

Project Update: October 2013

I have had several rounds of meetings with local conservation managers from the Wildlife Protection Department, Jammu and Kashmir. The Chief Conservator of Forests for Ladakh, Mr Jigmet Takpa, is excited about the project and issued me a letter (attached for your reference). I have applied to the Chief Wildlife Warden for the state for permission to formally start work.

Based on discussions with these managers it was decided to focus on the entire plateau, using specific areas as samples for certain factors (e.g. tourism, security forces, pastoralism, wild yak, wolves, kiangs, etc.). I will be returning to the area next week and hope to identify the specific areas.

I have ordered the camera (whose costs have increased but I plan to absorb the extra costs). The camera has been out of stock for a few months and expected delivery is the third week of November 2013.

The preliminary literature review is almost complete. I have sourced existing literature published not just on Changthang but on Ladakh as a whole, as several issues do overlap across the region. I have also started looking at old records, especially in back issues of Journal of Bombay Natural History Society, as these provide some interesting insights. I have also started looking through old travelogues to check for any notes and observations that might be relevant.