

Project Update: October 2016

This report is the summary of last 3 months starting from July 2016. As usual all the identified plots ranging from 2180 m asl to 3500 m asl were revisited. Nocturnal search along the motorable road was also made. Threat factors were observed and recorded accordingly. So far three species of anurans are confirmed and recorded in the study area.

It was observed that, with approach of raining season more Himalayan toads were seen in the open area and along the motorable road but other species were less visible. Although first breeding of Himalayan toad was recorded from February 2016 at an altitude of 2850 m asl, breeding was maximum from July to end of August 2016. Plenty of eggs and tadpoles were seen in the pool, along the roadside drains and in stagnated/accumulated rain water during these months. However it was observed matured toads slowly returned back to forested areas from open fields by September. It was observed and recorded that the eggs of tadpoles takes more than 75 days to develop into froglets in the lower altitudinal zones.

Due to increase in water volume during summer, frogs like Himalayan bull frog are observed living outside water but along the water bank in the adjustment marshy area and even in the open area where flow of water is limited. However the breeding males of Himalayan bull frog are recorded still living in the rivulets and streams where fast flow of water is limited.

In general, the presence of Himalayan toad is maximum during summer months in the blue pine zone in comparing with other forest type in the higher altitudinal area. The presence of other frog species in their normal habitat are limited during summer months. So far, Himalayan toads are mostly recorded in the lower altitudes; however, Himalayan bull frog are observed living in the altitudinal range from 2300 m asl to 3500 m asl, followed by Scutigera species. Threat factors among the anurans include habitat destruction by mining/quarrying, timber extraction, trash dumping along the river bank and human consumption. Conservation message still continue among the loggers, cattle herders, local community and among the school going children of the study area.



Left: Himalayan Toad back to mixed conifer forest. Right: Breeding Female of Himalayan Bull Frog.