

## **Project Update: January 2010**

### **Introduction:**

Sinai Baton Blue Butterfly is a flagship species for Sinai, Egypt. The Rufford Small Grants Foundation is the first organization that helps to conserve the smallest butterfly in the world by funding this project. The aim of the project is to conserve this butterfly in its habitats. The project started in February 2009.

### **The activities of the project may be summarized as follows:**

1. Implement an annual survey for the butterfly during the activity season using MRR. Climatic data will be collected by the portable weather station.
2. Design and implement a paved path around the Farsh Shoeib habitat to encourage visitors not to trample the site, using environmentally friendly materials.
3. Reactivating the traditional half agreement used by local Bedouin to prevent over-harvesting in wadis; applied to Farsh Shoeib, this will control grazing during the active season. Agreement will entail giving these people alternative feed for their livestock.
4. Make a fenced enclosure around the main gully of Farsh Shoeib where host plants and butterflies are dominate.
5. Public awareness campaigns will directed toward local communities and tourists to embed the ideas of conservation and ecotourism, by making presentations and workshops, and distributing printed material.
6. All of these activities have been done and reported in the previous reports.

### **The period from Nov. 2009 until now is marked by the following activities:**

- Workshop with local people and other foreigners to draw the future of the Sinai Baton Blue Butterfly.
- Prepare for the first national day for Sinai Baton Blue Butterfly.
- Monitoring the butterfly habitats after the heavy rain and torrent that received during January 2010.

### **Detailed activities:**

- The project ran a workshop with many people from different interest groups to map the future of the Sinai Baton Blue Butterfly to overcome the threats and try to implement a plan for any risk and threat that may face this butterfly in the future
- Using the SKP Visitor Center and the public awareness materials (brochures, stickers and presentations) in two Languages (Arabic and English), the project team received people from different interest groups to increase and to raise the awareness for locals and visitors about Sinai Baton Blue Butterfly.

- Sinai Baton Blue Butterfly's Friends group prepared to celebrate the first national day for the Sinai Baton Blue Butterfly. During preparing for this day:
  - The Sinai Baton Blue Butterfly's Friends group draws a model for this butterfly in the white T shirt to wear during this day.
  - Prepare for a marathon for conserve the butterfly.
  - Meeting with tourists and local people to raise the awareness about Sinai Baton Blue Butterfly.
- The project team ran many field visits to the butterfly habitats after heavy rains in the butterfly habitat; this type of rain has not happened for 25 years. So that it is very important to record this event and measure its effect on this butterfly and its habitats.

