

Project Update: January 2009

Bird Sampling

Species documentation bird sampling has been carried out in three major agro-ecosystems: 1) tea-dominated; 2) tea and coffee-dominated; 3) coffee-dominated. Preliminary results show that habitat 2 had more bird species. Nevertheless, larger birds such as birds of prey that were common in the region in the past were not found.

Vegetation sampling was done and common trees were identified and classified according to abundance and use. Apart from coffee and tea, the dominant tree species in all the three habitats were *Grevillea robusta* and *Eucalyptus* sp. Habitat 2, dominated by both tea and coffee had the highest plant diversity.

Environmental Education and Community Beekeeping

From interviews carried out, it is clear that beekeeping is restricted to the older generation of men (45 years and above) and is on an inheritance basis. All the beekeepers in the region keep the traditional log hive made from tree trunks. However we have introduced hybrid beehives that use plastic soda or bread carrying crates/boxes. Wood is only used to make the top bars and plywood to line the inside of the hive, therefore, a tree does not need to be cut.



Teaching members of the community to construct the hybrid beehives

Tree nurseries

Trees seedlings in the nurseries are now ready for planting and plans are underway to mobilize the community to plant them along the road reserves and rivers in the coming wet season (April/ May 2009).



Trees in a nursery ready for planting