

Project Update: October 2023

I have conducted the following major activities until now.

1. Completion of data collection

Our journey started from Pokhara city on 21st December 2023. It took me a total of 94 days to conduct the research and return to Pokhara. During the period, I collected the data from the camera trap survey covering the survey area by 4x4 m grids. I have collected the data from a wild prey species survey for the main wild prey of snow leopards such as Himalayan tahr and blue sheep. Similarly, the scats were collected from all the proximal areas of snow leopard signs.





Some photos from the field.



Some photos while returning home with Porters after completion of data collection.

2. Preparation of the data

The raw data collected from the field was arranged. Later, they were entered into Excel sheets in an organised form for analysis.

3. Education awareness program

On 1st September 2023, a 1-day snow leopard awareness and education program was organised at Shree Nubri Basic School in Nubri Valley of Manaslu Conservation Area.

A teacher from the school, Mrs. Kamala Poudel, gave a presentation to school students of classes 6, 7, and 8 about the conservation of snow leopards in the Manaslu region. The program was actively participated by the students as well as teachers at that school.

Later, an essay, poem and drawing competition were conducted on the topic of the conservation of snow leopards in the Manaslu Conservation Area. Tsering Yangjum Lama won the first position, Laje Dolma Lama won the second position and Rojina Gurung won the third position in the essay competition. Laje Dolma Lama won first place, Kancha Gurung won second place and Sharmila Gurung won third place in the poem competition. Similarly, Indra Gurung won first place, Dambar Shi. Gurung won second place and Anil Ghale won third place in the drawing competition. The winning students received a monetary award to encourage them in conservation.

Table 1: Participants of the awareness program at Shree Nubri Basic School, Gap, Gorkha

SN	Name	Gender	Designation
1	Ganesh Dhakal	M	Principal
2	Aayuj Gurung	M	Teacher
3	Manisha Gurung	F	Teacher
4	Urgen Lama	F	Teacher
5	Tsering Namgyal Lama	M	Teacher
6	Surya Bahadur Thapa	M	Teacher
7	Manamaya Ale	F	Teacher
8	Dipak Shi. Air	M	Teacher
9	Birendra Prasad Yadav	M	Teacher
10	Amrit Prasad Kha	M	Teacher
11	Kamala Poudel	F	Teacher
12	All students from grades 6 to 8		

Table 2: Participants of students in an essay, poem, and drawing competition

SN	Name	Gender	Class
Essay competition			
1	Indra Gurung	M	8
2	Nima Chyoten Lama	F	6
3	Sharmila Gurung	F	7
4	Kabita Gurung	F	7
5	Mingyur Dorje Lama	M	7
6	Laxmi Gurung	F	7
7	Kaberi Gurung	F	6
8	Pasang Chyoten Lama	F	6
9	Dambar Shi. Gurung	M	8
10	Dhawa Dolma Lama	F	6
11	Aasri Gurung	F	8
12	Laje Dolma Lama	F	8
13	Tsering Yangjum Lama	M	8
14	Rojina Gurung	F	6
15	Urmila Gurung	F	6
Poem Competition			
SN	Student Name	Gender	Class
1	Kaberi Gurung	F	6
2	Urmila Gurung	F	6
3	Samden Lama	M	6
4	Pasang Chyoten Lama	F	6
5	Laxmi Gurung	F	7
6	Pasang Tsering Lama	M	7
7	Indra Gurung	M	8
8	Tsering Yangjum Lama	M	8
9	Laje Dolma Lama	F	8
10	Kancha Gurung	M	7
11	Rabindra Gurung	M	8
12	Dambar Shi. Gurung	M	8
13	Sharmila Gurung	F	7
Drawing competition			
1	Laxmi Gurung	F	7

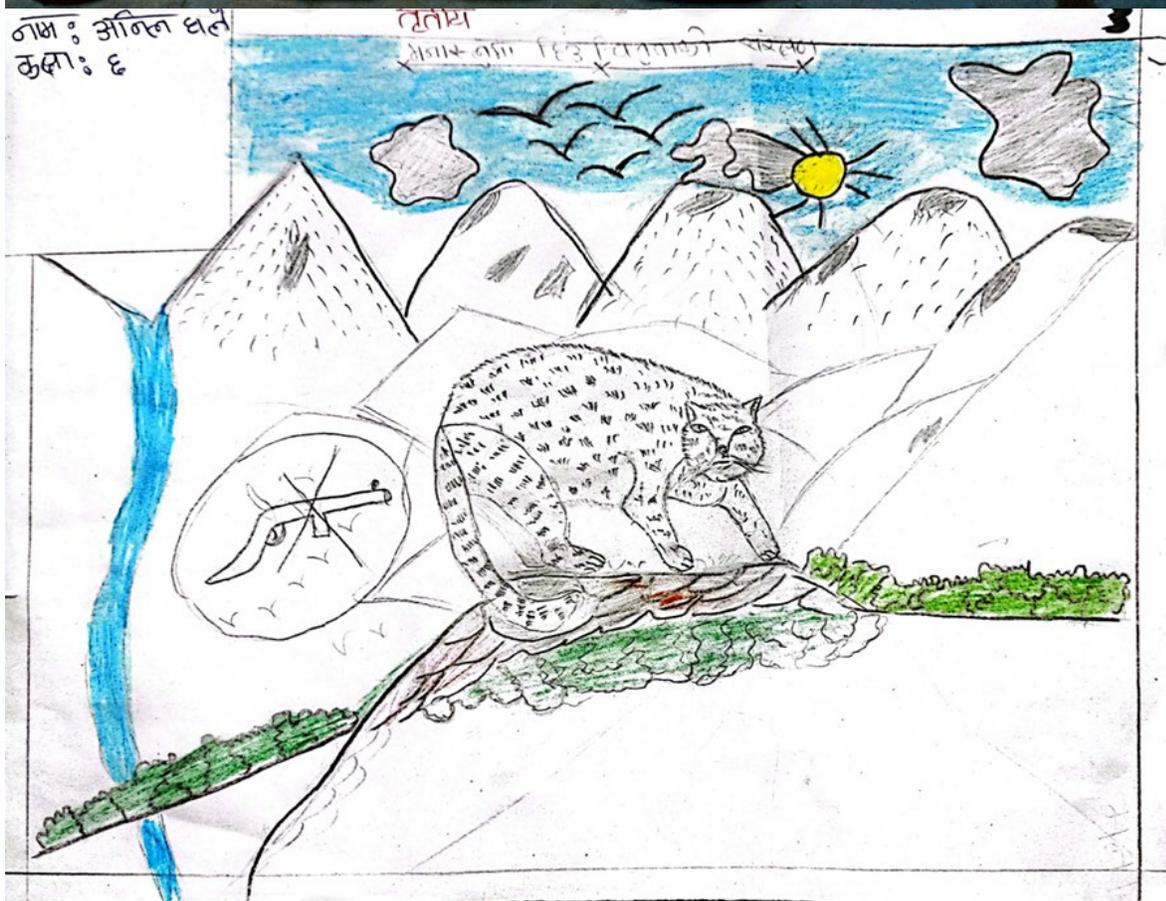
2	Pasang Tsering Lama	M	7
3	Ramkumar Gurung	M	7
4	Sundar Gurung	M	7
5	Kancha Gurung	M	7
6	Subit Gurung	M	7
7	Pema Dumgyal Lama	F	6
8	Indra Gurung	M	8
9	Rabindra Gurung	M	8
10	Dambar Shi. Gurung	M	8
11	Sharmila Gurung	F	7
12	Anil Ghale	M	6





Some photos from the education awareness workshop.





Some drawings of snow leopards were done by students.





Students received awards during the morning assembly.

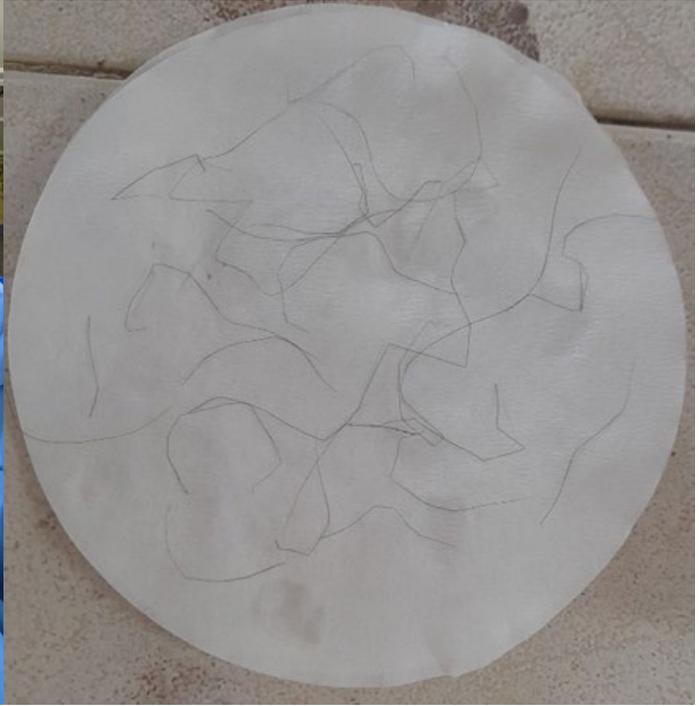
4. Dietary Analysis

Scats collected from the transect survey are taken to the laboratory of the Central Department of Environmental Science, Kirtipur, Kathmandu for diet analysis. The lab work has been started from 17 September 2023 and the analysis is still going on. Two MSc Environmental Science students (Mr. Ramesh Kathariya and Mr. Binaya Ghimire) are assisting me throughout this.

We are collecting hair remains from 66 scat samples that we got from the Chum Valley of Manaslu Conservation Area. After gathering hair samples, we will observe the hair structures using a microscope and then will compare the structures with already proven hair samples of species for species identification.







Some photos during laboratory work.