

Project Update: March 2016

The awareness programme in schools and local communities, a part of social component of this project, was conducted on 12th February 2016. An awareness and art competition was held in Shree Rasuwa Secondary School Dhunche, inside the Langtang National Park. A total of 20 students (eight girls and 12 boys) participated in that competition. The theme of the drawing competition was biodiversity conservation and indicator species of climate change. Prior to the competition a presentation on climate change and butterfly conservation was held, where all the students (from grades 8, 9, and 10) along with the teachers were participated. The present context of biodiversity status and effects of climate change on indicator species were explained through the presentation. The students were asked draw within the context of those two topics. The winners of the competition were selected by a panel of three members and two of them were from the school committee.

Similarly, we contacted the representatives from the local conservation committees to discuss community awareness and training on butterfly survey and monitoring technique purposes. The training will be conducted in near future.

The field study couldn't be conducted at that time as most parts of the study area were covered with snow. Butterfly survey was conducted by walking 100 m long transect at every 200 m elevation from 3000-4000 m. 10 butterfly species were recorded in three types of habitats (shrub, forest and open land) (Table 1). The detailed field survey will be conducted in April/May.

Table 1: Transect survey for the butterfly.

S N	Common Names	Scientific Names	Location	Elevation (meters)	Order	Family	Forest	Shrub	Open land
1	The Indian Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglaia kaschmirensis</i>	Chandanbari	3000	Lepidoptera	Nymphalidae	1		
2	The Cabbage White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	Chandanbari	3000	Lepidoptera	Pieridae	1		
3	Queen of Spain fritillary	<i>Issoria isaea</i>	Chandanbari	3000	Lepidoptera	Nymphalidae			1
4	The Peablu	<i>Lampides boeticus</i>	Chandanbari	3000	Lepidoptera	Lycaenidae		1	
5	unidentified	unidentified	Chandanbari	3000					1
6	The Indian Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglaia kaschmirensis</i>	Chandanbari	3200	Lepidoptera	Nymphalidae	1		
7	The Indian Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglaia kaschmirensis</i>	Cholangpaty	3600	Lepidoptera	Nymphalidae			1

8	The Peablu	<i>Lampides boeticus</i>	Lauribina	3800	Lepidoptera	Lycaenidae			1
9	Unidentified	Unidentified	Gosaikunda path	4000	Lepidoptera			1	
10	The Common Appolo	<i>Parnassius hardwickii</i>	Gosaikunda path	4000	Lepidoptera	Papilionidae			1
11	The Indian Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais kaschmirensis</i>	Gosaikunda path	4000	Lepidoptera	Nymphalidae		1	



Left to right: School awareness programme - conducting awareness class to the school students; students participating in the drawing competition on climate change and its impacts on indicator species and a participant painting his work.



Left to right: Banner for the programme; a participant working on her drawing and field survey.