

**Report on**  
**Activities Conducted as a part of**  
**World Wetlands Day Celebrations 2019**

**At**

**Kerala University College of Teacher Education,  
Kumarapuram**



**On February 4<sup>th</sup>, Monday**



**Supported by,**

**Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment**

**REPORT OF**  
**PROGRAMMES CONDUCTED IN CONNECTION WITH**  
**WORLD WETLANDS DAY CELEBRATION 2019**

**Kerala University College of Teacher Education had organized  
a series of outreach activities in connection with World  
Wetlands day celebration 2019**

**Focal Theme:**

**Wetlands and Climate Change**

**A Glance**

- 1. Poster Making Competition**
- 2. Essay Writing Competition**
- 3. Drawing Competition (School and College Level)**
- 4. Slogan Writing Competition**
- 5. Photo Exhibition**
- 6. Seminar**
- 7. Documentary Presentation**

**Details follows.....**

# **REPORT OF WORLD WETLANDS DAY**

## **CELEBRATION 2019**

A wetland is a place where the land is covered by water, either salt, fresh or somewhere in between. Marshes and ponds, the edge of a lake or ocean, the delta at the mouth of a river, low-lying areas that frequently flood—all of these are wetlands. The destruction of wetlands is a concern because they are some of the most productive habitats on the planet. They often support high concentrations of animals—including mammals, birds, fish and invertebrates—and serve as nurseries for many of these species. Wetlands also support the cultivation of rice, a staple in the diet of half the world's population. And they provide a range of ecosystem services that benefit humanity, including water filtration, storm protection, flood control and recreation.

World Wetlands Day is being celebrated every year on February 2<sup>nd</sup> to raise awareness about the value of wetlands for humanity and the planet. Without wetlands, cities have to spend more money to treat water for their citizens, floods are more devastating to nearby communities, storm surges from hurricanes can penetrate farther inland, animals are displaced or die out, and food supplies are disrupted, along with livelihoods. WWF (World Wildlife Fund), governments and other organizations have pursued efforts to conserve and protect wetlands for more than 40 years through the Ramsar Convention, the only international treaty devoted to a single ecosystem type. This day marks the date of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar on the shores of the Caspian Sea. It is time that we should focus our attention to save our wetlands for sustainable future.

Kerala University College of Teacher Education, Kumarapuram in collaboration with Kerala State Council for Science Technology and Environment (KSCSTE) has organized a one day seminar on the theme " **Wetlands and Climate Change**". The present seminar intended to create awareness among school students and student teachers about the importance and values of wetlands.

### PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

**Focal Theme** : **Wetlands and Climate Change**  
**Date** : **4<sup>th</sup> February 2019**  
**Registration Time** : **9:30 am to 10:00 am**  
**Venue** : **College Auditorium**  
**KUCTE, Kumarapuram**



## INAUGURAL SESSION

The seminar was started by chanting a prayer song by college choir. Smt. Sheeja. B, (Assistant Professor in Mathematics and Programme co-ordinator) welcomed the respected dignitaries on the dais and also specified the importance and significance of the day. She also emphasized the focal theme " Wetlands and Climate change". Next our beloved Principal Dr. Sunith Kumar. G.N. delivered the Presidential Address. He talked about the importance of wetlands and the need of preserving them. Dr. S. Naseeb, Hon'ble Member Syndicate, University of Kerala did the inauguration and gave the inaugural address. His inaugural address aimed at raising public awareness about wetlands values and benefits. He also talked about the importance of celebrating such days and the necessity of conserving and preserving our wetlands. Smt. Latha .K. G (Assistant Professor in Natural Science) gave the felicitation. Apart from that, Smt. Vanaja.M (Staff Secretary and Assistant Professor in Perspectives in Education), Shri. Abhijith. A (Chairman, College Union 2017-2018), Shri. Varun. J. S (College Union 2018-2019) also gave the felicitation. They also specified the importance of celebrating wetlands day. Smt. Sinimol.V .M (Assistant professor In Perspectives in Education) concluded the inaugural session by delivering the vote of thanks. Then we started our seminar. Main aim of conducting the program was creating an awareness on wetland functions and values, benefits of wetland resources, how changing climate affect wetlands, ecological role of wetlands, importance of wetlands in the recreational, educational and in the field of research.





**Lightening the lamp by Dr. S. Naseeb,  
Hon'ble Member Syndicate, University of Kerala**



**Inaugural Address by Dr. S. Naseeb**

The seminar was conducted as two sessions.

### **FIRST SESSION**

First session of the seminar was handled by Sri. Dr. P.K. Shaji (Principal Scientist, Environment Resources Research Centre (ERRC), Thiruvananthapuram, was started at 11:00 am. Our senior faculty Smt. Latha. K.G. welcomed him to the programme. She introduced him to the students and delivered an influential speech by citing many examples from daily life. She also focussed many proverbs to direct the participants to the focal theme of the seminar.

The theme of the seminar was "Wetlands and climate change. He focused on the wetland sources of Kerala and their significance. He also pointed out the species present in the wetlands, the ways to protect the wetlands, important policies that were undertaken by the government to protect these wetlands etc. He also suggested the ways for protecting the wetlands for the future generations.





After the first session, we had our lunch at 1pm.





## SECOND SESSION

Afternoon session which was handled by Sri. E. Kunhikrishnan, Former Associate Professor and Head, Dept. of Zoology, University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram, started by about 2:00 pm. With the help of powerpoint presentation, the presenter clearly explains us about Wetlands and the problems faced by these wetlands. He also gave us the key steps in conserving and regaining healthy wetlands. The following details regarding Wetland and climate change were included in the presentation:

As defined by the Convention, wetlands include a wide variety of habitats such as marshes, peatlands, floodplains, rivers and lakes, and coastal areas such as saltmarshes, mangroves, and seagrass beds, but also coral reefs and other marine areas no deeper than six meters at low tide, as well as human-made wetlands such as wastewater treatment ponds and reservoirs. The convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971) is an intergovernmental treaty whose mission is “the conservation and wide use of all wetlands through local, regional and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world”.

Wetlands, amongst the world’s most economically valuable ecosystem and essential regulators of the global climate, are disappearing three times faster than forests. Wetlands include some of the most carbon-dense ecosystems in our planet, such as salt marshes, sea grass beds and mangroves. Peatlands that account for just 3% of the world’s land surface store twice as much carbon as forests, playing a pivotal role in delivering global commitments on climate change, sustainable development and biodiversity. Wetlands also help reduce disaster risk, as they mitigate flood and protect coastlines. Despite their essential role in global climate regulation, wetlands remain undervalued. Up to 87% of the global wetland resource has been lost since 1700. We lose wetlands three times

faster than the natural forests. Losses have been driven by megatrends such as climate change, population increase, urbanization, particularly of coastal zone and river deltas and changing consumption patterns that have all fueled changes to land and water use and agriculture. Current climate change scenarios, predict an increase of 2 degree Celsius globally and a rise in sea level of approximately 1.5 meters within the coming half a century. Increase in temperatures, changes in precipitation, and sea level rise are the main aspects of climate change that will affect wetland distribution and function. At last the presenter explained us about different steps in conserving and regaining healthy wetlands.

He concluded his presentation by showing us a picture containing the quote:

***“ Man Never Weaves the Web of Life  
He is merely a strand in it  
What he does to the Web  
He does to Himself “***

The informative as well as meaningful presentation had ended by about 3:30pm.



## REPORT OF THE COMPETITIONS

In connection with the Wetlands day celebration 2019, Kerala University College of Teacher Education, Kumarapuram in collaboration with Kerala State Council for Science Technology and Environment (KSCSTE) has proposed to conduct the following college level and school level competitions as per the given schedule.

### SCHOOL LEVEL COMPETITION SCHEDULE

#### GOVT. MEDICAL COLLEGE H.S.S, KUMARAPURAM

DATE	ITEM	TIME
31-01-2019 Tuesday	Painting Competition	1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

#### GOVT. HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL, KAMALESHWARAM

DATE	ITEM	TIME
<b>PHASE I</b> 30-01-2019 Monday	Drawing Competition	1:00 pm to 2:00 pm
<b>PHASE II</b> 31-01-2019 Tuesday	Drawing Competition	1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

### COLLEGE LEVEL COMPETITIONS

DATE	ITEM	TIME
26-01-2019 Saturday	Slogan Writing Essay Writing Drawing Competition	10:30 am to 10:45 am 11:00 am to 12:00 pm 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm
31-01-2019 Thursday	Poster making competition	3:30 pm to 4:00 pm

## SCHOOL LEVEL DRAWING COMPETITION REPORT

### Govt. Medical College H.S.S, Kumarapuram

As a part of Wetlands day celebration 2019, Kerala University College of Teacher Education, Kumarapuram had conducted a drawing competition at Govt. Medical College H.S.S., Kumarapuram on the theme "Wetlands and Climate change". The drawing competition was conducted on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019 at 1:00 pm. The whole students of class 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> had participated in the competition.

### Prize Winners:

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize** : Dhanush, Std. IX

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize** : Amal A.D., Std. VIII

**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize** : Surya Kiran, Std. IX





## Govt. Higher Secondary School, Kamaleshwaram

As a part of World Wetlands Day celebration, a drawing competition was conducted at G. H. S. S, Kamaleshwaram by Kerala University College of Teacher Education, Kumarapuram. The competition had two stages in which 20 students were selected from the first stage. The first stage competition was held on 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2019. Students from class 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> had participated in the competition. The selected students faced second stage of the competition on 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2019. The topic for the drawing competition was "Wetlands and Climate change". Second stage competition was evaluated by college Teachers.

### Prize Winners:

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize** : Vishnu .M. Nair, Std. IX

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize** : Gokul .R. J ,Std. VIII

**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize** : Sayed Muhsin, Std. VIII



## **COLLEGE LEVEL COMPETITION REPORT**

Kerala University College of Teacher Education, Kumarapuram had organized a set of competitions in connection with World Wetlands Day 2019, that intended to create awareness among school students and student teachers about the importance and values of wetlands. Essay writing, Slogan writing, Pencil drawing and Poster making were the competitions arranged for the student teachers. College General hall was the venue for these competitions. The competitions were held on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at 10:30 am. The first event was slogan writing. Majority of the student teachers participated for this event. Slogan writing ended up at 10:45 am. After that, Essay writing competition started and the time limit for writing essay was about 1hr. By around 12 pm, pencil drawing competition started and the competition was successfully completed at 1:00 pm. Poster making competition was held on 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2019 at college auditorium, in between 3:00 pm and 4:00 pm.

### **Prize Winners:**

#### **Pencil Drawing Competition**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize** : Krishna S., 1<sup>st</sup> year, Malayalam Optional  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize** : Vidhya A., 1<sup>st</sup> year, Physical Science Optional  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize** : Vaishna V. R., 1<sup>st</sup> year, Physical Science Optional

#### **Essay Writing Competition**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize** : Ajisha C. R., 1<sup>st</sup> year, Sanskrit Optional  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize** : Amala Raj, 1<sup>st</sup> year, Physical Science Optional  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize** : Chinnumol G., 1<sup>st</sup> year, Sanskrit Optional

## Slogan Writing Competition

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize** : Chinumol G., 1<sup>st</sup> year, Sanskrit Optional

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize** : Shamini J. Thampi, 1<sup>st</sup> year, Mathematics Optional

**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize** : Adithya G.L., 1<sup>st</sup> year, Natural Science Optional

## Poster Making Competition

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize** : Sandhra C.J., II<sup>nd</sup> year Malayalam Optional

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize** : Malini M., II<sup>nd</sup> year Physical Science Optional

**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize** : Kadambari G.S., II<sup>nd</sup> year, Natural Science Optional

Binesh U. Vrithan, II<sup>nd</sup> year, Sanskrit Optional







## OTHER RELATED ACTIVITIES

A part from these activities, student teachers of Kerala University College of Teacher Education had conducted a photo exhibition and Documentary Presentation.

DATE	ITEM	TIME
04-02-2019 Monday	Photo Exhibition	10:00 am to 4:00 pm
04-02-2019 Monday	Documentary Presentation	3:00 pm to 4:00 pm

## PHOTO EXHIBITION REPORT

On 4<sup>th</sup> February, the students of Kerala University College of Teacher Education, Kumarapuram had conducted a photo exhibition related to Wetlands and climate change. It was a new innovative experience to the students. They had collected photos of different wetlands from their locality as well as from different areas. The places from which they collected the photos includes Veli, Poovar, Aakkulam, Punchakkari, Moongodu, Kollam, Kannur, Kamaleshwaram, Panangad, Vellayani, Thiruvallam. The photos of wetlands of Kollam and Kannur were taken by our friends and relatives. Among those, 12 photos were selected and were exhibited under suitable title, in the college premises.





## **DOCUMENTARY PRESENTATION REPORT**

Every year World Wetland Day is celebrated on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. As a part of celebration our college Kerala University College of Teacher Education, Kumarapuram also celebrated Wetlands Day on February 4th, Monday. We conducted a seminar which was supported by Kerala State Council for Science and Technology and Environment (KSCSTE) Sastra Bhavan, Thiruvananthapuram by the theme "Wetlands and Climate Change". As a part of the Wetlands day celebration our college proudly presented a documentary related to various wetlands in Kerala and its importance. We tried to present a new documentary which explores the biologically productive and diverse nature of wetlands and the vital role they play to life on earth. When an area floods with water, wetlands act like a giant sponge. This is because the living plants and even the dead plant matter can absorb the extra water.

In this documentary, we revealed the important role of wetlands, especially in Thiruvananthapuram. We collected videos and photographs of various flora and fauna that existing in different wetlands. We collected the videos of myristica swamps, Punchakkari

wetlands, Ashtamudi lake etc. Vellayani Lake and the adjacent Punchakkari paddy fields are a major landing site for several migratory birds and home to many resident birds, the Spot Billed Pelican is a rare winter visitor. We also took the videos of that places and incorporated in our documentary.

In the second half of the documentary, we mainly focuses on the depletion of the wetlands. We included the videos related to habitat fragmentation, polluted runoff, water level changes in the Kayamkulam lake in Alappuzha. After that we included the video messages from various eminent personalities of Kerala University life Science Departments. Prof. A. Bijukumar (Dean of Science), Prof. M.C. Subhash Peter (Director ICEIB), Dr. Mariamma Cherian (Scientist, Dept. of Botany), Dr. Kuriyan Mathew (Assistant Professor, Dept. of Aquatic Biology and Fisheries), Dr. Midhun Sukumaran (Assistant Professor, Dept. of Aquatic Biology and Fisheries) gave their video messages about the importance and conservation of Wetlands. E. Kunhikrishnan Sir who handled the second session of the seminar appreciated our documentary work.

<b>Direction</b>	:	Adithya G.L.
<b>Camera and Editing</b>	:	Nidhin. B.
<b>Script</b>	:	Aswathy Nair M.S.
<b>Cinematography and Colour Grading</b>	:	Varun. J. S. Simson .R. M
<b>Narration</b>	:	Afsal Shahid

We are expecting that this documentary will provide a better awareness to the public about the conservation of wetlands.

## VALEDICTORY SESSION

The valedictory session started at 3:30 pm. The welcome speech was done by our beloved Principal Dr. Sunith Kumar G. N. He welcomed the Chief Guest and each one of us to the valedictory session and also specified the significance of the day. Sri. E. Kunhikrishnan (Former Associate Professor and Head, Dept. of Zoology, University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram) was invited for the valedictory address. He talked about wetlands, ways to preserve wetlands and general information about world wetlands day celebration. After this inspirational valedictory address, Smt. Sinimol V.M. (Assistant Professor in Perspectives in Education) was invited for the felicitation. In her speech, teacher told about the relevance of the topic selected for the seminar and the ways to preserve them. After this, prize winners of various competitions were announced and trophies and certificates were distributed by Sri. E. Kunhikrishnan. Certificates were also distributed to the students who have participated in this one day seminar. At 4:00 pm , we reached towards the end of the programme. Vote of thanks to all the distinguished guests, teachers and students were extended by Dr. Aparna Sudheer (Assistant Professor in Performing Arts). The programme ended with the National Anthem.



**Welcome speech by,**

**Dr. Sunith kumar G. N.**

**Principal and General Convenor**

**Kerala University College of Teacher  
Education, Kumarapuram**



## PRIZE DISTRIBUTION FOR SCHOOL AND COLLEGE LEVEL COMPETITIONS



