

Project Update: December 2017

Permissions to conduct the campaigns were acquired from the Directorate of Public Instruction (to conduct education campaigns in indigenous schools managed by them), the Tribal Affairs Department (No objection certificate and permissions to conduct campaigns at Model residential Schools) and the Forest Department (forest entry permissions since some schools were situated within Protected Areas). Eight out of the 14 districts in Kerala were identified to be occupied by the purple frog and campaigns and surveys were focused in these eight districts. A total of 1597 students from 30 indigenous schools participated in the campaign. Questionnaire surveys with the adults were undertaken with 136 respondents from 27 indigenous settlements.

The first phase of the fieldwork that consisted of the pre-evaluation survey and the educational campaign on the purple frog was completed. The questionnaire surveys were also conducted with the parents of the children who attended the campaign to understand their perceptions, knowledge and cultural significance regarding the purple frog and also to understand the occurrence of amphibian utilisation among them. The campaign included a story book reading session for lower primary students. The presentation for the upper primary students had a short documentary on the habitat and behavior of the purple frog. It was continued with a power point presentation regarding the different habitats occupied by frogs, their life-cycle, their position in the food web and their importance in the ecosystem. A pre evaluation survey where they chose their favorite species among six vertebrates including the purple frog was conducted before the campaign for both the lower and upper primary students.

The second phase of field work started from November 2017 on acquiring permits from the concerned institutions. However, permissions were received only from the Tribal Affairs Department and the Directorate of Public Instruction. Forest entry permissions have not been granted yet and hence focus group discussions and post campaign surveys with adults of indigenous communities have not yet been undertaken in some locations. The post-campaign survey has been conducted with 1139 children from 20 schools and 25 adults from 12 settlements. Colouring sheets featuring six species of frogs and crayons were distributed to each child during the post campaign survey. This sheet also had an illustrated game where the children had to find the maximum number of frogs in a forest ecosystem. Focus group discussions were conducted at two settlements. The short documentary on the purple frog was screened before the discussion.

Following are some photographs taken during field work.



Children with their colouring sheets.





Video screening for adults.