

Wetland on Wheels

Wetlands are home to various biological diversity and many depend upon it for their livelihoods. Due to various anthropogenic pressures on wetlands, it is facing serious threats such as loss of biodiversity by unethical extraction, encroachment, mining etc. The Vembanad wetland in southern coast of India is given international importance by declaring it as a Ramsar site. Despite its importance given by Ramsar convention, still wetlands and its dependent communities are significantly losing natural resources and livelihoods. The future of these Wetlands is in the hands of our children. Keeping this idea in mind “Wetland on Wheels” (WoW) a moving exhibition was initiated to shed light upon students about the role of wetlands & its biodiversity importance, to enlighten students about the traditional ways of wetland conservation. WoW also aims to include students in wetland conservation activities.

WoW programme focuses on student community from 50 schools around the Vembanad and Kuttanad wetland to impart awareness and knowledge on conservation of Wetlands. It As part of this programme, “Wetland poster exhibition”- 18 animated posters describe what are wetlands? livelihood and ecosystem importance of wetlands, Ramsar sites, Vembanad- Kole wetlands and the need for the conservation of Wetlands. “Oru Jalaparappinte Vilapam” a Malayalam documentary by C-Dit on issues and the need for conservation of Vembanad wetlands is screened at all schools. After which quiz programmes are conducted and prizes are distributed. It is essential to know our water quality around us, each of 50 schools are provided with water quality testing kit by CPREEC. It is friendly and easy to use testing kits which assess 10 basic parameters. Various books are provided to each schools called as “Wetland reading corner” focusing on wetland education.