

Project Update: December 2012

The research work started with the final permission letters from different sectors of governmental organisation. They are Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), Department of Forests (DoF), Shivapuri Nagarnun National Park (SNNP) and Community forests.

After the completion of permission process, a sign-based survey in a Lalitpur district was conducted. It was just the preliminary survey. After the preliminary survey, the team decided to do the detailed survey. Then, as explained in methodology, search of sign of wild animals targeting common leopard was performed. Some animal signs were found like common leopard, small cat species, barking deer, spotted deer and wild pig.

An informal talk with the local communities, foresters, teachers and students was achieved. This was at the first site. A group of 34 students from the schools, colleges and university have been selected for the training programme from this district targeting camera traps and sign-based survey. Those students will be trained in camera trapping procedure and sign-based survey shortly. Camera trapping was performed which resulted with one capture of common leopard. Besides that barking deer and rat are only live captured wild animals. As there are lots of human disturbances it was very risky to deploy the camera for 24 hours. So, camera traps were deployed from 7pm to 5am every day.

