

Wetlands & Climate Change

World Wetlands Day 2019

SAFE observes World Wetlands Day 2019 in partnership with PwC and SFDC
2nd February 2019 at Nalban, an Eco-Park of East Kolkata Wetlands, Ramsar site

Children give caring hand to wetlands; raises voice through art



On 2nd February in response to the worldwide call of Ramsar Convention on this year's theme, 'Wetlands & Climate Change' South Asian Forum for Environment, SAFE in partnership with PricewaterhouseCoopers and with support from State Fisheries Development Corporation Limited, observed World Wetlands Day 2019 at Nalban, an Eco-Park of East Kolkata Wetlands, Ramsar site. This day marks the date of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands on 2 February 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar. This year's theme aims to highlight the important role played by wetlands, as natural solutions, in adapting to, and mitigating the impact of climate change.

There are total 27 Ramsar designated wetlands in India and currently over 2,200 Ramsar Sites around the world. The wetlands, among the worlds most valuable and biodiverse ecosystems, are disappearing at alarming speed amid urbanization and agriculture shifts. According to Global Wetland outlook report, "We are losing wetlands 3 times

faster than forests. "We are in a crisis," Martha Rojas Urrego, Head of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, told the world in Geneva, warning of the potential devastating impact of wetland loss, including on climate change.

SAFE is working on wetlands conservation for past 12 years, in partnership with various States' Govt. Departments, in India, Earth Watch International and International Water Management Institute, IWMI and have successfully installed Biorights of commons- A pro-poverty conservation model that creates win situation for community and wetlands conservation. SAFE received Earth Care Award in year 2012 for wetlands community based interventions. However, despite the global importance of wetlands, the ecosystem still awaits unanimous support and resources for its survival.

SAFE continues plantation drive in East Kolkata Wetlands: PwC and SFDC

The employee volunteers of PwC with SAFE marked the day by planting trees as a part of conservation of wetlands, and mentored the students of Sukantanagar High School taking part in sit & draw competition based on the theme "Wetlands and Climate Change".

Mr. Subrata Mukherjee, WBCS(Exe), Managing Director of SFDC actively participated in the plantation ceremony and appreciated students for their concerns for wetlands, he said, "From SFDC, I am glad to extend support to mark this event with participation of school students and congratulate SAFE & PwC for contribution of 100 tree saplings to NALBAN Eco-Park, which is a part of East kolkata Wetlands, also I am so overwhelmed to see the paintings of children dedicated for wetlands". Bikash Kumar from PwC, after completing



Mr. Subrata Mukherjee, WBCS(Exe), Managing Director of SFDC, with PwC and SAFE team

the plantation activity said, "We need to build a eco sensitive generation for sustainable future, and it is a learning experience for me to see how children expressed their concern for wetlands through art".



Children raise concerns for wetlands through art...

Mr. Pradip Kumar Basak, Teacher, Sukantanagar High School said, *“Over 40 students painting for wetlands, stay around East Kolkata wetlands, and most of their parents is associated with fish cultivation or vegetable farming and depend on wetlands for their livelihood”.*

Lipi Mondol, a student of class 11, said, *“My whole family is into fish trade and we completely depend on Wetlands”.* Tushar Pal of class 10, *“I have grown up in these wetlands and I wish I could save it forever”.*

The paintings came as a visual treat with strong expressions for conservation of wetlands. Mr. N. M Chatterjee, former Chief Artist of Zoological Survey of India, said, *“Children art are always honest in expressions, and I am so amazed to see the artwork done by students today for the cause of wetlands”.*



Amrita Chatterjee, Director Communication, SAFE gratefully thanks SFDC, PWC and Sukantanagar High School for the partnership and support.

World Wetlands Day comes as a reminder for wetlands Conservation and reaches out in every corner of the world.

SAFE is committed for wetlands and calls for greater partnership to prioritize and speed conservation efforts.

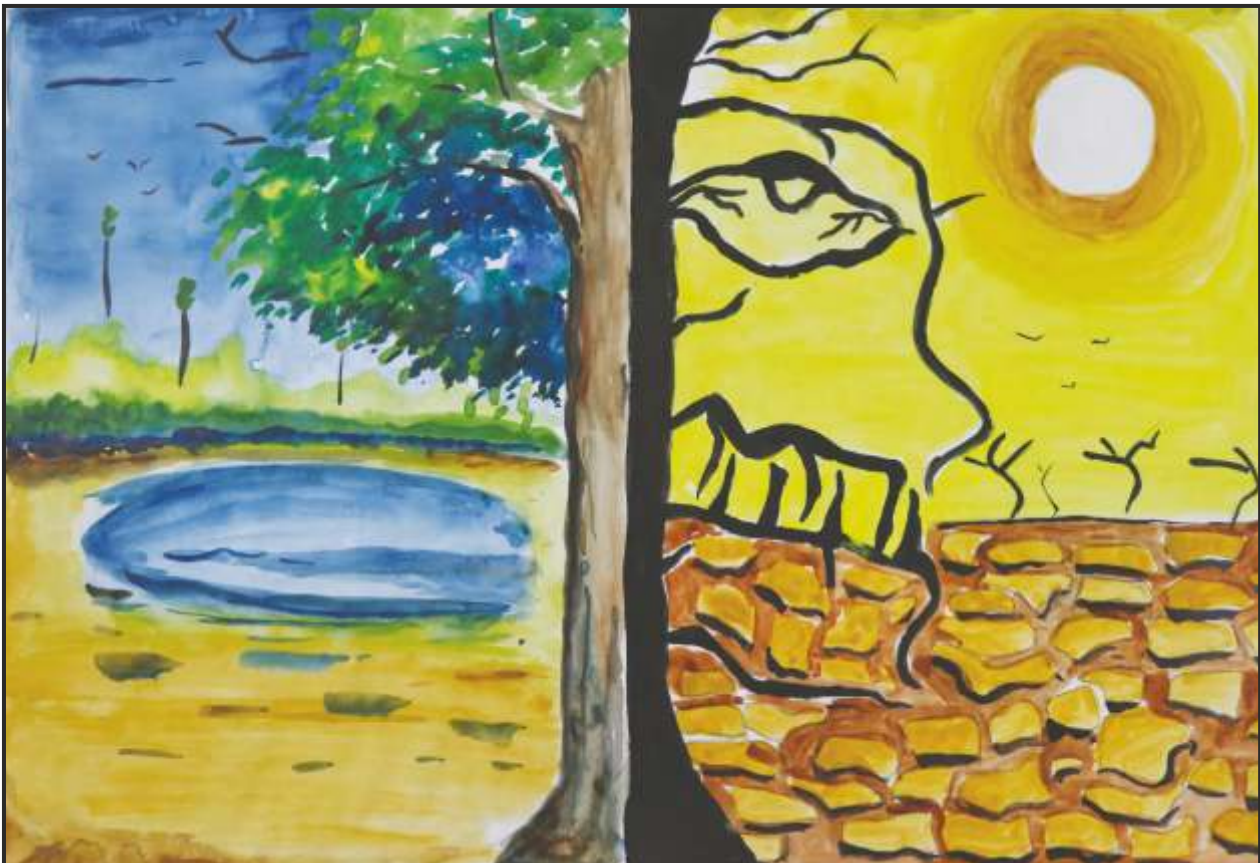




Children raise concerns for wetlands through art...



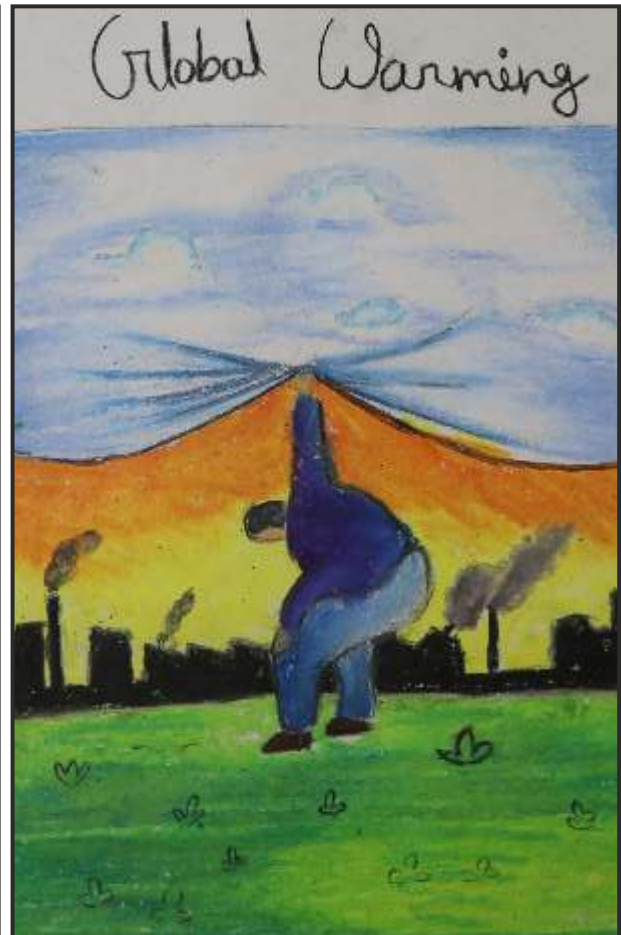
Jinju Maity, Sukantanagar High School, East Kolkata Wetlands, Kolkata. Class - IX



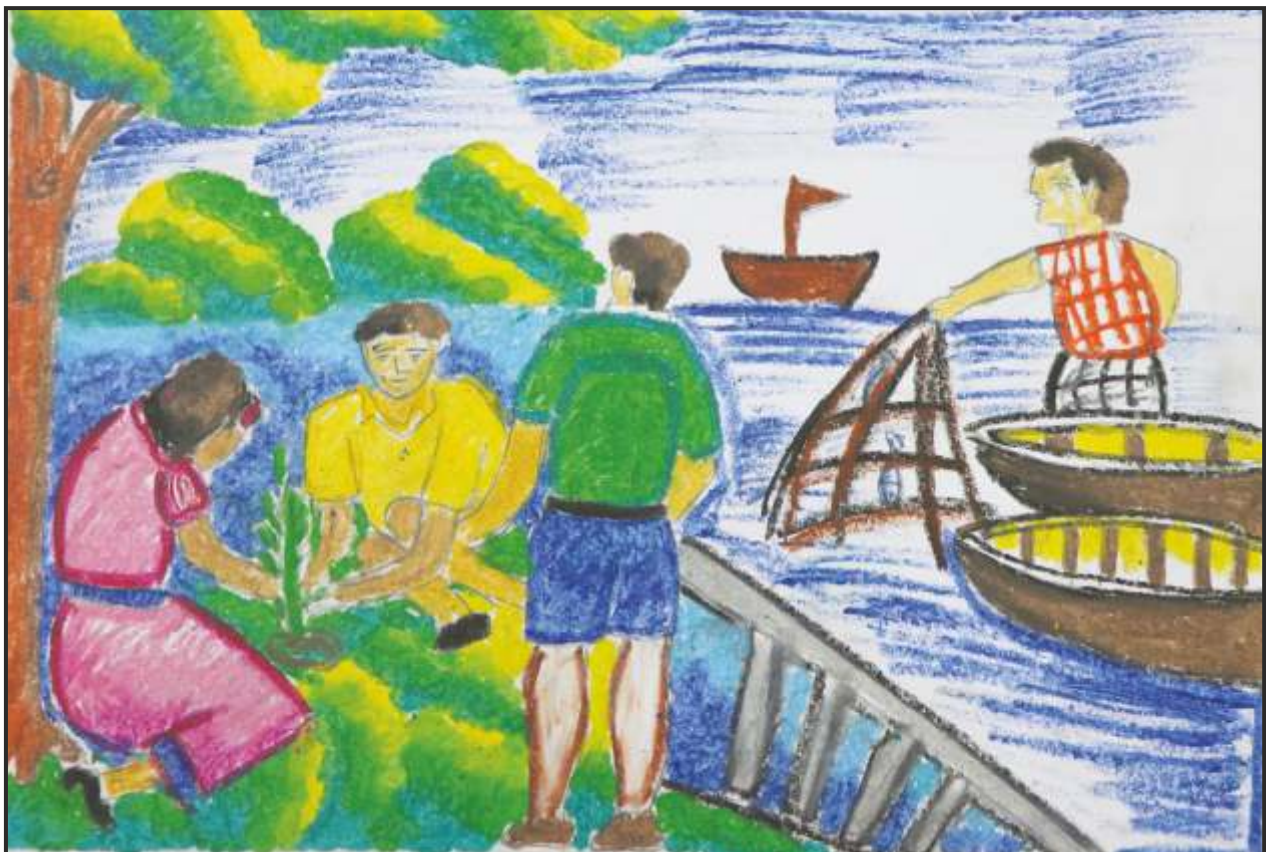
Jayanta Malo, Sukantanagar High School, East Kolkata Wetlands, Kolkata. Class - X



Subhamay Maity, Sukantanagar High School, EKW, Class - X



Smriti Das, Sukantanagar High School, EKW, Class - X



Lipi Mondal, Sukantanagar High School, East Kolkata Wetlands, Kolkata. Class - XI