

Project update-February 2018

As per the timescale, myself and the team has successfully completed the first phase of the data collection on red panda (*Ailurus fulgens*) in Bhojpur district, Nepal. During the field study, red panda drooping piles were recorded between 2740- 2992 m asl in north facing aspects. This is the valid confirmation of red panda presence in the project area. The vegetation sampling was also carried out to determine the habitat type preferred by Red Panda.

The team briefed about the objectives, significance and expected outcome of our research work to the local stakeholders (forest officials, conservationist, community forest users and local headers). The member of community forest user and local chauri herder were involved in field work as a citizen scientist. The field work would not have been possible without immense support from them.

Anthropogenic disturbances including logging, livestock grazing, forest fire, harvesting of forest products while natural disturbances were landslides and natural deadening of bamboo trees. The second phase of field work is expected to commence from May 2018.



Red Panda drooping piles on tree trunk and ground



Team leader collecting field data



Timber logging in Red Panda habitat



Dead bamboo forest in the study area