

Project Update: August 2017

Following activities were performed during the project “Conserving the Critically Endangered Chinese pangolin (*Manis pentadactyla*) in Sindhupalchok, Nepal”

1. Interaction with District Forest Officers and Community Forest Users Groups

In April 2017, I discussed with the District Forest Office (DFO) staff. Altogether 30 community forests were prioritised on the basis of high evidence of Chinese pangolin. Two interaction meetings with the staff of District Forest Office (DFO) and Community Forest Users Groups (CFUGs) were held in Sindhupalchok district, one in Chautara and other in Barabise. Fourteen members participated in Chautara while 16 in Barabise. These meetings were organised to capacitate the DFO staff and the members of CFUGs, and also to provide the knowledge and awareness for the conservation of pangolin at the grass root level. During the interaction meetings, the role of Chinese pangolin in the maintenance of ecosystem, and their nature and behaviour were discussed. Furthermore, the research design of the project and use of Global Positioning System (GPS) were shared with key persons.

2. Trade data collection: On May 2017, 5 years of trade data on Chinese pangolin in Sindhupalchok district were collected from DFO.
3. Questionnaire survey: Altogether 1000 respondents were interviewed with the semi-structured questionnaire. The information about distribution, illegal trade and ethno-medicinal uses were collected from the respondent in May-June 2017.
4. Spatial distribution of pangolins: 204 plots each of 100 x 100 m were laid for the collection of data on indirect evidences (burrow, pugmarks, scratches, scat etc.) of pangolin and also anthropogenic impacts (fire, logging, natural calamities, construction activities), aspects, slope, soil types (red, brown, black), habitat types (agricultural land, forest, grassland and near water bodies) of each plot were also observed and recorded. The survey was conducted between 15 June and 5 August 2017.
5. Data entry: The data of the semi-structured questionnaire and spatial distribution of Chinese pangolin were entered in Excel in August 2017.

Other works under progress are as follows:

- Education material, posters, are being printing,
- Awareness programme for educating school children and local people,
- Data analysis, report preparation work is in progress.



Figure 1. Meeting with DFO and CFUGs in Barabise



Figure 2. Data collection in the field



Figure 3. Social survey with local people