

## **Project Update: September 2006**

The team has been able to accomplish all the necessary data set on the agenda of the project and is back from the field to carry out data analysis and report preparation work. Though the team is now all in their respective home towns or in universities our heart and soul is still with the people in the islands, with whom we all share a special bond. Suresh and me are busy with our thesis too and Ivan after a successful field is back home with his family to carry out some plantation work.

Martin, Emanuel and Amber are all in Central Nicobars and are busy with the setting up of permanent shelters which has commenced now. Simron wasn't able to join us in field and instead Puneet was there to help us with the education work. Informal discussions with the authorities has strengthened our interpretation that there needs to be a very formal and serious and extensive conservation education in the islands if we need to save what is still remaining. Inappropriate and illogical introduction of animals from the mainland India are posing to be a future threat on the already threatened ecosystem in the Central Nicobars. Recently a few horses for luggage carting have been introduced in the islands. No though seems to have been taken in the aftermath of such unplanned and thoughtless actions. Awareness of the threats of such action is on prime agenda of all conservationists in the islands.

