

Project Update: August 2009

The period from May - August 2009 has been marked by the following activities:

- Four presentations have been done during different events and occasions.
- A public awareness campaign had been done for local people and visitors of St Katherine City.
- Training the St. Katherine Protectorate (SKP) staff on mark-release-recapture technique.
- Determine the vegetation cover in butterfly habitat by botanist Rangers.
- Project team and SKP staff have been doing the Sinai Baton Blue Butterfly annual survey since end of April 2009.

Public Awareness:

- Depending on SKP Visitor Center and the public awareness materials (brochures, stickers and presentations) in two Languages (Arabic and English), the project organized the Summer Environmental Week Campaign in St Katherine City to raise awareness for locals and visitors. This campaign ran for 7 days and included many activities:
 1. Setup a Sinai Baton Blue Butterfly's Friends group. This group included 12 people aged 8-16 years.
 2. Presentation has been done for the attendees to learn about the value of this butterfly and its importance in our ecosystem.
 3. Workshop with attendees for sharing in mitigating the threats facing the butterfly.
 4. Field trip to butterfly habitat.
 5. Cleaning campaign day: the day's slogan was "we clean to conserve our butterfly".
 6. Butterfly's Friends group visited butterfly habitats and shared in cleaning these habitats, watching the butterfly in its real habitats and learned how to determine the threats and how to think to mitigate these threats.
- The project was invited to make a presentation on the project activities and the threats facing this butterfly during The Eco Guide Certification Program in South Sinai, Egypt where about 60 tour guides from different Cities in South Sinai, Egypt gathered to attend a training course for *How to be an Eco-Guide* under supervision of Nature and Heritage Conservationists Association (NHCA) and under sponsorship of Leeds Metropolitan University.
- The project was invited to make a presentation on the project activities during the Egyptian Protected Areas Managers' annual meeting in Sharm El Shikh city, South Sinai, Egypt, where the director of Nature Conservation Sector of Egypt, Nature Conservation Sector consultants and more than 75 rangers from different parks in Egypt attended.

Training:

The project ran three training course during the last period.

- The project team and SKP ecologists had been trained on MRR technique to determine the density of the butterfly.
- Sinai Baton Blue Butterfly Conservation Project under sponsorship of Rufford Small Grants Foundation (RSG) in cooperation with Dracaena ombet conservation project under sponsorship of Conservation Leadership program (CLP), organized a training course for the Egyptian rangers subjoined to Egyptian Protected Areas Managers' annual meeting in Sharm El Shikh city, South Sinai, Egypt, in:-
 1. Geographical Information System (GIS) in conservation.
 2. Project proposal preparing and project management.

Fieldwork:

- Project staff and SKP staff have been doing the annual survey for Sinai Baton Blue Butterfly in Farsh Shoeib. The output data from this survey is in the analysis stage using statistical and mapping programmes.
- Determination of the vegetation cover for the entire flora within the butterfly's habitat has been done by the botanists and that data is in the analysis stage.

