

## Project Update: September 2014

### Phase I – Three months:

The surveys of bat roosts in prime habitats of Panchmahal, Chotaudeipur and Sabarkanta are almost complete. The roosts of fulvous fruit bats and flying foxes located during the first phase of work were monitored on a regular basis. Photographic evidence of the species of bats and their roosts were collected from the study areas. Other scientific details such as GPS readings and assessment of possible threats to their habitat were assessed and documented.



Megaderma spasma, Ratanmahal Wildlife Sanctuary.

The observation of “mid-wife” like behavior of fulvous fruit bat was recorded in detail and extensive literature survey was done to decipher the reasons for the same. Professor Paul Bates was also consulted in this regard, and he too has not observed similar behaviour in fulvous fruit bats. There are reports on “mid-wife” like behaviour in *Pteropus* but this observation possibly is

the first in fulvous fruit bat. Hence, a research article is being prepared on the same and will be shared in the next report.

Several bat awareness campaigns were conducted in proposed areas by the student volunteers working for this project. Awareness material in form of printed literature (in English and vernacular languages) was freely distributed.

Sighting and photography of *Megaderma spasma* was also an important event as this is the first record from central Gujarat.

I could not complete the work of updating the educational booklet due to time constraints. The same will be done in this month and RSG office will be updated in this regard. *RSGF's logo has been prominently displayed in all materials and at all venues.*