

Project Update: May 2015

We started activities of project in November 2014. We conducted surveys to record distribution of Indian pangolin in and around Pir Lasura National Park, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan. Initially, we conducted surveys in areas lower than 1000 m elevation since according to literature the species is distributed in areas lower than 1000 m but during surveying the whole national park and its surrounding areas we recorded its distribution above 1500 m. Day and night surveys were conducted for recording population of Indian pangolin. We are also collecting data on threats to Indian pangolin in study area through questionnaire surveys. Local community were approached for assessment of their perception about Indian pangolin before starting awareness education campaigns. We are now conducting seminars for awareness of local communities. They have warmly welcomed us and are helping us in conserving Indian pangolin in study area. We have involved teachers of schools and colleges in awareness education activities for conservation of pangolin. School and college going students are showing positive attitude towards the Indian pangolin. We have conducted three seminars in different areas so far and now planning for another seminar.



Left: Taking observation of living burrow of Indian pangolin. Picture by Paras Mehmood. **Right:** Faraz Akrim educating members of local community. Picture by Shakeel Akram.



Left: Faraz Akrim educating School Students. Picture by Paras Mehmood. **Right:** Naeem Ijaz Meer (Teacher) who is actively involved in conservation of Indian Pangolin telling students about role of Indian pangolin in ecosystem. Picture by Faraz Akrim.