

Progress report

The following activities have been conducted during 6th May, 2024 - 12th May, 2024 (preliminary field visit) and 8th Dec, 2024 to 28th, Dec, 2024.

1. Pangolin Burrow Survey
2. Camera trap installation
3. Key Informants Interview
4. Capacity Building for youth

1. Pangolin Burrow Survey

We selected five community forests within three municipalities in Surkhet for pangolin burrow surveys after consultation with division and sub division forest officials and community forest user group members who provided information on the most likely places to potentially find pangolins.

An area of 500 hectares was sampled, with 100 m X 20 m belt transects (n= 500). We did not detect any evidence of pangolins in our study area in spite of apparently suitable habitat (e.g. the presence of termite mounds).

During the surveys we noticed snare/ trap setups in porcupine burrows in two of the community forests. Also, several gun shots were heard during the survey our surveys indicating there was active trapping and hunting in the area.



Photo: Transect crew in Birendranagar, Surkhet



Photos: Examples of Termite mounds documented during the survey

2. Camera trap installation

Besides the transect surveys, we installed 10 cameras in five of the community forests (at the places where indirect signs of wildlife were detected). There were no pangolin images, but leopard, leopard cat, jungle cat, yellow throated marten, and large Indian civet were detected.

Camera trap were installed with the help of our trained local eco envoys.



Photos: Setting camera traps, Surkhet

2. Key Informants Interview

Initially, we interviewed key informants from each community forests we surveyed including ward officials, forest guides, the community forest president, and a wood contractor to get a sense of where pangolins had been sighted in the past. Based on this, largely historic, information we used a more detailed questionnaire survey in interviews with 30 households of Barah Taal, one of the areas with historic sightings.



Photos: key informant interview and questionnaire survey with local

4. Capacity building workshop for youth

Four individuals including two forest guides and two students were part of the surveys so they received knowledge on pangolin behavior and threats, habitat survey methods, and indirect pangolin signs. They also gained experience in camera trapping.



Photos: Capacity building for youth