

Project Update: March 2017

Trip at Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary

Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary is the only wildlife sanctuary in north-east Bangladesh. We visited the study site from 20th to 21st February 2017. This wildlife sanctuary is managed under two administrative units ('Beats') and the forester of the beat is designated as 'Beat Officer'. The name of these beats are Rema Beat and Kalenga Beat. We met with Beat Officers of Rema, Mr Chandan Bhowmik, and Beat Officer of Kalenga Beat, Mr Helal Uddin. They also shared their experience on Asian pangolin. Mr Helal Uddin was in Patharia Reserve Forest for a couple of years. He was also at Singra National Park, Dinajpur. He confirmed the existence of Asian pangolin in Patharia Reserve Forest but had no information from Singra National Park. Both the reserve forest and national park are considered as our study sites.



A semi-structured questionnaire survey and focused group discussion was conducted during this time. We interviewed 18 people including forest officials, forest villagers and tribal people. A number of these interviewed people had not seen any Asian pangolin in this sanctuary. However, others reported that they have seen or heard about the occurrence of Asian pangolin in recent years.

There are several tribal village around the wildlife sanctuary. We visited one village which belongs to Tipra community.



Meeting with Forest Officials

From 20th February to 1st March 2017 we met with five forest officials, Conservator of Forest (Chittagong Circle), Divisional Forest Officer of Banderban, Coxsbazar South, Coxsbazar North and Sylhet Forest Division We delivered the concept note of our pangolin survey project and a copy of permission letter along with our survey plan. They assured all out of help during the study period.