

Project Update: June 2015

1. We now have a group of 39 people (representing 39 households) from all three villages who have signed up to ecotourism. They have named themselves the 'Juhila Ecotourism Group' (JEG) after the river Juhila which flows in the area. The group is formulating the rules for its functioning as well as deliberating on the sort of ecotourism activities they would like to begin with, and the training they may need.
2. We have also secured a satellite image of the area (attached) and are conducting a land-use and management analysis.
3. The process of mapping out possible routes for walking and cycling in the area has begun. The JEG is leading this process.
4. We have secured an in-principle agreement with senior officials of the Madhya Pradesh Forest Department for the signing of an MoU between the department and JEG, once it is registered as a legal entity. This MoU will permit the JEG to carry out ecotourism activities in the forest area adjacent to the three villages, as well as define the roles, responsibilities and benefit sharing. The Forest Department has also agreed to support training and capacity building of the JEG.

