

Project Update: July 2014

The line transect survey was conducted from February till end of March 2014. For easy access and optimisation of sightings, the permanent trails and roads are taken as transect for direct sightings. Two modes of travel were used for this survey – vehicles on roads and by foot on walking trails. In this survey, we did not consider any signs, as the objective was not to determine presence or absence. A total of six major transects were taken covering the entire habitat area within Bhutan. Most transects traverse across three major forest types – tropical, subtropical and warm broadleaf forests.

The sighting was less during the survey period and this was probably due to non-fruiting seasons in late winter. Only 10 groups in tropical forests, eight in subtropical forests and six in warm broadleaf forests were observed on a single survey of six transects. Our preliminary analysis shows that the mean group size ranges from 8.5 in subtropical forests to 9.5 in subtropical forests. It was also interesting note that the mean group sizes of species in the protected areas (parks and wildlife sanctuary) were smaller than that of the area outside it. This shows that group size of this particular species have significant relation with the threats or disturbance in its habitat. Our GPS coordinates also indicate that there is slight extension of its habitat to the north and west. Our next plan is to repeat the survey again in the same transect during fruiting season. We will compare the habitat occupancy for two different seasons.



The survey team getting ready for survey



The golden langur (mother with infant and juvenile)