

## Project Update: September 2017

The awareness campaign was done in the villages in Jigme Dorji National Park. For the conduct of campaign, we took help of village leader and village people were requested to gather for the sensitisation campaign. The talk on conservation importance of the species was done by presentation session in the villages. The explanation was done by incorporation of religion of belief, scientific findings, logical explanation, and benefits of conservation of the species to the local peoples from environment, social and economic perspective. Villagers were explained on how each of their daily activities creates disturbances and threats to the survival of the species.

Awareness educations was conducted on the importance and the significant role of snow leopard as the apex predator /keystone species in maintaining the biodiversity of an alpine ecosystem, as well as indicator of health of alpine ecosystem to the locals. The necessity of saving snow leopard for better conservation result and local benefit were imparted to various stakeholders. Local's perception towards conservation of the snow leopard was overwhelmingly positive as of now. Working lunch and refreshments was served to all the participants. Pamphlets were distributed among the local peoples for further outreach of the information. Posters and sign boards were placed in the important locations spreading the message of importance of conservation of the snow leopard and their habitat and overall biodiversity.

Household survey and local perception survey has also been done in the villages to acquire their level of perception on conservation importance and overall knowledge about the species and biodiversity conservation importance. The villagers seem to have some ideas about the species and conservation success of the species is pretty positive on the local people's part.

The field survey is underway and currently being carried out in sample plots.

