

Project Update: July 2017

We initiated species targeted surveys to establish the presence of rusty-spotted cat populations in seven different unclassified forest patches of northern Eastern Ghats range in south India through setting up remotely triggered camera traps, sign surveys and conducting semi-structured interviews with local villagers as well as residents living in suburban landscapes. Fieldwork has been carried out in extreme heat conditions during the last couple of months amongst thick impenetrable bushes and thorny forest. The terrain and climatic conditions were very challenging and harsh. Stakeholders at various levels were identified and targeted for conservation outreach programs. Project presentations have been given at educational institutions and public gatherings to garner support and encourage volunteerism.



Left: Bushwhacking to find a suitable spot for camera trapping. Right: Fixing remotely triggered camera traps.



Left: The dry, thorny scrub forest on the hills where rusty-spotted inhabit. Right: The Rusty-spotted cat. ©Neville Buck, Aspinall Foundation