

Cleaning the breeding beaches and awareness event for Horseshoe crab conservation along Chandipur Coast and nearby estuaries in Odisha



In an effort to facilitate nesting and to conserve the living fossil, “Horseshoe crab” in the Chandipur beach and nearby estuaries, the Association for Biodiversity Conservation (ABC) in association with the New Hope volunteers organised an awareness cum cleaning event about five km stretch along the sea beach on 15 March 2017. Over 40 volunteers, picked up huge amount of litters from the beach over four hours, so that site could be made more suitable for the habitats and breeding ground of the Horseshoe crab. Encouraged by the initiative a few local fishermen also took part in the drive. Professor Bisnu Prasad Dash from Fakir Mohan University, who was taking a lead role in inspiring the team of conservationists and actively serving in the drive, gave the information about the significance of this valuable marine creatures and its role to maintain marine ecosystem and biodiversity.

In this event, Sri Gobinda Chandra Biswal, Reader in Zoology at Siddheswar College, pointed out that Horseshoe crab breeding is hindered by the piles of garbage on the beach and the rampant pollution by human and machanised boats. Being a senior educationist, he was articulating his collective and personal effort in raising the awareness



Habitat cleaned for successful Horseshoe crab breeding and egg laying

about this living fossil. Silpi Kesu Das who was another key figure in this environment sensitization programme emphasized on the importance of Horseshoe crab breeding and their safe future.

Hundreds of live Horseshoe crabs trapped in fishing nets were removed and released into sea water to avoid heavy mortality. Research scholars and master degree students from Department of Bioscience and Biotechnology, Fakir Mohan University, were seen to be quiet active on the spot and they play the major role in releasing the injured Horseshoe crab into sea.

During this event, we visited different community villages in the region in order to assess their attitude of the local people as well as to understand anthropogenic activities. From surveys it was clear that horseshoe crabs in India are not subjected to commercial exploitation for biomedical fertilizer, and bait purposes. The real threat comes from the human population (unregulated fishing activity, jetty construction, increasing the number of fishing boats, sand mining, and cutting of trees)

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Volunteer releasing the trapped Horseshoe crabs



Art competition on the theme of 'Know me, Save Me' - the Horseshoe crab

Apart from this cleaning event In order to bring more awareness among the people especially among the young group (School students) about the unique crab and its conservation, a Young Voices Arts competition was conducted at a coastal village in Balasore district. The program was organised jointly by the Association for Biodiversity Conservation, Fakir Mohan University Bioscience Department association with Ramakrishna Kala Kendra, and local artists.

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Horseshoe crab

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