

Project Update: June 2005

Participatory monitoring was initiated in Tumkur and Hassan district of Karnataka in March in collaboration with the Karnataka Forest Department. An order was issued by the Principal Conservator of Forests (PCCF), Karnataka to conduct of the study.

-A meeting was held with the Chief Conservator of forests and the Conservator of forests to discuss the project components and the criteria for selection of villages to conduct the study.

-A scoping meeting was conducted on July 6th and 8th 2005 to discuss the methodology and get the views and perspectives of various stakeholders. The meeting was attended by ecologists, Karnataka Forest Department officials, NGOs and VFC presidents. The issues addressed, methodology and the data analysis and usefulness of information was presented and discussed.

-Preliminary field studies and discussions were held with selected VFCs of Hassan and Tumkur district to undertake a film making on Joint Forest Management and formation of VFC in Karnataka. The Channarayanadurga village in Tumkur and Adagur village in Hassan was selected. The script for film making has been finalized and will be shot after the monsoons.