Bannerghatta Biological Park,
Bannerghatta, Bengaluru

Wildlife Week Celebrations, 2017
“Wildlife Week” is celebrated in India from 2\textsuperscript{nd} October to 8\textsuperscript{th} October to create awareness about the importance of nature and wildlife. On this occasion Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP) conducted various sessions over the week to deliver wildlife and nature conservation related messages to its visitors and school children.

2\textsuperscript{nd} October, 2017 which coincides with “World Habitat Day”, an interactive session on making ”Our Homes a wildlife friendly place” was conducted for the zoo visitors. To reduce waste produced at home, volunteers educated the zoo visitors on ways to create organic composting with their kitchen waste. With the current trend of reduction in tree density, visitors were also educated on the 3R’s (Reduce, reuse and recycle) and how they could create bird feeders and nests with the reusable waste found at home such as plastic bottles, waste wood, etc.

In advance of 4\textsuperscript{th} October, 2017 which coincides with “International Zoo Keepers Day”, Zoo Day was celebrated on 3\textsuperscript{rd} October, 2017 to treat the staff of BBP to a day of sports and cultural activities. Staff took part in the sports competitions of discus throw, shot-put, tug of war, lemon and spoon and musical chairs. Cultural Activities such as songs and dance were performed by Bannerghatta Government School Children, including BBP staff children.
Fig 2 & 3: Sports activities for BBP staff on Zoo Day.
On the same day in the presence of Smt. Mallige Veeresh, Chairperson, Zoo Authority of Karnataka “Youth Club 2017” was launched. Youth Club is a 15 week programme conducted every Sunday for 60, 6th to 12th grade students of Bangalore City. This programme aims to connect youngsters to nature and wildlife through various workshops and practical sessions conducted by resource persons including the keepers, directors, veterinarians, rangers and researchers at BBP.

Other educational programmes as part of Wildlife Week 2017 included an interactive, musical, conservation story telling by Mr. Vipin Ravindranath and the volunteer team of BBP on 5th October, 2017. This was a 15 minute session in English or Kannada to create awareness on effect of plastic on wildlife. Visitors of all walks of life and age groups had a chance to play various musical instruments as well as learn the consequences of plastic consumption by wildlife.

Fig. 4: Chief Guest and Youth Club Members launching the event.
On 7th October, 2017, government school children from Bannerghatta were invited to participate in an Essay and Drawing competition. The theme for the essay competition was “Importance of nature and wildlife to man”. The drawing competition for primary school children was around the theme of ‘Nature is our friend’ and for the high school children the theme was ‘Animals in Action’. Over 60 students took part in the competitions and were honoured for their creative thinking.
Through the above activities, the importance of nature and wildlife conservation was shared with people from various walks of life, to create an environment where a wide range of species can co-exist and maintain a balance in the ecosystem.