



International Conference on Sustainability Education 2019

<i>Title of the Event</i>	<i>Successful stories of formal and non-formal approaches delivering conservation education</i>
<i>Coordinator</i>	<i>Mr. Amrit Menon, Officer in Charge, EDO and Ms. Paridhi Jain, Project Officer, EDO</i>
<i>Number of participants</i>	<i>30-40 ICSE 2019 participants</i>

WTI's Workshop Concept

Biodiversity or biological diversity we see today is the result of billions of years of evolution, shaped by natural processes and, increasingly, by the influence of humans. It is the combination of life forms, their interactions with each other and with the rest of the environment that has made Earth a uniquely habitable place for humans. Biological resources are the pillars upon which we build civilizations and it is in our natural interest to protect biodiversity. Biodiversity conservation is important for our health, wealth, food, fuel, and services we depend on. It is the practice of protecting and preserving the wealth and variety of species, habitats, ecosystems, and genetic diversity on the planet. Despite persistent efforts, the loss of the world's biological diversity has continued. There is a need for urgent and decisive actions to conserve genetic, species and ecosystem diversity, with a view to the sustainable management and use of biological resources. The pursuit of sustainability is undeniably linked to biodiversity conservation and to achieve a sense of co-existence and sharing the planet, the role of conservation education and public awareness is fundamental. More importantly there is a need to establish a connection at the early stage of education for young minds to comprehend and explore the association between biodiversity and human well-being. To ensure long-term



health of our planet, we need to encourage young citizens with a sense ownership of their local natural environment while taking into account the global context of their decisions.

Conservation education in practice

Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) is a leading Indian nature conservation organization committed to the service of nature. Its mission is to conserve wildlife and its habitat and to work for the welfare of individual wild animals, in partnership with communities and governments. Over the years, WTI has worked extensively with local and indigenous people, school students, children and other relevant stakeholders, sensitizing on the inextricable relationship with wildlife and habitats, thus driving conservation initiatives. Community education and participation in biodiversity conservation has empowered the communities to take decisions with the pride of co-existence, that have ensured their well-being and delivered conservation outcomes. Disseminating education on the varied aspects of conservation has always been an integral part of the projects at WTI. Formal (tie ups with educational institutions like BVIEER, Pune) and non-formal streams of education, provision of scholarship (The Ashok Kumar Memorial for Wildlife Law and Enforcement) for aspiring conservationists, education through Animal Action Education (AAE) kits, internship programmes for students are few ways by which conservation education is taken to students.

Prospect to assimilate

At the International conference on “Sustainability Education” being organised by Mobius Foundation and The Climate Reality Project India with support of UNESCO New Delhi Office we propose a workshop be organized on ‘Successful stories of formal and non-formal approaches delivering conservation education’. Wildlife Trust of India can facilitate the same along with Mobius Foundation, a workshop that will provide a platform to explore the possible avenues of educating and sensitizing gen next on the aspects of conserving biodiversity, as they are the



future decision makers and the agents of change on sustainable use of biodiversity. Through this workshop we would like to showcase WTI experience of working on education modules along with experiences from other educators in the field. Panelists would comprise educators, policy makers, biodiversity conservation experts, course curriculum development experts, media representatives and influencers who will talk about the importance of disseminating conservation education while other professionals will seek out best practices and suggest recommendations which can bring about a positive change in the attitude of students from early stage of education in support of biodiversity conservation.

Recommended Workshop Structure:

9 th September 2019	
(Under 1st Plenary Session-Setting the Agenda-11:30 am-13:00 pm)	
Expert Address by Mr. Vivek Menon, ED & CEO Wildlife Trust of India	15 mins
10 th September 2019	
<u>(Parallel Session-11:30 am-13:00 pm)</u>	
<p><u>Panel discussion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encouraging conservation practice through non-formal learning <p>Potential Speakers: WTI's project representatives, media representative, community representative/youth representative, representative from Discovery/wildlife filmmaker</p> <p>Discussion followed by Q & A session</p>	90 mins
<u>(Parallel Session-14:00 pm-15:30 pm)</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formalisation and delivery of conservation education 	90 mins



<p>Potential Speakers: Course Curriculum Experts (NCERT), representative from an educational institution (BVIEER), representative from private edtech company</p> <p>Discussion followed by Q & A session</p>	
<p><u>Proposed side activities</u></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interactive session for school children• WTI Stall	