



Project Fauna

7-19

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First-year Project

Project Overview

Areas of Concern

Illegal wildlife trade

Singapore is one of the top 10 illegal wildlife trading hub globally, according to the World Wildlife Fund.

Animal Cruelty

Many of the day-to-day products, which are used by men in their mundane life, are cruelly and unethically tested on animals, and this cause the animals to suffer in utmost pain and agony as most of the experimentations mostly end in their deaths. Examples are Colgate toothpaste, Ajax dishwasher, etc.

According to ACRES, animal abandonment is rather common, up to six animals, most commonly reptiles, are abandoned in places like parks, dustbins and void decks per month.

Lack of funds

The ACRES Sanctuary at YCK is rather undeveloped and requires better, newer equipments and facilities so as to provide better care and support the animals.

Lack of awareness and volunteerism

ACRES has an issue of manpower shortage to a certain extent despite its efforts to garner more helpers via their website, and this is evidently reflected when visits are conducted to the Sanctuary.

Chosen Voluntary Welfare Organisation (VWO)



Background Information about Organisation

ACRES is a prominent local non-profit animal-welfare organisation, providing the only 24-hour wildlife rescue service in Singapore. It also established Singapore's first facility dedicated to the rescue and rehabilitation of animals rescued from the illegal wildlife trade and injured native wild animals, the ACRES Wildlife Rescue Centre (AWRC).

Objectives:

- ❖ To foster respect and compassion for all animals.
- ❖ To improve the living conditions and welfare of animals in captivity.
- ❖ To educate people on lifestyle choices which do not involve the abuse of animals and which are environment-friendly

Underlying Problem

Given that there is a lack of awareness and knowledge about the wildlife and the prevalent problems facing the wildlife in Singapore, the million dollar question we should be asking is how might we raise awareness to the public such that they will have a more comprehensive understanding of the local wildlife as well as the problems facing wildlife rescue societies in Singapore and thus inculcate a sense of compassion within us for all animals?

Objectives

In response to the underlying problem, the following objectives were formulated:

1. Raise funds for ACRES, so that they can have better equipments and facilities
2. Promote coexistence between Singaporean citizens and the wildlife, hence to expand its current work scope and double its efforts in rescuing wildlife, improving the welfare of animals in captivity and transforming Singapore into a more wildlife-friendly society
3. Raise awareness to expose the public to ACRES and their causes, thus they are in sync with the organization's efforts, and will lay basis for further public support

Challenges Identified

A prominent obstacle we might potentially face is that the organisations we contacted to request for sponsorship, and schools we intended to hold workshops in not replying to us. To overcome this, we re-looked at our financial resources and tried our best to reduce costs and increase profits in all our events, and made do with our YFC seed funding.

Another issue was that much of the public did not know of ACRES, and were hence unwilling to support them during our street sales. To overcome this, we pasted an introduction of ACRES on the tins that were used to collect money, and made our merchandise animal-themed, so that the public could get an idea of who they are. We also tried our best to verbally explain to the public who ACRES is.

Another problem was the lack of volunteers for our events. To minimise the effects of manpower shortage, we strongly encouraged each volunteer who signed up to work longer hours and put in more effort, which most of them actually did. We, the core team,

also sacrificed much more time to get more work done and eventually, our events so far turned out quite successful.

Accomplishment of Project

Date	Action
January - February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Contacted ACRES (VWO) ❖ Set up Design Team and the other OTs ❖ Set up Facebook and Instagram accounts ❖ Contacted schools, licensing authorities, and other external parties ❖ Acquisition of YFC licence and funding ❖ Purchased merchandise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Animal Notebook ➢ Monkey Soft Toy ➢ Drawstring Bag with various animal designs ➢ Keychain with multiple animal designs ➢ Multi-purpose Stickers with various animal designs ➢ Bookmarks with multiple animal designs
February	<p>Nature Guiding Workshop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ 2-day workshop ❖ Day 1: Introductory/Bonding session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Introduction of Project Fauna and ACRES ➢ Impart guiding knowledge ➢ Discussion ➢ Performance ❖ Day 2: Field Trip Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Held at Pasir Ris Park ➢ Provided guiding tours ➢ Recruited participants ➢ Gain first-hand experience on guiding
March	<p>March Holiday Workshop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Face-painting ❖ Quizzes ❖ Designing and construction of exhibition sets

<p>March - July</p>	<p>Voluntary Sessions at ACRES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ More than 9 visits in total to ACRES ❖ Took care of the abandoned wildlife at the wildlife sanctuary by cleaning up their living quarters and feeding them ❖ Shared this experience through pictures taken and explanation to the general public
<p>June</p>	<p>Street Sales</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ 3 locations islandwide over 15 days. ❖ Gather around 30 volunteers ❖ Raised over \$3600 ❖ Merchandise sold are related to animal welfare to raise awareness for our cause concurrently <p>Wildlife City Rescue and Festival of Biodiversity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Organised various games ❖ Designed booths on behalf of ACRES ❖ Facilitated the activities by being tour guides or game masters
<p>August</p>	<p>Exhibition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Had an exhibition in Hwa Chong Institution to showcase different types of animals as well as ways we can carry out to protect wildlife ❖ Promoted coexistence between animals and humans, not to mention animal welfare as a whole ❖ Had a Do It For the Candy game, which involved quizzes relating to animals <p>Run (Future Plans)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Organise a run for the fellow schoolmates and staff members at Hwa Chong Institution ❖ Gather around 50 participants ❖ Hold a mini-exhibition at the event about ACRES and issues related to our cause ❖ Set up merchandise booth <p>Collaboration with TCM Pharmacies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Set up mini-exhibition at the 2 stores for over 3 months

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sold some merchandise on a day-to-day basis with the help of the storekeepers <p>House Visits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Door to door visits to about 20 HDB blocks to promote our cause and beneficiary ❖ Pasted posters at void decks and in lifts regarding problems animals are facing and how residents can help
Through out year	<p>Social Media posts/Fauna Website</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Create posts on interesting wildlife facts weekly on Facebook and Instagram ❖ Educate public on issues related to wildlife and how they can help ❖ Publicise events

Summary

We have managed to raise a total of S\$3678 for ACRES through our street sales and the sale of our merchandise, through various events such as the festival of biodiversity and street sales. Through our house visits, exhibition and street sales, we have managed to spread the outreach of mental awareness to a total of 4000 people in Hwa Chong, as well as members of the public. Currently, we have over 1k+ followers on our Instagram page as well.

Project Reflections

Although at first, our team have little knowledge and experience about the local wildlife and the problem of illegal wildlife trade in our region. This experience has reshaped our perception of ACRES and wildlife animals. Initially, we had the notion that ACRES was merely a wildlife rescue organisation. However, we realised that there are much more facets of them. They tackle wildlife trade, promote cruelty-free living, conducted outreach and educational programmes. What surprised us all is that they are all vegans!

Undoubtedly through this project, we have learnt the importance of giving back to society. We often neglect that we are extremely privileged and this project made us realise our moral obligation to contribute to charities. We also managed to acquire vital skills such as volunteer management, fund management and event planning.

We have learnt that each and every action goes a long way. Through our fortnightly

volunteer work at ACRES, street sales for almost the entirety of the June holidays and various other events, we have raised vast funds for ACRES and greatly raised awareness about ACRES and our local wildlife.

This was followed by the tirade of implications throughout the whole duration of the street sales such as the sudden withdrawal of various facilitators and volunteers as well as the lack of volunteers for our street sales. No pain is no gain, our project as a whole has sacrificed countless time and effort planning and carrying the street sales out. To see it blossom and take shape is one of the greatest feats that we as a project have achieved thus far.

Summing up, we did naively think that this project would be a smooth sailing journey with little to no bumps along the way. We had lots of conflicting ideas which led to several disagreements over the year. Despite facing numerous challenges and setbacks, we are glad that we have managed to overcome all these challenges by consolidating the various perspectives of all team members and coming to a common standpoint on these problems. All these challenges and implications have molded and shaped who we are today and have fostered strong camaraderie and teamwork.