

CAT at the CIDCO Navi Mumbai Festival (CNMF) 2010

CNMF is a four day festival organised by CIDCO and is a tribute to every Navi Mumbaikar. It is to connect people from different walks of life and background at an emotional, intellectual and artistic level. This year the festival was celebrated from 23rd Jan to 26th Jan 2010 with the theme '**Green**', with the objective to spread the message of conservation and preservation for our environment.

Conservation Action Trust participated and set up stalls at the vashi station, the venue for the CIDCO Navi Mumbai Festival from 23 to 25th January 2010. We focused on spreading the message of conservation and preservation of the environment related to climate change, resources management, Global warming etc.

In addition to this competitions were held for students from Navi Mumbai Schools during the month of January and the results of that were displayed during the festival at the stalls for e.g. Posters, Drawings, working models, and best from waste.

During the festival various schools competed against each other in several competitions organized for them like Quiz, Essay, Eco jingle, Skit, Mascot, Working model etc. Various other competitions such as Greeting card, Graffiti, Quiz organized for the General public of Navi Mumbai.

A prototype of the Navi Mumbai Mangrove Wetland Center was displayed to give a brief idea about the components of the project viz., Boardwalks, Bird hides, Boat rides. The Importance of wetlands and mangrove, the existing biodiversity of the Mumbai mangrove forest and traditional lifestyle of fishing community was exhibited. The local fishermen community participated by displaying their cultural and traditional lifestyle, thus showing their support for the project.

We received an appreciable and positive response from the visitors approximating to minimum 5000. Visitors were surprised to learn that in a overcrowded city like Navi Mumbai and Mumbai there exists a unique ecosystem with extraordinary roots which use its strength to hold the soil and at the same time acts as a nursery that harbours the diversity of flora and fauna that constitute the wetland ecosystem. Some visitors signed up for our environmental warrior initiative and pledged to provide support to the cause of environment.

The school children enthusiastically participated in all our activities like Best from waste, working models, Eco Mascot, Eco Jingle to spread the message of conservation. They made the visitors stand up, listen and take note of the environmental issues with conviction in activities like Skit, Eco-jingle and Mascot.