

## Project Update: September 2017

First field visit was organised in August 2017. Ecological sampling was carried out for terrestrial and epiphytic orchids within the elevation range of 1500 to 2500 m. Three 25 × 20 m<sup>2</sup> plots were established in each elevation band. All the host trees were identified and physical parameters were noted down for both for epiphytic and terrestrial orchids with in the plots. The GPS coordinates of four corners of each plot were noted for future monitoring of the sampled plot. A Focus Group Discussion (FGD) was carried out in Bhadaure Deurali, the locals were informed about the project objectives and the possible outcomes of the research project.

Altogether, 15 orchid species were collected in flowering stage. Among them, two were found to be rare, confined within narrow geographical range. *Odontochilus nandae*, an endemic orchid to Panchase was observed between 2200 to 2500 m in humus rich soil. *Taeniophyllum scaberullum*, a rare ephiphytic orchid was also observed between 1700 to 1900 m. Next visit will be made in October 2017.



Vegetation Sampling [Photo credit: Prabin Bhandari, August 2017]



*Odontochilus nandae* Raskoti & H.Kurzwell (Orchidaceae): an endemic orchid of Panchase, 2200-2500 m [Photo credit: Prabin Bhandari, August 2017]



*Taeniophyllum scaberulum* Hook.f. (Orchidaceae) - a rare orchid, found in Panchase forest, 1700-1900 m [Photo credit: Gyana Thapa Magar, August 2017]