

Project Update: December 2018

Earlier this year we completed setting up the Holematthi Nature Information Centre (NIC) at Yellemaala a small village adjoining the MM Hills Wildlife Sanctuary here in southern Karnataka.

Holematthi Nature Centre, popularly called as Holematthi, has been the talk of the town, buzzing with activities every day since its inaugural opening in July 2018. A mini-museum of sorts, this nature centre has taken a visual, artistic approach to conservation education which is receiving positive response from the local school kids, local communities, teachers, village elders, pilgrims visiting the famous Malai Mahadeshwar temple, forest department, and even the media.

The centre is a hotbed of conversation, activities and workshops related to wildlife conservation. It is heart-warming to know that young kids who visit the centre are interested in the cause of conservation and are willing to take steps which support peaceful coexistence of humans and wild animals. Working with these young minds is a huge responsibility and we are proud to say that our centre is providing them with a space to interact, debate, talk about issues that concern nature and wildlife. Their eagerness to know and learn is making Holematthi a very interesting hub of learning.

We also have a lot of farmers who visit the centre to understand the local landscape, and how to work in an area where there is high possibility of human-wildlife conflict. These elders are informed about animal behaviour, and also asked to participate in conservation efforts that benefit both the farmers and the wildlife. After all, it is all about keeping a balance.

We have had many collaborative workshops with the forest department for school children, for local media personnel and others who want to contribute to the cause.

Holematthi could not have reached its point of success without your incredible help and support. We thank you for your constant support and love towards the cause of wildlife, nature and its protection.

We have made a small short film (2 minutes and 30 seconds) about Holematthi, and would love for you to take a look at the same. Here's the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x0OwMxTgb7U>