

Project Gaia (Group 7-04)



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Multi-year Project

Section I: Project Overview

1. Area of Concern

Based on our initial research, we found out that there has been incidents of poaching in Singapore, one example being the wild boar poaching at Lim Chu Kang, which was found dead in a trap. An ACRES veterinarian assessed the condition of the young male boar and noted that it had died from the stress of being trapped in a tight space.

Furthermore, many local wildlife habitats are being destroyed due to the clearing of land for other uses, leading to more animals becoming endangered as they are unable to survive in urban areas and do not have suitable living conditions to thrive and survive. For example, two Asian leopard cats strayed into a HDB estate in Bukit Batok due to the clearing of the nearby forested areas. ST reported in February 2016 that leopard cats are the last remaining wild cat species here, but are critically endangered due to the loss of their natural forest habitat.

ACRES has responded to all of the above cases by issuing warnings and helping the local wildlife find new homes, encouraging the preservation of wildlife. They hope to educate people on the importance of wildlife and hopefully encourage humans to show respect and concern towards wildlife, especially when they are slowly diminishing, so as to ensure that our wildlife will still be around in the years ahead for future generations to enjoy.

2. Challenges Identified

ACRES is a non-profit organisation that relies largely on volunteers for help to raise awareness and take care of wildlife or respond to calls for help. It also largely relies on donations from the public to support its operations and also purchase necessary items for the animals housed there. ACRES has also opened a wildlife sanctuary to provide homes for these wildlife, but there is a lack of not only resources but also volunteers helping out at the ACRES wildlife centre as there is a lack of knowledge on this organisation and their operations.

3. Underlying Problem

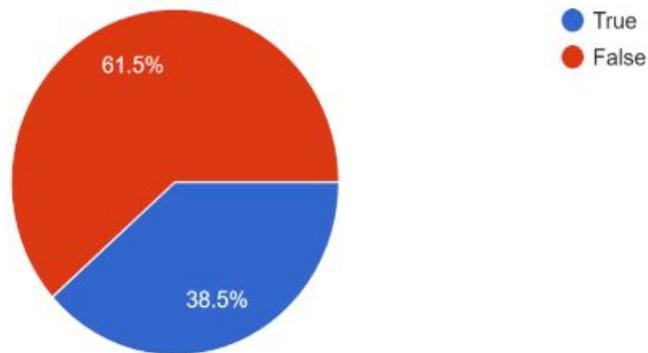
Given that there is a lack of awareness, appreciation and knowledge by the public about wildlife and the problems they faced, how can we then make a difference by ensuring that people will show more appreciation towards wildlife and be more compassionate towards it, thus paving the way for us to coexist in harmony with them?

4. Plan of Action

Our specific plan of action is in the table below. Our main plan is to raise awareness about the needs of wildlife and the state they are in, as many people lack knowledge on this based on the survey we conducted.

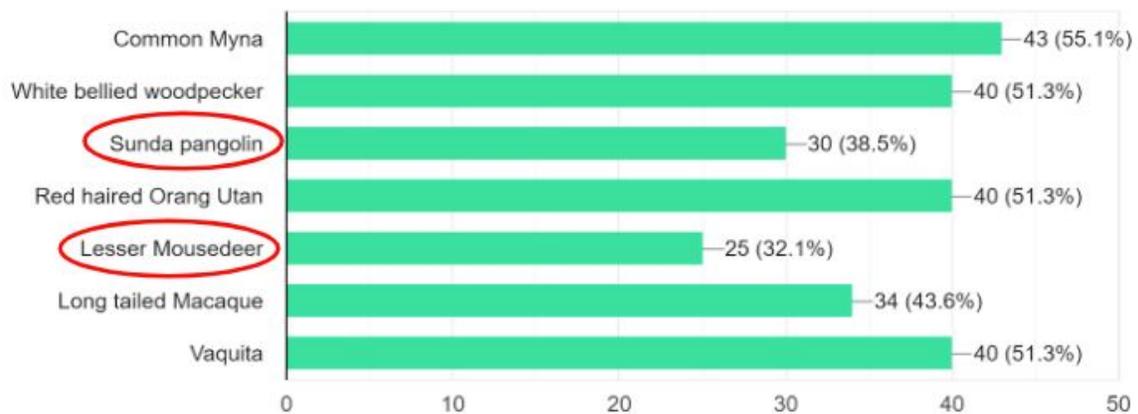
Q2: There are illegal trades of wildlife present in Singapore

78 responses



Q3: Which Native Animal is Endangered in Singapore?

78 responses



We also hoped to inculcate compassion and promote volunteerism as there is a lack of volunteers at ACRES. We started by sourcing for potential sponsors and recruiting OT members as well as applying for sponsorship.

Section II: Implementation of Action Plan

Date	Action	Objective(s)	Outreach
January - April	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Liaising and communicating with ACRES 2. Recruitment of organising team members 3. Preparation for various events 4. Sourcing for sponsorship 	-	-
25 May	<u>Arts and Craft Session</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Held at Tanglin Community Centre 2. Teach children about endangered wildlife species 3. Construct a Turtle habitat using recycled materials 	Inculcate compassion	20
5-9 June	<u>Booth@Kidzania</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Held at Kidzania, Sentosa 2. Placed boards with information on local wildlife at booth 3. Played games to test the children's knowledge on wildlife 4. Cages which were provided by ACRES allowed children to experience being trapped in a cage 5. Children could pledge their support to help wildlife by pasting stickers onto a pledge board 	Raise awareness	1000
5,7 June	<u>Movie Screening</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Held at Kidzania, Sentosa 2. Movie: Jungle Book 3. Educating children about the importance of the preservation of wildlife habitats 	Raise awareness	180
12, 15 June 3 August	<u>House Visits</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Visited various blocks at Toh Yi Residences and Choa Chu Kang 2. Gave out pamphlets provided by ACRES 3. Brief explanation about wildlife found nearby 	Raise awareness	450
23 June	<u>Walkathon@SungeiBuloh</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Guided tour through Sungei Buloh Wetland 	Inculcate compassion	200

	<p>Reserve by introducing wildlife species and habitats</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Many different wildlife such as crocodiles, monitor lizards and otters were spotted 3. Booth at the wetland centre was set up to help raise awareness for ACRES and local wildlife 		
29 June	<p><u>Booth@PlazaSingapura</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gave out pamphlets from ACRES 2. Introduced ACRES and local wildlife using posters, sculptures and boards 	Raise awareness	200
25 July	<p><u>Student Care Games Day</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Held at Rising Achievers Studentcare 2. Educated the students about wildlife through slides, videos and games 3. Ensure that they understand the importance of respecting and protecting wildlife animals through quizzes and pledges 	Inculcate compassion	30
22 August (Not completed)	<p><u>Primary School Talks: Nanyang Primary School</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Presenting to 2 CCA groups, which are brownies and scouts about wildlife and local habitats 	Raise awareness	Expected: 100
Every 2 weeks	<p><u>Volunteering@ACRES</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clean up the Iguana's and Turtle cages 2. Feeding the Turtles and Iguanas 3. Washing the area and equipment 	Volunteerism	30
Weekly	<p><u>Social Media Outreach</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Post images of local wildlife animals such as the smooth coated otter with interesting facts about them 	Raise awareness	800

Section III: Project Outcomes

1. Accomplishments

We managed to raise \$750.00 for ACRES through the movie screening despite fundraising not being part of our objectives. For our walk in Sungei Buloh, we had 10 volunteers and around 200 participants. Our volunteers also feedbacked to us that they found our events enriching and they learnt more about our local wildlife. For our booth at Kidzania, we had 25 volunteers over 5 days with an estimated outreach of 1000. We have 830 followers on Instagram with around 100 likes for each fact we post. We also managed to get 20 volunteers for ACRES.

2. Reflections

The primary issue we identified was the lack of knowledge on local wildlife and the problems faced. However, we realised that many people do not recognise that the issues wildlife face is serious, which is one of the root causes of the lack of action to protect local wildlife. There is also a lack of empathy for wildlife animals, which is one of the contributing factors to pollution.

Through this project, we learnt more about our local wildlife as we were all oblivious to the local wildlife beforehand. We had a deeper understanding and appreciation for the wildlife here. Despite several setbacks, such as the lack of time and resources, we learnt how to improvise but not neglect the quality of work. We also got to know more about ourselves, which enabled us to utilise our strengths in both planning and executing our events.

We felt that we could have done better in certain areas such as planning earlier for our events. We are extremely grateful for our volunteers as without them, we would not have the manpower needed to make this project successful.

3. Scope of Impact

Community impact: Members of the public understand more about the situation of local wildlife and learn to treat them with respect. More people know about the loss of wildlife and habitats and understand the importance of resolving this issue, which would play a part in creating a community where wildlife animals can coexist with us harmoniously. More people are aware of ACRES and in turn increase the number of volunteers and donations which would greatly help ACRES to sustain its operations.

Community involvement: We managed to get 30 volunteers from different schools and backgrounds. Reflecting upon this journey, they felt that this was a very meaningful one which has helped them have a better understanding and appreciation of the local

wildlife. We also managed to reach out to many groups of people such as the walk at Sungei Buloh which is mostly for families or the older generation and also our Childcare and Primary schools talks which cater towards the young. By involving diverse groups of people, we hope to reach out to everyone with the same goal in mind, which is to raise awareness

Resolution of AOC/UP: Given that there is a lack of awareness, appreciation and knowledge by the public about wildlife and the problems they faced, we have managed to get an outreach of 3000 through our various events. Most importantly, we have increased the number of volunteers helping out at ACRES. Through this project, we allowed more children to understand the importance of the wildlife and environment, allowing them to make a difference when they grow up, as more people are inclined to save them. Not only that but we also raised awareness among other groups too such as the elderly and families. We hope that future groups will continue taking up the mantle and provide more help to ACRES, allowing for ACRES to continue its operations and be able to make a greater difference to the local wildlife scene.