

**Project Update: May 2009**

We have visited the Mayurjharna Elephant Reserve as during this time the herds of migratory elephants return to Dalma hills using these corridors. During this period we interacted with the ground level forest staffs to know the difficulties and limitations faced by them during elephant driving. Their main problem they informed was lack of communication equipment, powerful rechargeable torches, vehicles etc during elephant driving. The villagers informed us that during elephant driving forest department doesn't supply sufficient oil to lighten the torches to protect their crops. We also found that there is lack of cooperation and communication between different departments of government. We also studied the socio-economic conditions in villages to understand how and why they depend on the forest resources. We studied this to find out the way to reduce the human interference in elephant habitat. We've also designed and published an awareness leaflet in local language (Bengali) for public distribution (Content Pg01: Introduction; why elephant is a threatened species; why elephants come to villages; activities of Forest Department to reduce HEC and Pg02: do's and don'ts before and after migratory elephant season).

The leaflet is a two-page document in Bengali. The left page, titled 'মুম্বকর্মা হাতি সংরক্ষণ অঙ্গন' (Elephant Conservation Area), features the Rufforo logo at the top right. It contains several sections: 'হাতি কীভাবে বিপন্ন' (How elephants are endangered), 'হাতি কেন বিপন্ন' (Why elephants are endangered), and 'হাতি সংরক্ষণ কেন গুরুত্বপূর্ণ' (Why elephant conservation is important). The right page, titled 'মাসিক ও হাতির মনস্তাত্ত্বিক তথ্যের আলোকে হাতি সংরক্ষণ' (Elephant Conservation in the Light of Monthly and Psychological Information), includes 'হাতি আচরণ' (Elephant Behavior), 'হাতি বাসস্থান' (Elephant Habitat), and 'হাতি সংরক্ষণ' (Elephant Conservation). Both pages feature illustrations of elephants and the Rufforo logo.

Awareness leaflet



Left: Physical barrier to restrict elephant movement. Right: Sama collecting data from forest dept staffs