



For the future warriors of wetlands

Interactive Workshop on Wetlands Conservation Awareness for students

SAFE & EARTH WATCH

As a part of the School awareness program on Peri Urban Wetlands conducted by South Asian Forum for Environment (SAFE) and supported by EarthWatch, an interactive workshop was organized on 1st September' 16, at Sukantanagar Vidyaniketan High School, within wetlands. The session was carried out by Oishanee Ghosh, Mrinmoyee Naskar, and Abhijit Sarkar of SAFE. The Sukantanagar Vidyaniketan High School was chosen for its unique socio-ecological setting for being a school situated within the Peri Urban Wetlands area as well as embracing students from families directly or indirectly dependent on wetland ecosystem services. They are the children of wetlands and their lives are interwoven into the very fabric of these invaluable wetlands.



The programme aimed at providing them the knowledge and knowhow to champion the cause of protection of these wetlands which are their home. The event comprised of colourful visual representation of birds and animals, i.e. biodiversity of wetlands. The significance of water and soil, the two essential components of any ecosystem especially that of wetlands was showcased through some very interesting and simple experiments with scientific equipment's for students to learn from as well to as replicate. There was rapid testing of acidity, alkalinity, pH, turbidity as well as demonstrating the surging importance of GPS technology and instruments in wetland conservation.



Joydev, one of the students said "I see these snakes and frogs every day in the nearby water bodies, but never knew how important they were to the food web of the ecosystem." About 80 participating students immersed themselves in the workshop, enjoyed the demonstrations and learned about the

importance of wetlands. The workshop was another step forward in inspiring the next generation to acknowledge the immediate necessity to care for and conserve wetlands of this city.