

## World Elephant Day Celebration in Tamil Nadu, India

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On 12<sup>th</sup> August 2017, the World Elephant Day was celebrated in the Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu, Southern India to highlight elephant conservation. About 1500 college students as well as students from high human elephant conflict areas in the Nilgiris and Eastern Ghats landscape, which is the single largest Asian elephant population in the world, participated. The program was organized in collaboration with the Zoo Outreach Organization.

The students wore elephant masks and attended a rally on the need for elephant conservation. This was followed by a series of lectures. Dr. B. Ramakrishnan delivered a lecture on “The role

of elephants and conservation problems”, Ms. M. Ilakkia, delivered a lecture on the “Feeding behaviour of elephants”. Mr. S. Karthick delivered a lecture on “Human Elephant Conflict and Mitigation strategies”. Dr. H. Mohanakrishnan delivered a talk on “Task force for the conservation of elephants”.

This action-oriented celebration enabled the students to take away many messages about elephant conservation. We thank Mr. R. Marimuthu and Dr. B. A. Daniel from Zoo Outreach Organization for supporting this successful event in various ways, especially by supplying the elephant masks for the students.

