

## Project Update: September 2015

This year I mostly concentrated on public lectures in educational institutions. Through approximately 30 popular talks I have now directly addressed over 6,000 people of the general public in six of the eight North East Indian states, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, and Tripura. The audience included people from the non-literate farming communities and the literate community (school / college / university / bureaucrats). At least 1000 participants got to see a live caecilian for the first time in their lives through the live demonstrations. The audiences were really excited and appreciative of the live demonstrations and it seemed to me that several thousands were convinced caecilians were indeed harmless. Children and adults alike were absolutely thrilled to learn about caecilians and had endless questions. A large section of the people I addressed expressed willingness to be more sympathetic generally towards wildlife and particularly towards caecilians after being educated.

The public outreach lectures received quite a lot of attention from the local media and at least five or six local newspapers carried news about the community education and conservation programme helping spread the knowledge to the larger sections of the public.



RG Kamei, popular talk in one of the schools in Tamenglong, Manipur, India.