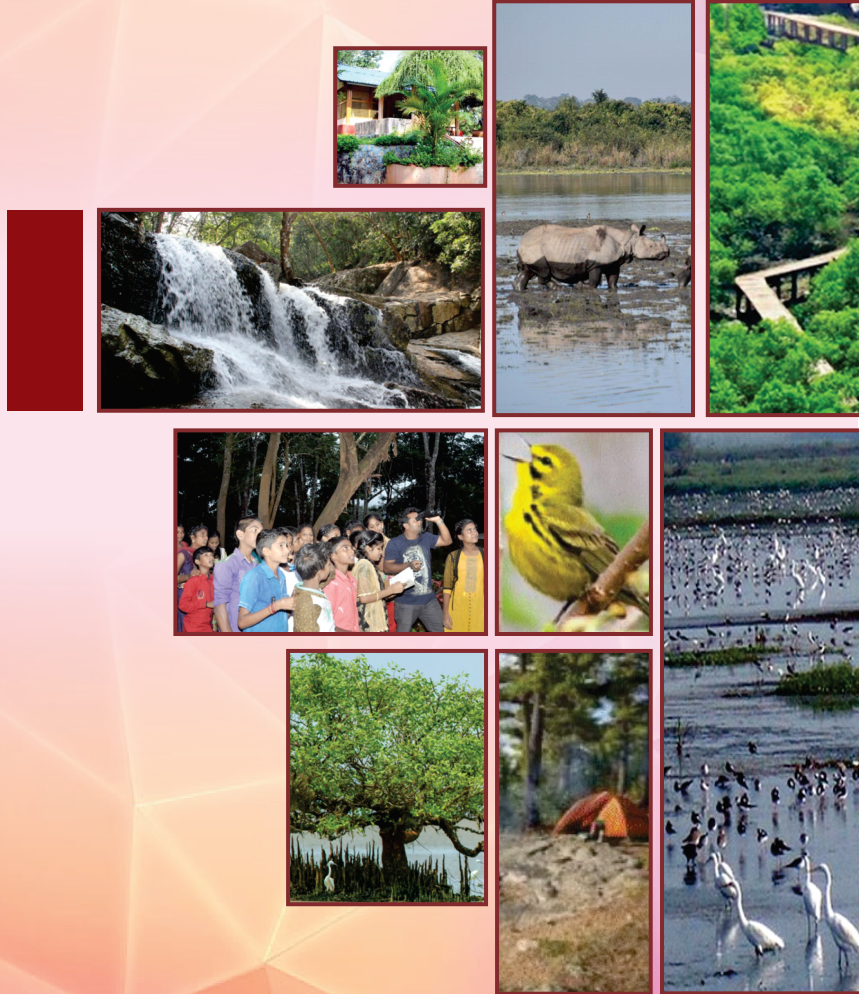




A Handbook on NATURE CAMPING SITES



Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Environment Education Division

मंत्री
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन,
सूचना एवं प्रसारण और
भारी उद्योग एवं लोक उद्यम
भारत सरकार



MINISTER
ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE,
INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND
HEAVY INDUSTRIES & PUBLIC ENTERPRISES
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

प्रकाश जावडेकर
Prakash Javadekar



FOREWORD

Spreading environmental awareness among the society to adopt environment friendly and sustainable lifestyle is one of the mandates of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India. National Nature Camping Programme is an initiative of this Ministry which is aimed at creating better understanding of students for the environment. A first-hand experience of nature shall have a strong, irreplaceable and lifelong educational impact on young minds.

Being outdoors in nature is not just a fun-filled activity but such exposure goes a long way in sensitizing them to various critical environmental issues. It further helps shape their attitudes and actions towards nature conservation and environmental protection.

I believe that the information on the nature camping sites documented in this booklet will serve as a guide to the society and build their interest towards biodiversity conservation.

Date: 21.12.2020

(Prakash Javadekar)

॥ प्लास्टिक नहीं, कपड़ा सही ॥

Babul Supriyo

Union Minister of State

Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
Government of India



सत्यमेव जयते



बाबुल सुप्रियो

केन्द्रीय राज्य मंत्री

पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
भारत सरकार

Message

It is a well established fact that the children can be catalysts in promoting a mass movement for critical environmental issues. Being future citizens, inculcation of environment friendly attitudes and behavioral patterns amongst them can make a significant difference to the long term efforts for protection of environment.

In this regard, nature camping programme of this Ministry provides a great opportunity to "Eco Club" students spend time in nature and learn about the environment. There is experiential learning about plant diversity, animal diversity, bird diversity, importance of species in ecosystem etc. It is basically a hands-on learning in natural environment which also improves observational skills of students. This would play a great role in forming and reforming their behavior, who are the torch bearer for taking the nation towards sustainable future.

I am happy to present this booklet and extend my best wishes to the Environment Education Division of our Ministry for their efforts towards mass environmental awareness. I hope this booklet will be a source of inspiration for many such programmes to be organized in the future.

(Babul Supriyo)



आर पी गुप्ता
R P Gupta



सचिव
भारत सरकार
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
SECRETARY
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE



MESSAGE

The 'Nature experience' to children and teachers has huge potential to trigger their sensitivity towards nature conservation, leading to positive environmental actions at different levels. Children are triggers for a chain reaction leading to awareness at various level - village, city, state, country and global level. With this objective, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is implementing the National Nature Camping programme (NNCP) under the Environment Education, Awareness and Training scheme.

Average camp duration in this programme consists of two nights and three days in permitted zones of protected areas/natural areas with not more than fifty students in one camp. Nature camping activities are remarkable educational tools with minimum classroom & lecture approach; using strategies of field experience & self discovery. Experiential learning especially through nature develops bonding which helps in bringing out behavioural change which in turn is needed for sound ecological development.

I place on record my appreciation for the diligent efforts put in by the Team Environment Education Division, in bringing out this handbook on nature camping sites. I wish all success and hope that NNCP would help in making the students environmentally conscious and thus responding to various environmental issues.

(R P Gupta)

New Delhi
22nd December 2020

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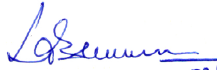
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ADDITIONAL SECRETARY
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND
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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MESSAGE

Environmental awareness is a critical step which aims at bringing in awareness about various environmental issues through informal mode of education. This is recognized as the process that would help society to acquire essential knowledge and skills to take positive actions towards a better environment. A first-hand experience of nature has an educational impact that is strong, irreplaceable and lifelong.

In this direction, nature camping programme of this Ministry has been able to motivate and stimulate young minds towards environment protection by involving them in nature tourism. Through this programme, students learn in nature about the various concepts like wildlife conservation, biodiversity - floral and faunal diversity, wetlands, ecosystem, forests, biomes etc. These nature based activities can be intended both for fun-filled learning as well as imbibing conservation ethics and values. The booklet is a compilation of the nature camping sites under the programme and also includes details about the nodal agencies implementing the programme in States/UTs.

I compliment the team of Environment Education Division, MoEF&CC for their efforts in bringing out this handbook. I wish all success and hope that this nature camping programme is continued in ensuing years to have positive impact on young minds.


(Ravi Agrawal) 23/12/2020



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Preface

The Environment Education, Awareness and Training scheme of this Ministry is a flagship scheme with the objective to mobilize student's participation for protection of environment. The National Nature camping programme (NNCP) under this scheme gives opportunity to Ecoclub students to participate in field visits (nature camps) which are organised in permitted areas of protected areas/ Nature parks/Tiger Reserves of the country.

The activities undertaken in nature camps includes 'Apna Paryavaran Janiye' (Know your Environment) by preparing small checklist of flora and fauna in the nature trail, Bird watching, Trekking, Green Pledges, Group discussion involving record/sharing of experiences. These nature camping sites have been an excellent platform for engaging target groups in environment friendly action and thereby inculcating environmental friendly attitude. Such programmes help in creating environmental awareness in a long run.

The booklet documents the detailed information on the nature camping sites under the NNCP across States/UTs. It aims to promote the nature related activities which can play an important role in changing the behaviour of individuals. The possibilities of our great future will become realities only if we make ourselves responsible for that future. I express my appreciation for my team Dr. Susan George K., Scientist 'E' and Ms. Kanchan Puri, Programme Coordinator for their efforts made in preparation of this booklet.

(Rita Khanna)



Background

Spreading education and awareness about the environment through non-formal sector and motivating people, especially the youth, to adopt more environment friendly and sustainable lifestyles is an integral part of the mandate of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India.

National Nature Camping Programme (NNCP) is an initiative of this Ministry which is aimed at creating greater awareness, understanding and empathy of children with and for the environment.

The "Nature experience" to children and teachers has huge potential to trigger the sensitivity towards nature appreciation and conservation, leading to positive environmental actions at different levels.

Under this programme, field visits (nature camps) are organized in different protected areas/ Nature parks/ Tiger Reserves of the country for 2-3 days to create awareness amongst school/ college students on environment and nature.



The programme aims to provide students an opportunity to learn about natural resources, ecosystem services and the importance of the area by involving them in activities such as:

- 'ApnaParyavaranJaniye' (Know your Environment) by preparing small checklist of flora and fauna seen/ spotted by them in the nature trails
- Bird watching
- Trekking
- Green pledges
- Group discussion involving records/sharing of experiences and
- Other nature based activities.

The programme is implemented through identified nodal agencies in the State/UTs and the Ecoclub students get an opportunity to participate in these nature camps. The handbook is a compilation of the information on the nature camping sites wherein nature camps have been financially supported by the EE Division and organized by nodal agencies under the NNCP.

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Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary

Nature camp destinations

Andhra Pradesh

Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary is situated near Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh, India. It is the second largest stretch of mangrove forests in India with twenty four mangrove tree species and more than one hundred twenty bird species as per records available. It is home to the critically endangered white-backed vulture and the long billed vulture. It is at the confluence of the river Godavari with the Bay of Bengal in the east Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh with the total area of 235.7 sq.km.

The Coastal and marine environment of this region plays a vital role in supporting human welfare by virtue of its immense biological and mineral resources. Like elsewhere, Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary and its adjoining Mangrove landscape, plays a crucial role in regional economic and livelihood development besides providing various ecosystem services essential as life supporting system for the East Godavari region.

Activity : Bird watching: students will be able to spot painted stork, oriental white ibis, spot billed pelican, little egret, pied kingfisher, pond heron, grey heron etc. Apart from avian fauna, children can learn about the mangrove biodiversity as the area is rich in flora and fauna diversity and generates significant ecological and economic benefits such as shoreline protection, sustaining livelihoods and others.

Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary

Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary is spread over Krishna and West Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh. Geographically, the shape of the sanctuary covers 308.55 sq km wetland which is a 'Ramsar Site' serving as a safe habitat for above two hundred twenty avian species including nearly hundred species that migrate from the Palearctic region. It is a paradise for the near-threatened Spot-Billed Pelican.

Activity : Bird watching, Kolleru Lake Birds includes: spot-billed pelicans, grey pelicans, open bill storks, painted storks, teals, pintails, shovellers, red-crested pochards, avocets, common redshanks, gadwalls and cormorants can be seen here.

Kondapalli Reserve Forest

Kondapalli Reserve Forest is in the Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh which has more than hundred tiny and moderate-sized waterfalls hidden inside its ranges. It is spread over an area of 120 sq. km and is under the protection of Andhra Pradesh Forest Department. The forest has a rewarding trek, where one might encounter not just waterfalls but also civets, peacocks, sambar deer, and barking deer. The deeper insides of the forest are home to leopards, wild dogs, wolves, jackals, wild boars, four-legged antelopes.

Activity : Perfect for trekking, the forest ranges are home to plenty of animals too. The pathways inside the forest are rocky and require a good pair of trekking shoes to cover the trail. Group discussion with the students on the forest types of the area can be fun learning activity.

Anantagiri Hills

Anantagiri, located on the way to Araku valley, is endowed with rich natural beauty. One can spot extensive coffee plantations, enchanting waterfalls, beautiful gorges and gurgling rivulet.

Activity : Blessed with a wide variety of flora, Anantagiri is home to many rare medicinal plants and herbs. Location offers some of the best trekking routes, making it a trekking paradise. Children can learn about the forest types as well as importance of medicinal plants.

Borra Caves

The Borra Caves are located on the way to Araku, at a distance of 90 km from Vizag. The caves are located in the midst of the Gosthani river, beautiful hills and valleys. The stalactite and stalagmite formations present a breathtaking array of naturally sculpted splendor. Tourism authorities have illuminated the caves.

Activity: Group discussion on biodiversity, it is one of the important hill regions of the Eastern Ghats and known not only for the diversity of its flora but also for the richness of its minerals. Students can learn about the petrology as well as pedology.

Biodiversity Park

Biodiversity Park is a botanical garden situated in Visakhapatnam exhibiting the ex-situ conservation approach. It extends over 3 acres and has more than 2,000 species of plants. The park has become a “living laboratory” for education, awareness and research for students, and botanists, zoologists and researchers.

Activity: Students can learn about the various themes of environment through visiting the 10 major zones: Sacred Groves, Living Fossil plants of Jurassic times (Gymnosperms), Cacti and Succulents, Ornamental Plants, Aquatic Plants, Medicinal or Herbal and Aromatic Plants, Insectivorous Plants, Orchids, Ferns, Bamboo and Palm Groves.

To participate in the nature camping programme, contact the following nodal agency :

Sh. Ramesh Suman

Director

Andhra Pradesh National Green Corps
Environment, Forest Science and Technology Department

Government of Andhra Pradesh

Flat No 101, 1st Floor, Fortune's Brundavan-B Building

Behind Agriculture Administrative office

Reddy Palem, Guntur 522 509

Email : directorapngc@gmail.com

Chakrasila Wildlife Sanctuary

Nature camp destinations

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Assam

The Chakrasila Wildlife Sanctuary is located in Dhubri and Kokrajhar districts of Assam (situated between the Manas river in the east, Sankosh river in the west and the Brahmaputra river in the south). It covers an area of 45.56 sq km, famous for the golden langur and is the second protected habitat for golden langur in India. Some species of mammals recorded in this sanctuary are short nosed fruit bat, Indian false vampire, Indian pipistrelle, rhesus macaque, Chinese pangolin, Asiatic jackal, etc.

Activity: Students can enjoy forest trekking- during the trek they can identify wild plants and observe animal foot marks. The sanctuary is a safe spot for many animals and birds, many of which are endangered. The main attraction of the sanctuary is the Golden Langur. They can learn about the concept of endangered species and their natural habitats.

Dibru-Saikhowa National Park

Dibru-Saikhowa National Park is located in Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts. It was designated a Biosphere Reserve in July 1997 with an area of 765 sq.km. The park is bounded by the Brahmaputra and Lohit Rivers in the north and Dibruriver in the south. It mainly consists of moist mixed semi-evergreen forests, moist mixed deciduous forests, canebrakes and grasslands. It is the largest salix swamp forest in north-eastern India.

Activity: Nature trails, students can observe different forest types. The forest of Dibru-Saikhowa consists of semi-evergreen forests, deciduous, littoral and swamp forests. Bird watching is another learning activity for students in the nature.

Dihira Reserve Forest

This reserve forest is in the Baksa district of Assam, which forms the buffer zone of Manas Tiger reserve. Inside the dry river bed one can observe the pugmarks of clouded leopard, Asiatic bear, civet cat and various other animals. Various wild trees, plants, creepers, orchids are also present.

Activity: Group discussions on the various aspects of environment like eco-tourism, forest management, types of ecosystem etc. The jungle trail can be a full of invigorating lifetime first hand experiences for the students which would inspire them to be environmentally sensitive.

NamborDoigrung Wildlife Sanctuary

Nambor - Doigrung Wildlife Sanctuary is located in Golaghat district of Assam. This wildlife sanctuary covers an area of 97.15 sq. km. The forest type is tropical semi-evergreen with pockets of pure evergreen, interspersed with small forest marshes. The sanctuary along with Garampani Wildlife Sanctuary and Nambor Wildlife Sanctuary are part of the Kaziranga-KarbiAnglong Elephant Reserve. Pig-tailed macaque, elephant, stumped-tailed macaque, tiger, fishing cat, leopard, barking deer, sambar, slow loris, etc are some of the wildlife creatures to be seen at the Nambor-Doigrung Wildlife Sanctuary. This wildlife reserve is also famous for hot water spring and it is dotted with several other glittering water bodies and is an oasis of greenery spread all around.

Activity: One can see here different kinds of birds like great pied hornbill, adjutant stork, white winged wood duck, wreathed hornbill etc. Students can see tortoise, python, monitor lizard in the sanctuary. They can also spot some rare species of orchids.

Biodiversity cum Recreation Park

The Department of Environment and Forest, under the administration of KarbiAnglong Autonomous Council established this "Bio-diversity cum Recreation Pak" in altitude 177msl on an undulating landscape. The best suited red loamy and red sandy soils of this place support luxuriant growth of indigenous fruit bearing, flower bearing, medicinal and many other exotic plant species.

Activity: Nature trail, this park is considered as the Hub of Plant's Kingdom of Assam. There are around 700 plants species (including rare and endangered). Children can spot flying squirrel, mongoose, poisonous and non-poisonous snakes; frogs, monitor lizard alongwith varieties of butterflies. More than 20 bird species have been recorded, so bird watching is another fun cum learning activity for students. They can also learn about aromatic and spice species found in Park campus including turmeric and ginger.

Kakoijana Reserve Forest

This reserve forest is located in Bongaigoan district of Assam and cover an area of 15,000 bigha land situated on the bank of Aie river. Golden Langur (endangered species endemic to western Assam) is the attraction point for this reserve forest. In addition to Golden Langur different types of valuable climber's, shrub, herb, sapling plants are also available.

Activity: Nature/Jungle trail, during the trek students can visit hill spring called "Kalikapat" which flows through the forest and drains to the paddy field. There is an ancient "Shiva" temple on one of the hills. The concept of sacred grove for biodiversity conservation can be experienced in nature by students.

To participate in the nature camping programme, contact the following nodal agency :

Dr. A.K Misra

Director

Assam Science, Technology and Environment Council (ASTEC)

G.S.Road , Guwahati- 781003. Assam

Phone: 0361- 2450147/ 2450646/ 2464621

Email :ngcassam@gmail.com

Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary

Nature camp destinations

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Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary is spread over an area of 2600 hect. and is situated at 1 Km from the North-East of Sukhna Lake. It forms the part of Sukhna lake catchment area falling in Shivalik hills.

Activity: Nature trails, with a view to promote Eco-tourism and to educate and create awareness among masses there are 'Nature Trails' throughout the length and breadth of the sanctuary. There are eight nature trails ranging from 2½ km length to 8 km length. These Nature trails are passing through the woods, hill-slopes and water bodies and the gradient is varying from gentle to steep.

While trekking through the Nature trails, one can have close interaction with variety of mammals, birds, reptiles, butterflies and insects. These trails give us good insight to the flora, fauna, soil conservation works, water bodies and wildlife habitat and its management.

Chandigarh



Nangal Wetland

The Nangal wetland draws sustenance from the Sutlej River. Encompassing an area of over 700 acres, it is home to numerous species of both resident as well as migratory birds from the trans-Himalayan region. These include the red jungle fowl, parakeet, Indian cuckoo, wood shrike, yellow-eyed babbler and crested bunting. The elegant Sarus crane, too, has been sighted here.

Activity: Bird watching, around 10,000 migratory birds fly here in every winter. The wetland also houses threatened species like the Indian pangolin, besides being an important habitat for the smooth Indian otter, the hog deer and the sambar.

Harike Wetland

Harike wetland recognized as a wetland of International Importance by Ramsar Convention in the year 1990 covers an area of approx. 4100 hectares in Taran Taran Sahib District. Harike wetland, also known as "Hari-ke-Pattan", is the largest wetland in Northern India formed at the confluence of two major rivers of Punjab namely the Sutlej and the Beas. The rich biodiversity of the wetland plays a vital role in maintaining the precious hydrological balance in the catchment area with its vast concentration of migratory birds.

Activity: As part of Nature trails alongside wetland, students will be able to document biodiversity of the region, understand the various concepts of environment. Bird watching is another fun cum learning activity. Group discussion on the flora and fauna can be food for thought for the conservation of natural resources.

Berwala Bird Safari forest in Morni hills

Berwala Bird Safari forest in Morni Hills, part of the Khol-HaiRaitan Wildlife Sanctuary falls under the jurisdiction of Haryana forest and wildlife department. The forest is teeming with sambhar, nilgai and variety of birds.

Activity: Bird watching site: birds namely great barbet, blue-bearded bee-eater, yellow-billed blue magpie, grey treepie, crested bunting, asian paradise-flycatcher, blue whistling-thrush, white-throated fantail-flycatcher and black bulbul can be spotted here. It is also easy to observe sambar deer, bluebulls, gray langur, jungle cats and chital.

City Forest

It is called as Nagar Van, which is spread over a sprawling 100 hectares and being part of the Reserve Forest Area of Chandigarh near Sukhna Lake. Free from the noise and pollution of the city. It is surrounded by lush greenery, dense vegetation and trees.

Activity: It has a long walk away, nature trails, shallow water bodies, rain shelter, meditation hut, children's park and visitor's shed to sit & breathe in fresh natural air. One can spot species, including Sambar, nilgai (blue bull), jungle fowls, jungle cats, porcupine and many more. Forest has been richly planted with almost 500 saplings of Palash Tree.

To participate in the nature camping programme, contact the following nodal agency :

Sh. Debendra Dalai

Director (Environment)

Department of Environment, Chandigarh Administration

3rd Floor, Paryavaran Bhawan

Sector 19-B, Madhya Marg, Chandigarh

Email: ngcchandigarh@gmail.com

Bondla Wild Life Sanctuary

Nature camp destinations

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Goa

Bondla Wildlife Sanctuary is one of the smallest protected areas in Goa covering an area of 7.98 sq. km. The Sanctuary is a paradise for nature lovers due to the presence of zoo, deer safari park, botanical garden and eco-tourism complex. The Sanctuary is mostly covered with moist deciduous forest with small patches of semi-evergreen forest and cane along the streams. The dominant trees in this Sanctuary are Terminalia crenulata (Matti, the state tree of Goa) and Rosewood. Although this Sanctuary encompasses small area, it is an ideal habitat for wildlife such as Gaur, Leopard, Jungle Cat, Wild boar, Porcupine, Malabar giant Squirrel, Pangolin ; and variety of insects, amphibians, reptiles and birds.

Activity: The parkhouses a number of birds, including Ruby throated yellow bulbul, which is the state bird, the common grey hornbill and golden backed woodpecker. Budding ornithologists will have great opportunity in the sanctuary. There is a Bondla Zoo which is home to a number of animals including tigers, elephant, panther, gaur, sambar, deers, sloth bear, porcupine, wild boar, crocodiles and reptiles.

Further there are number of hiking and trekking trails that crisscross the park. These tours are usually conducted by knowledgeable forest guides who can point out the different species of flora and fauna that one might encounter as well as interesting and rare sights. Besides, children can gain knowledge through nature Education Centre which has also a well-stocked library.

To participate in the nature camping programme, contact the following nodal agency:

Mrs. Brenda Fernandes

Project Scientist

Goa State Council Of Science & Technology

C/o Department of Science, Technology & Environment

Government of Goa

Opposite Saligao Seminary, Saligao, Bardez, Goa - 403 511

E- mail: ms-gscst.goa@nic.in

Aranya Uddhyaan, Indroda Nature park

Nature camp
destinations

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Gujarat

Indroda Nature Park is spread over an area of about 400 ha in Gandhinagar- the capital city of Gujarat. The Park is divided into two parts on the banks of river Sabarmati. The western part is known as Indroda Nature Park and the eastern part of the river Sabarmati is known as Wilderness Park. The park consist of two sections namely: Zoo and Botanical Garden.

Activity: Education and Awareness, the zoo has animals like leopard, spotted deer, sambar, bluebull, blackbuck, chinkara, jackal, four-horned antelope, crocodile, porcupine. Bird watching is another fun cum learning activity as there are about 180 birds are present in the aviary. In the snake park, there are number of venomous and non-venomous snakes. Further there are skeletons of two blue whales (an adult and a juvenile), one dolphin and a dugong which have been displayed with detailed interpretation.

NalSarovar Bird Sanctuary

This bird sanctuary is located at about 64 km to the west of Ahmedabad near Sanand village, Gujarat. NalSarovar houses various different kinds of bird species. It has many small islands and the region is spread over a large area such that the birds can roam about without any conflict among the different species. The Nalsarovar wetland inside the sanctuary is deemed as the biggest wetland in the state.

Activity: Bird Watching, the most popular aspect of this tourist attraction is the wide variety and different myriad of migratory birds that can be enjoyed. As many as 200 different species of birds can be discerned and enjoyed. Apart from these, typical species like pelicans, ducks, herons and storks can be found easily.

Blackbuck National Park

It is situated in the Bhavnagar District of Gujarat state, India. Established in 1976 in the Bhal region of Saurashtra, the park is located around 42 km from the district headquarters city of Bhavnagar. Hugging the coasts of the Gulf of Khambhat on the south, it is spread over an area of 34.08 sq. km, which was primarily a “vidi” (grassland) of the maharaja of the princely state of Bhavnagar for hunting the blackbucks with his famous hunting cheetahs. On the northern side, it is surrounded by wastelands and agriculture fields. Flat land, dry grasses and herds of antelope have always attracted visitors to this park which has a grassland ecosystem.

Activity: Nature Education, through Nature Trails (Forest & river): understanding locality / Ecological Factors such as topography, geology, soil, climate, vegetation (flora), fauna etc. Students can understand ecosystems, forest orientation, observe biodiversity/Wetland etc inside the national park.

To participate in the nature camping programme, contact the following nodal agency :

Dr R.D Kamboj

Director

Gujarat Ecological Education and Research Foundation

Sector - 9, Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat – 382009

Email: geer.ngc@gmail.com

Hail Himalayas

Nature camp
destinations

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It is located in Shoghi, Shimla in Himachal Pradesh which is mid-segment adventure camp offering wide ranging adventure sports and activities for active holiday travellers. There are facilities for water rappelling, tyre walk, burma bridge, rope walk, rock climbing, ring walk, zip line etc.

Activity: Nature trail, students can identify various plant species (Pine, Quercus and Rubus etc) and prepare checklist of plant and animals. Further the concept of invasive species, various eco-systems and biodiversity can be learned in the nature camp. Bird watching, trekking to natural areas to know about the nature and resources are other educational activities.

Himachal Pradesh

Pong Dam Wetland

The Pong Dam Wetland, a man-made wetland, is one of the highest earth core gravel shell dam in India, impounded across the River Beas in Kangra District of Himachal Pradesh. It was commissioned in 1974, primarily for power generation, irrigation and flood control. It comprises of a total geographical area of 207 sq. km mainly up to 1410 ft. mean sea level falling in Nurpur and Dehra Forest divisions. Its total catchment area lies in Kangra, Mandi and Kullu districts with Himalayas in the back ground and Shiwalik foothills in fore front.

This is the first wetland in the state to have gained the distinction of the Status of a "Ramsar Site".

Activity: Bird Watching, the wetland offers a transitory wintering ground for the migratory birds such as Bar Headed Geese, Ruddy shell duck, Pintails, Coots, Pochards, Gulls, Red Necked Grebes, Cormorants, Mallards etc. These birds come from the trans Himalayan zone in the winter season when the wetlands in the Europe, North and central Asia become frozen due to onset of winters.

The Pong reservoir has immense untapped potential for various activities such as camping sites, water sports, trekking trails, thick forests, religious places, heritage villages and sites, conservation of rare and endangered species and mainly the tourism.

To participate in the nature camping programme, contact the following nodal agency:

Sh. D. C. Rana

Member Secretary

Himachal Pradesh Council for Science, Technology And Environment

B-34, SDA Complex Kasumpti,

Shimla, Himachal Pradesh-171009

Email:dc.rana04@nic.in

Neyyar Wildlife Sanctuary

Nature camp destinations



Kerala

The Sanctuary is located on the western slopes of the Southern Western Ghats in Thiruvananthapuram district of Kerala. With a wide variety of flora and fauna, this sanctuary forms a part of the Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve and thus forms a critical component of a major conservational complex in the Western Ghats.

The floral diversity is very high with a relatively high percentage of endemism. It is estimated that nearly 1000 species of flowering plants are seen in the sanctuary. Vegetation of the area could be classified into: Southern hilltop tropical evergreen forests, West coast tropical evergreen forest, West coast tropical semi evergreen forest, moist bamboo brakes, Southern secondary moist mixed deciduous forest, Myristica swamp forest, Sub-montane hill valley swamp forest and Riparian forest.

Activity: Nature Education is executed through Crocodile Rehabilitation and Research Centre, Lion Safari Park, Deer Rehabilitation Centre, are among the major tourist attractions of Neyyar. Students can document local medicinal plants and learn about the importance of medicinal plants too.

Schendurney Wildlife Sanctuary

Shendurney wildlife sanctuary, a part of Agasthyamala biosphere reserve in Western Ghats, is situated in Pathanapuram taluk of Kollam district. The sanctuary is the type locality of several endemic and threatened species with an area of 171.32 sq. km. The vegetation types of this sanctuary include evergreen forest, semi evergreen forest and moist deciduous forest.

The presence of the unique specialized habitat - the Myristica swamps, the undulating terrains, variety in forest types, waterfalls, grasslands have earned Shendurney the tag of a heaven for nature lovers and bird watchers. The construction of the Parappan dam has resulted in the creation of an artificial lake of nearly 18.69 sq. km within the sanctuary, which attracts a large number of water birds.

Activity: As part of Nature trails, students will be able to document biodiversity of the region, understand the various concepts of environment. Bird watching is another fun cum learning activity. Group discussion on the flora and fauna of the sanctuary can be food for thought for the conservation of natural resources.

Idukki Wildlife Sanctuary

Idukki Wildlife Sanctuary, an enchanting place marked with steep mountains and undulating hills and valleys, came into existence in 1976. The total area of the sanctuary is 105.364 sq.km and is part of the range forests of Periyar Tiger reserve. The entire sanctuary forms the catchment of Idukki Hydro Electric Project and the Idukki arch dam. The forests surrounding the reservoir are blessed with floristic diversity especially of lower flora - lichens and fungi.

Activity: As part of Nature trails, students will be able to document biodiversity of the region, understand the various concepts of environment. Bird watching is another fun cum learning activity. Group discussion on the flora and fauna of the sanctuary can be food for thought for the conservation of natural resources.

Thatteekkad Bird Sanctuary

Located on the northern bank of the Periyarriver, Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, expands over 25 square kilometers north of the river. The tropical climate, semi-evergreen forest and good rainfall keep the weather pleasant throughout the year. Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary is Kerala's very first bird sanctuary declared in 1983. Today, the park boasts more than 500 species of birds including rare species like ashy woods wallow, black headed oriole, blue kingfisher, heartspotted woodpecker, crested woodpecker, ashy drongo, bronzed drongo etc. There are also few mammal species like elephants, leopards, sloth bears and porcupines.

Activity: Bird watching is the core activity of this bird sanctuary along with nature trekking wherein student can learn ornithology and get fascinated by this live experience. Preparation of checklist of various rare bird species can raise their curiosity on decline in number of birds.

Chimmini Wildlife Sanctuary

This sanctuary is situated in the Mukundapuram Taluk of Thrissur district, lies contiguous with the Peechi-Vazhani Sanctuary. The dense tropical forests of Chimmini are home to a plethora of rare flora and fauna. Visitors can view elephants, sambars, gaurs, Malabar squirrels and sloth bears.

Activity: Students will enjoy bird watching activities, trekking to natural areas to know about the flora and fauna and documentation of local biodiversity in the form of Biodiversity Registers as part of nature education/ awareness.

Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary

Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary is contiguous to the tiger reserves of Nagerhole and Bandipur of Karnataka; and Mudumalai of Tamil Nadu having an area of 344.44 sq km. Kabini river (a tributary of Cauvery river) flows through the sanctuary. The forest types include South Indian Moist Deciduous forests, West coast semi-evergreen forests and plantations of teak, Eucalyptus and Grewelia. Faunal diversity includes elephant, gaur, tiger, panther, sambar, spotted deer, slothbear, common langur, common otter, malabar giant squirrel etc.

Activity: As part of Nature trails, students can document biodiversity of the region, understand the various concepts of environment. Bird watching is another fun cum learning activity. Group discussion on the flora and fauna of the sanctuary can be food for thought for the conservation of natural resources.

Parambikulam Tiger Reserve

Parambikulam Tiger Reserve is the second tiger reserve of Kerala, situated in Palghat District. It is located within the Anamalai Hills of Western Ghats, surrounded by the Nemmara Reserve Forest, including the Nelliampathy Hills to the north, Anamalai Tiger Reserve to the east, Sholayar Reserve Forest to the south and Chalakudy Reserve Forest to the west. The total extent of the tiger reserve is 643.66 sq.km.

The major vegetation types are west coast tropical evergreen forests, west coast tropical semi evergreen forests, southern moist mixed deciduous forests, southern dry mixed deciduous forests and teak plantation..

Activity: Students will enjoy bird watching activities and trekking to natural areas will allow them to know about the flora and fauna. As part of nature education they can document local biodiversity in the form of Biodiversity Registers.

To participate in the nature camping programme, contact the following nodal agency:

Dr.Anilkumar C,

Senior Principal Scientist

Kerala State Council for Science Technology & Environment

Sasthra Bhawan, Pattom

Thiruvananthapuram -04, Kerala

Email: envkscste@gmail.com

Satpura National Park

Nature camp destinations



This park is located in the Hoshangabad district in Madhya Pradesh covering an area of 585.17 sq. Km. Denwariver is the main water source of the park. The forests inside the park provide habitat to several endangered species. Black Buck, Leopard, Dhole, Indian Gaur, Malabar Giant Squirrel, Sloth Bear can be spotted here. More than 300 species of birds can be seen along with many migratory birds like Indian Skimmers, Black-bellied tern, Bar-headed Geese, etc. The flora consists mainly of Sal and famous Bori Teak forests, but also includes Tendu, Mahua and Bel trees alongwith variety of bamboo species.

Activity: As part of Nature trails, students will be able to document biodiversity of the region, understand the various concepts of environment. Bird watching is another fun cum learning activity. Group discussion on the flora and fauna of the sanctuary can be food for thought for the conservation of natural resources.

Madhya Pradesh

Kanha National Park

Kanha National Park is located in the Mandla & Balaghat districts of Madhya Pradesh. Kanha was declared as a National Park in 1955, and came under the "Project Tiger" as a Tiger reserves in 1973-74. The tropical central highlands of this arena make a perfect habitat for the splendors of wild animals. The total area of the Park is about 1949 sq. km. It is the ideal home for wide ranges of wild creatures; right from the mighty tigers to the most populated Barasingha and the countless species of plants, birds, reptiles and insects. It has around 22 species of mammals and 300 species of birds.

Activity: Jungle excursions, trekking, preparation of checklist of flora and fauna during the nature trail, bird watching, observing foot prints of wild animals, nature education etc. are the activities which student will be able to take part while visiting the national park. Information related to forest, wildlife and nature conservation can be learned. There is also a museum at Kanha national park, depicting attributes and activities of the park and the tribal culture of the state of Madhya Pradesh.

Pench National Park

Pench National Park is located in the districts of Seoni and Chhindwara. Sprawls over a massive area of 758 sq km, having a rich wildlife which offers visitors an opportunity to indulge into one of the finest wildlife experiences in India. Since its inception in 1965 as a wildlife sanctuary, the park has numerous wild creatures including the Royal Bengal tiger, jackal, peafowl, sloth bear, Indian leopard, fox, striped hyena etc. Pench National Park includes southern tropical dry deciduous teak, and southern tropical mixed deciduous forests. There are numerous other co-dominants and associates of teak, along with many other species of trees, shrubs and climbers.

Activity: As part of Nature trails, students will be able to document biodiversity of the region, understand the various concepts of environment. Bird watching is another fun cum learning activity. Group discussion on the flora and fauna of the sanctuary can be food for thought for the conservation of natural resources.

Kheoni Wildlife Sanctuary

Kheoni Wildlife Sanctuary is located in Kannod Tehsil of Dewas district in Madhya Pradesh. It is spread over an area of 132 square kilometers. It is connected to Ratapani Tiger Reserve through corridors. The dry deciduous forest consists of teak, tendu and bamboo. It has presence of tigers, which have apparently migrated from Ratapani and colonized Kheoni. Leopards are present in significant numbers. Other commonly found carnivores are jungle cats, jackals and striped hyena. The dominant herbivore species are nilgai, blackbuck, chinkara and chital (spotted deer). Sambar, wild boar, barking deer, four-horned antelope, and palm civet are also present.

The birds present here includes plum-headed parakeet, Eurasian collared dove, laughing dove, chestnut shouldered petronia, common crow and black drongo.

Activity: Jungle excursions, trekking, preparation of checklist of flora and fauna during the nature trail, bird watching, observing foot prints of wild animals, nature education etc. are the activities which student will be able to take part while visiting the national park.

To participate in the nature camping programme, contact the following nodal agency:

**Dr. Sadhna Tiwari,
Chief Scientific Officer**

Environmental Planning and Coordination Organization -
EPCO Bhopal, Kachnar Parayavaran Parisar,
E-5, Arera Colony, Bhopal – 462 016, Madhya Pradesh

Email: ngcepcomp@gmail.com

Keoladeo National Park

Nature camp destinations



Rajasthan

Formerly known as the Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary, the Keoladeo National Park is recognised as one of the world's most important bird breeding and feeding grounds. It originated as a royal hunting reserve during the 1850s and was a game reserve for Maharajas and the British. In 1982, Keoladeo was declared a national park and then later listed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1985. The park is home to over 370 species of birds and is also known as the breeding ground for the Siberian crane. Keoladeo National Park offers well-defined treks which can be covered on either foot, or cycle or rickshaws. In fact, the park management has trained the rickshaw pullers in bird watching and they make for extremely knowledgeable guides.

Activity: Bird watching is the core activity in sanctuary along with nature trekking wherein student can learn ornithology and get fascinated by this live experience. Preparation of checklist of various rare bird species can raise their curiosity on decline in number of birds.

Bassi Wildlife Sanctuary

Bassi Wildlife Sanctuary is located near Bassi in Chittorgarh district of Rajasthan. It covers an area of 15,290 hectares and was established in 1988. The sanctuary is located on the western border of the Vindhya Range and includes the Bassi and Orai dams are part of the sanctuary. Antelope, wild boar, panther, mongoose and migratory birds inhabit the sanctuary. The forest is dry deciduous and has trees like the Dhok, Churel, Butea along with a variety of medicinal herbs and flowering plants.

Activity: Trekking, preparation of checklist of flora and fauna during the nature trail, bird watching, observing foot prints of wild animals, nature education etc. are the activities which student will be able to take part while visiting the sanctuary.

Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary

Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary is located in the Rajsamand district of Rajasthan. It surrounds the Kumbhalgarh fortress and covers an area of 610.528 sq.km. The sanctuary extends across the Aravalli Range, covering parts of Rajsamand, Udaipur, and Pali districts. It is part of the Khathiar-Gir dry deciduous forests ecoregion. Faunal diversity includes Indian Rock Python, Indian Starred Tortoise, Monitor Lizard, Long-billed Vulture, White-naped Tit, Grey Junglefowl, Indian White-backed Vulture, Egyptian Vulture, Tytler's Leaf Warbler, Open-billed Stork, Rusty-spotted Cat, Sloth Bear, Indian Pangolin etc.

Activity: As part of Nature trails, students will be able to document biodiversity of the region, understand the various concepts of environment. Bird watching is another fun cum learning activity. Group discussion on the flora and fauna of the sanctuary can be food for thought for the conservation of natural resources.

Ranthambhore National park

The Ranthambhore National Park, which is a part of the Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve, lies in the SawaiMadhopur district of eastern Rajasthan. The Chambal river forms a natural boundary of the park towards the east. To the northeast of the Park, flows the river - Banas, a tributary of Chambal. Across the river Banas, lies the Keladevi sanctuary, while the Sawai Man Singh sanctuary lies to the south of the Park. It is home to over 40 species of mammals, 320 species of birds and over 35 species of reptiles.

Activity: As part of Nature trails, students will be able to document biodiversity of the region, understand the various concepts of environment. Bird watching is another fun cum learning activity. Group discussion on the flora and fauna of the sanctuary can be food for thought for the conservation of natural resources. To participate in the nature camping programme, contact the following nodal agency:

Sh. R.N. Bhanot
State Secretary,

Rajasthan State Bharat Scout & Guide,
State Headquarters,
JLN Marg, Bajaj Nagar,
Jaipur-302015, Rajasthan

Email: rajscoutguide@yahoo.com / ngcrajasthan@gmail.com

Shingba Rhododendron Sanctuary

Nature camp destinations

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Sikkim

Shingba Rhododendron Sanctuary lies in North Sikkim which radiates with varied flora and it is famous for its rhododendron flowers. Abiesdensa, Picea, Rhododendron, Juniperus, Acer spp. and ground flora such as Primula, Potentilla, Aconitum spp. and other alpine herbs can be seen in the sanctuary. Blood Pheasant and Himalayan Monalbreed in the higher reaches of the Sanctuary while the Himalayan Griffon can be sighted in the cold desert part of sanctuary.

Activity: Jungle excursions, trekking, preparation of checklist of flora and fauna during the nature trail, bird watching, nature education etc. are the activities which student will be able to take part while visiting the sanctuary.



Yumthang Valley

Yumthang Valley, North Sikkim 'Yumthang' means "Valley of flowers" in the local language. Yumthang is labelled as the Valley of Rhododendrons because of the abundance of these flowers in various hues all over the place. The snow-covered backdrop, the majestic mountain ranges, the mighty rivers and the wild yaks grazing away come together to give an opportunity for connecting with nature.

Activity: Nature Education, students can take observation on the biodiversity of the area, learn about the various concepts of environment.

Kitam Bird Sanctuary

Kitam is home to more than 200 species of birds & butterflies, lies in South Sikkim. In sanctuary there are some watch towers and view points with trek trails. The sanctuary is located within the south district and bounded by great Rangit river with unique association of forests dominated by Shorea robusta (Sal) and dominated by *Pinus roxburghii*, which are typical in the Rangit valley.

Activity: Major attraction in the sanctuary is bird watching. Students can sight Oriental White-backed Vulture, Slender-billed vulture, Red-breasted Hill-Partridge, Rufous-necked Hornbill, Rusty-bellied Shortwing, Black-breasted Parrotbill. Perfect for trekking, the forest ranges are home to plenty of animals too. Group discussion with the students on the forest types of the area can be fun learning activity.

Fambonglho Wildlife Sanctuary

The Fambonglho wildlife sanctuary is located in eastern part of Sikkim covering an area of about 51.76 sq.km. The wildlife sanctuary is close to Gangtok, the capital city of Sikkim, and is connected with metalled road. The word "Fambonglho" means the "orchard of *Machilus edulis*" a tree which is abundantly found in Sikkim Himalaya and whose fruits resemble the common avocado. The Fambonglho is dominated by the broadleaved mixed temperate forests.

Activity: The sanctuary is known to have 281 species of birds, hence bird watching is fun cum learning activity for students visiting the sanctuary. The sanctuary is known mainly for its biodiversity and wildlife-based adventure trekking and educational tourism.

To participate in the nature camping programme, contact the following nodal agency:

Shri B. B. Gurung,
Additional Director (Planning/ Environment & Soil Conservation)

Forest, Environment & Wildlife Management Department

Government of Sikkim

Deorali, Gangtok 737102

Email: sik@envis.nic.in/ sik-env@nic.in

Therthangal Bird Sanctuary

Nature camp destinations

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This bird sanctuary is located in Ramanathapuram district covering an area of 29.30 hectares. It is having large number of babul trees (thorn mimosa), tamarind, neem, banyan, every green scrub, and thorn forests. It is an ideal habitat for nestling and breeding of birds including migratory birds. Migratory birds includes Spot-billed Pelicans, Cormorants, Darter, Grebes, Large Egret, Little Egrets, Moorhen, Night Herons, Paddy Bird, Painted Stork, Pintails, Pond Heron, Sandpiper, Shovellers, Terns and White Ibis.

Activity: Bird watching is core activity for the students visiting the sanctuary. Group discussion on the flora and fauna of the sanctuary can be food for thought for the conservation of natural resources.

Tamil Nadu



Koonthankulam Bird Sanctuary

Koonthankulam Bird Sanctuary or Kunthankulam is located in Nanguneri Taluk of Tirunelveli district covering area of 1.2933 sq. km. This is the largest reserve for breeding water birds in South India. It is an important Bird Area. The migratory birds like Bar-headed goose, common sandpiper, Northern pintail, Common teal visit this area from Siberia and Greater flamingo from northern India and White stork, central Asia.

Activity: Bird watching, around 10,000 migratory birds fly here and this place is indeed an ornithologist's paradise.

Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park

This National Park is located in the areas of Thoothukudi and Ramanathapuram districts near Mandapam – 150 kms away from Madurai, covering area of 623.23 ha. It is lying within the Bio Sphere of Mannar. The Biosphere Reserve comprises of 21 islands with estuaries, Mudflats, Beaches, Forests of the on-shore environment, including marine components like Algae communities, Sea grasses, coral reefs, Salt marshes and Mangroves. Among the Gulf's 3600 plant and animal species, there are globally endangered species of Sea Cow (Dugong) and six mangrove species endemic to peninsular India.

Activity: Education and Awareness, it is one of the world's richest regions from marine bio diversity perspective and it is also the first marine Biosphere Reserve in Southeast Asia. Students can learn about the marine biodiversity in details.

Butterfly park

The Butterfly park in Melur, Tiruchirappalli cover 25 acres in the lush-green Anaicut reserve Forests and is one of the most beautiful nature spots. The park is home to a variety of colourful butterflies that one can see bobbing around beautiful, vibrant flowers that are planted throughout the area. The place also has a glass house, a beautiful fountain and a pavilion to rest in the shade.

Activity: The park promises a good time away from the bustling city and for spotting butterflies of all kinds. Some of the butterflies spotted here include Cardamines, Blue Glassy Tigers, Tiger butterflies, African monarch and *Ideopsis vulgaris*.

To participate in the nature camping programme, contact the following agency:

Director

Environment Management Agency of Tamil Nadu,

Department of Environment.

Ground Floor, Panagal Buildings

1, Jeenis Road, Saidapet

Chennai - 600 015 Tamil Nadu

Email : tndoe@nic.in

Sepahijala wildlife sanctuary

Nature camp destinations

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Tripura

Sepahijala wildlife sanctuary is the biodiversity heaven of Tripura with an area of 18.53 sq. km. To conserve and propagate the biodiversity of the area, the Sepahijala bio-complex came into existence in 1972. The moist, deciduous forest is the habitat of different species of primates like Rhesus macaque, Pigtailed macaque, Capped langur, Spectacled monkey, Slow loris and several other wild animals like Leopard, Jungle fowl, Civets, Wild pig, etc. The avian population of the sanctuary includes winged stork, Whistling teal and the White ibis. The additional attractions are spectacular view of coffee and rubber plantations, boating facilities in the lake and joy ride in the toy train. The sanctuary has around 400 plant species, many kinds of bamboo and a variety of grasses and medicinal plants also grow in the sanctuary.

Activity: Students can take part in nature trails and involve in Group discussions on the various aspects of environment like eco-tourism, forest management, types of ecosystem etc. Bird watching is another activity for learning in the nature.

Baramura Eco- park

This park is located at about 38 km from Khowai in Baramura Hill Range. It is characterized by thickly forested hill ridges with dense bamboo patches, herbs & shrubs. The forest of Baramura also supports livelihood needs of nearly 2500 tribal families spread across the hills and are the source of all important Howrah river and many a tributaries of Khowai river.

Activity: Bird watching, one can spot great hornbill inside the park. The forest Department is promoting conservation of biodiversity through mass awareness and participation inside the park.

Rowa Wildlife Sanctuary

The Rowa wildlife sanctuary notified in July ,1988 by the forest Department, Government of Tripura spread over an area of 85.85 hectare. It is the only wildlife sanctuary in north Tripura. The sanctuary is particularly rich in birds and reptiles. Large flocks of migratory waterfowls congregate in the several water reservoirs inside the sanctuary. It is also home to variety of plant species including several species of medicinal value.

Activity: Nature Education, students can take observation on the biodiversity of the area, learn about the various concepts of environment. Bird watching is another fun cum learning activity.

Tepania Eco-Park

Tepania Eco-Park established in 1995 inside RadhaKishorepur Reserve Forest which is located 47km away from Agartala. Over the years the Eco Park set amidst charming ambience of natural beauty has been upgraded and is having an area of 155 hectares. It is equipped with modern well maintained orchid house which houses 225 species of orchids.

Activity: Nature Education through cactus house which has 250 cactus species collected from various parts of our country. The other attractions of Tepania Eco Park are unique wooden hanging bridge, medicinal garden and a watch tower for viewing the wild life spectacle in a perfect and panoramic habitat.

Khumulwng Eco Park

The Khumulwng Eco Park is within the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council, Head Quarter Khumulwng. This park has been raised in the lap of nature covering an area of 14.5 hectare of land. It is an attractive and comfortable tourist spot nearest to Agartala the capital of Tripura. The Tribal Museum cum Heritage Centre is also located at Khumulwng.

Activity: Students can learn about the cultural diversity, as there are models of 19 tribes of tribal community inside the park (Transition of Tribal life over a period of time e.g looming to weaving traditional games, several stages of Jhum cultivation, Presentation of indigenous life)

To participate in the nature camping programme, contact the following agency :

Sh. BishuKaramakar

Member Secretary

Tripura State Pollution Control Board,
Tripura (W), Agartala - 799001, Tripura

Email: tripuraspcb@gmail.com



Contact Us :

Sh. Ravi Agrawal,
Additional Secretary
Ministry of Environment,
Forest and Climate Change

Ms. Rita Khanna
Scientist 'G'
Ministry of Environment,
Forest and Climate Change

Environment Education Division
Ministry of Environment, Forest And Climate Change
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jorbagh Road
New Delhi - 110003, INDIA