

Project Update: October 2012

Research Permit

The research permit needed for conducting the research was obtained in first week of October 2012 from Department of Forest, Babarmahal, Kathmandu, Nepal.

Reconnaissance Survey

A reconnaissance survey in the study area was conducted in mid-October 2012. Possible habitat of the Golden Monitor Lizard (GML) was observed with a local guide. Good rapport with community forest user committee and youth club member was established and different types of interaction were done. Then the perception of local people towards GML and its conservation and ecological value was understood.

Findings of Reconnaissance Survey

Old people have realised that the population has decreased now than before; population was abundant and found everywhere in the area before. They have experienced the use of chemicals and pesticides, change in climate, illegal killing, intentional killing by farmers (it makes holes in the dyke of field so farmers do not want GML in their field) and decrease of its food as main causes after decrease the population. I did not find people interested in the conservation of such animal however young and students became interested to engage in such type of works. Old and uneducated people think that the GML has no ecological role however young and educated people realised it's ecological and conservation value.

