

Project Wildcare 7-40

Service Learning

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Single Year

Section I: Overview

1. Area of Concern

Our main area of concern is human-wildlife interaction, because we chanced upon news articles of wild boar attacks along Hillview Road. We noticed the increasing number of cases of human-wildlife interaction, whereby wild animals are moving nearer to urban areas where humans live. Since Singapore is deemed as a concrete jungle, many people in Singapore lack awareness about wildlife in Singapore and do not pay much attention to them. As a result, they tend to lack the knowledge in terms of how to respond to wildlife when they see them. Among the participants of our needs analysis, 70.3% of participants knew about the common wild boar. However, only 24.3% of participants heard of our beneficiary, ACRES, and many responded saying they would run when they met wild boars. However, this is in fact opposite of what they should do, as they should walk away calmly and slowly from the wild boar. Therefore, ensuring that more people know how to respond to and coexist with wildlife is important for us.

2. Challenges Identified

Firstly, the public does not recognise the need to understand how to react when they encounter wildlife. They believe that it is a distant problem as they may not have encountered wildlife in urban areas before. Furthermore, as it is near impossible to give the public a realistic experience of how to react in such situations, they do not feel an urgent need to learn more about the subject.

Secondly, as our target audience includes children, they have some difficulty grasping the concepts and ideas we try to put across. Hence, there is a need to create more engaging activities that are easy to understand, in order to leave a lasting impact on the children.

3. Underlying Problem

Given that there is a lack of awareness about human-wildlife interactions, how might we raise awareness to the public, especially children and youths (between ages of 8-16), such that there will be better coexistence with wildlife due to better understanding of how to respond to and live in harmony with wildlife?

4. Plan of Action

Date	Action	Objective(s)
Jan-April	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Liaising with ACRES-Outreach Programme2. Recruitment of Organizing Team members and volunteers3. Setting up of Facebook and Instagram pages4. Service Learning Summit	Raise Funds

	5. Setting up of crowdfunding	
June-July	<u>Street Sales</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 120 volunteers 2. Street sales every weekday, except on public holidays 3. Sold popsockets, badges and bookmarks with impactful messages 4. Made sure all tins were accountable at the end of every session, by OT or CT 5. Raised >\$6000 	Raise Funds
	<u>Exhibition</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 3 weekends during June Holidays: 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24 June 2. Week 1: Illegal Wildlife Trade 3. Week 2: Native wildlife 4. Week 3: Animal-cruelty free products 5. Permanent exhibits about ACRES 6. VR videos to engage the young children 7. Exhibition sheets for children to consolidate what they have learnt 	Awareness
	<u>Talks</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 4 July 2. Secondary one HCI students as audience 3. Introduced native wildlife, wild boar, sunda pangolin and asian leopard cat 4. How to identify animal cruelty free products 5. Why they should choose animal cruelty free products 	Awareness
	<u>Door to Door</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Went to 20 blocks of HDB flats to sell carnival tickets 2. Talk to residents about our native wildlife and illegal wildlife trade 3. Gave out ACRES advisory sheets on how to respond to wildlife should they see them 	Raise awareness and funds

	<u>Carnival</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 8 July 2. Animal themed games 3. Food and drinks 4. Exhibits 5. Talks by ACRES staff 6. Over 500 in attendance 7. Raised >\$3000 	Raising awareness and funds
	<u>Wildlife sanctuary</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 15 July 2. Helped to account for food given to turtles 3. Cut substrates and place leaves as shade for snakes 4. Prepare food before feeding the food to the monkeys and turtles 	Volunteerism
August	<u>School workshops</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. New Montessori Childcare centre 2. Arts and Craft 3. Made our presentation fun and interactive 	Awareness

Section II: Implementation of Action Plan

1. Actions and outcomes to date

In order to raise funds for our beneficiary, ACRES, we set up a crowdfunding page with a goal of \$1000. However, we surpassed this goal, raising \$1300. We also conducted street sales in the June holidays, where we raised more than \$6000. Our main event is our carnival, so we decided to have a door-to-door event to sell our carnival tickets. In addition to selling tickets to 20 blocks of HDB flats, we also educated the residents about how to respond to wildlife when they see them. For our Carnimal, we raised more than \$3000 and also conducted talks to educate the public about our cause.

To meet our second aim of educating the public about how to respond to wildlife, we held three weeks of exhibitions at Jurong Regional Library where we had activity sheets, posters and even showcased VR videos about wildlife to children. While the children were doing the activity sheet, we managed to share with their parents about our project. We also held talks with the entire secondary one cohort of HCI students, where we introduced some of Singapore's native wildlife to them and educated them about how to respond to wildlife. We conducted school workshops for preschoolers, where we had arts and craft activities and specially prepared interactive activities during our presentation.

Section III: Project Outcomes

1. Accomplishments

We have raised over \$10 000 for ACRES through our street sales, carnival and crowdfunding platforms. We had over 50 organising team members and 120 volunteers for our street sales. During the streetsales, the volunteers feedbacked that they learned a lot about ACRES and wildlife conservation. Many of them also brought their own friends to volunteer, helping us expand our outreach to students from other schools.

For the exhibition, we have an estimated outreach of 500 children.

For the carnival, we sold over 600 tickets, and reached out to many members of the public who were present at the event or through our door to door sales.

We have 619 followers on Instagram and we have been posting every 2 weeks, to educate the public on how to respond to wildlife. Thus in total, an estimate of 2000 people have been engaged and educated.

2. Reflections

We gained more insights as to planning and organising events as well as gain exposure to working with the public. However, we realised that there was miscommunication between the us and the organising team about our events, as we would usually discuss online instead of in real life. In hindsight, we would try to work together in real life more in future projects. We also learnt to be open to new ideas. Given the lack of awareness about human-wildlife coexistence in Singapore, coupled with the lack of manpower of ACRES, we became appreciative of the effort and dedication put in by the volunteers at ACRES. We also understood the importance of educating children from young, about what to do when they see wildlife. Lastly, we were considering the sustainability of our project in the long term, so we have decided to pass down

our project to our juniors in the future, so ACRES can continue to gain support in their meaningful cause.

3. Scope of Impact

Community impact: Members of public learned more about how to respond to wildlife. We have also educated the public on possible actions when encountering wildlife to ensure both parties come out unharmed. We also shared about animal-cruelty free products as well as the fact that wildlife should not be treated as pets. We hope that the public are more inclined to choose animal-cruelty free products and know what to do when they encounter wildlife.

Community involvement: We managed to recruit 50 OT members and 130 volunteers from 20 different schools, who assisted us in our street sales, carnival and exhibition. The OT members were key in ensuring the success of the project and the running of the different events. Through a briefing conducted by us, the volunteers became more knowledgeable about our cause and hopefully, inspired to contribute their time and effort into our cause.

Resolution of Area Of Concern/Underlying Problem: Given that there is a lack of awareness about human-wildlife interactions, we have raised over \$10 000 and reached out to an estimated of 2300 members of public through our activities, fulfilling the fundraising and awareness goals of our project. More importantly, we plan to pass down the project to our juniors in the future. We hope that future batches will be able to build on this foundation, to truly provide a sustainable, long term solution to lack of awareness about responding to local wildlife, as well as to ensure the continuity of ACRES' efforts.