

## Project Update: June 2016

Fieldwork to assess ungulate relative abundance was completed in May 2016. A total of 100 grid cells were sampled, and a total survey effort of 203.4 km was invested searching for ungulate signs in the Tillari region. We have analysed the data using the AOS model (abundance-occupancy-spatial, Gopaldaswamy et al. 2012) and the overall average number of ungulate groups for sambar was found to be 2.07 ( $\pm$  0.45), for gaur 1.65 ( $\pm$ 0.39), for wild pig 1.37 ( $\pm$  0.41) per 3.24 km<sup>2</sup> in the study region. We could not get valid estimates for other species due to poor number of detections. We are analysing our data further using covariates, which include livestock encounter rate and habitat variables. This information would then be presented to local and regional officers of Maharashtra Forest Department.

We have also begun work on the second leg of the project, and plan to take interviews with villagers, local hunters, and forest department staff from July 2016.



Left: Difficult terrain while on a survey. Photo by Amit Sutar. Middle: Gaur bull encounter. Photo by Girish Punjabi. Right: Seeing a muntjac. Photo by Girish Punjabi.