

Project Update: January 2013

So far I have covered close to 80% of the target sites which account to 25 localities within and outside the protected area network, across the evergreen forests of Western Ghats. I plan to carry on with my field work and collect more primary data till the month of June 2013.

During the last 8 months of my field work we were able to collect data on distribution and abundance of more than 150 endemic and threatened trees. In addition to these, we have located new populations of six critically endangered species such as *Nothopegia aureo-fulva*, *Hopea erosa*, *Meteoromyrtus wayandense* and *Atuna indica*.

Our preliminary research also suggests that we may have discovered a couple of species which we suspect could be new to science. We will start working on the species description manuscripts as soon as we gather enough evidence about their identity.

Due to various logistical constraints and resulting sampling limitation we have missed out on a number of threatened species for which we haven't been able to collect any data on distribution and status. However, with the few records that we currently have, we were able to carry out photo documentation of various stages for many of these poorly known species.