

Project Update: May 2009

The period from receiving the money until now is marked by the following events:

- Meeting with project team to organise the tasks and responsibility.
- Meeting with St. Katherine Protectorate, stakeholders and other interests.
- Design and printing the public awareness tools (brochure, banner, stickers and presentations).
- Implemented many presentations within different events.
- Local community meeting.
- School visits.
- Field inspection to examine the proposed enclosure area.
- Field equipment purchasing request.

After receiving the fund;

- Project team meeting for task assignment and design the project activities timetable.
- Meeting with St. Katherine Protectorate manager, deputy manager, rangers, community guards, stakeholders and other interests to discuss how they can contribute.

Public Awareness:

- Design and printing the public awareness tools (brochures, stickers and presentations) in two languages (Arabic and English), which will be distributed during the awareness campaign.
- School visiting; visiting some schools, to raise the knowledge about the Sinai Baton Blue.
- Using St. Katherine Protectorate visitor center, which contains a panel about the butterfly, as a base home for project awareness.
- 10 presentations done for local community, stakeholders, students and teachers in schools and college students in universities.
- The project has been invited to presentation during the greatest symposium in Egypt, in the Cairo International Conferences Center in Cairo where about 3000 persons from different cities in Egypt were gathered to share in conference of Preparing Professional Leader under sponsorship of Nature Conservation Sector (NCS).
- Presentation was done for the European Commission staff (Markus Cornaro, European commissioner, Pascal Odul, EC Delegation, Ann Semon, EC Delegation and Khaled Metwally, Director of South Sinai Regional Development Programme) during their visit to St. Katherine.
- Egyptian radio and television union selects Sinai Baton Blue Butterfly as a model for Egyptian endemic and endangered species for preparing reportage about it.

Field work:

- Project staff has been finished the fenced enclosure around the main gully of Farsh Shoeib where host plants and butterflies are dominant. It was the first step to reduce the impacts on the butterfly and its larval host plant. The enclosure built by connected wire to prevent any access for any one (human or grazer animal), this enclosure covers about 1.7 km²
- Paved track made around the habitat of the butterfly to reduce the trample impact of tourists and local people on the butterfly habitat.

Role of Bedouin local community in the project:

The local community are involved in all project activities. They are the main persons to transfer the materials to the working area by their livestock animals (camels and donkeys); also they are the workers for establishing the paved track and enclosure. The projects support the local community by wages and also keep the local traditional design or technique being used by the locals.

Field equipment:

The project got most of the field equipment which are mentioned in project proposal except the weather station which has already been requested;

1. Laptop Toshiba
2. GPS Garmin 72
3. Digital Canon camera

Strength points in the projects:

- Enthusiastic team works on the project activities.
- Stakeholders (St. Katherine Protectorate staff and Director of Nature Conservation Sector (NCS)) support the project by making available tools and everything lead to project success.
- St. Katherine Protectorate gives the project permit to use the St. Katherine Protectorate's visitor center in presentation session.
- Local community interested to helping in the project success.

Weakness points:

The project budget recorded in project proposal was £5,996.48 which equals 63,334 EGP (Egyptian pounds). The project received \$9,102 which equals 49,000 EGP but the project team will cover this drop in budget from their own expenses to complete all proposed project activities.