BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION
THROUGH EDUCATION
IN INDIA

Isaac Kehimkar
Bombay Natural History Society
India
INDIA- a mega diverse country

- Ten biogeographic zones
- One of the world’s 12-mega diversity countries that together support two-thirds of the world’s biological resources.
- Two biodiversity hotspots- Northeast and Western Ghats
- 1501 species of butterflies
DIVERSE BUTTERFLY HABITATS
BUTTERFLY DIVERSITY IN INDIA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Butterfly Families</th>
<th>No. of species</th>
<th>India</th>
<th>World</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hesperids</td>
<td>3500</td>
<td>321</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papilionids</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pierids</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>109</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lycaenids</td>
<td>6000</td>
<td>443</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nymphalids</td>
<td>6000</td>
<td>521</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SKIPPERS- 321 species
SWALLOWTAILS - 107 species
WHITES AND YELLOWS - 109 species
BLUES - 443 species
NYMPHALIDS – 521 species
Butterfly Photography is much practiced

Amateurs getting involved in butterfly studies

Establishment of Butterfly E-groups.

Establishment of Butterfly Gardens and Butterfly Parks

Media support.
BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION: Indian Scenario

Wildlife Protection Act, 1972
Endangered Butterflies listed under Schedule I & II
Biodiversity Act, 2002
THREATS

- Habitat Loss
- Illegal Trade
- Biotic Pressure
- Man- animal conflict
- General ignorance
- Non-implementation of laws
INDIA’S SOCIO-ECONOMIC SCENARIO

- World’s 2nd most populous country
- Population growth rate of 1.3%
- Economic growth rate of 9.2%
- 35% of people live on less than $1 a day
- 70% of people live in rural areas
- 46% of total land area is cultivated
- Enormous pressure on India’s natural resources.
- Protected areas less than 5% of total land.
BNHS AND BUTTERFLIES

- Specimen Insect collection - 50,000
- Butterfly collection - 25,000
- University PG studies
- Distance Learning Course in Basic Entomology
- Lepidoptera research carried out by staff and members
- BNHS Journal since 1886
BNHS AWARENESS PROGRAMMES

- Breakfast with Butterflies
- Butterfly Watching Trails
- Butterfly Watch Nature Camps
- Bash with Bugs
- Meal with Moths
- Publications of books and booklets
GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES
INDIA’S FIRST BUTTERFLY PARK - Bannerghatta National Park, Bangalore
Area: 7.5 acres
Cost: Rs. 50 million
SECOND BUTTERFLY PARK - Himachal Pradesh

- **Location**: Shimla
- **Area**: 10 acres
- **Cost**: Rs 60 million
- **Highlights**: Includes conservatory, museum and nature park
- **Conservation Measures**: Initiation of butterfly farming.

Himachal has a rich butterfly fauna close to 300 species.
INDIA’S FIRST OPEN AIR BUTTERFLY PARK - Sikkim

- **Location:** Rangrang
- **Area:** 14 acres
- **Cost:** Rs. 60 millions
- **Highlights:** Includes museum and enclosed park.

Close to 50% of India’s butterfly fauna is found in Sikkim which also the only organic state.

More parks to be established near Chennai, Pune, Hyderabad and other cities.
RECOMMENDATIONS

- Design conservation action with help of local people’s participation
- Popularise Butterfly Eco-tourism
- Introducing Butterfly Farming
- Establish wildlife sanctuaries exclusively for endangered butterflies.
- Promote conservation education among local communities.
- Strict enforcement of laws, and protection
- Strong government support & political will
- Promote research, adapt management.
Long live the passion for butterflies in our hearts....

THANK YOU