



# Project Eco-Wildcare(7-20)

## Service Learning

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Isaac Ho 4i3 11  
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Single Year

## Section 1: Project Overview

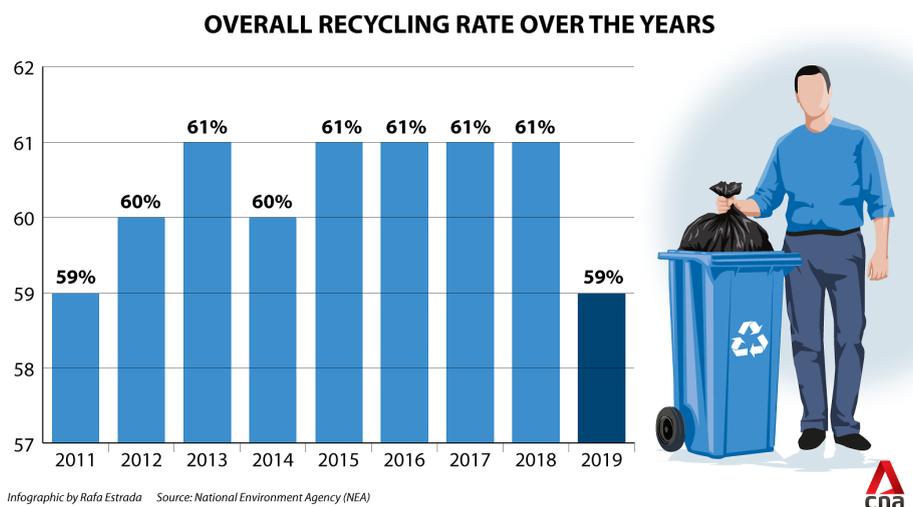
### A. Area of Concern

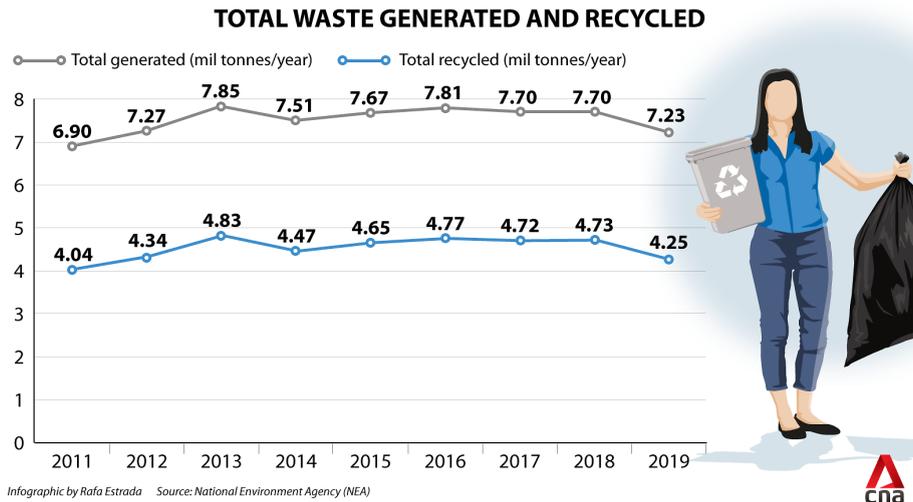
Singapore is renowned around the world as a Garden City with an emphasis on greening efforts and thus the hybridisation of both an urban and green city. With the drastic advancement from a swampland to a developed country in just half a century, so has the daily lives and habits of people living in Singapore.

#### **Not environmentally friendly lifestyle:**

Singapore's 4th highest GDP per capita is reflected in our daily lives, where Singaporeans can afford many goods, leading to much wastage. Wastage not properly recycled which is improperly disposed thus kills many animals and destroys the environment.

- An extra 1,334 tonnes of plastic waste, equivalent to the weight of 92 double-decker buses, was generated from takeaway and delivery meals during the two-month circuit breaker period of stay-home curbs (Elangovan, 2020)





### **Lack of appreciation for the various nature parks and the biodiversity:**

Placing the pragmatic and urban needs of Singaporean over the protection of the biodiversity, the current biodiversity in Singapore is mainly found in designated nature reserves and parks, which are rarely frequented by Singaporeans especially the youth due to their hectic lifestyles.

- Most citizens are hard-pressed to identify even the most common of bird species, and it is not unusual to hear a child refer to the outdoors as 'dirty'. (Lena Chan, Linda Goh, Samantha Lai, and Zhou Boyi, n.d.)
- According to National Institute of Education's Associate Professor Vilma Ann D'Rozario, "While she has seen a growing number of people enjoying Singapore's nature areas over the last decade or so, "most Singaporeans are little aware that we have nature and wild habitats at our doorstep". (Audrey Tan, 2016)

### **B. Challenges Identified**

1. In what ways can we develop Singaporean's appreciation of the biodiversity
2. How can we raise awareness of the various flora and fauna that can be found around us in Singapore
3. How can we raise awareness of how our daily actions affect the environment
4. How can we develop eco-friendly habits in Singaporeans which will help in the protection of the biodiversity

### C. Underlying problem (UP)

Given that our daily habits are harming the environment and the existing biodiversity, how might we raise awareness in the youths about the importance of protecting the environment and promote a better appreciation of the biodiversity in Singapore such that they take steps to protect it?

### D. Plan of Action

<b>Legend</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Red Words= Cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions</li> <li>● Black Words= Successful</li> </ul>
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<b>Step 1: Setting Up Foundation</b>	
December (2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Handing over of Project Wildcare</li> <li>● Deciding and identifying the issues that the biodiversity is facing</li> <li>● Rebranding of Project Wildcare to Project Eco-Wildcare: Instead of focusing on animal cruelty and illegal wildlife poaching, focused more on how our actions have damaged the environment</li> </ul>
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Formation of the organising team comprising of 50 students passionate for the protection of the biodiversity</li> </ul>
<b>Step 2: Brainstorming and Planning</b>	
January - February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Needs analysis on more than 120 members of the public</li> <li>● Evaluating based on feasibility and deciding on events and initiatives needed to achieve our aims</li> </ul>

<b>Step 3: Preparation and Organisation</b>	
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Approaching NParks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Seek permission to hold our Term 1 <u>Sabbaticals</u> in their nature parks</li> <li>- Finding time slots in their nature parks to facilitate various <u>volunteer activities</u></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Receiving the parks in which nature trails for our <u>sabbaticals</u> will be held in (to understand the situation of the biodiversity and gain knowledge on the different species there, to brief participants)</li> <li>● Liaised with Yishun Palm Springs People's Association to organise <u>recycling collection activities</u> in their HDB blocks and printing of publicity leaflets</li> </ul>
May - June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Contacting guest speakers for our <u>panel discussion</u></li> <li>● Discussions with other Service Learning groups on <u>collaborations</u> to educate their beneficiaries on the biodiversity</li> </ul>
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Preparation of resources for our <u>collaboration</u> with other Service Learning groups</li> <li>● Contacting of BioPak to enquire about their <u>eco-friendly food packaging</u></li> <li>● Reached out to the Western and Economic Rice Stall vendors on their interest to try out the <u>eco-friendly food packaging</u> (successfully carried out)</li> <li>● Collation of information for our <u>website</u></li> </ul>

## **Section 2: Implementation of Action Plan**

February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Appreciation of Flora and Fauna in Singapore Sabbaticals</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Held over the 5 day period during the sabbatical week of Term 1 involving 40 students</li> <li>→ Day 1-3: Visitation of the various parks and nature reserves in Singapore</li> <li>→ Day 4: Watching movies related the environment</li> <li>→ Day 5: Every group was tasked to create a video to reflect on their learnings from the past 4 days</li> <li>→ Rated 4.23 stars, and general positive comments from survey</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Project Eco-Wildcare OT Meeting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Educated volunteers on our project's main aims</li> <li>→ 50 volunteers participated</li> <li>→ Help volunteers better understand their roles and commitments</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Recyclable Collection at Yishun Palm Springs HDB Estate</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Publicised our initiative to more than 100 households in Yishun Palm Springs Estate, inviting them to leave their recyclables outside their homes for collection the following week</li> <li>→ And manage to adhere to all SMM measures</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Green Convention 2021 @HCI</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Educated Secondary 4 students on the importance of the biodiversity for our survival and impacts of our actions on the environment during assembly</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Nature Trail at Bukit Batok Nature Park</b></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ More than 20 sign ups</li> <li>● <b>Recyclable Collection at Yishun Palm Springs HDB Estate</b></li> </ul>
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Being Green in Our Genes Panel Discussion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ To develop the interests of Singaporeans towards protecting the environment done through:</li> <li>→ Inspiring Singaporeans to do their part in protecting the environment through sharings by a youth activist and business owner</li> <li>→ Gaining insight about the protection of the environment from different points of view</li> <li>→ Viewed by 222 members of the public</li> <li>→ Invited: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Mr Louis Ng [Founder of ACRES and MP for Nee Soon East]</li> <li>2) Mayur Singh [Founder of The Green Collective SG]</li> <li>3) Laura Lee [Founder of Toilet Roll SG]</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Volunteer Activities with NParks at the various nature parks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ 2 sessions of Invasive Species Management</li> <li>→ 2 sessions of Litter Picking</li> <li>→ 1 session of Butterfly Habitat Enhancement</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Recyclable Collection at Yishun Palm Springs HDB Estate</b></li> </ul>
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Recyclable Collection at Yishun Palm Springs HDB Estate</b></li> </ul>
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Replacement of food packaging in the school canteen</b></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Provided eco friendly food packaging bought from BioPak to the variety rice and western stall (200 containers)</li> <li>→ Encouraged the food stall owners to opt for these packaging as they</li> </ul> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reduce the damage to the environment</li> <li>2. Are an economical option (Costs came out to 20-30 cents per quantity)</li> </ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Collaborations with other Service Learning Groups</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Collaborated with 4 service learning groups working with children from ages 7-12</li> <li>→ Educated the children on the importance of the biodiversity, the impact of our actions on the climate and what lifestyle changes to make to protect the environment using slides and a Kahoot quiz</li> <li>→ Outreach: More than 45 children</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Website</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Introduced our initiatives, the various nature parks in Singapore and educate the public on how to recycle and its impacts on the environment</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>January - August</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Social Media (Instagram)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Posts of Singapore's native wildlife</li> <li>→ Introduced the Green Plan Singapore</li> <li>→ Updates on completed events</li> <li>→ More than 50 likes per post, with more than 1200 followers</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

### Section 3: Project Outcomes

## A. Accomplishments

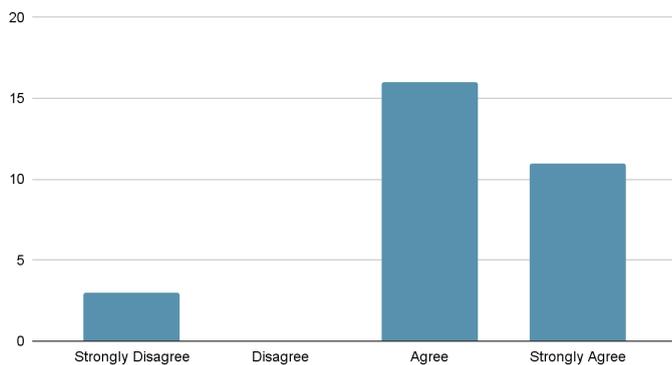
Throughout the year, our approach towards achieving our aims were to raise awareness, instill knowledge, and promote volunteerism in participants through various events and initiatives.

### Raise awareness

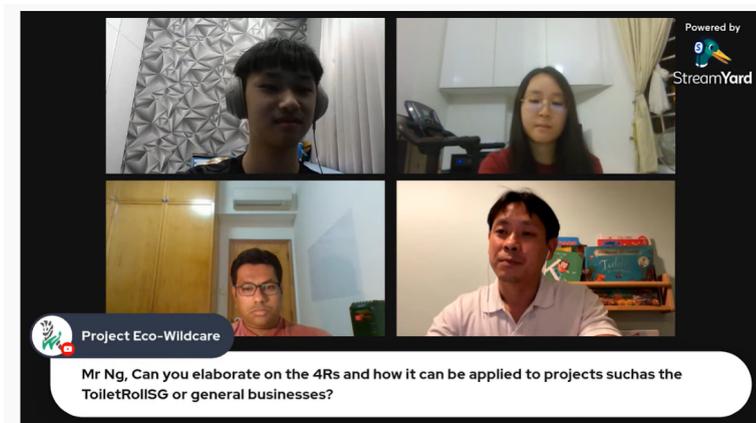
By raising awareness through the sabbatical, panel discussion and replacement of food packaging in our school canteens, we gained positive responses from over 300 respondents, and provided 200 containers to each stall involved.

Learning more about the flora and fauna in Singapore sabbatical:

The course achieved its stated objectives.



### Panel discussion:



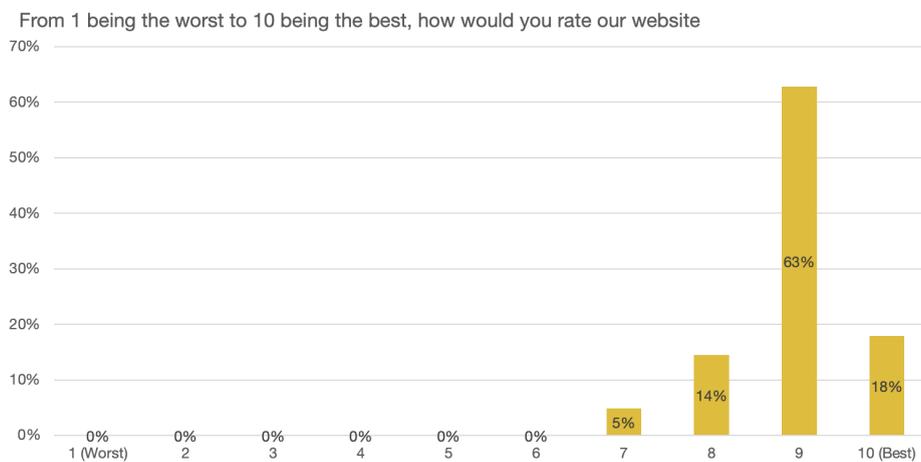
### Eco-friendly packaging interview:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=O3W8gHzegcg&feature=youtu.be>

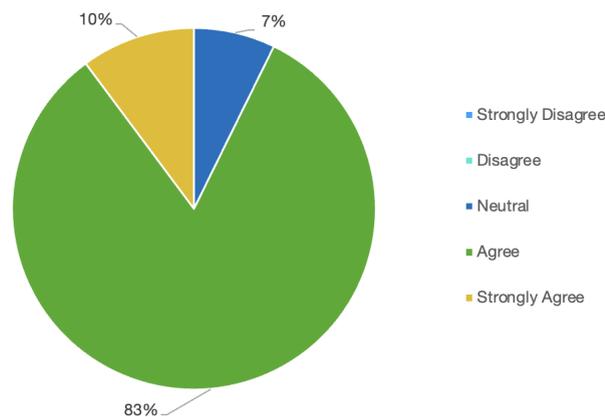
## Instilling knowledge

By instilling knowledge through our social media account and website, we reached over 1200 followers on Instagram, over 1000 likes, and 250+ positive responses for our website's impacts. Presenting on green convention also increased our outreach to the 400 students in our batch, and our collaborations led to 39 positive responses on the effectiveness of our lesson package.

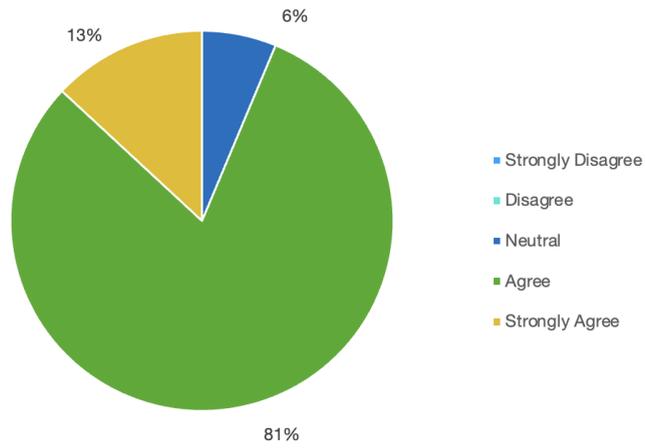
### Website survey:



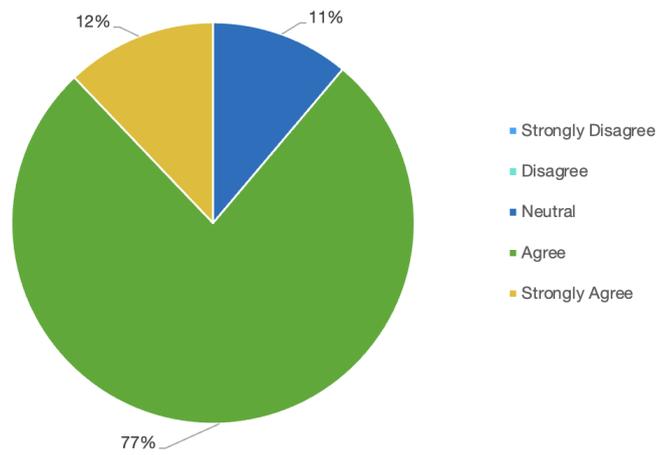
I have learnt more about the process of recycling in Singapore



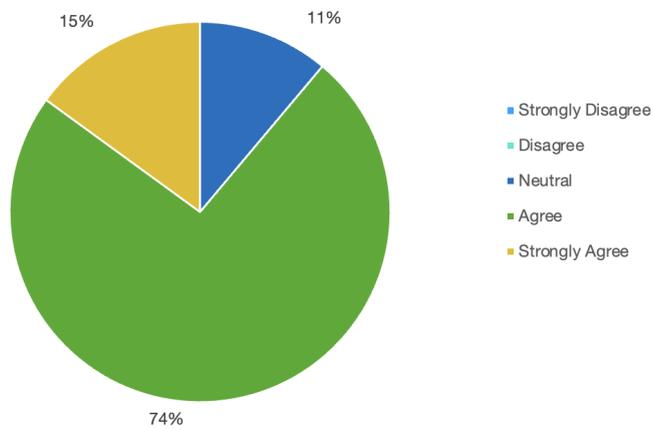
I have learnt more about various nature reserves and parks in Singapore



I know what I can do to lead a more environmentally lifestyle to protect the environment



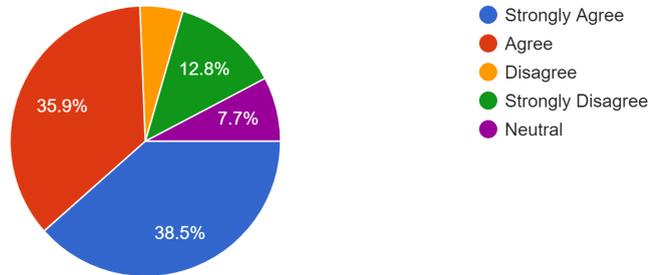
I have a better appreciation of the biodiversity and environment



## SL Collaboration survey:

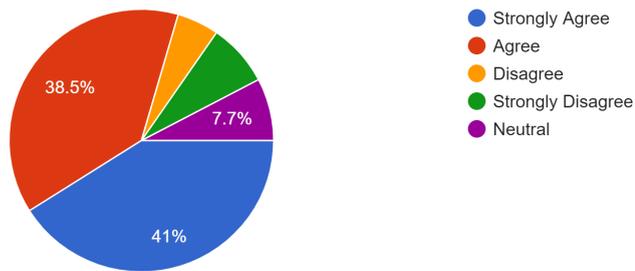
I understand how human activity and our action has damaged the environment

39 responses



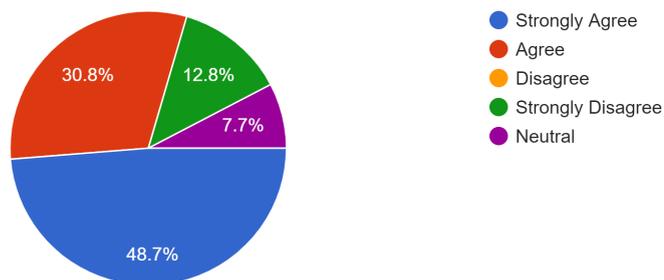
I know the various methods to protect the biodiversity

39 responses



I know why we should recycle and how we should recycle

39 responses



## **Volunteerism**

By promoting volunteerism, we held 6 hands-on sessions for our volunteers to impact the community directly. Over 30 households participated in our recycling drive at Yishun Palm Springs HDB Estate.

Testimonial to acknowledge our efforts:



15 August 2021

Dear students of **Project Eco Wildcare of Hwa Chong Institution**,

Yishun Palm Springs Residents' Committee would like to express our sincere gratitude that you have provided towards our Recycle @ NorthWest activities held at Block 210, Yishun Street 21 on 11 April 2021 and 18 April 2021.

2 We thank you for coming forward to raise awareness on the impacts of human activity on the biodiversity during the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic by going door-to-door to distribute flyers, educating our residents on the fauna and flora, human-wildlife interactions, impacts of waste [e.g. plastics] and collecting the recyclables from residents' homes to the collection center.

3 We look forward to future partnership again to engage our residents in recycling efforts. Should your project team interested in future collaboration, please feel free to contact us at 67523410 or email us at pa\_neesooneastcc@pa.gov.sg. Thank you.

Yours sincerely



MR BERNARD WONG  
CHAIRMAN  
YISHUN PALM SPRINGS RESIDENTS' COMMITTEE

## **B. Reflections**

### **The Mirror**

#### **Ryan Toh**

As the leader of Project Eco-Wildcare, I took up this project being most involved in terms of volunteerism. I had volunteered for the past years' Project Wildcare Organising Team. While this experience was beneficial to me, I still had much to learn over the course of the project.

#### **Darrius**

Before embarking on Project Eco-Wildcare as a core team member, I never really appreciated nor did I care about the biodiversity around me. However, working on this project has led to me developing a profound love for the biodiversity and the

environment as well as the passion for hiking in the various nature parks and reserves.

### **Ryan Lim**

As the manager of the Organising Team, it initially seemed daunting to lead a group of 50 students from different schools. However, over the course of the project, I learnt how to efficiently manage people from different backgrounds through effective communication.

### **Isaac**

Through this project, I have gained a deeper love and consideration for nature and its resilience to adversities. I learnt to take initiative in raising awareness proactively and not take nature for granted.

### **You Wen**

Overall, the lessons I learnt through this project have been undoubtedly invaluable be it the new insights and appreciation for nature or the soft skills such as flexibility. I believe that it takes an entire society to be more conscious and recognise the importance of protecting our biodiversity and natural environment.

### **The Microscope**

The enthusiasm received from volunteers and the public was encouraging that our efforts were successful in rallying many people towards our cause and playing an active role. Through our initiatives, we have become more aware of the difficulties faced by nature and the importance of participating in its conservation. We can now comprehend how essential our efforts are to preserving nature and will not cease in our advocacy to raise awareness and encourage action.

### **C. Scope of the Project**

Community impact: Youths and members of the public learned more about the importance of preserving the natural environment and biodiversity, as well as how to take a more eco-friendly approach

Community involvement: We managed to recruit 50 OT members from different schools who assisted us in the events. The OT members were key to the success project and hopefully through this become knowledgeable of our cause and be inspired to protect our natural environment.

Resolution of Underlying Problem: Given that there is a continuity of activities that harm the nature around us, we have reached out to 2000 people who partook in meaningful ways to conserve nature, completing the aims of our project. We also plan to pass down the project to our juniors next year to raise greater awareness.

### **E. References**

1. Elangovan, N. (2020, June 5). Singapore households generated additional 1,334 tonnes of plastic waste during Circuit breaker: Study. Retrieved March 27, 2021, from <https://www.todayonline.com/singapore/singapore-households-generated-additional-1334-tonnes-plastic-waste-during-circuit-breaker>
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