

Project Update: May 2012

Specific targets:

1. Community meetings
2. School children activities
3. Habitat surveys
4. Publication

1) Community meetings

Two scheduled meetings were conducted in Domil and Shounthar villages in the project area. Community members were briefed about the importance of community organisation for the conservation purpose and sustainable development.

2) School children activities (paintings, quiz, speech and field trip)

Awareness about the nature conservation for the school going children was the basic target of the project. In two established school nature clubs, activities like paintings, quiz and speech about the importance of high alpine mountain eco-zone with the reference to woolly flying squirrel (WFS) were organised. This activity got much appreciation from the relevant school administration. During the first week of May 2012 the school children were taken to the field to sensitise them about the importance of WFS and its habitat.

3) Habitat surveys

We organised last field survey about the population and habitat status of WFS after a long severe winter. Although the higher reaches of WFS habitat was still under snow sheet but our field team did a lot to collect the data. Live movie and still digital snaps of WFS were made in the field.

4). Publication

A research article on Field findings titled *“New Distribution Records of Woolly Flying Squirrel (Eupetaurus cinereus Thomas, 1888) in Neelum Valley of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan”* is submitted to *Pakistan Journal of Zoology* which has gone through review process and will be soon available as online research article. A detail field survey report has been submitted to Azad Jammu and Kashmir Wildlife Department.