

Project Update: April 2015

A field visit was conducted on 28th March 2015 in and around the Khaling Area. Two streams, Jerey Chu and its small tributary, were surveyed for the amphibian species, *Bd* disease swabbing and DNA sample collections.

Results

Species recorded:

Two species *Amolops mantzorum* (figure 1) and *Nanorana conaensis* (Cona Spiny frog; figure 2) were recorded. *Nanorana conaensis* is listed as Data Deficient in the IUCN Red List 2015. The population of these species seems stable. The call of *Nanorana conaensis* (Figure 5), is recorded at 63% RH and 16°C ambient temperature.

Threats observed:

The immediate threat to this species in the study area is water pollution. The kitchen effluents from the school are directly routed to the stream. The stream is heavily polluted by prior, plastics, papers, clothes of different fibers, and a foul smell fills the whole habitat. Anthropogenic encroachment, habitat loss and chemical pollution are also the major concern for the species'. The stream is also tested positive to phosphate and the pH of the water is 8.

Training:

Four people were trained in the field techniques that includes two BSc students and two laboratory assistants. The field training included swap collection for *Bd* and DNA testing, DNA tissue sample collections and field surveying. They also learnt how to handle the live specimens and take measurements for the study of the amphibian diversity and ecology.



Figure 1: *Amolops mantzorum* from Khaling. **Figure 2:** *Nanorana conaensis* (juvenile)



Figure 3: Glimpse of the habitat of *Nanorana conaensis* covered with watercress (*Nasturtium officinale*). **Figure 4:** Trainees learning the field techniques

