

## **Project Update: June 2005**

The project work has been started with a field trip to the Dibang valley sanctuary in the month of May 2004. Necessary ground works were completed within one week. The Dambing area of the sanctuary nearing China border was chosen for this initial field trip. The survey was primarily restricted in the fringe and buffer areas. Guided by a local youth of Idu Mishimi tribe, the members of the team trekked through hilly terrain. Distinct changes in vegetation profile have been observed across the altitudinal gradient as the team members approached towards snow line. This initial visit could not record primate species through direct sighting, though there was confirmed indirect information.

However, direct encounter of endangered species like Indian Muntjac (*Muntiacus muntjac*), Red Panda (*Ailurus fulgens*), Asiatic black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*), Gaur (*Bos gaurus*), Wild Pig (*Sus scrofa*), Mithun (*Bos frontalis*) by the survey team and indirect evidence for the presence of Blue sheep (*Pseudois nayaur*), Goral (*Naemorhedus goral*), Mainland serow (*Naemorhedus sumatraensis*), Takin (*Budorcas taxicolor*), Himalayan musk deer (*Moschus chrysogaster*) indicate the importance of this area as rich center of bio-diversity .