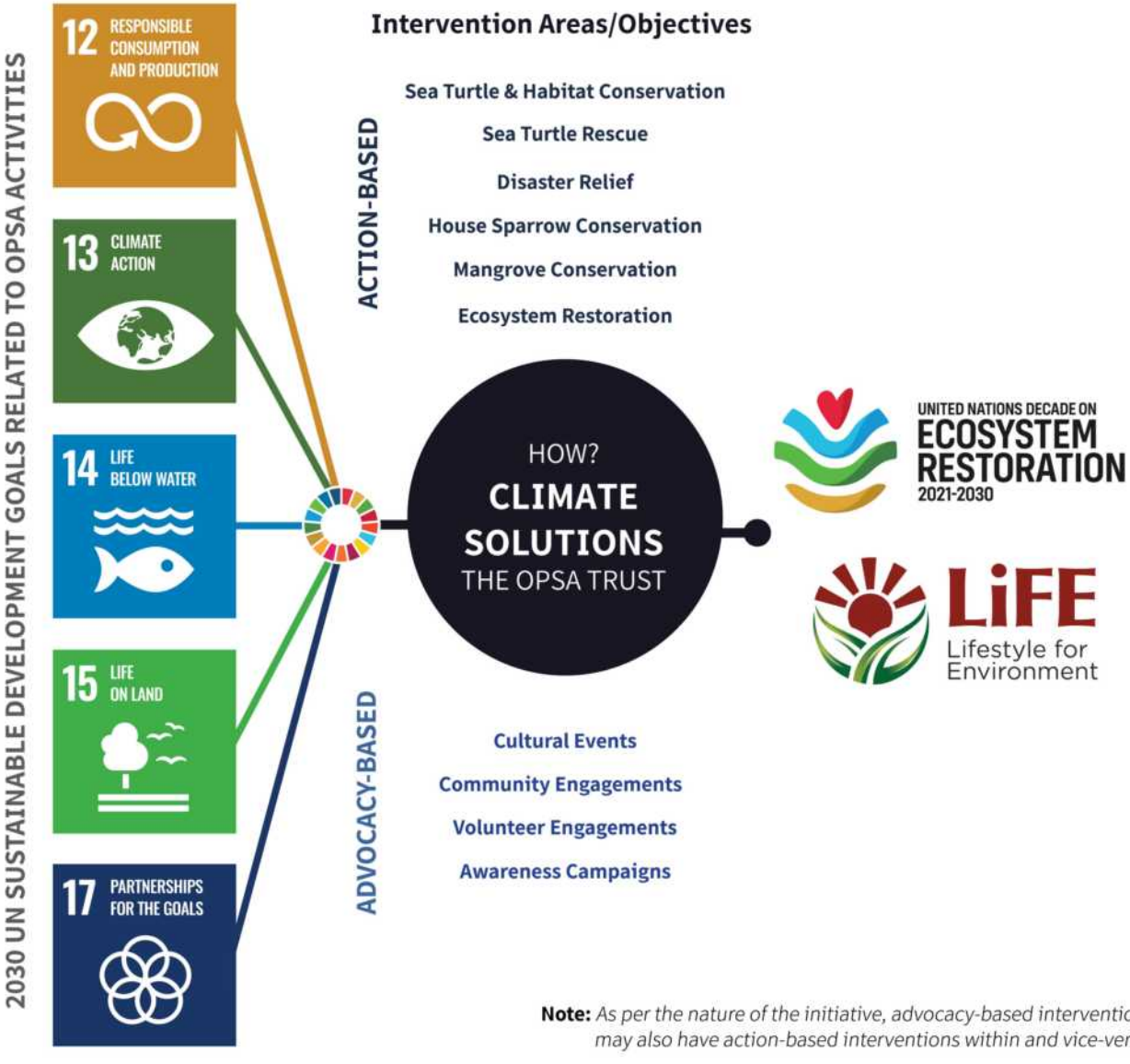
Brief Background

The Odisha Paryavaran Sanrakshan Abhiyan Trust is dedicated to hyper-localising climate action and preventing biodiversity loss through the diverse scope of its interventions, which include - conserving the Olive Ridley sea turtle, improving its habitat, eliminating ocean pollution, addressing mangrove degradation, and further conserving the larger coastal biodiversity of Odisha state. Founded in 2014 and officially registered in 2019, the organisation centers its efforts primarily around the Devi and Rushikulya river mouths.

OPSA Trust employs an outcome-based strategy for accomplishing diverse mitigation and adaptation measures. Furthermore, the trust upholds and promotes the value of stakeholder integration, community mobilisation and volunteerism for achieving inclusive and strong action-oriented outcomes for securing a sustainable future for the people of Odisha and the planet at large.

About Us

Key Objectives of OPSA Trust



Note: *As per the nature of the initiative, advocacy-based interventions may also have action-based interventions within and vice-versa.*

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Left - *OPSA's Partners and Collaborators* **Right -** *Impression of OPSA's Activities*

Three Year Overview

In the 2020-23 window, Odisha Paryavaran Sanrakshan Abhiyan Trust has covered a wide scope of environmental activities, all of which has had a proven on-ground impact. These range from anything between a local community awareness building sessions to restoring entire degraded ecosystems. Looking back, several challenges were presented in achieving desired outcomes for the betterment of vulnerable communities and biodiversity, due to the pandemic and changing climate. However the OPSA team, volunteers and sensitised locals, among other key stakeholders, continued to play a critical role in ensuring timely delivery of disaster relief measures for people, wildlife conservation and rescue, and ecosystem restoration, therein preventing damages at a large-scale. These three years in particular have resulted in impacts which have not only boosted the resilience of local communities, but have also empowered and integrated multiple stakeholders with greater awareness and ability to address important environmental measures.

Snapshot of our Impact

2020-21

Environmental Protection in Lockdown

Advocacy-based Interventions

What Did We Do? 6

Cultural Activites for Children and Communities

We actively engaged in cultural activities to advocate for sea Turtle Conservation in the Devi River Mouth and Rushikulya River Mouth area. Our outreach extended to various villages like Kantiagada, Podampeta, and Purunabandh within the Rushikulya Mass Nesting Site, renowned globally for hosting Olive Ridley Sea Turtles. Annually, over 500,000 Olive Ridley Sea Turtles migrate to this coast for egg laying. In our endeavor to connect children and the local community with these majestic marine creatures and their habitats within the fisherman community, we organised cultural activities. Through dialogues and songs based on important narratives, we emphasised the significance of sea turtles in our daily lives and their importance in livelihood security. We discussed their migration patterns, government regulations, legality of fishing nets, and the community's crucial role in sea turtle conservation efforts. Our aim was to raise awareness and promote responsible actions for protecting both these creatures and their habitats.

Conservation Campaign: Mangrove Walk

Recognising the importance of coastal biodiversity, our initiatives extended to mangrove conservation efforts. The Mangrove Walk Campaign seeked to educate, engage, and motivate coastal communities, specifically targeting the preservation of the 2 square kilometers of mangroves in the Devi River Mouth region in Puri District and the 8 square kilometers in Jagatsinghpur District. Addressing the pressing issues of pollution and human-induced degradation, this campaign aimed to safeguard these crucial ecosystems.

Women-led Community Engagement and Scaled Mobilisation

Furthermore, our commitment to forest protection involved collaboration with women-led communities. Working closely with the Sahan women's Community, the Jharling Mangrove Protection Committee, and other groups, we strived to instill a sense of responsibility and friendship towards forests, mangroves, and coastal vegetation among communities.

Right: *Montage of Activities 2020-21*

DEVI A TURTLE NESTING ZONE ODISHA

PURI DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

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OPSA
ESTD. 2015

Left: *Montage of Activities 2020-21*

What Did We Do?

Conservation Campaign: Forest Fire Prevention

Our initiative, the Prevention of Forest Fires Campaign, is dedicated to fostering routine awareness engagement with the tribal hilly forest-dwelling communities in Nayagarh District. In collaboration with Friends Help Group Nayagarh, our primary focus is on preventing forest fires through strategic interventions. The campaign has three key activities, including community engagement, oath-taking, and collaboration at the village-level, within the Panchirida Forest Range and Odagaon Forest Range, both under the Nayagarh Forest Division. Through community engagement, we actively engage with tribal communities through various social welfare initiatives. This includes distributing educational materials and clothing among children to establish a rapport with the communities.

A significant milestone in our campaign involved organising oath-taking ceremonies. Tribal communities, along with our team, collectively pledged to prevent forest fires around their villages. The collaborative efforts with Friends Help Group Nayagarh have been instrumental in amplifying the impact of our campaign. Through combined resources and expertise, we strive to create a sustainable and lasting impact on preventing forest fires. The Prevention of Forest Fires Campaign stands committed to creating a safer environment for the tribal communities and preserving the biodiversity of Nayagarh District. The routine engagement and collaborative efforts with local organisations reinforce our dedication to this crucial cause.

2020-21

Environmental Protection in Lockdown

Action-based Interventions

Right: *Montage of Activities 2020-21*

What Did We Do?

House Sparrow Conservation

One of our primary campaigns revolves around House Sparrow Conservation. This vital undertaking aims to combat the rapid decline of the endangered House Sparrow due to habitat loss. Collaborating with the youth group "Friends Help" in Nayagarh District, we've installed 60 nest boxes with feeder boxes in Dhusuma and Badaput villages under the Odogaon Block of Nayagarh District, supporting the sparrow population.

Seedball Dispersal Campaign

The aftermath of the devastating Cyclone Fani in 2019 prompted us to launch a Seedball Campaign. With support from the Odisha Forest Department, we created 100,000 seed balls containing native cyclone-resistant seeds. These seed balls were strategically dispersed across barren and cyclone-devastated areas to revitalise greenery and restore local ecosystems.

Disaster Relief in Kanas Block

Moreover, our activities encompass emergency relief responses during natural calamities such as floods. In the Kanas Block of Puri District, during flood emergencies, we've provided essential aid packages including Chuda, gur, water, sanitary products, candles, and matches to the affected households.

Marine Ecosystem Protection: Plastic Waste Cleanups

Not limiting our efforts to terrestrial ecosystems, our focus on ocean conservation is evident through various activities such as beach clean-ups, especially during International Coastal Cleanup Day. At Jahania Beach in Astaranga Block of Puri District, we've mobilised local youths, fishermen, intellectuals, and journalists to participate in these events, collecting substantial amounts of plastic waste to preserve the ocean's integrity.

KEEP OUR
BEACH
CLEAN

Music to the ears of homeless sparrows

Ahead of the World Sparrow Day, Odisha Paryavaran Sanrakshan Abhiyan and conservationists have come forward with a noble venture of providing artificial nests for the endangered species

POST NEWS NETWORK

BHUBANESWAR: The numbers of House Sparrows, one of the most endangered species in the world, are dwindling day by day. Ahead of the World Sparrow Day, Odisha Paryavaran Sanrakshan Abhiyan (OPSA), conservationists like Rabi from Ganjam and Mohammed Dilawar have left no stones unturned in ensuring that every sparrow in the regions gets the basic resources to survive.

World Sparrow Day is a day designated to raise awareness of the house sparrow and then other common birds to urban environments, and of threats to their populations. It is an international initiative by the Nature Forever Society of India in collaboration with the Eco-Sys Action Foundation (France) and numerous other national and international organisations across the world.

Many scientific studies have established that the house sparrows follow us everywhere and simply cannot live where we don't. Fossil evidence suggests that the house sparrow shared its space with early humans.

According to 2018 Royal Society of London report, the connection between human beings and sparrows goes back 11,000 years, and the starch-friendly genes of the house sparrow tell us a story linked to our own evolution.

It has various roles to play in the urban environment and also helps to keep the ecological balance. Sparrow is a very important member of various urban and natural food chains and food webs.

The reasons for its declining numbers are lack of nesting places and lack of willingness of people to coexist among others.

There were days when our house yard was buzzing with chirping. But over time, these birds, which have been living with our humans, are on the verge of extinction.

Therefore, two leading environmental organisations of the state, Odisha Paryavaran Sanrakshan Abhiyan (OPSA) and Friends Help Group have come forward together to protect and breed this endangered bird species found in some villages of Nayagarh.

With detail discussion and encouragement from Divisional Forest Officer IFS Shri Dhamdhere Dhanraj Hanumant, a team started a survey on tracing the birds' movement under the leadership of Panchirida Range Officer Archana Gamango and local forest officials. Many awareness and capacity building programmes were held earlier to mobilise communities in different villages of Nayagarh like Badaput and Dhusuma.

They prepared artificial nests for house sparrows and installed these in front of concrete houses for free. Artificial feeding boxes were provided too.

"As the summer season is approaching, we are working hard to prepare artificial water pots and feeding boxes from waste for sparrows and other birds," said Gyana Ranjan Panda of Friends Help Group.

Sparrow conservationist Rabi of Purunabandha village in Ganjam said, "Sparrows' hop to find soft kernels of rice and they eat quite neatly. The male sparrow selects a home and then the female partner checks it out and then they live in that place and produce families. Due to concrete homes, they can't nest anymore and that's why we and 5 other members have conserved more than 1700 sparrows till date."

Conservationist Mohammed Dilawar said, "Previously, the house sparrow and other common species were not considered as conservation material by scientists but now the situation is changing."

Campaign on for safe nesting of Olive Ridley turtles

POST NEWS NETWORK

Konark/Bhubaneswar, Oct 22: Even though the pandemic has affected millions of people, there are many who have continued their relentless efforts towards preserving environment and protecting marine ecosystem.

Soumya Ranjan Biswal and his team members of Odisha Paryavaran Sangrakshan Abhiyan Trust braved all the difficulties during the lockdown period and pulled out more than 5 tonne plastic waste from the Odisha beaches to ensure a safety of the endangered Olive Ridley sea turtles.

The 30-day beach cleaning campaign known as 'Devi Kachhap Kalyanam' was started by Biswal and volunteers of the trust at Devi nesting zone September 27, 2020.

"There are three main nesting sites in Odisha – Rushikulya, Gahiramatha and the Devi river mouth. Since Devi nesting zone is not officially protected, it is getting degraded by the day with increasing pollution levels and rampant mangrove deforestation," Biswal said

Members of Odisha Paryavaran Sangrakshan Abhiyan Trust pull out plastic waste

"Over the last few years, pollution has been steadily increasing in our area. Every year, we find that the Devi nesting zone is littered with plastics and fishing waste. We also come across plastic waste deep within the sand. As it is widely acknowledged, the plastic pollution is extremely dangerous for the marine ecosystem," he added.

These turtles need a pristine environment for nesting, and the presence of fishing nets and other waste on the beaches injure them in multiple ways. Baby turtles, while trying to make their way to the ocean, often end up getting trapped in the discarded waste, he maintained. "Hence, it is necessary to clean the beaches every year before the nesting season starts," said Biswal.

"Keeping in mind the COVID-19 crisis and other environmental issues, we decided to launch this mission to restore the turtle beach. We have set up a full-time camp on the beach and clean up the beach for more than eight hours a day. Every day, we collect about a quintal of trash comprising of polythene, nets, footwear, cigarettes, medical waste and others," he added.

THE 30-DAY BEACH CLEANING CAMPAIGN KNOWN AS 'DEVI KACHHAP KALYANAM' WAS LAUNCHED BY THE VOLUNTEERS AT DEVI NESTING ZONE SEPTEMBER 27

The district administration of Puri extended its support to the cleaning campaign by transporting the collected trash to the nearest waste management plant. "We also got help from private companies who provided tractor for the cleanliness drive," he stated.

Cyclothon urges conservation of mangrove forests

POST NEWS NETWORK

PURI: Odisha Paryavaran Sanrakshan Abhiyan in association with Dakshin Foundation and Aranyani Forest Officer s Wives Association organised its fourth state-level cyclothon to raise awareness about protection of mangrove forests here Wednesday.

Puri Wildlife Division I/FO H B Udgata, Biju Patnaik Wildlife Conservation awardee Bichitramani Biswal and Forest Lady Charu Maa joined as honourable guests and appealed all to save the Mangroves.

"Destruction of mangrove forests is due to lack of awareness. Hence, this is one of our main objectives. The event is aimed at boosting protection of Mangrove forests in Puri," said Soumya Ranjan Biswal, co-founder, OPSA.

Bichitrananda Biswal said, "Participants will engage in cycling for three days and nights. We want to spread the message of protecting mangrove forests. This is also a way to conserve the coasts .Let's pledge to spread this message every year." On the occasion, Amareshnath Samanta, Krushna Chandra Biswal, Ramachandra Swain and Bijay Kumar Bhatt were felicitated for their unmatchable hard work of decades.

The cycle marathon covered seven mangrove forests and adjacent villages at Astaranga. This mass awareness campaign involved 80 cyclists where Aranyani members , forest officials, school students, eco-clubs, environmental organisations and nature lovers participated.

World Ocean Day held at Astarang

POST NEWS NETWORK

Astarang, June 8: World Ocean Day was observed by Odisha Paryavaran Sanrakshan Abhiyan here Monday.

The organization claims to strive towards the protection of marine ecosystems at the grassroot level. It has cleared 176 beaches, which has provided significant impetus towards beach clean-up and awareness on the east coast.

State Biju Patnaik Wildlife Conservation Award winner Bichitrananda Biswal said, "Oceans plays a huge role in our everyday life. They are the lungs of our planet, providing most of the oxygen we breathe. However, oceans are polluted due to ignorance of the people."

During the event, a series of discussions on the importance of the oceans and the challenges they face in the world, along with beach clean-up and the artificial boxes on protection of house Sparrow birds from the accumulated plastic waste, were conducted.

The group of youths with plastic waste and some debris collected from Devi river mouth and Rushikulya beach | Express

5 group of 6 youths of Puri district pulled out 5 tonnes of plastic waste from Devi estuary ahead of the nesting season of the endangered marine turtles, reports Diana Sahu

Eco-crusaders on a mission to bring back Olive Ridleys

The youths pulling out floated trash nets from the Rushikulya beach | Express

+ the BHUBANESWAR

From a distance, the pristine white sands of Astaranga beach seem devoid of trash. But, upon getting to a stretch of nearly two kms, the picture changes. A search back, though, the picture was completely different. The beach was littered with tonnes of garbage, plastic waste, broken glass bottles, cigarette butts, fishnets, medical waste and what not.

The beach is one of the three major nesting sites of the endangered Olive Ridley turtles in the State, but for the last few years the annual marine visitors have been giving it a miss due to filthy conditions coupled with the menace of mechanised fishing.

However, things are set to change and hopes are high for the return of the guests from next season, thanks to the efforts of a group of local youths. They have undertaken a mission to clean up the Devi estuary and adjoining Astaranga beach, and make them favourable for turtle nesting.

The youths from Astaranga and nearby villages under the banner of Paryavaran Sanrakshan Abhiyan launched the drive 'Devi Kachhhap Kalyanam' on September 27. Relentless in their efforts, they pulled out over five tonnes (5,000 kg) of waste from the 2.5-km long beach stretch in a month's time.

The group leader and founder of the organisation Soumya Ranjan Biswal said, among the three Olive Ridley nesting sites, Devi is the least protected and is degrading day by day due to increasing pollution and mangrove deforestation.

Despite a ban on fishing during the nesting months, illegal trawling and mechanised fishing is carried out in the sea, he said. "Dragging mechanised fishing nets in the sea is as we thought of it last cleaning the beach for safe nesting and movement of the endangered turtles", he said.

Helping him in the drive are Subrata Biswas, Bansri Pradhan, Basant Parida, Prabhakar Sahoo and Dillip Kumar Behera. Mentored by seven nesting wildlife conservationist Bichitrananda Biswal, also a local, the youths efforted to a temporary camp in the mangrove forests on the shore and spent eight hours every day to clean the beach and clear mounds.

The clean-up drive was voluntary one but the Puri administration and a local company helped the team dispose of the waste. While the company provided them a tractor to transport the waste to the shore, the beach management committee of Puri administration helped shift the garbage to the material recovery facility at Konark where the waste was segregated and treated at the waste composting centre.

The young conservationists now plan to conduct community

MISSION CLEAN-UP

INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP DAY-2020

MEGA DRIVE TO MAKE PURI COAST LITTER-FREE

STAFF SCRIBE NETWORK

Puri, Sept 19: The district administration along with various social outfits and volunteers Saturday carried out beach cleaning at around 20 places on the Puri coast to observe the International Coastal Cleanup Day-2020.

The cleaning exercise was carried out as part of the Mo Beach programme of the Puri district administration.

"The coastal cleaning exercise was carried out at 10 places on Puri beach and equal number of places each on Konark and Kruhagopaal beaches. At least five places each was cleaned at Brahmagiri, Astarang, Gop and Kakatpur during the drive," said an official of the district administration.

According to him, at least 10 volunteers and a social officer conducted the beach cleaning at each place on the coast. Officials of various departments, members of women self-help groups and volunteers from Nehru Yuva Kendra actively participated in the programme. "The volunteers followed social distancing norms and wore masks during the beach cleaning programme to keep the novel coronavirus at bay," said the official.

It is worth mentioning here that the Puri district administration had organized the world's biggest beach cleaning programme to observe last year's International Coastal Cleanup Day. Around 25,000 volunteers had participated in the programme covering over 100km coastline in the district.

Many celebrities including some movie actors like Bidyut Jamwal had participated in the programme and urged the locals and tourists to keep the shoreline garbage-free.

In a related development, Odisha Paryavaran Sangrakshan Abhiyan (OPSA) Trust along with Youth Environmentalist Programme Trust, Mumbai observed the day at Devi Turtle Nesting Zone in Astarang.

Many youths and like-minded people from different places participated in the coastal cleanup exercise, sources said.

Inter-national coastal cleanup exercise is the largest effort by the volunteers for ocean health. The International Coastal Cleanup Day is observed on every third Saturday of September.

People from various walks of life gather at beaches, shores, rivers, waterways and underwater dive sites to record trash and record information on the debris collected.

Volunteers undertake cleanliness drive on Puri beach, Saturday

The cleaning exercise was carried out as part of the Mo Beach programme of the Puri district administration

Officials of various departments, members of women self-help groups and volunteers from Nehru Yuva Kendra actively participated in the programme

OPSA Trust along with Youth Environmentalist Programme Trust, Mumbai observed the day at Devi Turtle Nesting Zone in Astarang

The coastal cleanup exercise at Astarang was carried out at Jubanta beach, Dalukhani beach and Kadua river mouth area to make the localities trash free. The three localities were littered with garbage during the recent floods in Puri district, sources said.

OPSA Trust sources claimed that the Devi Turtle Nesting Zone has around 100 tonnes of wastes. "The OPSA will continue its efforts for next few weeks to remove the garbage," said OPSA managing trustee Soumya Ranjan Biswal.

Wildlife Activist Akash Ranjan Bath along with local environmentalists Bijita Dash and Prasar Khuntia joined the event and encouraged the volunteers. The event was coordinated by Biju Patnaik wildlife Award winner conservationist Bichitrananda Biswal, sources added.

Beach cleaning underway at Astarang coast

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ସହଯୋଗର ହାତ ବଢ଼ାଇଲା ଜିଲା ପ୍ରଶାସନ

ଅସ୍ତରଙ୍ଗ, ୭୨।୧୦ (ନିସ୍): ବିଚଳ ଅଲିଭ୍ ରିଡ୍‌ଲେ କଇଁଛଙ୍କ ସୁରକ୍ଷା ପାଇଁ ଓଡିଶା ପର୍ଯ୍ୟାବରଣ ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ ଅଭିଯାନ ଟ୍ରଷ୍ଟ ପକ୍ଷରୁ ଚାଲିଥିବା ବେଳାଭୂମି ସଫେଇ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ 'ଦେବୀ କଚ୍ଛପ କଲ୍ୟାଣମ୍'କୁ ସହଯୋଗର ହାତ ବଢାଇଛି ପୁରା ଜିଲ୍ଲା ପ୍ରଶାସନ । ପୁରା ଜିଲା ଅସ୍ତରଙ୍ଗର ଦେବୀ ମୁହାଣ ଠାରୁ କେକୁଣ୍ଡୀ ମୁହାଣ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ପ୍ରାୟ ୭୦ କିଲୋମିଟର ବେଳାଭୂମି ପରିଙ୍କାର ସୁରକ୍ଷା ପାଇଁ ଓଡିଶାର ଅଗ୍ରଣୀ ସ୍ୱେଚ୍ଛାସେବୀ ଅନୁଷ୍ଠାନ ଟ୍ରଷ୍ଟର ପରିଚାଳନା ଟ୍ରଷ୍ଟି ସୌମ୍ୟରଞ୍ଜନ ବିଶ୍ୱାଳ ଏହି କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ସମ୍ପର୍କରେ ପୁରା ଜିଲାପାଳ ବରଦନ୍ତ ସିଂ ସହିତ ଆଲୋଚନା କରିଥିଲେ । ଜିଲାପାଳଙ୍କ ଠାରୁ ସହଯୋଗର ପ୍ରତିଶ୍ରୁତି ମିଳିବାପରେ ସୋମବାର ଜିଲା ଭ୍ରାତା ଅଧିକାରୀ ଚନ୍ଦନ କୁମାର ସାହୁ କ୍ଷେତ୍ର ପରିଦର୍ଶନରେ ଆସି ଅସ୍ତରଙ୍ଗର ଜାଲୁଅ ଜଣି ବେଳାଭୂମି ଠାରେ ଟ୍ରଷ୍ଟର ସଭ୍ୟ ମାନଙ୍କ ସହିତ ବିଚାର ବିମର୍ଶ କରିଥିଲେ ।

ବେଳାଭୂମି ସଫେଇ କାମରେ ବାହାରୁ ଥିବା କ୍ରିଶ୍ଚାନ କ୍ରିଶ୍ଚାନ ବର୍ଜ୍ୟବସ୍ତୁ ଗୁଡିକୁ ଜିଲା ପ୍ରଶାସନ କୋଣାର୍କ ଡମ୍ପିଂ ୟାର୍ଡ କୁ ସ୍ଥାନାନ୍ତର କରିବ ବୋଲି ପରିଚାଳନା ଟ୍ରଷ୍ଟି ଶ୍ରୀ ବିଶ୍ୱାଳ କହିଛନ୍ତି । ପୁରା ଜିଲା ଅସ୍ତରଙ୍ଗ ବେଳାଭୂମି ବିଚଳ ଅଲିଭ ରିଡଲେ କଇଁଛଙ୍କ ଅଣ୍ଡାଦାନ ପାଇଁ ଓଡିଶାର ପ୍ରମୁଖ ୩ଟି ବେଳାଭୂମି ପରିସଂପ୍ତା । ବିରଳ ପ୍ରଜାତି ସାମୁଦ୍ରିକ କଇଁଛଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ବେଶ୍ ଉତ୍କୃଷ୍ଟ । ଓଡିଶା ପର୍ଯ୍ୟାବରଣ ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ ଅଭିଯାନ ଟ୍ରଷ୍ଟ ୨୦୧୪ ମସିହା ଠାରୁ ଅଲିଭରିଡଲେ କଇଁଛଙ୍କ ଅଣ୍ଡା ଦାନ ପ୍ରକ୍ରିୟାକୁ ସୁଗମ କରିବା ପାଇଁ ନିରନ୍ତର ପ୍ରୟାସ ଜାରି ରଖିଛି । ଏହି ବିରଳ ପ୍ରଜାତିର କଇଁଛଙ୍କ ଆଗମନ ନଭେମ୍ବରରୁ ମାର୍ଚ ମାସ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ହୋଇଥାଏ । କିଛି ଦିନ ପୂର୍ବେ ହୋଇଥିବା ବନ୍ୟା ଯୋଗୁଁ ମୁହାଣ ଦେଇ ବେଳାଭୂମିରେ ବହୁ ବହୁ ପ୍ଲାଷ୍ଟିକ, ଆବର୍ଜନା, ଜାଲ, ପ୍ରଭୃତି କ୍ଷତିକାରକ ବର୍ଜ୍ୟବସ୍ତୁ ଜମି ରହିଛି । ଯାହାପଇଁରେ ବେଳାଭୂମିରେ କଇଁଛଙ୍କ ଗତି ବିଧିରେ ସମସ୍ୟା ଉପୁଜିବାର ସମ୍ଭାବନା ରହିଛି । ଟ୍ରଷ୍ଟପକ୍ଷରୁ ଗତ ୨୭ ତାରିଖରୁ ଏହି ସଫେଇ ଅଭିଯାନ ଆରମ୍ଭ ହୋଇଥିବା ବେଳେ ପ୍ରାୟ ୧ ମାସଧରି ଚାଲିବ । ଏଥିରେ ସ୍ୱତନ୍ତ୍ର ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣକାଳିନ ବେଳା ଶିବିର କରାଯାଇ ପ୍ରତ୍ୟକ ଦିନ ୭୦ ରୁ ୮୦ଜିଲୋ ଗ୍ରାମ ଛିଣ୍ଡାଳାଇସହ ୩୦-୪୦ଜେଜି ବର୍ଜ୍ୟ, ପ୍ଲାଷ୍ଟିକ ସଂଗ୍ରହ କରାଯାଇ ଏହି ଗୁରୁତ୍ୱପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ସାମୁଦ୍ରିକ ପରିସଂପ୍ତାକୁ କଇଁଛଙ୍କ ଆଗମନ ପୂର୍ବରୁ ସୁସ୍ଥ ଓ ସୁରକ୍ଷିତ କରାଯିବାକୁ ଟ୍ରଷ୍ଟ ପକ୍ଷରୁ ଲକ୍ଷ୍ୟ ରଖାଯାଇଛି । ଏହି ସଫେଇ ଅଭିଯାନରେ ଅନ୍ୟତମ ଟ୍ରଷ୍ଟି ପ୍ରଭାକର ବିଶ୍ୱାଳ, ଜିଲ୍ଲା ବିଜୁ ପଟ୍ଟନାୟକ ପ୍ରାଣୀ ପୁରସ୍କାର ପ୍ରାପ୍ତ ପରିବେଶବିତ୍ ବିକ୍ରାପ ବିଶ୍ୱାଳ, ସନ୍ତୋଷ ବେହେରା, ସୁମନ ପ୍ରଧାନ ଓ ସୁଶାନ୍ତ ପରିଡା ପ୍ରମୁଖ ସଫେଇ ଜାରି ରଖିଛନ୍ତି ।

ଜଙ୍ଗଲ ନିଆଁ ଆୟତ ଉପରେ ସଚେତନତା

Media Coverage
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Wetland Day
2 February 2022
Odisha Paryavaran Abhiyan OPSA

OPSA
ODISHA
VOLUNTEER

Left: *Montage of Activities 2021-22*

2021-22

A Year of Growth and Strengthened Involvement

Advocacy-based Interventions

What Did We Do?

'Mu Jungle Kahuchi' Awareness Campaign

Our 'Mu Jungle Kahuchi' campaign, executed in collaboration with the Nayagarh Forest Division and local NGOs, sensitised hill-dwelling communities about forest conservation, wildlife protection, and the urgent need to curb poaching and trade. This inclusive campaign spanned various forest ranges and actively promoted organic farming among forest-dwelling women.

Organising Beach Clean-Up Drives

Our commitment to routine beach clean-up drives within the Devi River Mouth region extends beyond improving sea turtle nesting habitats; it's a concerted effort to fortify marine health and conservation. Collaborating with a diverse array of stakeholders, including fishermen, youth, students, and intellectuals, these clean-ups serve both as symbolic gestures and targeted interventions to enhance habitats.

Dune Vegetation Awareness Raising

Educational campaigns and community engagement helped inform actions for restoring dune vegetation - a vital component of coastal ecosystems in mitigating climate-induced shoreline erosion.

2021-22

A Year of Growth And Strengthened Involvement

Action-based Interventions

What Did We Do?

Right: *Montage of Activities 2021-22*

Dune Vegetation Restoration

A restorative project covering a 2-hectare expanse involved extensive cleanup drives, educational campaigns, and direct community engagement. Remarkably, these efforts brought about a remarkable shift in attitudes towards beach cleanliness and waste management practices.

Mangrove Nursery Creation

Recognising the indispensable role of mangroves in coastal ecosystems, we initiated a mangrove nursery at Kadua River Mouth, fostering active participation from local communities and youth. The nurturing and plantation of two mangrove species, Kandelia candela and Avicennia, aimed to instill a profound understanding of mangroves' ecological significance among coastal residents.

Olive Ridley Turtle Conservation, Rescue and Crowdfunding

Acknowledged under Schedule-I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, and the smallest among marine turtles, the Olive Ridley's embark on their annual migration to Indian shores every November, congregating in the thousands. While establishing nesting sites like Rushikulya and Gahiramatha, we provided safeguarding measures with extensive fencing, whereas sporadic nesting spots witnessed artificial conservation measures such as the creation of hatcheries.

Collaborative efforts with the local forest department served as a vital support system during heightened nesting periods. Contributing as an additional workforce, our team ensured meticulous care and relocation of these precious eggs, significantly bolstering the conservation endeavors. Our team extended support to the Berhampur Forest Division and furthered the collection of annual contributions to the Olive Ridley Sea Turtle mass nesting site in Rushikulya. Our involvement spanned hatchling rescue missions. Witnessing the nesting spectacle amid pristine, cleaned beaches reinforced our unwavering dedication to the cause.

World Ocean Day

ସକାଳ
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ଅନ୍ତରଙ୍ଗରେ
୬ ଇକୋ ଯୋଦ୍ଧା

ଆଦର୍ଶ ମତ୍ସ୍ୟଜୀବୀ ଗାଁ ପାଇଁ ପ୍ରୟାସ

ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର,୧୯।୪(ସମିସ)

ବାଲୁକା ବେଳାଭୂମି ଓ ଆନ୍ତରାଳବାହୁଡ଼ାକ ନିବେଦନରେ ପ୍ରାୟ ଅସିଆସୁଛ ଦି ଏମାନଙ୍କର ଲକ୍ଷ୍ୟ ଓ ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟ ବିଷୟରେ ଜଣାଇବା ସହ ଏମାନଙ୍କୁ ଉତ୍ସାହିତ କରିବା ପାଇଁ ପୁରୀ ଆସେ ଅନୁଷ୍ଠାନର ଟେରା ପ୍ରାକାରଣି ୬ ଇକୋ ଯୋଦ୍ଧା। ଏମାନେ ବିଶ୍ୱ ଜେତ୍ରେ ଚେତନ୍ତୁନିକୁ ପୃଥିବୀବାସୀଙ୍କୁ କରିବା ପାଇଁ ପୁରୀ, ମତ୍ସ୍ୟଜୀବୀ ଗାଁଗୁଡ଼ିକୁ ଆଦର୍ଶ ଗାଁରେ ପରିଣତ କରିବାକୁ ଏଣଟି ଚେଷ୍ଟାରତ୍ତି ଏମାନେ। ବିଶେଷରେ ଅସିନ୍ତ ଦିନରେ ଜଣାଇ ଅନ୍ତରାଳ ଏମାନଙ୍କ ଗାଁକୁ ପୃଥିବୀବାସୁଙ୍କ କରାଯାଇଛି। ଆଉ ସାଥି ହେବେ ଚେତନ୍ତୁନିୟର ବ୍ୟକ୍ତି ଜଣି କରିଛ ଶ୍ରୀକୃଷ୍ଣ ସାହୁରୀ ଅସିଥିବା ଅସିଥିବା ଅସିଥିବା

ନିଆରା ଢଙ୍ଗରେ ପାଳିଲେ ବିଶ୍ୱ ଆର୍ଦ୍ରଭୂମି ଦିବସ

ଉପକୂଳ ଅଞ୍ଚଳବାସୀଙ୍କୁ ମିଠା ବାଣ୍ଟି ବୁଝାଇଲେ

ପୁରୀ, ୩/୨ (ଇମିସ): ଜୈବ ବିବିଧତାକୁ ସୁରକ୍ଷା ଦେବାରେ ଆର୍ଦ୍ରଭୂମିର ଗୁରୁତ୍ୱପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଭୂମିକାକୁ ଜନମାନସରେ ପରିଚିତ କରାଇବା ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟ ନେଇ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ପରିବେଶ ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ ଅଭିଯାନ ସଂଗଠନ ପକ୍ଷରୁ ନିଆରା ଢଙ୍ଗରେ ପାଳିତ ହୋଇଛି ବିଶ୍ୱ ଆର୍ଦ୍ରଭୂମି ଦିବସ। ପୁରୀ ଜିଲ୍ଲା ଅସ୍ତରଙ୍ଗସ୍ଥିତ ଦେବୀ ନଦୀ ମୁହାଣ ଓ କାଦୁଆ ନଦୀ ମୁହାଣ ଅଞ୍ଚଳରେ ଆର୍ଦ୍ରଭୂମି ପରିସଂସ୍ଥା ରହିଥିବା ବେଳେ ଏହାକୁ ସୁରକ୍ଷା ଦେବାକୁ ମାଇକ୍‌ରେ ବୁଲିବୁଲି ପ୍ରଚାର କରିଛନ୍ତି ପରିବେଶ ପ୍ରେମୀ। ଏହି ଅଞ୍ଚଳରେ ଲୁଣା ଜଙ୍ଗଲ ପରିସଂସ୍ଥା ସହ ବିରଳ ପ୍ରଜାତିର ଅଲିଭ ରିଡ୍‌ଲେ, ଓଧ, ଫିସିଂ କ୍ୟାଟ୍‌ଙ୍କୁ ଦେଖିବାକୁ ମିଳୁଥିବା

ବେଳେ ଏମାନଙ୍କର ପରିବେଶ କ୍ଷେତ୍ରରେ ଗୁରୁତ୍ୱକୁ ଜନମାନସରେ ପହଞ୍ଚାଇଛନ୍ତି ଯୁବ ପରିବେଶପ୍ରେମୀମାନେ। ମନୁଷ୍ୟକୃତ କାରଣ ଓ ଆଧୁନିକୀକରଣ ଯୋଗୁ ଜୈବ ବିବିଧତା ବିପଦସଙ୍କୁଳ ହୋଇପଡ଼ିଛି। ଏହାର ପ୍ରଭାବରେ ପରିବେଶ ବିଗିଡ଼ିବାରେ ଲାଗିଛି। ତେଣୁ ସ୍ଥାନୀୟ ଅଞ୍ଚଳବାସୀ ଏ ଦିଗରେ ଯତ୍ନବାନ ହେବା ପାଇଁ ପ୍ରଚାର କରାଯାଇଛି। ରାଜ୍ୟ ବନ୍ୟପ୍ରାଣୀ ପୁରସ୍କାରପ୍ରାପ୍ତ ବନ୍ୟପ୍ରାଣୀ ସଂରକ୍ଷକ ବିଚିତ୍ରାନନ୍ଦ ବିଶ୍ୱାଳଙ୍କ ନେତୃତ୍ୱରେ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ପରିବେଶ ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ ଅଭିଯାନ ପକ୍ଷରୁ ନଦୀ କୂଳରେ ଥିବା ଗାଁ ମାନଙ୍କରେ ଉପକୂଳ ଅଞ୍ଚଳବାସୀଙ୍କୁ ଆର୍ଦ୍ରଭୂମି ପରିସଂସ୍ଥାର ଉପକାରିତା, ସୁରକ୍ଷା ଓ ସେମାନଙ୍କର ଏ କ୍ଷେତ୍ରରେ ଦାୟିତ୍ୱ ବିଷୟର ବୁଝାଇଥିଲେ। ଦେବୀ ନଦୀ ନିକଟସ୍ଥ ସହନ, କାଦୁଆ ମୁହାଣ ନିକଟସ୍ଥ ଦୁଇ ମତ୍ସ୍ୟଜୀବୀ ସଂପ୍ରଦାୟ ବସବାସ କରୁଥିବା ଗାଁରେ ମିଠା ବାଣ୍ଟି ଡାକବାଜି ଯନ୍ତ୍ର ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ସଚେତନତା ସୃଷ୍ଟି କରିଥିଲେ। ଗାଁର ବର୍ଜ୍ୟବସ୍ତୁ ନଦୀରେ ନ ଫିଙ୍ଗିବା ପାଇଁ ଅନୁରୋଧ କରିଥିଲେ। ବର୍ଜ୍ୟବସ୍ତୁ ନଦୀରେ ପଡ଼ିବା ଦ୍ୱାରା ଜୈବ ବିବିଧତା ଉପରେ ଏହାର କୁପ୍ରଭାବ ଏବଂ ସେମାନଙ୍କର ଜୀବିକାକୁ ନେଇ ଆସନ୍ନ ବିପଦ ଉପରେ ଲୋକଙ୍କୁ ସଚେତନ କରାଯାଇଥିଲା। ଏହି କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମରେ ସଂଗଠନର କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ସଂଯୋଜକ ସୁମନ ପ୍ରଧାନ, ରାହୁଲ ମହାରଣା, ତୃପ୍ତିରଂଜନ ବାରିକ ଓ ଶିବପ୍ରସାଦ ମଲ୍ଲିକ ପ୍ରମୁଖ ସଦସ୍ୟ ଉପସ୍ଥିତ ରହି କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ପରିଚାଳନା କରିଥିଲେ।

Above: *Mangrove Planting Activities 2022-23*

What Did We Do?

The Van Mahotsava at Astaranga Park

A tree-planting festival was celebrated at Astaranga Park with local environmental activists, students, and senior citizens. Eminent grassroots environmentalists, including Mr. Bijay Kumar Bhatt and Mr. Krushna Chandra Biswal, who were recognised and felicitated during the event.

Regular Mangrove Nursery Maintenance

Regular maintenance of mangrove nurseries are essential for ensuring the healthy growth of young mangrove plants, preserving biodiversity, and supporting coastal protection, carbon sequestration, and local economies. The organisation continued its routine mangrove nursery maintenance activities.

Rainwater Harvesting Campaign

Responding to the *'Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain,'* a local interaction and discussion was initiated at Gilehrio Campsite beach in Astaranga. The campaign aimed to promote rainwater harvesting and prepare for the monsoon by cleaning tanks, ponds, and wells to maximise water collection.

The '*Punee Hasiba* Mangrove' Campaign

Situated in the Devi River Mouth Landscape, aims to raise awareness and popularity of mangroves among coastal citizens. The objective is to educate and engage the community in mangrove conservation for the well-being of both lives and livelihoods. The four-day event, organised in the Astaranga Block under Puri District, saw the participation of prominent figures such as Former PCCF Odisha and Lokayukt Dr. Debabrata Swain, President of Odisha Environment Society Dr. Sundarnarayan Patro, and Divisional Forest Officer Puri, Ramaswamy Pitchai, IFS. The event witnessed active involvement from coastal women, youth, and local citizens, with over 200 attendees each day. Notable figures such as Tathagat Satapathy and Adyasha Satapathy, editors of Odia and English dailies Dharitri and Orissa Post, joined the event, emphasising the importance of mangrove conservation. The initiative included a corridor walk from Devi River Mouth to Kadua River estuary to observe anthropogenic pressures on mangroves, such as man-made degradation and pollution.

Oath-Taking for Mangrove Conservation and River Pollution

On the International Day of Conservation of Mangrove Ecosystems, a mass oath-taking campaign was organised in the Devi River Mouth landscape. Officially involving 65 schools and approximately 5,000 students, the campaign aimed to address mangrove conservation and the pollution affecting mangroves from surrounding villages. Mangroves play a crucial role in protecting shorelines from storms and maintaining water quality. The event featured Divisional Forest Officer Pitchai Ramaswamy, IFS, as the chief guest, along with environmentalist Jauakrushna Panigrahi, Tehsildar Astaranga Mrs. Rajalaxmi Nayak, and local Sarpanch Jitendra Kumar Swain. The program, held at Maa Basulei Bidyapitha in Nuagarh Gram Panchayat, included oath-taking ceremonies in 65 schools, reinforcing the commitment to mangrove conservation and protection from community pollution.

MANGROVE PLANTING
PROGRAM

Full Spread: *Montage of Activities 2022-23*

2022-23

A Year of Growth And Strengthened Involvement

Action-based Interventions

What Did We Do?

Disaster Relief in Kanas Block

In the flood-prone area of Kanas Block under Puri District, emergency relief efforts continued with the distribution of essentials such as candles, chuda, gud, sanitary pads, and water to two Gram Panchayats.

Community Mangrove Plantation at Kadua River Mouth

Engaging local communities in mangrove conservation fosters direct participation and ownership of conservation efforts. A community mangrove plantation was conducted at Kadua River Mouth near Natara Village, involving over 35 women who planted mangroves and pledged to preserve natural mangroves at Kadua River estuary.

Planting Mangrove Hypocotyls: Rushikulya and Bahuda River Mouth

Planting mangrove hypocotyls are an efficient method for regenerating and restoring mangrove ecosystems. The organisation initiated a campaign to plant hypocotyls at Rushikulya and Bahuda River Mouth areas, vulnerable coastal regions at high risk of beach erosion and cyclones.

Capacity Building Training Program: Olive Ridley Sea Turtle Conservation

Strengthening the conservation skills of ground volunteers working on Olive Ridley Sea Turtle Conservation is a focal point. The organisation conducted a Capacity Building Training Program at Devi River Mouth, covering nest tracing, night patrolling protocols, nest collection, egg collection and relocation protocols, hatchery management, and hatchling release procedures.

Beach Clean-ups for Sea Turtle Breeding Season

Beach clean-ups before the sea turtle breeding season ensure a safe environment for nesting. The initiative involves removing debris and trash to prevent obstacles, protect eggs and hatchlings from harm, minimise predator risks, and raise awareness about responsible waste management. Collaborative beach clean-up campaigns were organised at various potential Olive Ridley Sea Turtle nesting sites.

Mangrove Plantation Drive on Wetlands Day

Collaborating with Bakul Foundation, a mass mangrove plantation drive campaign was organised to introduce mangroves to diverse groups of people. Over 40 local and urban individuals, including fishermen, nature lovers, students, and intellectuals, participated in the campaign.

Participation in *Rushikulya Arribada*

Actively participating in the Rushikulya sea turtle arribada, the organisation engages in rescue activities to address challenges faced by turtles during nesting. This involvement helps prevent injuries or fatalities among turtles, contributing to the successful laying and hatching of eggs and the conservation of the Olive Ridley turtle population.

Mangrove Plantation Drive on Wildlife Day at Kadua River Mouth

Celebrating Wildlife Day, a mangrove plantation drive was organised at Kadua River Mouth, involving local nature lovers, youths, and students. The event aimed to promote environmental awareness and education, emphasising the significance of mangrove ecosystems in supporting wildlife.

House Sparrow Conservation Activities in Nayagarh Forest Division

Routine house sparrow conservation activities in collaboration with Friends Help Group Nayagarh are conducted in Nayagarh Forest Division. Involving children and youths in artificial conservation efforts is vital to educate them about biodiversity and human impacts on wildlife. Activities include creating artificial nesting sites and providing food and water sources to actively contribute to sparrow conservation, fostering a deeper connection with nature.

‘ବର୍ଷା ଜଳ ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ’ ପାଇଁ ସଂକଳ୍ପ

ପୁରୀ, ୨/୭(ଇମିସ): ପାନୀୟ ଜଳ ସଙ୍କଟର ସମାଧାନ ପାଇଁ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ମାର୍ଗ ଆପଣାଇବା ପାଇଁ ଯୋଜନା ହେଉଛି। ବର୍ଷା ଜଳ ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ ଜରିଆରେ ଏହାର ସମାଧାନ ପାଇଁ ଯୋଜନା କରାଯାଉଛି। ମାତ୍ର ସାଧାରଣରେ ଏହାକୁ ଆପଣାଇବାର ମାନସିକତା ସୃଷ୍ଟି ହୋଇପାରି ନାହିଁ। ତେଣୁ ଜଳାଭାବ ଦୂରୀକରଣ କ୍ଷେତ୍ରରେ ବର୍ଷା ଜଳ ସଂରକ୍ଷଣର ଗୁରୁତ୍ୱକୁ ଲୋକଙ୍କ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ପହଞ୍ଚାଇବା ପାଇଁ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ପର୍ଯ୍ୟାବରଣ ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ ଅଭିଯାନ ଏବଂ ନେହେରୁ ଯୁବ କେନ୍ଦ୍ର ପକ୍ଷରୁ ବର୍ଷା ଜଳ ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ ସଚେତନତା ପାଇଁ ପରିବେଶ କର୍ମୀମାନେ ସଂଜ୍ଞଲ୍ପ ନେଇ ଅଭିଯାନ ଆରମ୍ଭ କରିଛନ୍ତି।

ପରିବେଶ କର୍ମୀ ଅଜୁର୍ଯାମା ସାହୁ, ପରିବେଶ କର୍ମୀ ରାହୁଲ ମହାରଣା ଓ ଅନ୍ୟ ପରିବେଶ କର୍ମୀଙ୍କ ଉପସ୍ଥିତିରେ ଏକ ଆଲୋଚାଚକ୍ର କରାଯାଇଥିଲା। ନେହେରୁ ଯୁବକେନ୍ଦ୍ର ପୁରୀର ଜିଲ୍ଲା ସଂଯୋଜକ ଜୟଶଙ୍କର ଯୋଶୀଙ୍କ ତତ୍ତ୍ୱାବଧାନରେ ଜିଲ୍ଲାର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ପ୍ରାନ୍ତରେ ନିଷ୍ଠିଦ୍ଧ ହେବାକୁ ଯାଉଥିବା ଜଳାଶୟର ପୁନରୁଦ୍ଧାର ଜରିଛ ଯୋଜନା କରାଯାଉଥିଲା। ସ୍ଥାନୀୟ ଅଞ୍ଚଳରେ ଜଳସଙ୍କଟ

ସମ୍ପର୍କରେ ସଚେତନ କରାଯିବା ସହ ଏ ଦିଗରେ ସମାଯୋପଯୁକ୍ତ ପଦକ୍ଷେପ ପାଇଁ ଲୋକଙ୍କୁ ସମ୍ପୃକ୍ତ କରାଯିବ ବୋଲି ଓଡ଼ିଶା ପର୍ଯ୍ୟାବରଣ ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ ଅଭିଯାନର ଟ୍ରଷ୍ଟି ମୌମ୍ୟସଂଜନ ବିଶ୍ୱାଳ କହିଛନ୍ତି। ସମସ୍ତ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତିବିଶେଷ ବର୍ଷା ଜଳ ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ ଦିଗରେ ନିଜର ସମ୍ପୃକ୍ତି ରଖିବା ଆବଶ୍ୟକ ବୋଲି ବିବିଭ୍ରାନନ୍ଦ ବିଶ୍ୱାଳ ଓ ବିଲାପ କୁମାର ବିଶ୍ୱାଳ ମତ ଦେଇଛନ୍ତି। ଅନ୍ୟମାନଙ୍କ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଟ୍ରଷ୍ଟି ପ୍ରଭାକର ବିଶ୍ୱାଳ, ସଦସ୍ୟ ସୁମନ ପ୍ରଧାନ, ଜଗବନ୍ଧୁ ବେହେରା ପ୍ରମୁଖ ଉପସ୍ଥିତ ଥିଲେ।

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ଆର୍ଦ୍ରଭୂମି ପୁନରୁଦ୍ଧାର ପ୍ରୟାସ

ଅନ୍ତରଙ୍ଗ,୨୬/୮(ନି.ପ୍ର): ଚୁରୁା ଜିଲା ଅନ୍ତରଙ୍ଗ ସ୍ଥିତ ଅନ୍ତର୍ଜଳ ଜାତୁଆ ନଦୀ ମୁହାଣ ଅଞ୍ଚଳରେ ବିଶ୍ୱ ଆର୍ଦ୍ରଭୂମି ଦିବସ ପାଳନ କରାଯାଇଛି। ଅଗ୍ରଣୀ ପରିବେଶ ସୁରକ୍ଷା ଅନୁଷ୍ଠାନ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ପର୍ଯ୍ୟାବରଣ ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ ଅଭିଯାନ ଟ୍ରଷ୍ଟ ପକ୍ଷରୁ ଉପସ୍ଥିତ ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ଅଜାଣା ଜାତୁଆ ନଦୀ ମୁହାଣ ସଂରକ୍ଷିତ ଆର୍ଦ୍ରଭୂମି ଅଞ୍ଚଳରେ ୫୦୦ ହଜା ଜଙ୍ଗଲ ଚାରା ରୋପଣ ଏହି ପୁରୁତ୍ୱପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଦିବସ ପାଳନ କରାଯାଇଛି। ଅନ୍ତରଙ୍ଗ ଅଞ୍ଚଳର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ କମୀ, ପରିବେଶ କମୀ, ମାଛୁଆରୀ ଓ ସ୍ୱେଚ୍ଛାସେବୀ ମିଳିତ ଉଦ୍ୟୋଗରେ ସଂପାଦନ ଦିବସ ଚାରା ଉତ୍ପାଦନ କେନ୍ଦ୍ରରୁ ଅସିଥିବା ଚାରା ଲଗାଇ ଆନ୍ତର୍ଜାତିକ ଆର୍ଦ୍ରଭୂମି ପରିସଂସ୍ଥାନ ପୁନରୁଦ୍ଧାର ପାଇଁ ପ୍ରୟାସ

କରାଯାଇଛି। ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ଆର୍ଦ୍ରଭୂମି ଚାରା ବିଶ୍ୱରେ ଦେଶ ସମ୍ମାନ। ଏହି ଅବସରରେ ଆୟୋଜିତ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମରେ ଅତିଥି ଭାବରେ ଯୋଗ ଦିଇ ପଞ୍ଚାୟତ ବଦ୍ୟପ୍ରଜା ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ ପୁରସ୍କାରପ୍ରାପ୍ତ ପରିବେଶବିତ୍ ବିବିଭ୍ରାନନ୍ଦ ବିଶ୍ୱାଳ ଟ୍ରଷ୍ଟର ପ୍ରୟାସକୁ ପ୍ରଶଂସା କରିବା ସହିତ ସ୍ଥାନୀୟ ଅଞ୍ଚଳର ଆର୍ଦ୍ରଭୂମି ଭିତ୍ତିକ ବିବିଧତାର ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ ପାଇଁ ଆହ୍ୱାନ ଦେଇଥିଲେ। ସ୍ଥାନୀୟ ଶିକ୍ଷକ ବିକାଶ ଜଙ୍ଗ ଓ ଜାତୀୟ ସ୍ତରିୟ ବିବିଧତା ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ ପୁରସ୍କାରପ୍ରାପ୍ତ ମାଛୁଆରୀ ବିଶ୍ୱାଳ ଯୋଗାଦେବ ପାଲାଟିଆ ଘାଟରେ ଚାରାରୋପଣ କରିଥିଲେ। ଏହି କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମରେ ଟ୍ରଷ୍ଟର ପରିଚାଳନା ଟ୍ରଷ୍ଟି ସୌମ୍ୟ ରଞ୍ଜନ ବିଶ୍ୱାଳ, ଟ୍ରଷ୍ଟି ବିଶ୍ୱାସ କୁମାର ବିଶ୍ୱାଳ, ପ୍ରଭାକର ବିଶ୍ୱାଳ, ଶିବ ପ୍ରସାଦ ସାହୁ, ବାବୁ ବେହେରା, ରୋହୁତ ପ୍ରଧାନ ପ୍ରମୁଖ ଯୋଗ ଦେଇଥିଲେ।

ଯୁବପିଢ଼ିଙ୍କ ହାତରେ ନର୍ସରୀ

ଉପକୂଳ ସୁରକ୍ଷା କବଚ ହେନ୍ତାଳ ଜଙ୍ଗଲ

ଅନ୍ତରଙ୍ଗ, ମଙ୍ଗଳ(ନି.ପ୍ର): ଉପକୂଳ ସୁରକ୍ଷା କବଚ ଭାବରେ ଜନସ୍ତି ପରିଚିତ ଜଳ ଜଙ୍ଗଲ ବା ହେନ୍ତାଳ ଜଙ୍ଗଲ। କିନ୍ତୁ ଉପକୂଳବର୍ତ୍ତୀ ଲୋକଙ୍କ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଏହି ଗୁରୁତ୍ୱପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଜଙ୍ଗଲର ଆବଶ୍ୟକତା ସମ୍ପର୍କରେ ସଚେତନତା ଅଭାବରୁ ଦିନକୁ ଦିନ ଜଳ ଜଙ୍ଗଲ ପରିସଂସ୍ଥାନ ଦିନକୁ ଦିନ ହ୍ରାସ ପାଇବାରେ ଲାଗିଛି। ଏଭଳି ସ୍ଥାନୀୟ ଲୋକଙ୍କ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ସଚେତନତା ସୃଷ୍ଟି ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟରେ ପୁରା ଜିଲା ଅନ୍ତରଙ୍ଗ ସ୍ଥିତ ଅନ୍ତର୍ଜଳ ଜାତୁଆ ନଦୀ ମୁହାଣ ଅଞ୍ଚଳରେ ସ୍ୱେଚ୍ଛାସେବୀ ସଂସ୍ଥାମାନେ ପୁନଃ ଜଳ ଜଙ୍ଗଲ ସୃଜନ ଓ ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ ଅଭିଯାନ ଆରମ୍ଭ କରିଛନ୍ତି। ଏହି ଅଭିଯାନରେ ଅଞ୍ଚଳର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟର ଛାତ୍ରଛାତ୍ରୀ ଓ ସ୍ଥାନୀୟ ଯୁବକଯୁବତୀମାନେ ସ୍ୱେଚ୍ଛାପ୍ରଣୋଦିତ ଭାବରେ ସାମିଲ ହୋଇଛନ୍ତି। ଏହି ଅଭିଯାନ ଅନ୍ତର୍ଗତ ଚଳିତ ବର୍ଷ ୨୫ ହଜାର ଚାରା ରୋପଣ କରାଯିବ ବୋଲି ଜଣାପଡ଼ିଛି। ଏହି ଅଭିଯାନ ଅନ୍ତର୍ଗତ ଅଞ୍ଚଳର ଜଳ ଜଙ୍ଗଲ ପରିସଂସ୍ଥାନ ପୁନରୁଦ୍ଧାର ପାଇଁ ଏକ ଅଭିନବ ପଦକ୍ଷେପ ଭାବରେ ଏକାଠି ହୋଇ ଏହି ନର୍ସରୀ ସାଥୀ ଆରମ୍ଭ କରିଛନ୍ତି। ଏ ସମ୍ପର୍କରେ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ପର୍ଯ୍ୟାବରଣ ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ ଅଭିଯାନ ଟ୍ରଷ୍ଟ ପରିଚାଳନା ଟ୍ରଷ୍ଟି ସୌମ୍ୟ ରଞ୍ଜନ ବିଶ୍ୱାଳ କୁହନ୍ତି, ଜଳବାୟୁ ପରିବର୍ତ୍ତନ ସମସ୍ୟା ଏକ ଜଳନ୍ତ ଦୁର୍ଯ୍ୟ ଧାରଣ କରିଥିବାବେଳେ, ଜଳ ଜଙ୍ଗଲ ଆମ ସମସ୍ତ ଉପକୂଳବାସୀଙ୍କର ପାଇଁ ସଂଜୀବନୀ। ବିଶେଷ ଭାବରେ ପ୍ରାୟ ୩୯୮ ପ୍ରକାରର ପ୍ରାଣୀ ଓ ଉଦ୍ଭିଦମାନେ ନିଜର ବଂଶ ବିସ୍ତାର ପ୍ରକ୍ରିୟା ଭାବରେ ଜାରଜାତ ଜଳ ଜଙ୍ଗଲ ଉପରେ ନିର୍ଭର କରିଥାନ୍ତି। ଏହି ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କ ମଧ୍ୟସ୍ଥରେ ଜଳ ଜଙ୍ଗଲ ପୁନରୁଦ୍ଧାର ସାଥୀ ସହିତ ଜନ ସଚେତନତା ପ୍ରକ୍ରିୟା ଜରିଆରେ ଏହି ନର୍ସରୀ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟରେ ସ୍ଥାନୀୟ ପ୍ରଧାନ, ଗ୍ରାମପଞ୍ଚାୟତ ସଦସ୍ୟ, ପ୍ରଭାକର ବିଶ୍ୱାଳ, ବିଶ୍ୱାସ କୁମାର ବିଶ୍ୱାଳ, ଗୋପାଳଙ୍କ ମଲ୍ଲିକ, ନିମାଇ ଚରଣ ମାଳାଣ୍ଡି, ନିମାଇ ଚରଣ ବିଶ୍ୱାଳ ପ୍ରମୁଖ ସ୍ଥାନୀୟ ଯୁବକମାନେ ମଳି ଫୁଲୁର ମରୁ ଆରମ୍ଭ କରି ଚାରା ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତି ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ସାଥି ହାତି ରଖିଛନ୍ତି। ପ୍ରାୟ ଦିନୁ ପଞ୍ଚାୟତ ବଦ୍ୟପ୍ରଜା ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ

ପୁରସ୍କାରପ୍ରାପ୍ତ ବିବିଭ୍ରାନନ୍ଦ ବିଶ୍ୱାଳ, ସ୍ଥାନୀୟ ମହାଜାତୀ ଜଗବନ୍ଧୁ ବେହେରା, ଓ ପ୍ରଭାକର ମଲ୍ଲିକ ଏହି ନର୍ସାକୁ ମାସବରଣ ଯୋଗା ସହିତ ସହଯୋଗ ଯୋଗାଇ ଚାଲିଛନ୍ତି।

MITIGATING CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT

Astarang youth sows 2,500 mangrove seeds

Rushikulya beach in Ganjam district has been witnessing rapid erosion for the last few years due to the impact of climate change

At a time when climate change is emerging as a serious threat to marine ecosystem, a young environment warrior from Astarang block has started sowing mangrove seeds in Rushikulya beach, a significant nesting site for endangered Olive Ridley turtles.

Rushikulya beach in Ganjam district has been witnessing rapid erosion for the last few years due to the impact of climate change. To mitigate the climatic impact on the beach and save the 'arribada ground' (a unique synchronized nesting site for Riddleys), Soumya Ranjan Biswal of Astarang block in Puri district has started a campaign to protect the existing mangroves of Rushikulya. He along with his team has started sowing mangrove seeds in the river estuarine ecosystem with an aim to prevent the beach erosion.

Biswal, along with Mujesh Mallik, a teenage eco-warrior, has collected more than 2,500 mangrove seeds from the mangrove forests of Devi river estuary under Astarang block and reached Rushikulya estuary on a scooter to plant the seeds near Purunabandha.

He held discussions with local green activists and volunteers regarding preservation of the existing mangroves which would benefit the locals in terms of livelihood support. During the discussion, he advocated for various topics like presence of mangroves during natural disasters and their ability to mitigate the impact of storms and tsunamis. He also explained how the presence of mangrove ecosystem enriches fish stock and prevents beach degradation.

"Around 70 to 80 per cent of marine aquatic animals depend on mangrove ecosystems for their nutrition during breeding season," said Biswal.

The discussion focused on importance of carbon sequestration and its role in oxygenation.

Biswal, who has been appointed as the United Nations India YuWaah Advocate, said, "Since my childhood in Gundalba, a small seaside village in Astarang region, I have witnessed the horror of climate change impact. Every year, there would be devastating consequences because of cyclones and sometimes tsunamis. These incidents prompted me to work in this direction. The endangered Olive Ridley turtle, listed in Schedule-1 category, is not only a glory to our state but also plays a vital role in maintaining the balance of the marine ecosystem. Although there are many beaches in the world, Odisha beaches are very suitable for them. Rushikulya estuary is a priceless gift for the turtles from Mother Nature and is one of the three important mass nesting sites in Odisha. Hence, I have been visiting this site since 2018. Our organisation Odisha Paryavaran Sanrakshan Abhiyan has been involved in many environment conservation campaigns such as beach cleaning, community awareness, distribution of sports and education equipment to local children along with spreading awareness for their future role for turtle safety."

"We also remain associated with various programs from Berhampur Forest Division. But gradual degradation of the beach over the last four years has worried me. If Olive Ridley turtles do not visit our state, our coasts will experience ecological imbalance and our livelihoods will be under threat."

In the initial phase, 2,500 seeds were planted in Rushikulya estuary and 500 seeds were sowed in Bahuda estuary in Andhra-Odisha coastal border region in collaboration with Prahallad Mallik of Astarang region and Sagar Nayak, a student from Berhampur. PNN

Green activist Soumya Ranjan Biswal sows the mangrove seeds

Wetlands provide cushion against climate hazards: CM

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 2: On the World Wetlands Day, Thursday, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik reminded people of the important role wetlands play in maintaining ecological balance and mitigating the effects of climate change while reiterating his pledge to protect the Ramsar sites of the state.

The CM said, "Wetlands are 'Kidneys of the Earth' and play critical role in ecosystem, climate mitigation and freshwater availability. On World Wetlands Day let's protect our wetlands which provide a cushion against climate hazards and pledge to preserve Ramsar convention sites of Odisha."

February 2 is celebrated as World Wetlands Day to raise awareness about the vitality of wetlands for people and planet. The day also marks the date of adoption of the Convention on Wetlands in 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar.

WORLD WETLANDS DAY

Six wetlands have so far received Ramsar recognition as wetlands of international importance in Odisha. Recently, Tampara Lake in Ganjam district, Hirakud Reservoir in Sambalpur and Anshupa Lake in Cuttack received the recognition. Earlier, Chilika and Bhitarkanika mangrove forests were accorded Ramsar site tag.

"Mangrove swamps are crucial in the removal of hazardous heavy metal-related coastal pollution and in preventing groundwater aquifers from combining with seawater. They also protect against natural disasters like floods, storms, and tsunamis," said Soumya Ranjan Biswal, an environmentalist, on the occasion.

Across the state, several organisations held awareness programmes on the occassion. Mangrove plantation was conducted at the Kadua River Mouth Wetland in Puri with participation of many grassroots environmentalists such as members of Odisha Paryavaran Sanrakshan Abhiyaan (OPSA), in association with Billions Tree Organization and GenRe, in presence of local fishermen and environment lovers.

"Around 25 people gathered at the site and planted some 500 mangrove plants. These plants were organically grown at the well maintained nursery of OPSA. Because they can live in both salt and fresh water, mangrove trees dominate the wetland ecology," said a member of the organisation.

ବିଶ୍ୱ ଆର୍ଦ୍ରଭୂମି ଦିବସରେ ହେନ୍ତାଳ ଚାରା ରୋପଣ

ପୁରୀ(ପୁରୁଷୋ), ୨।୨(ପୁରୁଷୋ): ବିଶ୍ୱ ଆର୍ଦ୍ରଭୂମି ଦିବସରେ ପୁରୀ ଜିଲା ଜଳପୁର ନଦୀ ମୁହାଣରେ ହେନ୍ତାଳ ଚାରା ରୋପଣ କରାଯାଇଛି। ଓଡ଼ିଶା ପରିବେଶ ବଂଚାଅଣ ସମିତି(ଓପସା) ଏବଂ ବିଲିୟନ୍ ଟ୍ରି ଅର୍ଗାନାଇଜେସନ ପକ୍ଷରୁ ଆୟୋଜିତ ଏହି କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମରେ ପ୍ରାୟତ୍ତ ୨୫ରୁ ଉର୍ଦ୍ଧ୍ୱ ପରିବେଶବିତ୍ ସାମିଲ ହୋଇଥିଲେ। ଏଥିସହିତ ସ୍ଥାନୀୟ ମତ୍ସ୍ୟଜୀବୀ ମହିଳା, ପ୍ରକୃତିପ୍ରେମୀ ଏକତ୍ରିତ ହୋଇ ୫୦୦ଟି ଚାରି ହେନ୍ତାଳ ଚାରା ରୋପଣ କରିଥିଲେ। ହେନ୍ତାଳ ବଣ ପ୍ରକୃତିକ ବିପର୍ଯ୍ୟୟ ଯଥା ବଢ଼ଜ, ବତ୍ତ ଆଦିକୁ ରୋକିବାରେ ସହାୟକ ହୋଇଥାଏ। ବିଶ୍ୱ ଉତ୍ତପ୍ତକୁ ପ୍ରତିରୋଧ କରିବା ହେନ୍ତାଳ ବଣ ଅତ୍ୟନ୍ତଜରୁରି ହୋଇପଡିଛି। ସେଥି ହେନ୍ତାଳ ବଣର ପୁରୁଣା ଓ ଚାଲି ଯାଇଁ ଏଭଳି ପ୍ରୟାସ କରାଯାଇଛି। ଏହି ଚାରା ରୋପଣ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମରେ ୨୦୧୨ ଜାନିଆରୀରୁ ବାରୋଜାରଭିସି ପୁରସ୍କାରପ୍ରାପ୍ତ ବାଲୁ ମା' ଓ ରାଜା ବିଭୁ ପ୍ରସନ୍ନାଙ୍କ ବଂଶଜା ପୁରସ୍କାରପ୍ରାପ୍ତ ସିତିକ୍ଣଣ ବିଶ୍ୱାଳ ମଧ୍ୟ ସାମିଲ ହୋଇଥିଲେ।

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