

Progress report

The following activities have been conducted during 29th Dec, 2024 to Jan 5th, 2025.

- 1. Key Informants Interview** - Collected insights on local awareness, traditional uses, and perceptions of pangolins.
- 2. Community conservation camp** - Conducted sensitization sessions to engage local communities in pangolin conservation.

1. Key Informant Interview

Results of the surveys revealed that only 44% of the respondents said they were even aware of pangolins, which in the local dialect, are referred to as *Salak Macho* or *Pakhey Macho*. Only 17% of the respondents said they knew about the pangolin's diet, and just 5% indicated they were aware that pangolins live in burrows.

Our survey also found that 12 (40%) households had pangolin parts, such as scales and claws, in their possession. They mentioned using pangolin scales for medicinal purposes, such as treating stomach problems (*gaano*) and retained placenta. Some locals said they wore the scales around their neck or stomach for these purposes. Similar treatments were also applied to buffaloes using the scales. Additionally, four respondents mentioned crafting rings from the pangolin scales.

While not all respondents who were aware of pangolins possessed pangolin parts, there was a notable overlap.

We also received two reports of pangolin sightings.

Case 1: Bibek Pun Magar shared, "I saw a pangolin near the Bheri river bank (Chepang) about a year ago. At the time, I didn't recognize the animal. However, I clearly remember that there was a wire around its neck."

Case 2: Amrit Bahadur Thapa shared, "Before 2023 B.S., I had seen pangolins in the forest near Chepang. However, I haven't seen them since. I have heard from locals that three dead pangolins were found in the Bheri River, likely as a result of flooding."



Photos: Pangolin scales and claws found on local's houses

2. Community conservation camp

During the household surveys, we discovered various myths and misconceptions about pangolins within the community. In response, conservation camps were held to address these misconceptions and raise awareness.

Altogether 70 individuals participated in the camps from different community groups including ward committee, community forest user group and women group. Participants were curious about the camp and actively participated throughout the session. Pre- and post-surveys showed a significant increase in their knowledge of pangolins, including their ecological role and the threats they face. Participants also expressed positive attitudes toward pangolin conservation. The use of documentaries and folk songs about pangolins captivated their attention and enhanced their enjoyment.

Two school camps involving altogether 120 individuals were conducted where students gained knowledge on pangolins and their interest was increased in pangolin conservation. A rapid quiz game at the end of session boosted the students' energy and enthusiasm for pangolin conservation.



Photos: Local conservation camp in two communities in Barah taal, Surkhet



Photos: School conservation camp in Barah taal and Gurbakot, Surkhet



Photos: Children drawing pangolin art