

Project Update: March 2009

We have visited the *Daldoli* village under *Kankrajhore* Beat as the village is near the entry-route of migratory elephants and severely affected by the herd of migratory elephants. The villagers are quite habituated with the problems created by the elephants. There is also problem of residential elephants. We studied an old earthen dam there. The dam was created approximately 20 years ago. The dam is now totally silted and unusable. The location of the dam is very good as a water source as it is near to the forest where the herd of elephants stay for a short period but quite far from the village. There is also a natural saltlick. We are recommending the forest department to reconstruct the dam. During our field study in this area we found that this area (Kankrajhore and adjacent area) is very rich in fodder plants. Some fodder plants like *Kumbhi* we found only here. The study found that there is good diversity of fodder species, but the quantity is not enough to support a large herd of elephants. Therefore, in Mayurjharna Elephant Reserve the crop-raiding by elephants is not only accidental but the reason is also fodder scarcity in forest. As we have mentioned in our previous report, the new rate of compensation makes satisfy the villagers (except the rate of compensation for crop damage). Presently we are compiling and analyzing the collected data for further works.

