

Direct research/engagement to maintain threatened ecosystems and biodiversity

Student Engagement: Tableau Exhibition on “Saving Turtles – Sustainable Education for a Thriving Marine Future”

The School of Fisheries, Centurion University Paralakhemundi, organised a university-level Tableau exhibition on the theme “Saving Turtles: Sustainable Education for a Thriving Marine Future” on the eve of World Ocean Day on 8/06/2024. All batches of fisheries students participated enthusiastically, creating interactive Tableau dashboards to visualise data on marine biodiversity, turtle conservation, and ocean sustainability.

The exhibition was inaugurated in the university campus Tableau room, attended by the Registrar, Dean, and faculty members, who appreciated the students’ creative integration of technology and environmental awareness. The event highlighted Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) and their importance in reducing bycatch and protecting marine life.

This initiative fostered **student engagement, digital learning, and environmental responsibility, Community and Student Outreach for Sustainable Aquatic Ecosystems.**



Figure 1: World Ocean Day Tableau

Event – “Saving Turtles: Sustainable Education for a Thriving Marine Future” (2024)

Student Field Visit to Coastal and Estuarine Biodiversity Zones at Nuvularevu (2024)

As part of experiential learning, 36 students and two faculty members from the **School of Fisheries, Centurion University, Odisha** participated in **exposure visits to coastal and marine ecosystems on 28/09/2024 at Nuvularevu and adjacent estuarine zones.** These visits were designed to strengthen **conservation awareness, research orientation, and industry engagement** for maintaining marine biodiversity.

Biodiversity & Ecosystem Learning: Students studied mangrove ecosystems, estuarine biodiversity, and coastal fish habitats, observing the fragility of these ecosystems under pressures of pollution, climate change, and overfishing.

Research Engagement: In collaboration with the Fisheries Survey of India (FSI), students were introduced to fish stock assessment methods, biodiversity monitoring techniques, and marine habitat documentation. **Community & Industry Interaction:** Students engaged with local fisherfolk and small-scale aquaculture practitioners, documenting traditional conservation practices (like closed-season observance, gear restrictions) and learning about

Conservation Challenges Identified: Field reflections highlighted issues such as plastic accumulation on shorelines, degradation of coral patches, and declining fish catches — strengthening student understanding of ecosystem threats.

Outcomes:

- Cultivated a **research-oriented mindset** among students, linking classroom knowledge with **real-world marine conservation projects**.
- Strengthened **university–industry–community collaboration** for promoting sustainable utilisation of marine resources.



Figure 2: Beach Cleaning Drive by Centurion University Students at Nuvularevu Coast (2024)

Student and Faculty Outreach: Annual Fish Farmers’ Day Celebration – 10 July 2024

The School of Fisheries, Centurion University, Paralakhemundi, celebrated National Fish Farmers’ Day on 10 July 2024 to recognise the contributions of fish farmers and to promote awareness on sustainable aquaculture and ecosystem management under SDG 14 – Life Below Water.

The event witnessed the active participation of students, faculty members, SHG women, and local fish farmers, creating a strong platform for knowledge sharing and community engagement. Faculty experts delivered five technical lectures on topics such as water quality monitoring, fish health management, biosecurity, and biodiversity conservation.

Students presented live demonstrations on **Biofloc Technology (BFT)**, **Recirculatory Aquaculture Systems (RAS)**, **Aquaponics**, and **Ornamental Fish Culture**, linking classroom learning with real-world sustainability practices. As part of the programme, **ten progressive farmers and SHG women** were **felicitated with certificates** for their achievements in adopting eco-friendly aquaculture models.

The celebration engaged around **120 participants** and reinforced Centurion University's role as a **community knowledge hub**. It enhanced awareness about **responsible aquaculture practices**, **ecosystem health**, and **climate-resilient fisheries**, while strengthening **university–community partnerships** and **student experiential learning**.

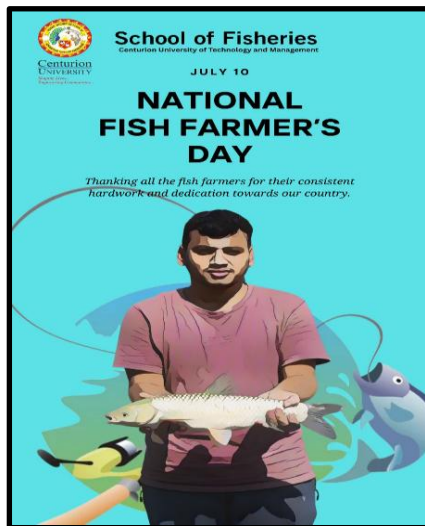


Figure 3: Faculty-Led Session on Biofloc Technology under Insights from a CIFA Scientist



Figure 4: SHG women interacted with students of the School of Fisheries, Centurion University



Figure 5: Student Presentation on the Importance of Fish Farmers' Day – Centurion University

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Student Engagement in Marine Conservation and Institutional Exposure (2024)

During the exposure visit at Vishakhapatnam-Andhra Pradesh in June 2024, a total of 23 students and one faculty member gained insights into marine species diversity, aquarium-based conservation practices, and habitat maintenance at the FSI Marine Aquarium. The programme emphasized the role of research institutions in biodiversity monitoring and sustainable fisheries management.

Students interacted with scientists and explored the diversity of marine species, as well as **aquarium-based conservation efforts**. The visit highlighted the importance of **fish stock assessment, biodiversity monitoring, and habitat protection** in sustaining marine resources.

Outcomes: The programme linked **field realities with institutional research**, enabling students to develop both **practical conservation skills** and an understanding of **scientific approaches to biodiversity protection**.



Figure 6: Student Visit to Fisheries Survey of India (FSI) Marine Aquarium, Visakhapatnam (2024)



Figure 7: Live-preserved specimens of marine and estuarine fish species