

Project update: August 2018

**i) Field data collection**

A total of 15 permanent trails were identified to be walked for collection of data on population status and diet of hornbills in Jomotsangkha Wildlife Sanctuary (JWS). The trail length ranges from 2 to 27 km and traverses different elevation ranges between 180 m – 2200 m asl within broadleaved forest in the area. Of the total, 13 trails identified are below 1000 m asl. Few trails even extend into the adjoining broadleaved forest in the region as shown in the map (figure 1) below.

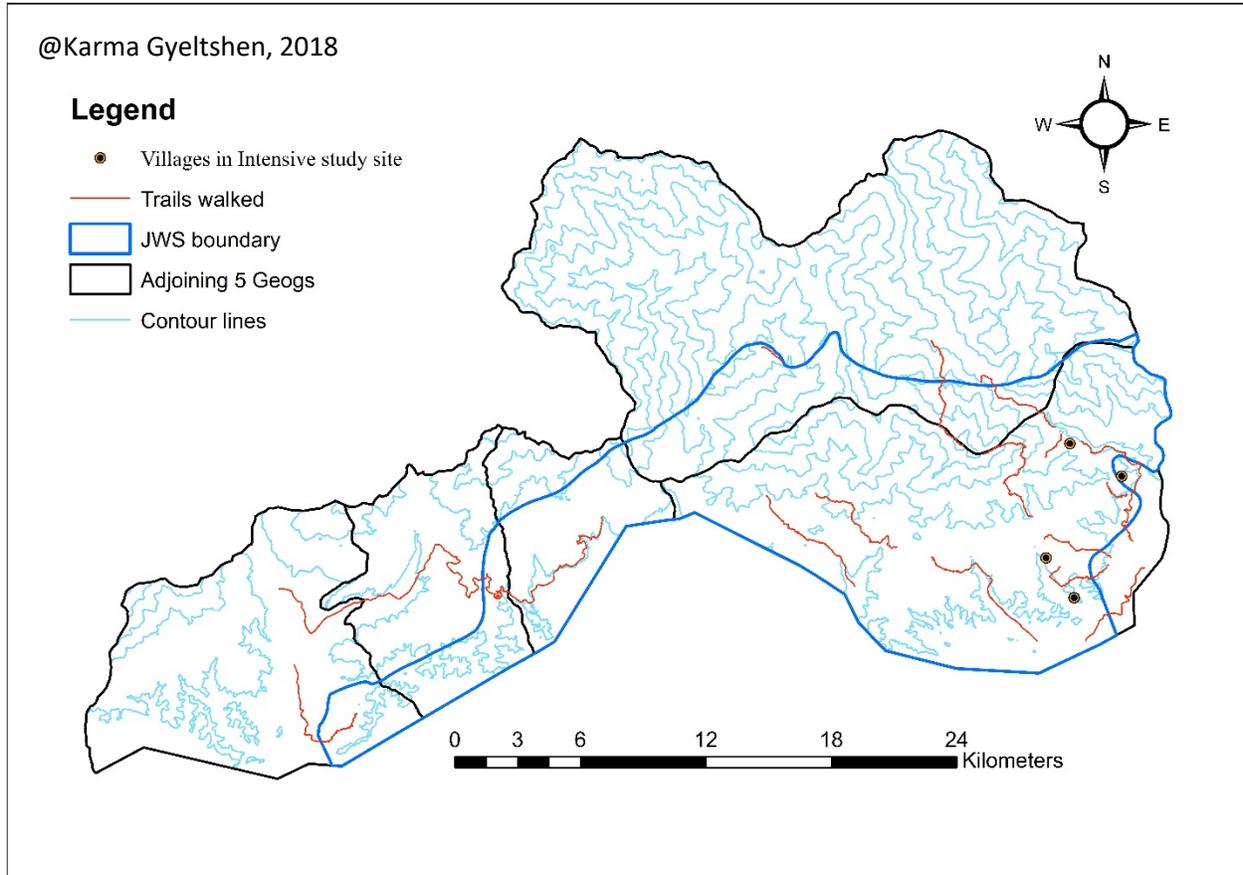


Figure 1: Map of Jomotsangkha Wildlife Sanctuary (JWS) with adjoining five geogs (sub-district) showing 15 trails walked within it.

Since it is very difficult to carry out intensive surveys in the whole area, the four main villages within the area (indicated in above map, figure 1) are chosen and the study is carrying more intensively within and around chosen villages. Of the total, nine trails are in the intensive study area.

**ii) Dietary study**

In order to gather a comprehensive information on diet consumed by hornbills in the area, the opportunistic observation is carrying on foraging and regurgitated seeds and middens below nests and roosts. So far, the total of 35 species including both plants and

animal matter are recorded in diet. The most of the fruits hornbills consumed are recorded from Moraceae and Meliaceae family.



Figure 2: (Left) Waste defecated below Wreathed Hornbill (WH) nest. (Right) Regurgitated seeds below Oriental Pied Hornbill nest.

### iii) Nesting and roosting site study

The hornbill nests were searched in the area. Most of the nests were found with the help of local people. The forestry officials also helped in searching nests. The nest watching were carried to understand diet of the hornbills.



Figure 3: (Left) Three teams while returning after nest search in the forest. (Right) Nest searching team taking rest in the forest.

Many of the roosting site were also located with the help of local people. Few roosting sites were located outside the Jomotsangkha Wildlife Sanctuary (JWS) in the adjoining forest in the region. The main roosting and nesting trees were identified and characterised.



Figure 4: (Left) Nest watching. (Right) Great Hornbill male leaving nest after feeding female.



Figure 5: (Left) Male Oriental Pied Hornbill carrying fruit. (Right) Nest of WH (beak of incarcerated female protruded out from slit of sealed nest).