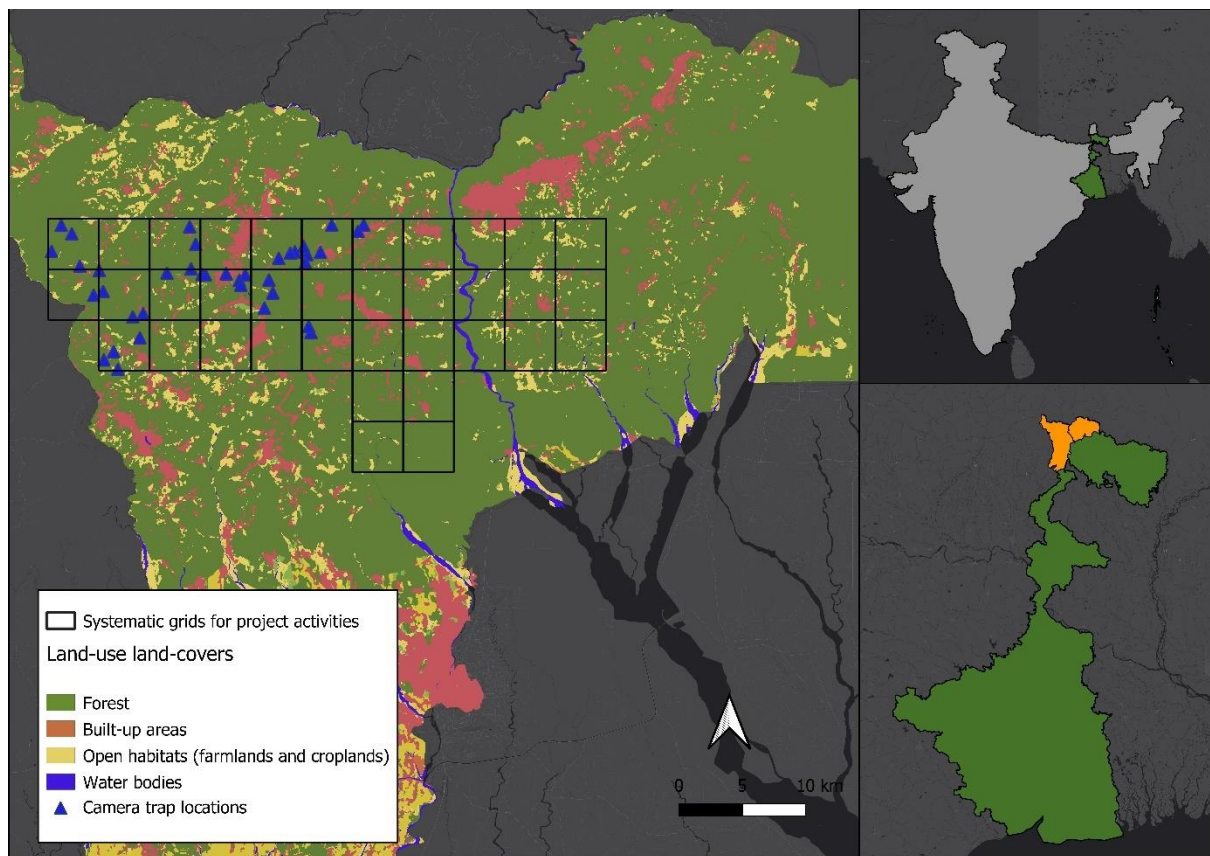


Title of Application: Foster conservation of threatened mammals through community engagement in the hills of Northern West Bengal, India

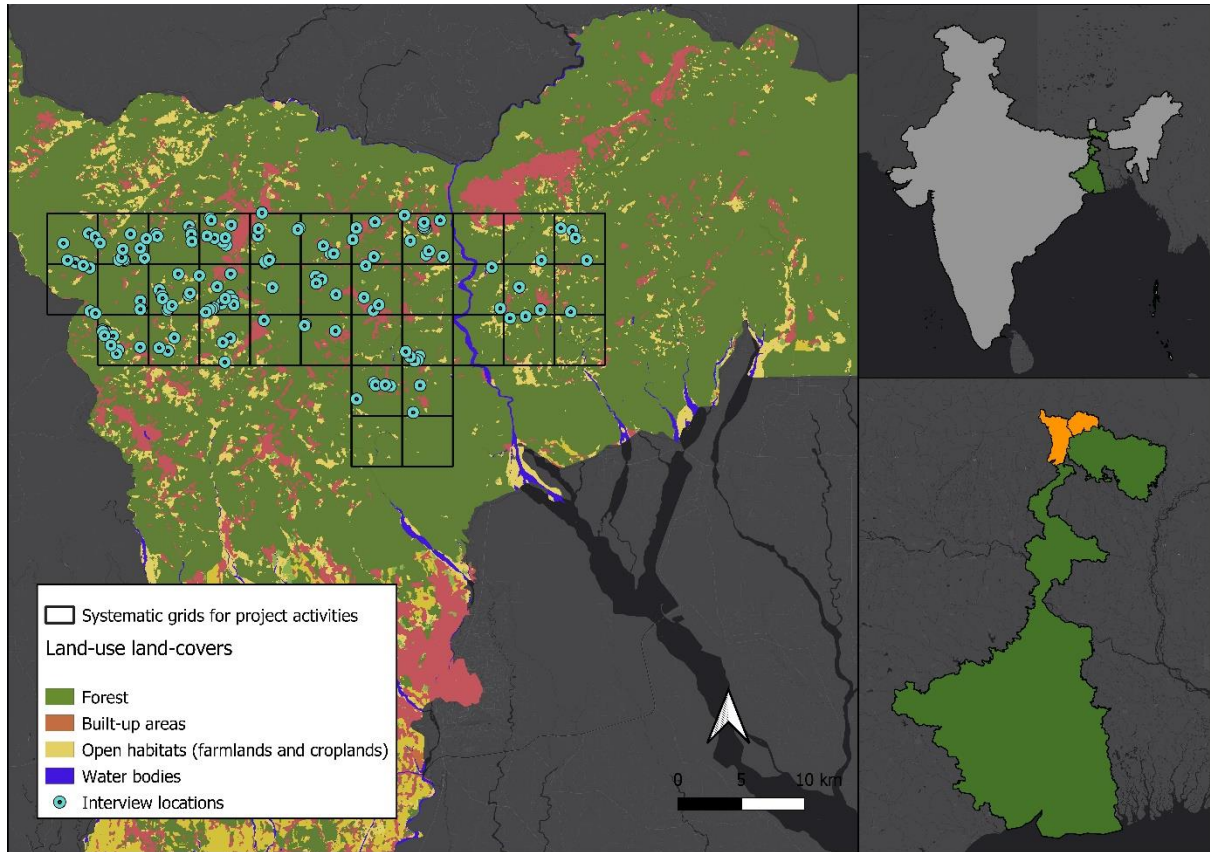
Name of leader: Shreya Ray

Field work conducted:

- Permission received from Wildlife division to conduct camera trapping in Protected areas.
- Permission received from the Territorial division to conduct camera trapping in reserve forests.
- Permission received from the Cinchona department to conduct camera trapping in Cinchona plantation areas.
- Conducted camera trapping exercise in the study region (Map 1) at 41 locations. During this period, we captured images of species such as the Himalayan black bear, leopard, yellow throated marten, barking deer and Himalayan serow.
- Conducted more semi structured interviews (Map 2) with suggested modifications to the questionnaire. A total of 157 interviews have been conducted, and 145 have been entered in excel.
- Data management and translation/transcription of the interviews for thematic analysis.



Map1: Camera trap locations in the study area



Map 2: Study area with interview locations

Preliminary analysis of the interview data

To understand the adequacy of sampling, I plotted the species accumulation curve in September 2024 and again in January 2025 (Figure 1). The later graph has plateaued, indicating that it is less likely to capture new species.

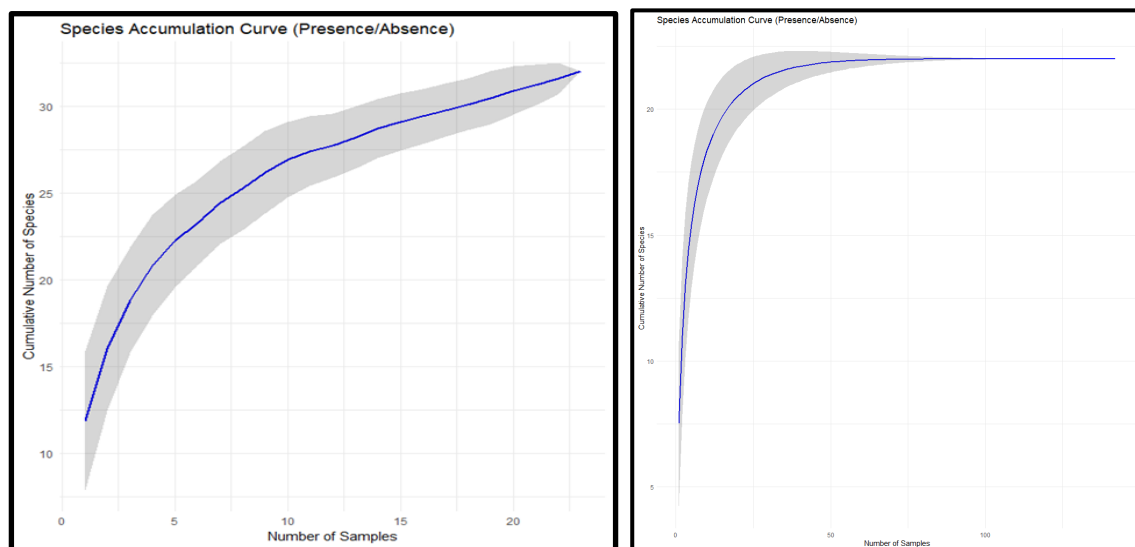


Figure 1: Comparison of species accumulation curves between 80 participants performed in September 2024 versus 145 participants performed in January 2025. The curve has plateaued now.

I wanted to visualize the duration since a species was seen last.

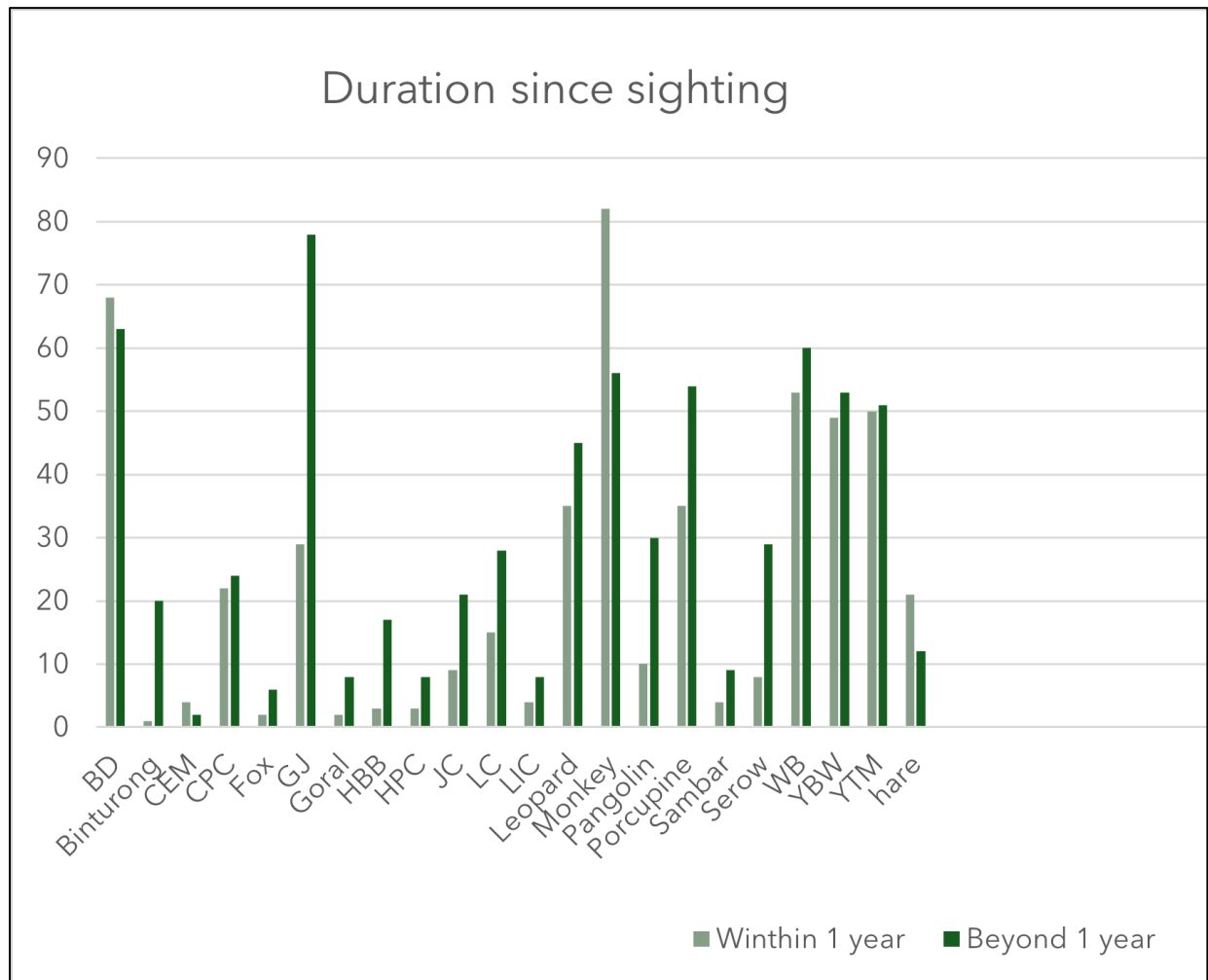


Figure 2: Duration since the species was seen

Observation: Species such as the golden jackal and Himalayan black bear have not been seen in the recent years and are under threat but still vulnerable to negative perception and persecution (Figure 2).

Next, I wanted to check the descriptive relation between perception and response. I used a Sankey diagram to observe this relationship.

