

January 2024

Outreach and awareness

Marine walk and awareness program at Shivrajpur resort

On Republic Day, the Wildlife Institute of India CAMPA Dugong team conducted one marine intertidal walk along with an awareness program for tourists at Reef Resort at Shivrajpur Beach. We engaged the tourists for the marine life of Gujarat, especially marine mammal Dugong and seagrass ecosystem importance and conservation. About 40 enthusiastic tourists Attended the marine walk and program. The event was facilitated by Dugong volunteers Sangik Datta, Maksud Chatra, Karnik Bose and the reef resort staff.



Image 1. A glimpse of marine walk and lecture at Shivrajpur beach

Coastal clean up with Indian coast guards

The Wildlife Institute of India, CAMPA Dugong team joined the Indian Coast Guard (Okha) for a special coastal Clean up today with schools, Gram Panchayat, Marine Police and Wildlife Trust of India and other government agencies on the occasion of the 48th Coast Guard raising day on January 23, 2024. We collected plastic waste, ghost nets, thermocol and pledged to keep our ocean clean. About 400 locals, including coast guard officials and school children, participated in the event.



Image 2. Glimpse of coastal clean up

Awareness program at Shree Salaya vadi Primary School

We expanded the reach of our outreach program for first time in Salaya village on January 18, 2024. Fisherman school kids of Shree Salaya vadi Primary school were briefed about marine life of Gulf of kutch, emphasizing on dugong and seagrass importance and conservation. We also conducted scholarship exam for 30 students. We distributed souvenir kits to students and teachers. Total 120 enthusiastic students attended the awareness program and received appreciation for marine life conservation.



Image 3. Glimpse of awareness program at Shree Salaya Vadi Primary School

Awareness program at Shree Arambhada Kanya school

On January 17 2024, the Wildlife Institute of India CAMPA dugong team conducted another awareness program followed by a scholarship examination at Shree Arambhada Kanya school for 6-8th standard. 95 students attended and discussed marine life and the importance of seagrasses ecosystem importance for the fishing community. A total of 40 students appeared for the scholarship examination. the students also pledged to save dugongs.



Image 4. Glimpse of awareness program at Shree Arambhada Kanya Shala

Awareness program at Shree Arambhada Primary School

The Wildlife Institute of India CAMPA dugong team conducted an awareness program on January 17 2024 for Shree Arambhada Primary School, followed by a scholarship exam for fishermen kids. We discussed Dugong, the marine life of Gujarat, factors responsible for declining marine diversity, the impact of ghost nets, and measures to ensure proper waste disposal and minimize the use of single-use plastic items. A total of 30 students from the 6th to 7th class appeared in the scholarship exam. We also distributed pencil kits, awareness posters, and comic books to students.



Image 5. Glimpse of awareness program at Shree Arambhada Primary School

Awareness session for fishermen

The Wildlife Institute of India CAMPA dugong team conducted a community interaction program with small-scale fisher heads from Sikka town on January 11, 2024. Seagrass ecology, distribution around the Gulf of Kachchh, and Dugong sightings were discussed. The benefit of having healthy seagrass meadows in/around the fishing grounds was also discussed. Most fishing crew were keen to learn more about seagrass habitats around their fishing grounds. Twelve fisher heads and crew members participated in the discussion.



Image 6. Glimpse of interaction session at Sikka

On December 28 2023, the Wildlife Institute of India CAMPA dugong team conducted a researcher-fisher community interaction program. A total of sixty small-scale fishermen from the Beyt/Par community attended the programme. The importance of different types of seagrass meadows in fisheries at the Gulf of Kachchh's reef system was discussed. The high-risk areas/tide times for human-dugong encounters were discussed to prevent any possible entanglement/boat-hit chance. Critical seagrass habitat distribution and practical steps towards their conservation were informed.



Image 7. Glimpse of interaction session at Beyt Dwarka

December 2023

Awareness program at Poshitra Marine Camp

An awareness program about dugongs and seagrasses conservation in the Gulf of Kutch was conducted by the CAMPA Dugong team for Shree Parishram School in Kutiyana District Porbandar, in Poshitra marine camp, on December 12 2023.

A group of fifty students from 9th to 10th grade were aware of the marine life of protected areas, dugongs, and seagrass, as well as their threats and actions to conserve.



Image 8. Glimpse of awareness program at Poshitra Marine Camp

Awareness program at Modhva, Mandvi

We continued to spread awareness programs to Modhva village of Shri Modhva primary school; we conducted an awareness session for fishermen kids of the 5-8th standard on December 7, 2023. We briefed 60 students about Dugongs and different marine life and the importance of conservation of Dugongs and seagrass ecosystem and the Dugong scholarship program. We will expand the scholarship program in the upcoming month in Modhva village, Kutch.



Image 9. Glimpse of awareness program at Shri Modhva primary school

Awareness program at AIM School, Mandvi

Influencing young minds. Wildlife Institute of India CAMPA Dugong team continued with the awareness session program for AIM school for 8-9 standard students, Mandavi. On December 7, 2023, 60 enthusiastic students attended the talk. They came to know about Dugongs and the seagrass ecosystem in the Ocean. They pledged to reduce plastic usage to conserve marine life. We distributed the Dugong souvenirs.



Image 10. Glimpse of awareness program at AIM School, Mandvi

Awareness program at Shree Sarswati Vidya Mandir, Mandvi

The Wildlife Institute of India CAMPA Dugong team continued with awareness programs for Shree Sarswati Vidya Mandir, Mandvi, on December 6 2023. 200 students of 6-9th standard attended the session. We discussed Mandvi's marine life and the conservation efforts of marine mammals. We also gave souvenir kits for Dugongs.



Image 11. Glimpse of awareness program at Shree Sarswati Vidya Mandir, Mandvi



Image 12. Glimpse of awareness program at Ramdas Kimji school ,Mandvi

Awareness program at Mandvi, Gujarat

Talking about the mermaids! The Wildlife Institute of India CAMPA Dugong team conducted an awareness program with the Inner Wheel Club, Mandvi and Ocean Club of India in Mandvi, Gujarat. The program was attended by locals from Mandvi and Bhuj, Kutch districts. We briefed the audience about ocean biodiversity, emphasizing on dugongs and seagrass ecosystem and their conservation.

The program was attended by about 120 locals, including school club students.



Image 13. Glimpse of awareness program at Mandvi

Awareness program at Okha Gujarat

We began awareness programmes in Gujarat, beginning with an outreach programme for 10th-standard students of Okha Grampanchayat school at Okha on November 24, 2023. The session was attended by a total of 40 students. Students regularly participate with us. They also pledged to Save dugongs



Image 14. Glimpse of awareness program at Okha

November 2023

CAMPA Dugong team attended and presented in the first-ever Marine Mammal Consortium of India (MMCOI) workshop held in Bengaluru on 5-6 November 2023, organized by WCS India Mangrove_ foundation and WWF India. We represented our work on Dugong conservation in India. It was a great opportunity to connect with like-minded people. Their newsletter 'THE POD' also highlighted our research paper on Dugong strandings in the Gulf of Kutch Gujarat.



Image 15. Glimpse of marine mammal symposium

October 2023

Awareness program at MSU Baroda, Gujarat

One of researcher Prachi Hatkar delivered talk on conservation of Dugong and their habitats in Gulf of Kutch, Gujarat organized by Department of Zoology, Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda @themsubaroda as part of wildlife week celebration on October 17 2023. Total 80 undergraduate students attended the session. Aiming to create awareness among students about Dugong conservation status and implementation conservation initiatives in Gulf of Kutch Gujarat. They were encouraged to take up initiatives for marine conservation along Gujarat. We also presented copy of Seagrass field guide and marine mammal stranding manual. We express our gratitude towards the organizing committee.



Image 16. Glimpse of awareness lecture at MSU Baroda

September 2023

Webinar with Jane Goodall Institute , India

Greetings from Jane Goodall Institute, India, and Welcome to our 'Ocean Are Us' Club, a movement uniting young hearts with the Ocean.

Join Our One-Hour Online Session on **"Mermaids of the Ocean"** with ***Ms. Prachi Hatkar***, Expert Marine Biologist

Open for All!

Date: September 9 2023

Time: 5-6 PM

Registration link: <https://forms.gle/2ntaK8oLxHK26A6T7>



Image 17. Flyer of the talk

Talk at Seamposium at Mumbai zoo

Prachi Hatkar delivered a talk on the elusive marine mammal the dugongs in Seamposium organized by the Mumbai zoo , Ecofolks, and CMFRI on September 2 2023 in Mumbai. The theme of the Seamposium was to aware about marine life and threats and conservation initiatives. The audience was briefed about dugongs , their habitats, conservation measures taken up. We received immense appreciation for conservation actions taken and implemented by Wildlife Institute of India.



Image 18. Glimpse of awareness lecture at the Mumbai Zoo