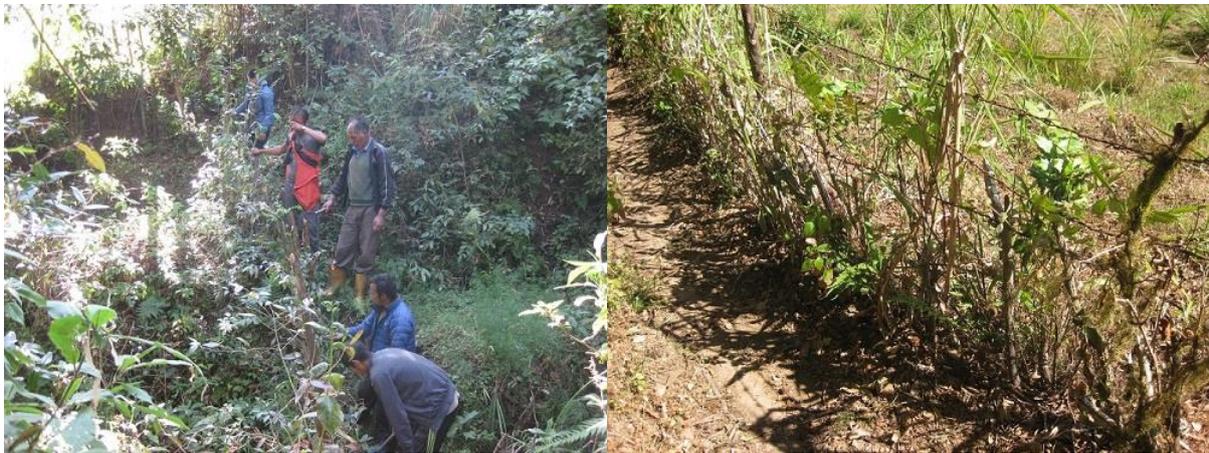


## Project Update: July 2017

Bio-fences were further strengthened in Namla, Gurdum, Bich Gaon, Dara Gaon and Samanden forest villages fringing the Singalila National Park, Darjeeling India as a means of managing human-wildlife conflict (HWC). Besides expanding the bio-fences, infilling points to further strengthen the bio-fences were identified and addressed. Community discussions were followed with consultation with Forest Department beat officers and vegetative planting stocks were sustainably procured. Species planted besides proving a deterrent to 'problem animals' of HWC have provisions for fodder, flower (apiary), bird habitat, local herbal medicine, green cover and connectivity. Bio-fences in the five villages now measure 8570 m. *Swertia chirata* (local name chirauto), medicinal plant as a non-conflict alternative cash crop had been sown in all the five forest villages. We have partnered with WWF-India, Khangchendzonga Landscape Programme expanding resources for bio-fence promotion.



Left: Gurdam Forest Village Bio Fence. Right: Gurdam Forest Village Bio Fence.