

Kishore Kotecha Reports - WCT educational activities

Wildlife Conservation Trust (Rajkot)

Activity Report for 2008 – 09

The Rajkot based WCT seriously understands the need of barricading open wells and took this as the most priority activity. As a result of hard work, the Trust completed a mega-task of barricading 2218 wells in more than 40 villages in 5 ranges surrounding Gir East and Gir West. The total in Gir East was 1641, in Gir West 577, total in Gir 2218. This was indeed a herculean task done by WCT.

WCT rescues wild animals including lions when they fall in to open wells using ropes. Such operations are time-consuming and sometimes delay may result in the animals' death or an injury when it is being pulled out. Coordinating with Shri Bharat Pathak (CF-WL), Shri Raja (DCF-WL), Sasan Rescue Team and John & Deb Fox of Large Animal Rescue, USA, WCT designed a crane and few small capturing aids. They also manufactured one sample of each of these equipments and handed it over to Sasan forest department in April 2008. The open well project attracted many individual donors, WWF, India, Steve (Lions of Gir Foundation USA), Rajkot Builders Association, Lions Clubs Int. Dist-323J and other. WCT executed much of the work and total funding by VHF.

Their website www.asiaticlion.org has exhaustive information on Gir and Asiatic Lion had very good number of visitors (144000 total page loads). Also their News Blog <http://asiatic-lion.blogspot.com> instantly posts last minute news about Gir and Asiatic Lions has many new and regular visitors. (36000 total page loads). WCT also has created 24 issues of Fortnightly "Asiatic Lion e-Bulletin" which were regularly sent to lion lovers all around the world.

WCT celebrated Wildlife Week from 2–8 October 2008 in alliance with Gujarat Forest Department, Rajkot Municipal Zoo and Balbhavan. They conducted various vivid programmes and events such as wildlife education fair, essay & drawing competitions and other programmes to create awareness amongst the students and then the society at large. Wildlife Education Fair held at Shyama Mukherjee Art Gallery, Race Course, Rajkot on 4th and 5th Oct 08 was inaugurated by Shri Pradeep Khanna, (PCCF – WL and Chief Wildlife Warden of Gujarat) and other dignitaries.

Highlights included photo exhibits of a well-known wildlife photographer Shri Bhushan Pandya, a stall advertising the Open Well project, a staff by Rajkot Zoo with display of animal products and a staff by Forest department displaying medicinal plants and other items.

They also conducted awareness programmes with slides screened in a multi-screen Cosmoplex and Galaxy Cinema. 1000 posters (A2 size) were distributed in 700 schools and public places. Awareness articles and celebration information was widely promoted in Print Media. BigFM radio station played the promo for the event for about two weeks. Essay and drawing competitions were also held. Full financial support for this celebration was provided by Wildlife Conservation Trust.

Acknowledgment

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Save Gir



Save Asiatic Lion