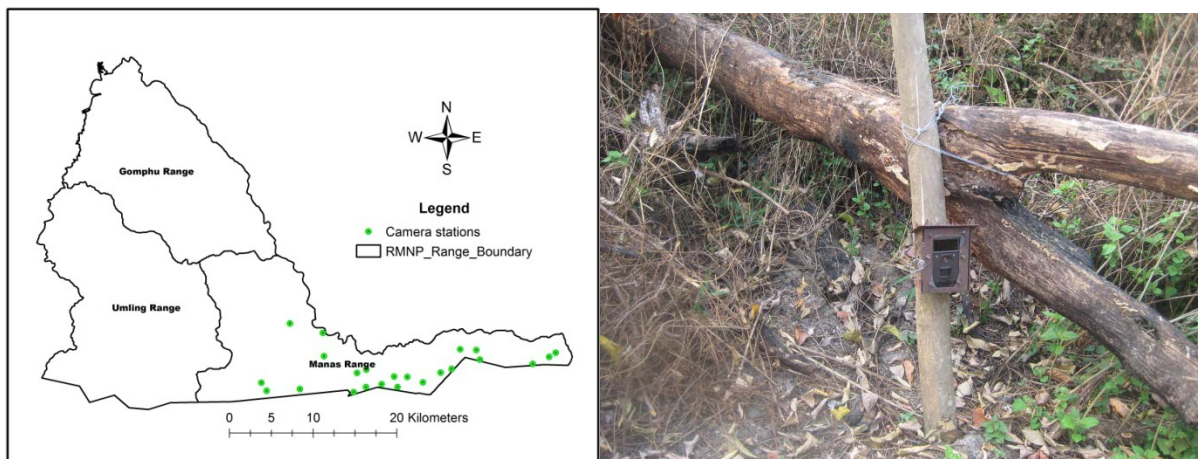


Project Update: July 2014

Based on the results of preliminary survey conducted in two sites, the presence and absence of pygmy hog was determined in the study area. The interviewing of local people in the historical range and direct observation of signs have failed to provide concrete evidence of the presence of the species in the study area. Only a limited number of respondents in Khaling Wildlife Sanctuary revealed to have seen this species in the last 5 years while most saw them more than 10 years ago. However, this information is also subject to close verification as they might easily be mistaken for the juvenile of the wild pig. As such determining the camera location and number of camera stations was difficult. In fact, the cost of installing cameras and the risk of losing them in the international border areas are more than the chances of getting images in an absence proper evidence. Thus, the camera traps could not be installed in Khaling Wildlife Sanctuary. In case of Royal Manas National Park, the signs were reported from the Manas National Park, India which shares a boundary. A total 23 camera traps were installed along the foothills of Terai grassland (see map below). The cameras were initially installed for 3 months – January to March, 2014. However, the sign survey in the neighbouring park found 20 pygmy hog nests, about 1-2 km from the border. This has given us high hopes of getting the species in our area. We extended the duration of camera trapping to the end of June 2014. All the data from the camera traps has now been retrieved but none of them have captured our key species. Now the management of Royal Manas National Park is in dilemma. Should this species be delisted from the park's mammal list or should we conduct a detailed study again? The option is also explored that a joint survey will be conducted with Indian Manas Park very shortly and find out possibility of trans-border migration.



Map of camera station in RMNP (left) and camera traps in the field (right)