

## **Project Update: October 2005**

Our one-year project is nearing its completion. We feel that this is the beginning of a movement to Conserve Kolkata's Biodiversity.

Students of Classes VII and VIII of 15 schools spread across the city have viewed a slide illustrated talk on "Kolkata's Biodiversity" followed by very interesting interactive sessions. Core groups of 25 students and 2/3 teachers have taken part in a local biodiversity field trip and played nature games. One school dropped out due to internal problems so Core Groups of 14 schools took part in the Biodiversity Hotspot trip to Indian Botanic Garden. The Core Groups have formulated projects, which are underway in 14 schools. Few illustrative examples are:

- All schools have conducted an intra-school awareness programme regarding Kolkata's Biodiversity;
- Survey on the status of the Water Monitor in their locality and campaign to preserve its habitat (Sarangabad Jajneshwari Pathshala Girls' High School);
- Local plant diversity study and tree plantation in local parks (Metropolitan Institution);
- Name tags on trees in school garden and establishing and maintaining a medicinal plant garden (Lake Town Government Sponsored Girls' High School);
- Local awareness campaign regarding wetland conservation, conservation of electricity and drinking water (Children's Foundation).