

# **BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION THROUGH EDUCATION IN INDIA**

A young boy with a joyful expression, wearing an orange t-shirt, is holding a large butterfly on his index finger. The butterfly has yellow wings with black markings and a blue and red pattern on the hindwings. The background is a soft-focus green and purple garden.

Isaac Kehimkar  
Bombay Natural History Society  
India

# INDIA- a mega diverse country

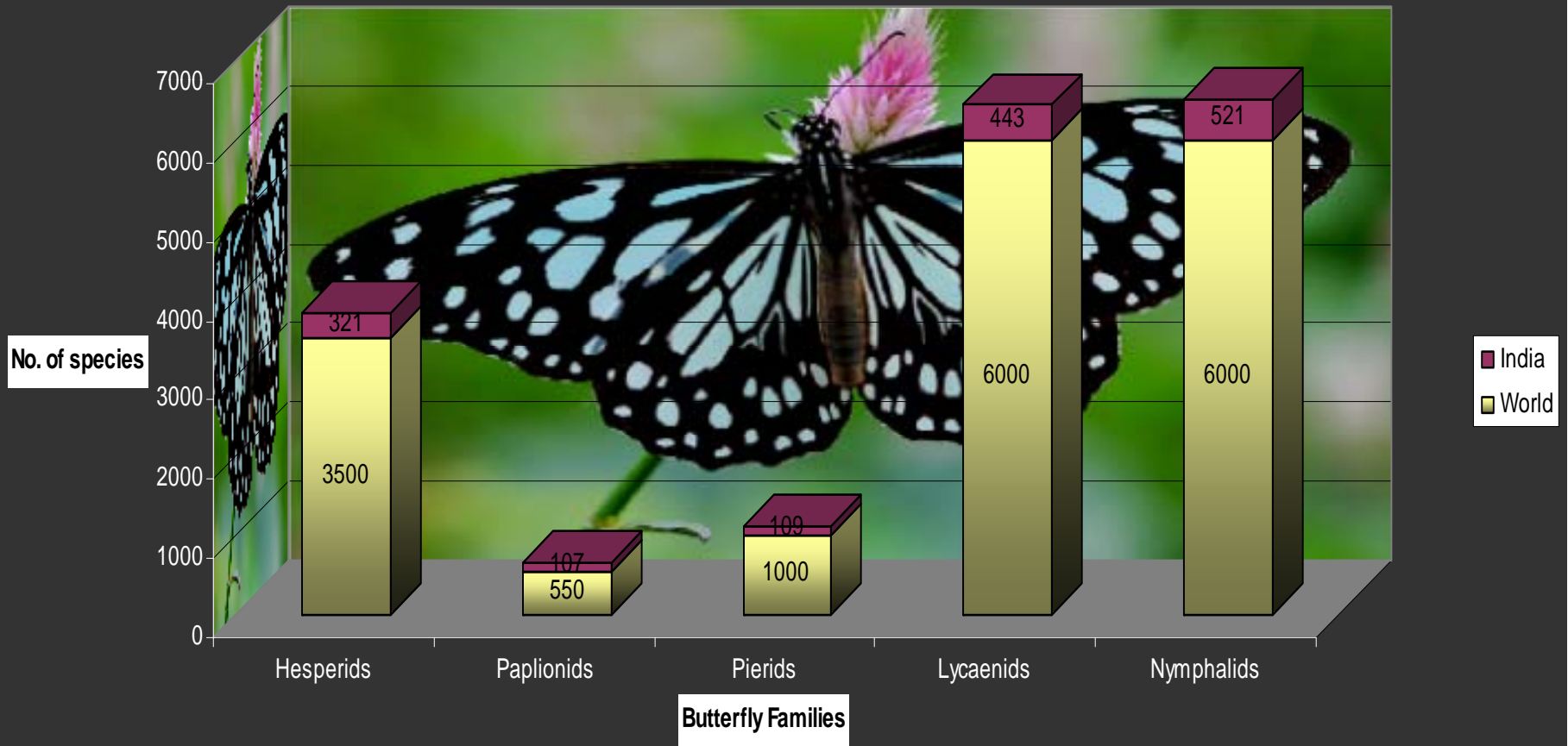
- Ten biogeographic zones
- One of the world's 12-mega diversity countries that together support two-thirds of the world's biological resources.
- Two biodiversity hotspots- Northeast and Western Ghats
- 1501 species of butterflies



# DIVERSE BUTTERFLY HABITATS



# BUTTERFLY DIVERSITY IN INDIA



# SKIPPERS- 321 species



# SWALLOWTAILS - 107 species



# WHITES AND YELLOWS -109 species



# BLUES - 443 species



# NYMPHALIDS – 521 species



# BUTTERFLYING IN INDIA

- Butterflying is as popular as Birdwatching
- 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

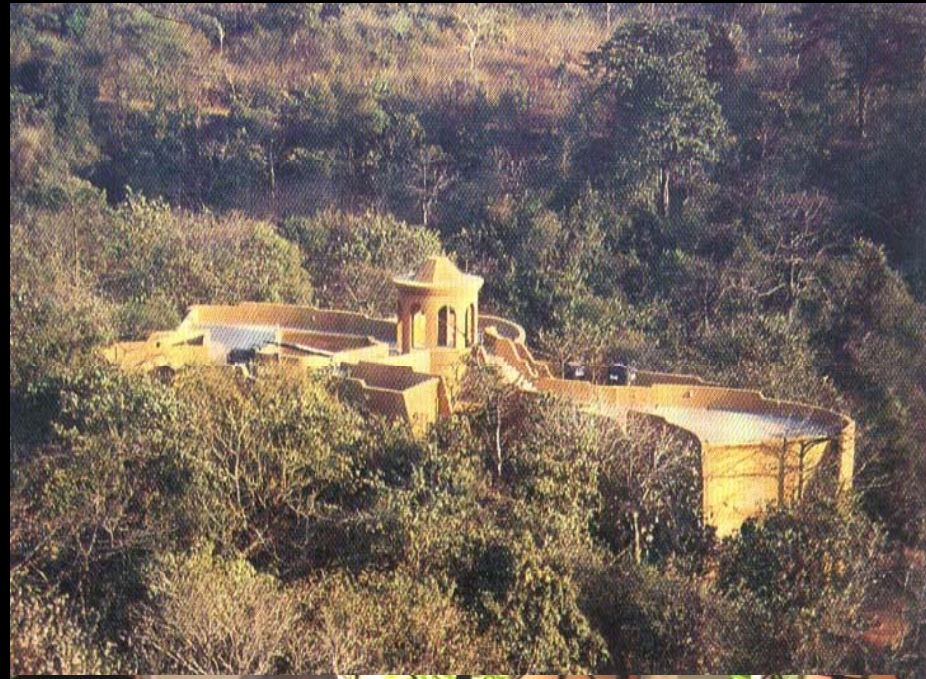
# BNHS AND BUTTERFLIES

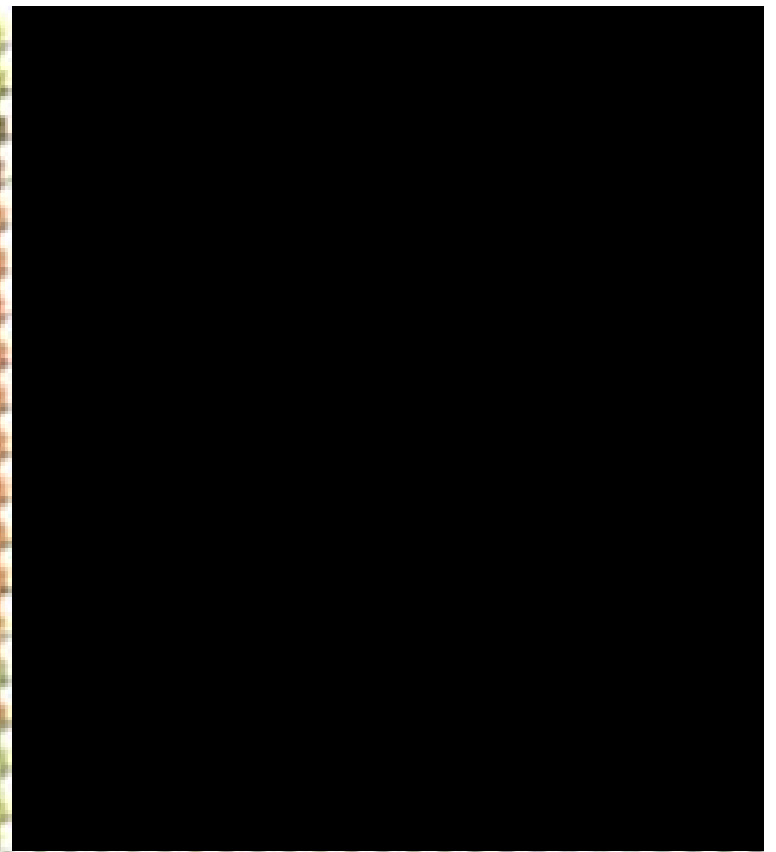
- Specimen Insect collection-50,000
- Butterfly collection-25,000
- University PG studies
- Distance Learning Course in Basic Entomology
- Lepidoptera research carried out by staff and members
- BNHS Journal since 1886



# 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-**  
Bannerghata  
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.

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

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



Members of BNHS Butterfly Expedition to Sikkim (2008) absorbing pre-field visit briefing from Isaac Kehimkar at Rangrang

# 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

