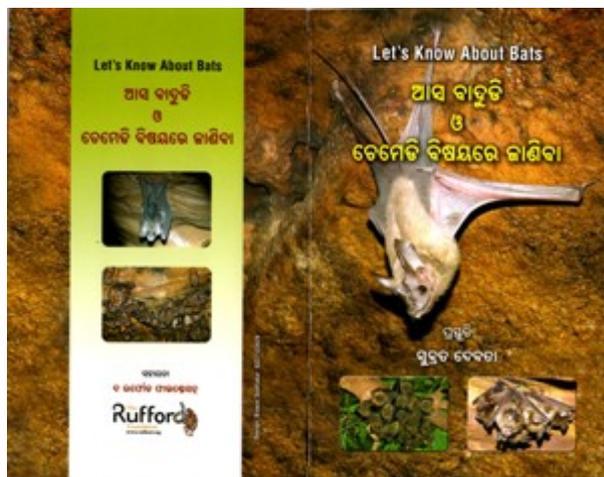


Project Update: January 2014

The local forest department was approached and necessary official permission for survey and awareness campaign was obtained in form of permission letter and assured support. A meeting with forest officials and concerned Forest Range Officers of Similipal Biosphere Reserve was conducted and importance of this project was explained. A survey format was distributed among all frontline staffs for get an idea of presence of bat roosting sites in their locality and accordingly field survey was planned.



The field survey was formally started on 15th December 2013 due to little bit delayed in



receiving the bat detector from USA. A manual explaining the ecological importance of bats and identification keys to different families in the regional language (Odia language) has been developed by the team members to be distributed among the frontline staffs and other stakeholders. The RSGF logo was used in the manual.

species like Indian flying fox, greater short-nosed fruit bat, fulvous fruit bat, greater Asiatic yellow house bat, Blyth's horseshoe bat, and Kelaart's pipistrelle have been recorded from Similipal Biosphere Reserve and the survey is going on.

The roost survey, mist net capturing and acoustic monitoring have been started along with photographing different bat species and documenting their local threats. To date

Regular consultation is going on with the bat experts from Indian and abroad for making the acoustic monitoring and bat call recording.

We could not start the outreach activities in different schools and institutions because of student's examination and it will be started by February 2014. A rapport has been developed with locals and interested individuals have included in the survey.

