

Part 2- Take Action

Concern

When the question was posed to our students to name endangered animals found in Trinidad and Tobago, it was with great disappointed that not many of them were able to identify at least three of the endangered animals. Most of our students have little knowledge or are oblivious with respect to the endangered or protected animals of our country. Some of the endangered animals are: The Porcupine, Scarlet Ibis, Pawl, Yellow Headed Parrot, The Blue and Yellow Macaw, Manatee and the Leatherback Turtle.



Leatherback turtle



Pawi



Scarlet Ibis



Porcupine



Manatee



Yellow Headed Parrot



The Blue and Yellow Macaw

Almost all of our students live in the easterly region of **Sangre Grande**, an area that is heavily forested and where some of the endangered animals such as the Pawi, porcupine, the Yellow Headed Parrot and the Blue Macaw can be found. Sangre Grande is also within proximity to the coastal areas of Manzanilla, Fishing Pond and Matura, main beach points that are nested areas for the female leatherback turtle during the months of March to August.

It is nearing the start of the nestling season for the leatherback turtles, a time where not only tourists, nature and animal lovers are attracted to the viewing of these sea turtles but poachers who may want to kill these animals for their meat.

We therefore believe that since some of these poachers may perhaps be from our very own communities, then more should be done to sensitize our schools' populations including parents, community members and visitors about our endangered animals. **Hence our main aim in this take action project was to create a sense of appreciation and empathy for our endangered animals.**



Map of Trinidad and Tobago

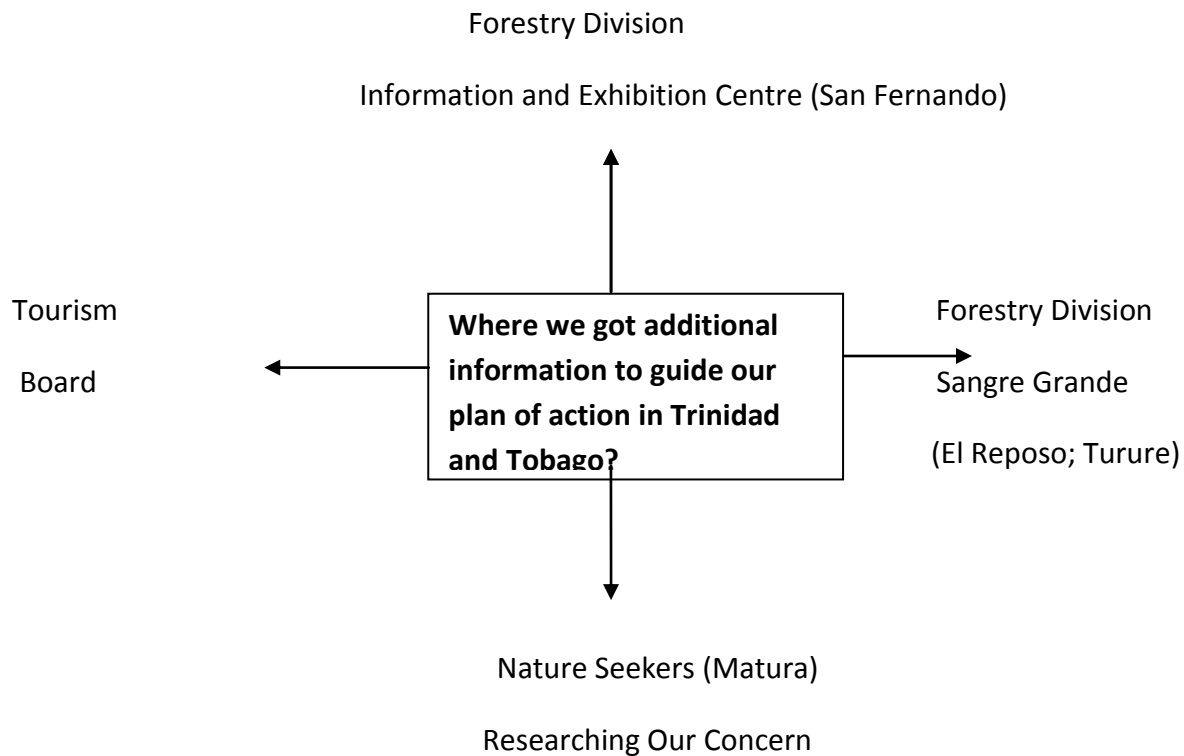


**Map of Trinidad showing Areas that visited
by the Leatherback Turtle**

Research of Concern

As previously stated, we strongly believe that members of our society should be greater informed of these animals and therefore develop not only a sense of pride but would want to do their part in the protecting and saving of these endangered species.

The following diagram highlights key sources that assisted our course of action.



As we pursued our undertaken course of action, the first avenue for obtaining information came from a planned field trip, including some parents and students to the Forestry Division Information and Exhibition centre on Wednesday 19th, February 2012.

At this centre we were all warmly received and through the presentations of interactive lecture, videos, magazines and viewing of habitat models we all learnt a lot about our forests and endangered animals to guide our project.

Some of the following questions that were asked by our group are:

1. Is the iguana an endangered species?
2. In which forested areas can the Pawi be found?
3. Which body or organization can we report to if there are signs of animal poaching?

Our presenter Mr. Ramcharran suggested many ways in which we can do our part to preserve our forest and create a sense of awareness and care for our endangered animals to the general public.

Ideas suggested:

1. Report any form of illegal activities to relevant authorities that pose a risk to endangered animals.
2. Help persons to understand that we must protect our endangered animals.
3. Do not consume meat from endangered animals.



Forester 1 Mr. Ramcharran presenting information to our group.



Viewing of Models



Other sources of information came from either through telephone contacts or the internet.

1.Ministry of Land and Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA)

Hilltop Lane

Chaguaramas: <http://agriculture.gov.tt/fplma/>

2.Ministry of Forestry Division: <http://mphe.gov.tt/agenciesdivisions/fd.html>

3. Sangre Grande Forestry Division:

400 Eastern Main Road

Guaico

Sangre Grande

Trinidad, West Indies

Tel. (868) 668-3825

4.Nature Seekers

PO Box 4535

10 1/4mm Toco Main Road, Matura, Trinidad W.I.

Tel/Fax: (868) 668-7337 or Cell: 868 347-2107

Email: natureseekers@gmail.com

5.Tourism Board: <http://www.tdc.co.tt/>

6. Endangered Animals:-Conservation Efforts: -Chaguaramas Development Authority

<http://www.chagdev.com>

Stakeholders/Supporters

Our project would not have taken place without the support rendered after by the following stakeholders:

1. The Principal and teachers of our schools
2. Friends, classmates and fellow students
3. Parents and other persons such as community members, game wardens, local government councilors and animal rights persons.

Most of these persons were contacted either through visitations or telephone contact with the exception of parents.

The following was a sample of the letter written to our parents:

Guaico Presbyterian School

Eastern Main Road,

Guaico, Sangre Grande.

February 1st, 2012

Dear Parent,

Our students would like to do more in the conservation and protecting of our endangered animals: the leatherback turtle, porcupine, pawi and manatee. We are tired of seeing news reports of:

- Our leatherback turtles being slaughtered on our beaches.
- The poaching of the pawi and porcupine.
- The insensitive ways in which some persons are recklessly contributing to the destruction of the manatee by destroying the swamps and mangroves, habitats of our manatee.

We are inviting you to a meeting, to be held on Wednesday 8th, February so we can discuss possible measures that can be taken to save our animals.

We appreciate all your support in this venture and look forward to seeing you.

Kind Regards, _____

Class Teacher

***The other group member sent a similar worded letter to her students' parents.**

Creating a Plan

Many Parents attended the meeting and plans were discussed and made to guide us in what measures can be taken to achieve success in this venture.

The following highlights the plans made:

- Field Trips to a) Forestry Information and Exhibition Centre b) Nature Seekers in Matura
- Preparation of brochures, charts, banners and models of animals to visually display our concern.
- A Walk through the main road of the town of Sangre Grande to highlight our concern to the public on Friday 24th, March 2012.



Parents 'Teachers Meeting

Taking Action

In our respective schools we proceeded with the preparation of making charts, leatherback models and big books containing information to sensitize the rest of the schools' populations on these endangered animals.



Our students showing models and other information on animals.

Our students, teachers and parents came out on Friday March 24th to participate in the **walk-a-thon** to highlight the cause of protecting our endangered animals.



Our Evaluation

This project was highly supportive of our schools' curriculum. Under the strands of Citizenship, Personal and Social Development and Problem Solving, Critical Thinking and Communication a wealth of opportunities, scaffolding needs and skills were created for our students as they pursued a course of action.

There was a display of enthusiasm and great concern from the students and encouragement from other teachers, principal and parents throughout this project. The visit to the Forestry Information and Exhibition Centre impacted a great deal on the students and parents' mind and as a result spurred their interest and willingness to want to do something to save our endangered species.

We strongly believe that without the collaborated effort of group members, our students and parents we would not have been able to achieve the successful implementation of our project. At the culmination of it we were able to educate and positively motivate others to show appreciation and preservation for our endangered animals including our environment and country as a whole.

References:

Websites:

Conservation Efforts . The official Site of the Chaguramas Development Committee .Endangered Animals Retrieved from ..http://www.chagdev.com/Pages/Chag_NParkConEff-Endanger%20Animals.htm

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<http://www.amazing-trinidad-vacations.com/leather-back-sea-turtle.html>

Google Maps. Retrieved from <http://www.google.tt/search?q=maps+of+trinidad&hl>

Nature Seekers. Wet Your feet in the Magic of Matura. Retrieved from

<http://natureseekers.org/>

Forestry Division Information and Exhibition Centre (San Fernando)

Nature Seekers Matura.

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