



Resolution from
Verve 2009
Youth Summit on
Wildlife at
Hindu College,
University of Delhi



February 2009

RESOLUTION FROM THE VERVE 2009 WILDLIFE YOUTH SUMMIT

The following Resolution was finalized and adopted as the Outcome of Verve 2009 Wildlife Youth Summit hosted by Delhi Greens and Hindu College, University of Delhi from 4th to 6th February 2009.

What can Youth do about Species Extinction due to Biological Invasion?

1. We need to be more aware about the problems caused by invasion and also need to spread awareness about this issue.
2. People must be discouraged from buying exotic ornamental pets. Illegal trade in exotic animals/plants must be monitored more rigorously.
3. Greater research is required to study and understand the impact of invasive species, especially on urban habitats. Encouraging students to take up related projects in schools/colleges would serve the following dual purpose:
 - Data obtained will help us in better understanding of the particular problem.
 - The awareness level of students would increase and interest in subject would be enhanced.

However, interested students should carry out this research on their own lest they may be discouraged by an administration which does not want to be burdened.

4. Biological control of invasive species should be assessed and whenever possible implemented. An assessment agency in urban habitats needs to be constituted for this purpose.
5. We must plant native trees and prevent habitat degradation since the latter basically provides an 'island' i.e. an opportunity for invasive species to establish themselves.

Thus, We Recommend the Following Future Course of Action:

1. Inventorize invasive species in Delhi and spreading awareness about them. Simultaneously, the authorities need to look into the issue more carefully.
2. Investigate the invasive plant species within and around the premises of different Colleges and try and replace them with native flora.
3. Initiate projects for studying illegal trade in non-native ornamental plants (openly being conducted at various place in Delhi) and making the customers at these shops aware about the devastating consequences of their action on wildlife.

How can Youth Help in Balancing the Tussle Between Environment and Development?

1. HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT

- Human-wildlife conflict mainly arises due to encroachment of the erstwhile forested areas by human beings. Hence, the most important measure that should be taken is to prevent habitat fragmentation. Corridors allowing for movement of wild animals should have the least amount of human disturbance. We must protest against habitat fragmentation especially when it puts human lives at risk.
- In areas where this problem already exists, people should learn to respect a wild animal and not to do things like feeding it (as in the case of monkeys in Delhi). The myths that people have must be cleared by awareness programmes and people should be made aware of the meanings of the gestures of animals. Awareness is the most important means of mitigating this problem.
- This is a very delicate issue and requires genuine efforts by the Government to balance both the interests of humans and wildlife. Vote bank politics (as happened in the case of Keoladeo National Park) should not be tolerated.

2. OTHER ENVIRONMENT-DEVELOPMENT ISSUES:

- Resources should not be unnecessarily wasted. Less consumption on our part, leads to less demand for energy, and thus less exploitation of resources and less habitat degradation.
- We should raise our voice against wrong policy decisions, which not only have huge environmental cost but also put human lives at risk. For instance, the construction of Commonwealth Games Village on Yamuna floodplains, which, increases the risk of flooding in Delhi.
- We should try our best to have an eco-friendly lifestyle using less plastics; re-use, re-cycle; be careful in using water, electricity etc.; using public transport etc.

Thus, We Recommend the Following Future Course of Action:

- Raising awareness about all the issues mentioned above, especially to increase awareness about animals in Delhi, so that people behave wisely and do not harm animals or get harmed themselves. Instead of beating an animal to death people should call up wildlife rescue organizations/ Forest Department.
- Conducting Nature Walks on regular basis to help people feel more connected to nature, thus increasing their sensitivity to all these issues.

What Can Youth Do About Extinction of Species Due to Climate Change?

By the end of the session on Climate Change and Wildlife, we came up with the following suggestions for pragmatic approaches towards preventing climate change and related wildlife and biodiversity loss:

- Promoting the use of public transport so as to reduce fossil fuel burning.
- Using energy efficient devices, investing more in adaptive technologies.
- Pressuring for the imposition on taxes on crackers and other energy inefficient devices.
- Provision of subsidies for corporate complying with Environmental Norms.
- Preventing land degradation by planting trees and maintaining green spaces.
- Spreading awareness regarding saving electricity since even standby modes consume electricity.
- Promoting the use of biogas derived energy and biofuels.
- Observe, collate and record changes in behavioural and growth patterns of wildlife like flowering of plants or appearance of different animals in different species.

Thus, We Recommend the Following Future Course of Action:

- Regularly visiting Biodiversity Parks and the Delhi Ridge for the purpose of recording and observing wildlife activity.
 - Keeping records of changes in wildlife in all college campus and collating them.
 - Sending reports to Journals and Organization involved in such work, and publishing regular reports on these findings.
 - Sensitizing the student population of all colleges towards energy conservation, energy efficiency and the need to use public transport.
 - Reviewing and maintaining solar panels and rainwater harvesting device already installed in various colleges.
-