

Project Update: May 2018

The team of Askot Primate Project (APP) had a fruitful field season from December 2017 to May 2018. As targeted, we have completed our remaining field samplings in this period. The sampling included, primate field observations, vegetation and habitat sampling, and socio-economic and conflict survey among villagers.

For primate field observations and habitat survey (including vegetation sampling), the team members visited different habitats within the study area (e.g. human habitations, secondary forests, community forests, reserve forests etc.) and collected preliminary data therein.

For questionnaire-based socio-economic and conflict survey, the team used Android and web-based applications (KoBo Toolbox and KoBo Collect) entirely this time. The team members used mobile phones and tabs for this purpose which made offline data collection easy, convenient and saved the team on papers. The use of device-based data collection method also generated considerable interest among villagers, which in turn helped in our data collection as people were more ready to answer our questions.

The team had more focus on outreach and training in this field season. We did outreach in most of the villages visited during our field trips (depending on convenience). The outreach activities were conducted through group discussions, seminars, informal talks, showing of wildlife and forest documentaries, art competition, quiz competition, youth training on conservation issues, t-shirts distribution, and distribution of project drawing books, colour pencils, art equipment etc. among the villagers with a focus on youth. These programmes generated immense interests among the local people, who enthusiastically listened to what we had to say. Encouraged by the success of the outreach activities, the team plans to focus on them more in the next legs of the project.



The Askot Primate Project has also been supported by the Primate Conservation, Inc., USA, with a conservation grant for a year (from February, 2018), with an amount of \$3590.

Field photographs



Field data collection through mobile application



Locating a primate troop in a village forest



Vegetation sampling



A Rhesus macaque with his raided bounty



Workshop with villagers



Group discussion



Photo session after group discussion



Team members eating food offered by the villagers as part of their hospitality



Showing of documentary film



Youth training workshop



Drawing competition with a theme of conservation



Distribution of t-shirts, drawing books and colour pencils

