

Project Update: February 2013

Meeting with wildlife officials

Inception meetings were carried out with wildlife officials and field staff in October 2012 and a presentation was made to them on the project objectives and methodologies. Discussion was made on the potential sites for the upcoming surveys along with the previously surveyed sites. Wildlife department nominated the field staff working in and around Phalla Game reserve to be involved in the project activities along with selection of sites and during the surveys.

Selection of survey plots

During the last few months we have been visiting the field and selected altogether 10 surveys plots for the presence/absence surveys. For the selection of survey plots we reviewed literature, discussion was made with wildlife field staff, hunters and locals. Based on all the information collected we selected the survey plots within the potential habitat and altitudinal range of cheer pheasant. Population abundance surveys will be conducted in the month of May-June 2013.

Conservation education

During the month of December – February we conducted meetings with locals, hunters and school teachers around the selected survey plots and motivated them for the conservation of cheer pheasant and its habitat. We also distributed published awareness material among communities to raise the awareness about the target species. Awareness sessions were also done in four schools in the project area to create awareness among school children and teachers.

Surveys of human pressure

We are in progress in conducting questionnaire surveys to find out the anthropogenic pressure on cheer pheasant habitat. Interviews have been conducted with the community living around the selected surveys plots to find out the human related activities and natural resource utilization form the habitat of the target species. Until now we have completed surveys around all the 10 selected survey plots and details will be provided in the final report.

