

Project Update: August 2014

Current activities and updates

1. Lepidoptera survey and collection of baseline data

Faunal surveys were continued with visits to the landscape in April 2014 and July 2014. An extremely rare butterfly species, Doehrty's oakblue was re-discovered in India after 60 years was recorded during the last survey, details of which are available at <http://www.ifoundbutterflies.org/#!/sp/2833/Arhopala-belphoebe>. The manuscript listing over 400 butterflies species recorded in the landscape during the Rufford-supported surveys for publication in a technical journal is in the final stages of preparation.

2. Supporting tourism at Eaglenest and Pakke

- a. The book titled "Butterflies and Moths of Pakke Tiger Reserve" was published in January 2014 to support the eco-tourism efforts at Pakke. Proceeds from this book go to the Pakke Tiger Conservation Foundation (PTCF), which supports local conservation efforts and welfare of forest staff. In the last 6 months, more than 65 copies of the book have been shipped, contributing Rs 35,000/- (GBP 350) to the PTCF, as well generating publicity for the eco-tourism efforts at Pakke.
- b. A nature tour to Eaglenest WLS for butterfly and bird watching has been organized for 21st -28th September 2014. This will be entirely conducted by the members of local community. More than 100 catalogues titled "Butterflies of Eaglenest" and "Moths of Eaglenest", prepared to support eco-tourism have been shipped, contributing Rs 7500 (£80) to the Bugun Welfare Society and helping to create awareness about Eaglenest's butterflies and moths.
- c. A butterfly and moth tour to Pakke Tiger Reserve has been launched from 9th -15th November 2014 to support the local community ecotourism initiative.

3. Local capability building and awareness building/outreach

- a. A 2-day nature awareness and capability building workshop for forest staff and members of the local community, with a focus on butterflies and moths, was conducted at the Tippi Range of Pakke Tiger Reserve on 21st and 22nd April 2014. The book "Butterflies and Moths of Pakke Tiger Reserve" was distributed to the participants.
- b. A 6-day nature awareness and capability building workshop for forest staff, school children and teachers was conducted at Seijosa and Tippi (3 days at each location), two separate ranges of Pakke Tiger Reserve between 26th July to 2nd August 2014. These workshops were conducted in partnership with other organisations (Leaps and Bounds, The Gerry Martin Project, Wildlife Trust of India). The training programme was attended by over 100 children, 40 teachers and 40 forest staff and served to build local awareness of Pakke's biodiversity, including butterflies and

moths. A booklet highlighting Pakke's biodiversity was distributed to the participants.

c. As part of the above programme, on 27th July 2014, 40 children from the VKV Boys School, Seijosa, at the edge of Pakke Tiger Reserve, participated in National Moth Week (<http://nationalmothweek.org>), a global event to popularise moth watching held from 19th -27th July 2014 throughout the world.

d. Moth identification

Identification of moths recorded during the survey is ongoing, and 720 species have currently been identified to the genus/species level.



Tippi Forest staff on night walk with Gerry. © Sanjay Sondhi.





Tippi CE program; Seijosa Forest guards' workshop; Govt School Workshop with participants and Tippi Forest staff group. © Sanjay Sondhi.



Govt School Children signing the pledge. © Sanjay Sondhi.