Project Update: November 2009

A reconnaissance and preliminary ecological field visit was done in October 2009. Altogether 126 1 m × 1 m plots of *Berberis* shrubs were sampled in three different altitudinal gradients. Sampling in other shrubs could not be done due to withering of flowers, which created difficulty in their identification and this will be done next season.

Villagers were consulted about their dependency upon natural resources and pattern of movement of their herds. They take their animals upland during summer and bring them down during winter, creating grazing pressure in both uplands and lowlands. Interaction was done with villagers for facilitating an awareness programme and to establish rapport with them. GPS points of all the households in Langtang village were taken to represent the village with its relative distance from the area where resource is extracted.

Taking into consideration major festivals, snowfall time, flowering season and agricultural activities, we have revised the working schedule as follows:

S. N.	Activities	Time Frame	Remarks
1.	Reconnaissance visit	October 2009	Done
2.	Preliminary ecological sampling	October 2009	Done
3.	Project update	November 2009	Done
4.	Conservation education awareness programme among the local people and school students	March-April 2010	
5.	Village level group formation	April 2010	
6.	Competition among the school students	May 2010	
7.	Project update	May 2010	
8.	Intensive ecological sampling	July-August 2010	
9.	Observation group selection and site visit	September 2010	
10.	Workshops and interaction programs	October 2010	
11.	Project update	October 2010	
12.	Final observation field visit	November 2010	
13.	Report writing and submission	December 2010	

One of the team members sampling in Berberis shrub in Kyangjing valley (Oct. 2009).