

Project Update: February 2014

Diversity:

After surveying the trails around different camping points in Namdapha National Park namely Deban, Hornbill, Bulbulia and Rani Jheel, six species of nocturnal frugivores were recorded.

- 1) Red giant flying squirrel (*Petaurista petaurista*)
- 2) Particolored flying squirrel (*Hylopetes alboniger*)
- 3) Masked palm civet (*Paguma larvata*)
- 4) Large Indian civet (*Viverra zibetha*)
- 5) Asian palm civet (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*)
- 6) Bengal slow loris (*Nycticebus bengalensis*)

Foraging Pattern:

| S. no: | Common Name | Scientific Name | No. of Foraging Observations | Species & Plant Part Consumed |
|--------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 1 | Red giant flying squirrel | <i>Petaurista petaurista</i> | 30 | <i>Altingia excelsa</i> – complete fruit |
| | | | 5 | <i>Neolamarckia cadamba</i> – pulp of the fruit |
| | | | 2 | <i>Ficus heterophylla</i> – complete drupe |
| | | | 2 | <i>Duvabanga grandiflora</i> – flesh |
| 2 | Particolored flying squirrel | <i>Hylopetes alboniger</i> | 2 | <i>Neolamarckia cadamba</i> – pulp of the fruit |
| 3 | Masked palm civet | <i>Paguma larvata</i> | 8 | <i>Neolamarckia cadamba</i> – pulp of the fruit |
| 4 | Large Indian civet | <i>Viverra zibetha</i> | 1 | <i>Canarium strictum</i> – complete ripe fruit |
| 5 | Asian palm civet | <i>Paradoxurus hermaphroditus</i> | 3 | <i>Ficus heterophylla</i> – complete drupe |
| 6 | Bengal slow loris | <i>Nycticebus bengalensis</i> | 1 | <i>Neolamarckia cadamba</i> – pulp of the fruit |

Ethno-Zoological Survey:

A Chakma village was visited bordering the national Park. Hunting is strictly banned as of now in the villages due to the efforts of Forest Department and village committees. But the interviews were conducted with two traditional healers (formerly) in the village. They reported the use of red giant flying squirrel (*Petaurista petaurista*) urine in the treatment of stones in the Kidneys. The kernels of *Oryza* species are stored in the urine of the squirrel and consumed to treat the stones in the kidneys.

