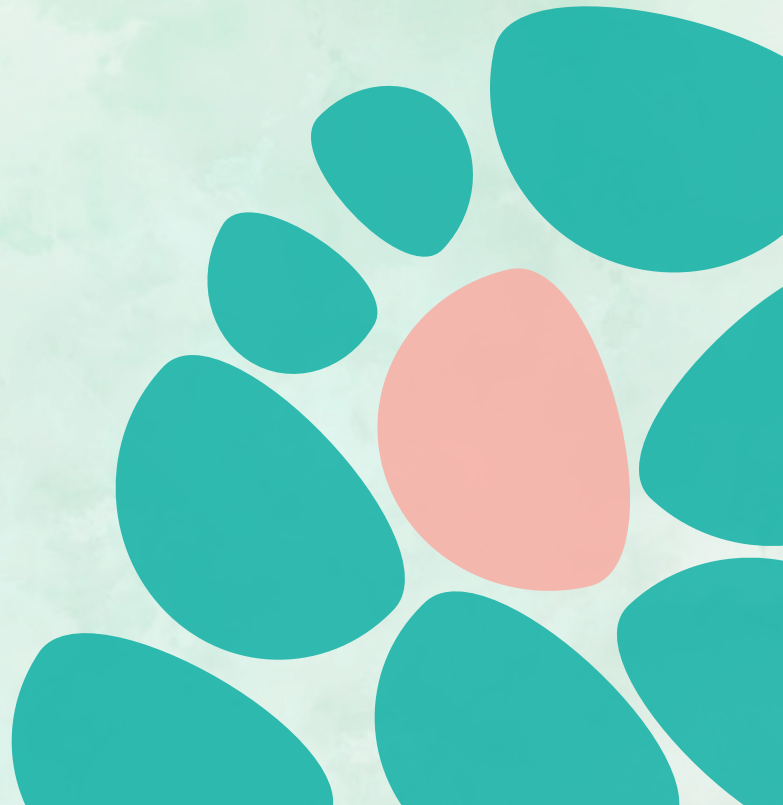




# Kanniyakumari Nature Foundation

**Annual  
Newsletter**

2022 - 23







*In nature's  
defense, we find our  
true essence.*

# About us

## Kanniyakumari Nature Foundation



Kanniyakumari Nature Foundation, an organization based out of Nagercoil with a noble purpose: to work tirelessly for the betterment of the environment and promote harmony between nature and humanity. As a non-profit entity registered under section 8 of the Companies Act 2013, our mission is deeply rooted in the belief that a sustainable and flourishing world requires a balanced coexistence with nature.

In our efforts to preserve the environment, we emphasize the utmost importance of protecting wildlife. We hold a profound respect for all living beings, ranging from the smallest spiders to the majestic elephants, recognizing their unique and vital roles in the intricate web of life. Our approach is guided by humility, acknowledging that the complexities of nature surpass our understanding. Therefore, we approach nature with great reverence and humility, understanding that sometimes the best way to safeguard it is by allowing it to follow its natural course without unnecessary human interference.

However, we also recognize that there are instances where human life and wildlife intertwine. In such situations, our approach centers on fostering



compassion and empathy towards all living beings that share this planet with us. This compassion serves as our guiding principle, motivating us to find sustainable solutions that safeguard both human needs and the well-being of wildlife. By cultivating this sense of compassion, we aim to bridge the gap between humans and nature, encouraging a harmonious relationship where both can thrive.

Our steadfast conviction is that genuine environmental protection should not be solely grounded in the utilitarian value of nature or its resources for human benefit. Rather, it should stem from a profound comprehension of the interconnectedness of all life forms and the recognition that we are mere stewards of this planet. Entrusted with the responsibility to care for it for future generations, we must understand and appreciate the intrinsic value of all living entities.

Our ultimate aspiration is to spread awareness and instill the value of shared respect for all living forms. We strive to create a world where every individual acknowledges that we are co-inhabitants of this planet and that our actions profoundly affect the delicate balance of nature. Through education, advocacy, and community engagement, we endeavor to build a collective consciousness that cherishes nature and fosters a sustainable future for generations to come.

In essence, Kanniyakumari Nature Foundation is committed to making a significant difference by inspiring others to embrace compassion, embrace nature, and work hand in hand towards a future where humanity and the natural world thrive harmoniously together.

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# From The Founders

The “Kanniyakumari Nature Foundation” celebrates a year marked by dedicated endeavors to foster environmental consciousness in the Kanniyakumari district. With unwavering commitment, we have made significant strides, garnering noteworthy achievements including the “District Green Champion Award.” The past year’s accomplishments fuel our enthusiasm as we chart a course for the upcoming year, brimming with diverse events.

While raising awareness about the environment remains a crucial pursuit, our focus will shift towards an even more imperative endeavor: the preservation of habitats for wildlife. The year ahead will be dedicated for habitat restoration, channelling our energies into this vital cause. Concurrently, our efforts in environmental education will expand, engaging students and educators alike to delve into the rich biodiversity of Kanniyakumari. In addition, we are committed to becoming a catalyst for bird and butterfly enthusiasts, organising field excursions across the district. Our overarching goal for the upcoming year revolves around the realization of a long-cherished aspiration – initiating our dream project of habitat restoration. We are about to start removal of Mucuna and habitat restoration in KWLS and we hope to make it a success.

**Paulmathi Vinod**



“Empathy towards life is needed more than simple environmental awareness.”

**Vinod Sadhasivan**



“The real achievement that one gets in the field of environment protection is the sight of a pristine habitat filled with bustling wildlife”



# The Need To Act Now !

Despite decades of discussions within our society about environmental degradation, the pace of natural world destruction has only escalated. While a few instances of success receive media attention, the continuous exploitation of natural resources is promoted as essential economic growth. The monumental progress required to sustain India's population necessitates a corresponding massive exploitation of nature.

A case in point is seen in Kanniyakumari, where people lament gravel trucks while simultaneously desiring new roads. It's becoming increasingly evident that everyone contributes to this cycle of exploitation. As long as consumption remains integral to the economy, the cycle of destruction will persist.

Can this pattern persist indefinitely?

Environmental degradation extends beyond affecting wildlife and forests; it directly influences the lives of every individual. While the extinction of species and deforestation may not elicit a significant response, the potential for floods or water scarcity has the power to awaken a realization about the environmental crisis.

The moment for action has arrived, and the necessary steps go beyond simply using reusable bags for groceries. Genuine change will only occur when we undergo a revolutionary shift in our collective way of living.











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# **ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION**



**E**nvironmental education is crucial for students as it helps them understand the natural world, develop critical thinking skills, promote sustainable living, and take action to address environmental challenges. Through learning about different ecosystems, students gain an appreciation for the complex relationships between living things and their environment. By critically analyzing information and forming their own opinions on environmental issues, they develop the skills necessary to become responsible citizens who can participate in informed decision-making. With this in mind, one of our core activities is focused on education and awareness amongst students and public alike. In the following section you shall find some of the activities we were involved with.



## Butterfly exploration

To enhance students' comprehension and admiration for butterflies, we organized educational butterfly excursions along the outskirts of the forest and surrounding the lakes. During these guided outings, participants were acquainted with the captivating life cycle of butterflies, gaining insights into host plants, the developmental stages of caterpillars, and the diverse array of butterfly species thriving in the region.



## Flora exploration for the future botanists

Botany students from arts colleges in Kanniyakumari district were given the opportunity to participate in botanical walks aimed at enhancing their understanding of plant diversity within the Kanniyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary. Typically excluded from field studies on forest plants, these students greatly benefited from first-hand observations of the diverse plant life in the sanctuary. This experience allowed them to directly witness forest plants and grasp their ecological significance at a profound level.





## Quizzes and competitions

The Forest Department commemorates Wildlife Day to inspire awareness among future generations regarding forests and wildlife. The department organized painting competitions, while the Kanniyakumari Nature Foundation hosted a story-writing competition. Cash prizes were awarded for the story-writing competition, and the District Forest Officer distributed these prizes to the deserving winners.



## Educational posters distribution

Fostering awareness about the local flora and fauna is essential for nurturing environmental concern. To achieve this goal among young minds, we distributed educational posters featuring butterflies and birds. This outreach initiative extended to numerous schools, where we not only provided schools with the posters but also conducted informative sessions on butterflies, imparting fundamental knowledge about these creatures to the students. Subsequently, the posters were prominently displayed in the common corridors of these schools, ensuring daily visibility.





## Introduction of Ornithology

Numerous bird watching sessions have been organized in the Kanniyakumari district. These programs catered to diverse audiences, including school students, college students, and the general public. Participants were guided through various terrains, showcasing the remarkable diversity of bird species in the Kanniyakumari district. These bird watching initiatives successfully reached and engaged people.



## Nurturing future Lepidopterist

The distinct patterns of butterfly species make it easy for school students to identify them. To enhance this learning experience, we distributed booklets to children, encouraging them to recognize and name various butterfly species. For many students, this was their first up-close encounter with butterflies. These programs play a crucial role in expanding their understanding of the natural world, sparking a keen interest in learning about the wildlife in their surroundings. We have organized a total of 8 butterfly walks in school campus.





## Butterfly friendly garden for schools

Observing butterflies within a school campus provides an opportunity for students to connect with nature. Two government schools and one private school in Kanniyakumari district expressed interest in establishing a butterfly garden. The Kanniyakumari Nature Foundation procured host plants and several nectaring plants for butterflies, distributing them to the participating schools. Additionally, we assisted in the planting process and continue to monitor the butterfly population regularly in these school environments.



## Butterfly festival in Vallanadu Blackbuck sanctuary

Although our primary focus has been on activities within the Kanniyakumari district, we actively took part in the Vallanadu Butterfly Festival organized by ACCC, Manimutharu. This two-day program featured various engaging activities, including games, songs, scripts, hikes, and drew the participation of numerous schools and prominent dignitaries. The event achieved great success, with widespread appreciation for the dedicated efforts of the entire team involved in its organization.





## KK wilderness explorers

Young minds are great at grasping things without bias. For giving the right perspective about the importance of forests and wildlife, "KK wilderness explorers" program was initiated by us. KNF is the educational and knowledge partner for the program and with our volunteers, we are successfully conducting the program for school students of KK district. Recently we have started the program for science students from colleges as well.



**KK Wilderness explorers**  
A guided exploration of Kanniyakumari forests for school and college students.

Join us for an exciting adventure into the woodlands of Kanniyakumari. We will embark on a quest to discover the diverse array of birds and butterflies that inhabit this region while simultaneously gaining knowledge about these fascinating creatures. This program is tailor-made to ignite the curiosity of young minds and inspire them to explore the wonders of the natural world that surrounds us.

**We have an exciting day planned for you!!**

7.30 am to 9.30 am	Nature walk
9.30 am to 10.30 am	Breakfast
10.30 to 11.30 am	Nature education
11.30 to 11.45 am	Break
11.45 to 1.00 pm	Butterfly walk
1.00 pm to 2.00 pm	Lunch
2.00 pm to 3.00 pm	Wildlife games
3.00 pm to 3.30 pm	Summary

- Eligible for students above Class 6
- Minimum 30 & maximum 35 students per group
- 2 teachers should accompany the students

Call us to register  
**87780 80961**

An initiative by the  
Tamil Nadu forest department,  
Kanniyakumari district



## Model schools & Mission iyarkai by WWF

WWF has been a pioneers in environmental education worldwide and this year they have chosen two government schools in Kanniyakumari district to implement their model school concept. This involves everything from Kitchen garden, vermi compost, herbal garden etc. WWF India has chosen us to be the local partner for the program. Also the eco clubs of government and government aided schools are also engaged by WWF for Mission iyarkai project for which also we are partners.





## Wild Kumari Photo expo 2023

Kanniyakumari is a district with immense biodiversity and natural beauty. In order to showcase this richness, the wildlife photographers of Kanniyakumari district got together and organised the " Wild Kumari Photo expo" . More than 500 high quality wildlife images were properly framed and displayed . The event was organised by us with the help of the Forest department and the Horticulture department, who had lent their " eco park" venue for us.



## Nature walk for Kids

In continuation with our KK wilderness explorers, we felt the need for continuous engagement of kids to teach them more. We started a bi-weekly event of nature walks where kids and adults can participate in exploring their own surroundings. In these walks our emphasis would be observing nature around oneself. One day we hope to see these youngsters become a nature explorer on their own.

**KANNIYAKUMARI NATURE FOUNDATION**

### Nature Walk for Kids

**A walk to explore the natural world**

Join us for a guided nature walk to explore the beach flora and fauna of Kanniyakumari district. The walk aims to specifically kindle the minds of kids in order to encourage them to explore the natural world around them.

**No Fee ... Your interest is the KEY!**

7.00 am to 9.30 am

**Date : Sunday, 10th December**

**Dwarakapathi beach**

9940564585 / 63832 20561 [www.knf-india.in](http://www.knf-india.in)

- ✓ Students above class 6
- ✓ Shoes are compulsory
- ✓ Carry water bottle, hat and snacks

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# **SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION**





**W**e had started our journey in conservation through participation in "Turtle walks" in Chennai. So sea turtle conservation is very close to our heart. When the forest department discussed with us about our involvement, we were more than happy to help. Last year, during the turtle season we not only concentrated on collecting eggs for their relocation but also concentrated on research aspects of the conservation process. We also actively did awareness events and started getting volunteers to actively take part in the egg collection process. We also got schools to come for the turtle hatchlings release to create an emotional connection with the turtles.



## Turtle walks for protection of turtle eggs

To ignite curiosity among young minds, we encouraged youths to partake in turtle walks alongside experts. By extending an invitation to the youngsters to join these walks, we succeeded in establishing a volunteer community within the Kanniyakumari District. This marked the inception of the district's inaugural wildlife volunteer group, that greatly aided us in orchestrating wildlife events such as surveys and walks.



## Safe release of hatchlings into the sea

The sea turtle hatchlings release is an interesting way to get in touch with nature. So the Forest Department was interested to educate the kids and general public about the arrival of sea turtles for nesting. Kanniyakumari nature foundation got involved in the turtle conservation project and educated the public during the hatchlings release from the two hatchery locations, mainly Rajakamangalam and Dwarakapathi. We have reached more than 2000 people in Kanniyakumari district about the sea turtles.





## Sea turtle awareness campaign

Turtle walks usually happen at late night or early morning. So college students are perfect to do volunteering for the Forest Department. In order to bring the next generation minds into wild-life volunteering, we conducted turtle awareness program in Engineering and Arts colleges in Kanniyakumari District. We had reached more than 1500 college students and educated them about our coastal vegetation and the importance of sea turtles.



## Sand art in beaches for public awareness

To create awareness about sea turtles coming to nest in Kanniyakumari beaches a sand art of a nesting turtle was created. Creating art is another way to reach the audience and a substantial number of people turned up to see the sand turtle. It also gained good social media attention thereby spreading the message of sea turtle protection far and wide. Similar such turtle arts were done in 2 more locations with heavy human footfall like the Lemur beach.





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# **RESEARCH & SURVEYS**





**R**esearch is critical in conservation as it provides the essential information needed to understand and address the challenges facing biodiversity and ecosystems. Through data collection and analysis, research helps identify threats to species and habitats, informs the development of conservation strategies, and monitors the effectiveness of interventions. It plays a key role in preserving and restoring habitats, and promoting sustainable management practices. Additionally, research contributes to the formulation of informed policies. Overall, it is the foundation for evidence-based decision-making. Though we were not a scientific organisation per se, we did our part in research activities as well.



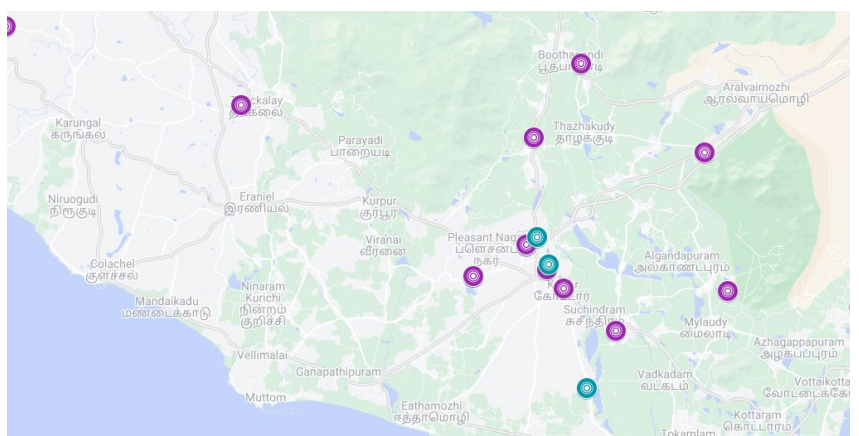
## Biodiversity assessment

We conducted biodiversity assessment of Kanniyakumari wildlife sanctuary and recorded several new species to the flora and fauna of the district. We have visited all the five ranges in the sanctuary and all the beats within the ranges to record the biodiversity. We have recorded more than 400 plant species, 160 butterflies and 170 birds during this study.



## Fruit bat roosting data

Bats are very important pollinators and seed dispersers in natural world. There are very few details about the bats in India. So we created an online map for the roosting sites of fruit bats to enable future monitoring of the populations. This was the first mapping project that was created for fruit bats in India. We extensively covered Kanniyakumari district and have updated the map showing the location of bats. We are now in the process of expanding the reach by updating roosting locations in nearby districts also.





## Helping organise bird surveys

The synchronized bird survey was conducted by the Forest Departments all over Tamil Nadu. Usually only local birders participate in these surveys. Kanniyakumari Nature Foundation arranged bird experts around Tamil Nadu and Kerala to participate in the bird survey in Kanniyakumari district. The volunteers were organised and sufficient training was provided by us. We have recorded 173 forest bird species in the forest bird survey and also 163 species in wetlands of Kanniyakumari district.



## Butterfly survey in KWLS

A butterfly survey was conducted at Kanniyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary in May 2023 revealing a rich diversity of butterfly species. The survey involved collaboration between The Nature and Butterfly Society (TNBS), Kanniyakumari Nature Foundation (KNF), and Forest department. The survey covered 20 locations within the sanctuary's five ranges, identifying 186 butterfly species. Noteworthy findings included the first-ever photographic record of the rare Common Ciliate Blue in Tamil Nadu.





## Online data repository

We have created a website <https://knf-india.in> to share knowledge about the wildlife in Kanniyakumari and conduct various wildlife events in Kanniyakumari district. This helps the general public to participate in different events and gain more knowledge about the biodiversity in this district. There are also resource materials for learning about wildlife and also online quizzes to check our knowledge about wildlife.



யானைகள் பற்றி ஒரு வினா விடை  
October 8, 2022



Identify the butterflies -  
பட்டாம்பூச்சிகளின் பெயர் என்ன?

<https://knf-india.in/reports-and-publications/>

## Helping organise elephant survey

We were part of the Synchronised elephant population estimation that was organised by the forest department. We actively participated in the survey by organising volunteers who were interested in wildlife. The volunteers were very enthusiastic in finding the elephants and recording them and were immensely helpful to the forest department in executing the survey. From a previous estimated count of just 14 - 20 elephants in the year 2017, the estimate now has been increased to 49 elephants. This will greatly help in establishing KWLS as an important elephant corridor.





## Tree mapping & planting

We have conducted the Tree mapping program in 75 Government schools and 2 Government colleges. More than 7500 trees were recorded in the school and college campuses. We revisited the school campuses that had spaces to grow more trees and distributed wide varieties of native trees for free. Tree planting and watering the trees were done by the school students so that they have the responsibility and joy on watching the trees grow.



## Research on turtle nesting beaches

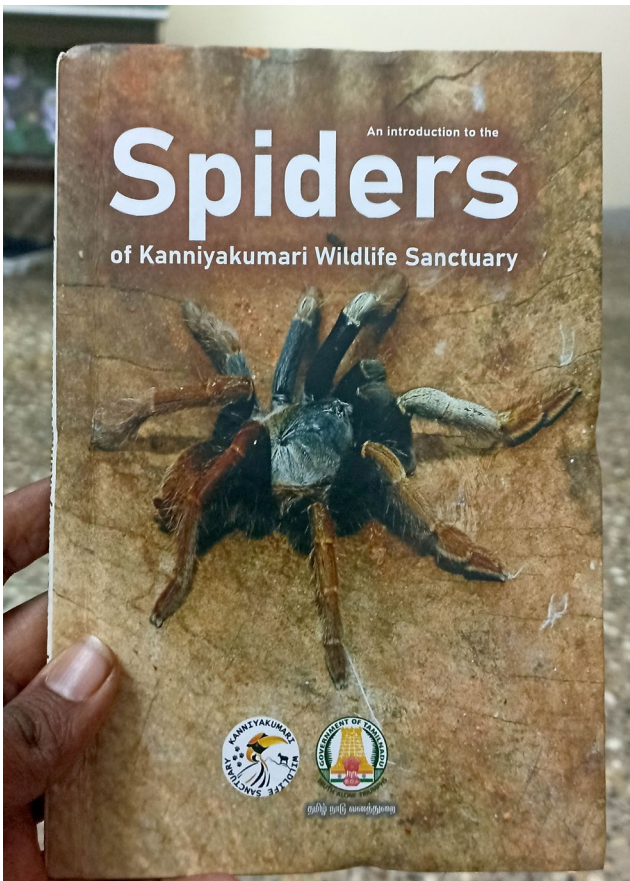
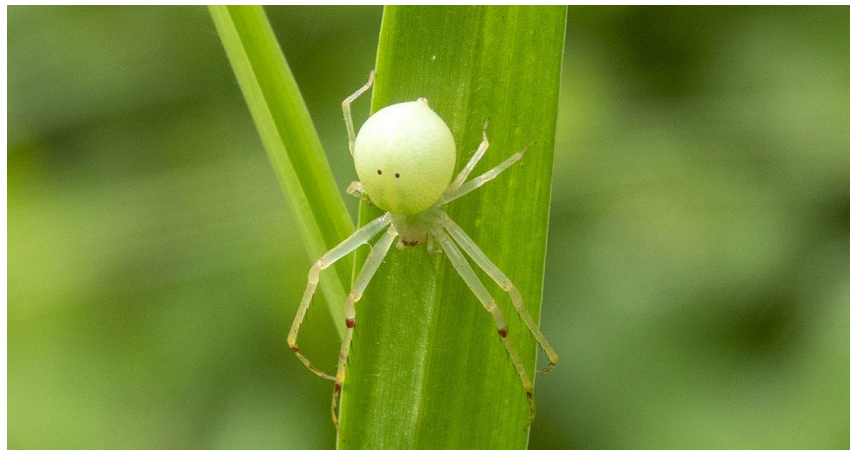
While awareness about environment matters, another equally important aspect is knowledge. Sea erosion along Kanniyakumari district coastline has been an open fact but in order to substantiate as to how it affects the nesting of Olive Ridley sea turtles, research was carried out. The process involved mapping beaches every 100 meters for hurdles to nesting turtles and also tracking the high tide line with respect to the GPS coordinates of the nesting locations. As anticipated the nesting beaches were substantially affected.





## Spider survey in KWLS

Lesser known species are often great environmental indicators but are seldom given proper attention. We decided to do a preliminary assessment of spider diversity of Kanniyakumari wildlife sanctuary and create a checklist of spiders within it's boundaries. The survey was a nocturnal one with the forest department officials actively assisting the field expeditions. The findings of the survey were submitted as a report to the District forest officer, who subsequently guided us in publishing it as a book in order to create more awareness.





## Bioluminescent mushrooms in KWLS

Documenting the biodiversity of Kanniyakumari district has been one of our primary aims. When we heard about the possibility of bioluminescent fungi in KWLS , we set upon scouring the forest for these rare mushrooms. We finally managed to find the mushrooms after a few months. This is the first photographic and scientific record of bioluminescent fungi - *Mycena chlorophos* from Tamil Nadu. The presence of bioluminescent fungi highlights how crucial it is to protect places like Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary.







# **WILDLIFE PROTECTION**





**R**ecognizing our role as a wildlife NGO, our aim is to prioritize activities directly associated with wildlife above all else. The immensely satisfying experience of spearheading the Olive ridley turtle conservation effort stands out, as it afforded us the unique opportunity to engage directly with these fascinating creatures. Beyond the activities mentioned here, there are additional indirect efforts, some of which cannot be disclosed. Furthermore, apart from our outlined initiatives, we have personally undertaken the rescue and rehabilitation of numerous animals and birds, providing hands-on care to restore them to good health.



## Cleanup campaigns in KWLS

In Ulakkai Aruvi & Pechiparai significant volumes of plastic waste and discarded glass bottles posed a danger to local wildlife . A clean-up campaign, with an eager group of volunteers was organised to eradicate the risks to the local wildlife. An outstanding aggregate exceeding 2.5 tonnes of glass bottles was effectively gathered and removed from both the sites.



## Parakeet rehabilitation

Many people in India keep Rose-ringed parakeets as pets at home. They are kept in very small cages and their flight feathers were cut off. To stop this practice, the Forest Department had announced the public to return the parakeets. The pet parakeets received from the local people were safely released in the big cage where they can fly freely. KNF sponsored the re-purposing of the existing cage to fit the newly arrived parakeets. They were closely monitored and groomed back to health and nearly half of them have been released into the wild.





## Removal of the Invasive Mucuna

Mucuna bracteata is an invasive creeper that is taking over large tracts of land inside Kanniyakumari wildlife sanctuary. There are certain areas where it has taken over entire mountains. We have taken up a project where we are going to restore a particular plot , thereby serving as a reference for a much large scale operation. After analysing the location, we have decided that the best way forward is to create a canopy fast , thereby smothering the growth of the creeper. We have taken the initial steps towards the removal of the plant and this activity will be our core activity in the upcoming year.





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# **OUR FRIENDS**





**W**e started off our environmental activities as volunteers and we continue to see ourselves as volunteers. The power of selfless work is far reaching and is evident from what we have managed to achieve as a team. Our organisation in essence is a group of friends working together for a common cause and also having a good time while doing that. After all we believe that, when you love what your are doing you are not working at all. Our contribution as Kanniyakumari nature foundation is to enable these good souls to come together and provide a platform to work their magic. Once the platform is set , we are one of the volunteers too. Infact we are proud to say that we do not have a single employee in our organisation. Whatever we have done, we have done together.



# The Green Championship Award

In this past year, we were honored to be bestowed with "The Green Championship Award" by the Tamil Nadu government, acknowledging our dedicated endeavours and achievements. Receiving this esteemed recognition within our inaugural year of establishment filled us with immense inspiration and happiness. This accomplishment serves as a driving force as we strive to enhance our efforts, aiming to not only sustain but exceed our current endeavours.





# Media outreach

Mass media has a profound impact on people and it is possibly the best medium to reach a large section of the community. We took dedicated efforts to make sure that many of our activities reached the masses through the print media. While we also were active in social media, print media has a much more diverse audience. Articles about birds, butterflies, turtles etc were placed in the print media whenever possible.

## காடுகள் வளர்த்தால் தான் தண்ணீர் கிடைக்கும்!

**நாள்போகில், மார்ச் 27.**  
காடுகளை வளர்த்தால் தான் தண்ணீர் கிடைக்கும் என தான் கோவில்பட்டி திருமலை மடம், மெட்டி பள்ளிப்படி விழாவில் மாண்புமிகு வன அலுவலர் இளையராஜா பேசினார்.

**மூலம்பட்டி, மார்ச் 27.**  
கன்னியாகுமரி மாவட்ட பன்னிரு மாவட்டங்களில் உள்ள கன்னியாகுமரி மாவட்டம், மெட்டி பள்ளிப்படி விழாவில் மாண்புமிகு வன அலுவலர் இளையராஜா பேசினார்.

## ★ மாவட்ட வன அலுவலர் இளையராஜா வலியுறுத்தல்

மாண்புமிகு வன அலுவலர் இளையராஜா, கன்னியாகுமரி மாவட்டம், மெட்டி பள்ளிப்படி விழாவில் மாண்புமிகு வன அலுவலர் இளையராஜா பேசினார். காடுகளை வளர்த்தால் தான் தண்ணீர் கிடைக்கும் என தான் கோவில்பட்டி திருமலை மடம், மெட்டி பள்ளிப்படி விழாவில் மாண்புமிகு வன அலுவலர் இளையராஜா பேசினார்.

## Gang of greens on a mission to restore a broken ecosystem

ETS join hands to save the ecosystem, said the professors and the students alike, medical representatives and researchers, and people from every walk of life. And so they did, all coming together to rummage through the wilderness in Kanniyakumari to alleviate the effects of environmental degradation compounded by human interference.

Associating with the district forest department, Kanniyakumari Nature Foundation, an NGO comprising a group of nature lovers encompassing volunteers from across professions, launched a cleanliness drive to combat ecosystem degradation by removing broken glass - mostly liquor bottles - from the district's forest cover.

So far, the nascent group of environmentalists has collected over 2.5 tonnes of glass bottles from two forest areas within Kanniyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary, handing them over to respective local bodies for recycling purposes. The volunteers are equipped with safety gear, including gloves and first-aid kits.

At the Zero Point in Pechiparai in Kodayar Lower region, the volunteers huddled together to heap up over one tonne of glass bottles disposed of in the forest area. About 1.5 tonnes of bottles were collected in a similar drive carried out in Ulakkai Aruvi. The number of volunteers grew from the initial 25 to 50 at present, says Vinod Sadasivan, founder of the Kanniyakumari Nature Foundation.

"Discarded liquor bottles found shattered inside forest areas pose a serious threat to the wildlife. It inflicts severe injuries on animals, resulting in infections," warns Vinod. He spoke about his plans to expand the initiative.

According to District Forest Officer M Ilayaraja, broken glass often goes unnoticed, with some people deliberately shattering them in pieces before discarding them inside these forest regions.

"It is important to keep the environment safe and clean. Garbage releases toxic chemicals and pollutants that disrupt the ecosystem, posing a serious threat to forest flora and fauna," says Ilayaraja.

Nithya, an MSc graduate and volunteer at the organisation, recounted her experience collecting shattered liquor bottles from the Pechiparai forest region. "It is the responsibility of the tourists and visitors to keep the environment clean," says Nithya.

A Venkatesh, another volunteer and government school teacher, expounded on the interdependency of wildlife and forests. "We have to save our ecosystem at any cost," said Venkatesh.

## Mushrooms light up Kumari wildlife sanctuary

A team of researchers and the forest department have found a rare bioluminescent mushroom in the Kanniyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary (KWS). Vinod Sadasivan, Kanniyakumari Nature Foundation director, who was part of the expedition said the bioluminescent fungi *Mycena chlo-rophos* was spotted at a specific area of the wildlife sanctuary.

They were visually documented during the night. It is characterized by a pristine white disc with a shallow depression in the centre and emits a bright greenish light in the dark," he said.

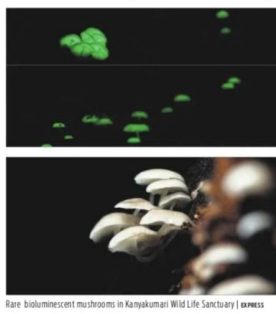
Sadasivan added, "Bioluminescence is the ability of living organisms to emit light. It occurs due to a biochemical reaction between luciferins, oxygen and the enzyme luciferase. There are around 300 species of

bioluminescent fungi in the world, of which seven are found in India. The benefits of bioluminescent fungi is to attract insects for their spore dispersal."

D Jule, a young wildlife cinematographer who was part of the expedition, said the team travelled to the forest for over two months to spot the rare mushroom. It was very difficult to photograph specific area of the wildlife sanctuary.

M Ilayaraja, Kanniyakumari District Forest Officer and Wildlife Warden, said the presence of bioluminescent fungi highlights how crucial it is to protect places like Kanniyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary.

"It is also a reminder of the challenges we face, including habitat destruction, climate change, and light pollution, which threaten these remarkable organisms and our fragile environment," he added.



Rare bioluminescent mushrooms in Kanniyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary | Express

## Forest dept spots Amur Falcon in Kanniyakumari

BRINGING joy to nature lovers and bird watchers, Amur Falcons, migratory birds travelling from Russia and Mongolia to Africa, have been spotted in Periyakulam tank, said district forest officer M Ilayaraja on Sunday.

Tanks in Kanniyakumari are known for welcoming migratory birds every year. Ilayaraja said, a total of 10,094 birds of 163 species were spotted in the synchronised bird census held recently by 20 teams of bird experts. Among them, seven were Amur Falcons seen at a tank near Rajikkamangalam area.

A bird watcher said that Amur Falcon has the longest migration route of any raptor in the world, easily travelling thousands of kilometers. The small bird of prey weighs just 170g and makes pit stops along their way to Africa via India. During these stops, they feed on pests like locust from farmlands, thus providing a service to farmers. Once they are re-fueled, the journey continues.

The DFO said that the department is taking efforts for the conservation of birds in the tanks in Ramsar sites of Vembanur, Therour and Suchindram wetland complexes.

Kanniyakumari Nature Foundation director Vinod Sadasivan said that, normally the birds travel through Central India while migrating. "Their arrival here is a rare happening and we are elated about it," he

added.

M Ilayaraja, Kanniyakumari District Forest Officer and Wildlife Warden, said the presence of bioluminescent fungi highlights how crucial it is to protect places like Kanniyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary.

"It is also a reminder of the challenges we face, including habitat destruction, climate change, and light pollution, which threaten these remarkable organisms and our fragile environment," he added.



Amur Falcon Bird, migratory birds travelling from Russia and Mongolia to Africa, spotted at Periyakulam Tank on Sunday | Express

## குமரியில் 173 இனங்களை சேர்ந்த 3864 பறவைகள் வனத்துறை கணக்கெடுப்பில் கண்டுபிடிப்பு

வனத்துறை கணக்கெடுப்பில் கண்டுபிடிப்பு

**நாகர்கோவில், மார்ச் 6-**  
கன்னியாகுமரி மாவட்ட வனத்துறை சார்பில் நடந்த நில வாழ் பறவைகள் கணக்கெடுப்பில் 173 இனங்களை சேர்ந்த 3864 பறவைகள் கண்டறியப்பட்டுள்ளன.

'பேச்சிப்பாறை வனப்பகுதியில் 500 கிலோ காலி மதுபாட்டில்'

திய பொன்னு தொட்டான் பறவை நகர்ப்பகுதியில் காணப்பட்டது. இந்த கணக்கெடுப்பில் சுமார் 173 இனங்களை சேர்ந்த 3 ஆயிரத்து 864 பறவைகள் கண்டறியப்பட்டன. இது கடந்த ஆண்டு

தற்போது, ஆக. 10-லையில், இயற்கைக்கு நிகரான ஊழியர்கள் பேச்சிப்பாறை நீங்கு விளைவிக்கும் கலந்து கொண்டனர். அனைத்து ஒட்டிய கலி மட்டங்களில் வனத்துறை வளப் பகுதிகளில் கந்த சிறப்பு முகாம் நடத்தி அலுவலர் விஜயகுமார் மூலம் பயிற்சிகள் மற்றும் இயற்கை ஆர்வலர்கள் தலைமை வகித்தனர்.



பேச்சிப்பாறை அணையை ஒட்டிய வனப்பகுதியில் வீசப்பட்டிருந்த கலி மதுபாட்டைகளை சேகரித்து இயற்கை ஆர்வலர்கள்.

தற்போது, ஆக. 10-லையில், இயற்கைக்கு நிகரான ஊழியர்கள் பேச்சிப்பாறை நீங்கு விளைவிக்கும் கலந்து கொண்டனர். அனைத்து ஒட்டிய கலி மட்டங்களில் வனத்துறை வளப் பகுதிகளில் கந்த சிறப்பு முகாம் நடத்தி அலுவலர் விஜயகுமார் மூலம் பயிற்சிகள் மற்றும் இயற்கை ஆர்வலர்கள் தலைமை வகித்தனர்.

## care of 42 parakeets seized from public

42 parakeets seized from public



42 பறவைகள் கைப்பற்றி பராமரிக்கப்பட்டு வருகின்றன.



# The Year Ahead...

Over the past 1.5 years, we've encountered excitement and challenges in various activities, but we believe that the most significant challenge lies ahead. Our journey began with the concept of Habitat Conservation, even before the inception of our NGO. At the heart of our belief system is the conviction that humans shouldn't selectively choose which animals to protect; there should be no preference for a deer over a snake. Guided by this principle, our conservation strategy is straightforward: minimize human impact on habitats. By doing so, we trust that nature will naturally thrive, fostering biodiversity.

Our focus will be in this line and primarily on the removal of *Mucuna bracteata*. As much as it is disheartening to see parthenium filled field in the middle of an agricultural field, it is down right painful to see an invasive weed taking over one the most biodiverse regions in the world. Every inch of that weed creeping into the lush shola forests is a crime committed by the greed of humanity.

We firmly believe that addressing the pressing issue of habitat conservation is paramount, and if we neglect this aspect, other endeavors lose their significance. The imminent threat is real, regardless of whether it's within our immediate sight.

Our profound connection to the planet instills in us a sense of indebtedness that cannot be fully repaid in a lifetime. This commitment drives us to persist in our current efforts and motivates us to strive for tangible positive changes on the ground. While we don't strictly adhere to a calendar of events, the act of preparing this document around the New Year has provided a valuable opportunity to realign our priorities.

Our foremost commitment is to serve as facilitators of life, tirelessly working to mend the wounds inflicted by humanity. Our dedication to this cause is unwavering, guided by the belief that

**"The Biodiversity is our Religion, Forest is our Temple and Mother Earth Is our God."**







