

Unnat Maharashtra Abhiyan Report

Activity: Availability of Water for Animals and Birds

Introduction

Water is essential for the survival of all living organisms, including wild animals and birds. The availability of water in natural habitats can be influenced by various factors such as climate change, deforestation, urbanization, and agricultural practices. Ensuring that wild animals and birds have access to water is crucial for maintaining biodiversity and ecological balance. This report explores the importance of water for wildlife, challenges in providing water, and strategies to improve water availability for wild animals and birds.

We visited villages Hiraj and Tirhe Tal- South Solapur Dist- Solapur for observations under subject Social and Life Skills in Unnat Maharashtra Abhiyan. We selected the village Hiraj. We visited the village, talked with Sarpanch Mr. Badrinath Nagtilak and Gramsevak Mr. V. I. Mallaw. They gave the information of village and some of the problems such as cleanliness in specific areas, transport problem, electricity problems in some of the areas and need of the water for the animals such as rabbits, deer and various birds. We decided to make availability of water for the wild animals and birds.

Importance of Water for Wildlife

- 1. Survival and Health:** Water is fundamental for physiological processes such as digestion, thermoregulation, and waste elimination in animals. Birds use water for drinking and bathing, which is essential for feather maintenance and parasite control.
- 2. Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health:** Water sources support a diverse range of species and contribute to the overall health of ecosystems. They serve as habitats for aquatic and semi-aquatic species and provide food and shelter for a variety of wildlife.
- 3. Migration and Breeding:** Many animals rely on water sources during migration and breeding seasons. Wetlands and other water bodies are crucial breeding grounds for amphibians, birds, and other species.

Challenges in Providing Water for Wildlife

1. **Climate Change:** Increased temperatures and altered precipitation patterns can lead to droughts, reducing the availability of natural water sources.
2. **Habitat Destruction:** Deforestation, urbanization, and agricultural expansion can destroy or fragment habitats, leading to the loss of natural water bodies.
3. **Pollution:** Water pollution from industrial, agricultural, and residential sources can contaminate water bodies, making them unsuitable for wildlife.
4. **Human-Wildlife Conflict:** As humans encroach on wildlife habitats, competition for water resources can lead to conflicts, affecting both wildlife and human communities.

Strategies to Improve Water Availability

1. **Creation of Artificial Water Sources:**
 - **Water Troughs and Pans:** Installing water troughs and pans in strategic locations can provide reliable water sources for wildlife, especially during dry seasons.
 - **Rainwater Harvesting:** Building structures to collect and store rainwater can ensure a steady supply of water for wildlife in arid regions.
2. **Restoration of Natural Water Bodies:**
 - **Wetland Restoration:** Restoring degraded wetlands can enhance water availability and improve habitat quality for various species.
 - **River and Stream Rehabilitation:** Removing barriers and pollutants from rivers and streams can improve water flow and quality, benefiting aquatic and terrestrial wildlife.
3. **Sustainable Water Management:**
 - **Regulating Water Use:** Implementing policies to regulate water extraction and use can help preserve natural water sources for wildlife.
 - **Conservation Practices:** Promoting sustainable agricultural and industrial practices can reduce water pollution and ensure cleaner water for wildlife.
4. **Community Involvement and Education:**
 - **Awareness Campaigns:** Educating local communities about the importance of water conservation for wildlife can foster support for conservation efforts.
 - **Volunteer Programs:** Engaging volunteers in activities such as monitoring water sources and maintaining artificial water points can enhance the effectiveness of conservation initiatives.

Case Studies

Rainwater Harvesting in India:

In arid regions of India, rainwater harvesting systems have been implemented to provide water for wildlife. These systems collect and store rainwater during the monsoon season, making it available for animals throughout the year.

We visited the village again and decided three places 1.South side of the village. 2. Near Ambika temple the largest area of the jungle. And 3.North side of the village.

We selected the second place as other two sides are near to village as well as highway, so we placed the artificial water tank there and filled it.

Conclusion

Ensuring the availability of water for wild animals and birds is critical for their survival and the health of ecosystems. Addressing the challenges of climate change, habitat destruction, this small effort to provide water for animals and birds will be helpful to them.

Glimpses of UMA Activity



