

Project Update: October 2016

1. Bat species documentation

The presence of bats species in Phobjikha Conservation Area, were assessed in three different habitats type (forests, open areas and settlements) using mist nets. The forest comprises mostly the conifer species (hemlock, spruce, fir and blue pine). The settlements are farm house, schools and farm stores. Open areas are the grass land of the high altitude wetland.

With total of 18 trapping nights in three different habitats, only one species that is *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* of 25 individuals has been captured. The capture rate was high from nearby settlement and low in open areas. The capture rate was also affected by weather (rain) more open areas habitat, low placement of nets, and use of only mist net as insectivorous bats use echolocation and could locate the nets.

To increase the capture rate, harp trap, appropriate net height and bat detector will be used in next trapping exercise.

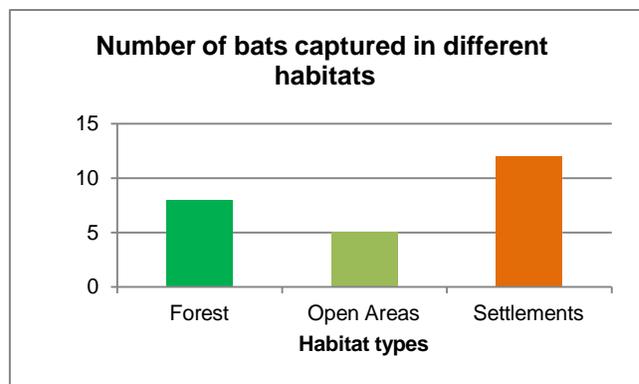


Figure 1. A. *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* captured during survey. B. The number of bats captured in different habitat types.

2. Conservation Sensitization Workshop for the Monk

Approximately 150 monks practising dharma and studying Buddhist studies in the valley were on value of biodiversity and the synergy between the religion and the environment. The monks were sensitive through poster presentation, quiz competition, debate and perception sharing among monks and abbots and informal talks. The five religious representatives were identified and the main advocacy would happen on 12th November 2016 coinciding with black necked crane festival. Almost all people of the valley would gather during this festival and the participant turnout and reach of message would be higher than normal meetings.

Table 1. The total number of religious personal sensitized on conservation of small mammals

Name of religious institutions	Number of monks	Representative
Gangtey Geonpa	70	2
Khewang Lhakhang	25	1
Damchoe Lhakhang	25	1
Taphu Lhakhang	20	1
Kewathang	15	
Gadachen/Zizi	3	
Total	158	5



Figure 2. The monks of Khewang Lhakhang with the abbot after sensitisation workshop.