

## Project Update: November 2011

### Specific targets

- Community meetings
- Establishment of nature 2 Nature clubs and Awareness sessions in schools
- Habitat surveys
- Awareness material/campaign

#### **1) Community meetings**

We organized community meetings for the awareness raising about the importance of nature resources of high mountain eco-region. Local community was sensitized about the emerging threats of habitat degradation in the area. These meetings were conducted at Arangel, Kel, Dokran Domil and Shounthar villages in the project area. Community members were briefed about the projective objectives and importance of Community Organization for the Conservation Purpose and sustainable development. Some local activists were motivated to organize as local conservation forum and they join the local conservation organization **Breath Foundation**.



Left: Community meetings as awareness tool about the importance of the Woolly Flying Squirrel (WFS) habitat. Right: Awareness session on the importance of WFS

#### **2) Establishment of nature 2 Nature clubs and Awareness sessions in schools**

Awareness about the nature conservation for the school going children was the basic target of the project. Two, student nature clubs were established in the area and awareness session we delivered to the students.

#### **3) Habitat surveys**

The project area constitutes on High mountain Eco-Zone will become inaccessible during winter, so we organized two field surveys to access the population and habitat status of WFS. Data was collected about the presence and population status of WFS through direct field observation and questionnaires surveys from herders, hunters and Salajeet (A black inorganic substance leaching from overhanging cliffs, having much importance in local traditional medical

cure) collectors. The base line report was prepared and soon will share to the Azad Jammu Kashmir Pakistan Wildlife department for future conservation management and planning.



Population and habitat assessment survey of WFS

#### 4) Awareness material

As a continues and parallel activity, Posters and pamphlet including information on Woolly Flying Squirrel in Urdu language was distributed among school children and community members as a part of awareness. The poster was displayed at public places. Posters have also been presented to the Wildlife officials to be kept in the Office and distributed among wildlife staff.

