

Project Update: August 2010

A 2-day visit was undertaken to the Bheemashankar area and the following activities were conducted: -

1) Session with local educator and some youth group members

It was agreed upon in a previous meeting that we would start the workshops in the schools in Bhorgiri and Yelavli, through the local educator and interested youth group members. As a preparatory session, we had a discussion with Sangita (volunteer from Yelavli), and Supe baba (volunteer from Bhorgiri) on the Sahyadris (Western Ghats), and different forest ecosystems in India. Chandrakant (local educator) conducted this session with them.

2) Session with school children of Bhorgiri

The session started with the game of 'Tailing the Shekru', which followed by the discussions regarding the Shekru (giant squirrel), its appearance, diet, call, importance, habitat and threats to the existence of the species. There was a lot of enthusiasm amongst the students as well as the teachers of the school, who participated wholeheartedly in the activity. One of the teachers, Mr Bhagit has agreed to attend training workshops for educators, when conducted in Bhorgiri.

3) Session with school children of Yelavli

There is a primary school in Yelavli village and since the age group is small (3 to 7 years), we have kept the activities very basic and simple. Chandrakant and Sangita facilitated the Shekru game and discussions regarding the Shekru. Some of the mothers of the children, and the schoolteacher participated actively in the game as well as the discussion. We did a demonstration of a craft activity called the "Leaf Zoo", which is making animal shapes with different leaves on paper, and this activity will be conducted by Chandrakant and Sangita in the school.

4) Session with Chandrakant

Chandrakant is now preparing to handle sessions in schools independently, and hence went over the material and content with him, which he would be using in the next workshop.