

Project Update: September 2010

The detailed socio-economic survey was conducted in Anamalai hills from June – July 2010. Data were collected on a range of variables and issues based upon the characteristics of local communities that would be central to the integration of resource-use, community participation and biodiversity conservation. The survey was conducted at the household level from the local communities in order to assess their characteristics, their dependence on forests and other key variables that would be central to the conservation of forest fragments. The questionnaire was standardized for the native languages (Tamil and Malayalam) and took approximately 10-12 minutes to complete. About 240 responses were obtained, and the data analysis in progress.

Focus group discussions were also conducted in order to explore the views of the local community on issues relevant to conservation of rainforest fragment and to arrive at a general consensus for the local community. About twelve focus groups were selected through convenience sampling, which comprised of three to eight individuals from the local community. Each discussion took around 20 – 25 minutes.

In addition, questionnaires were also conducted with forest department officials and conservation researchers to determine their perceptions towards conservation of rainforest fragments. Information on the conservation issues existing in the area, their perceptions on the establishment of community based conservation reserves and the role of local communities in biodiversity conservation was determined. About 14 forest department official and 8 conservation researchers were responded in the survey.

The data analysis, both spatial and non-spatial, is in progress