

Project Update: July 2014

Peoples' perception towards snow leopard conservation: Research on peoples' perception towards snow leopard conservation is undergoing. 80% of the field work has been completed. We have already visited and collected data from Shey Phoksundo National Park, Langtang National Park, Kanchanjunga Conservation Area, and Sagarmatha National Park. All field works will be completed by September, 2014. This year we had heavy snow fall till the end of May 2014, for this reason our field work was delayed.

Effectiveness of livestock insurance scheme: This activity is simultaneously being carried out with the previous one. Livestock insurance scheme is implemented in Vijer and Saldang Village Development Committee of Shey Phoksundo National Park, and also in Kanchanjunga Conservation Area. To investigate its effectiveness, semi-structured questionnaire was developed and filled in the field in both the sites. Field work in both the sites has been conducted.

Construction of predator proof demonstration corals: Predator-proof demonstration corals from locally available materials have been constructed in Vijer and Saldang pasture of Shey Phoksundo National Park. Local people believe that these corals have been very effective in mitigating human-snow leopard conflict. People are willing to construct these types of corals if additional support is granted from elsewhere.



Figure 2- Snow leopard sighted by Bishnu P Devkota, Nepal



Figure 1- Team leader during the field work in Shey Phoksundo National Park

Monitoring snow leopard status through sign survey: In coordination with and with support from WWF Nepal, we assessed status of snow leopard through sign survey in Shey Phoksundo National Park. In this project too, our team leader was given the responsibility of Principle Investigator. During the monitoring in April 2014, our team leader sighted four snow leopards in different sites in Shey Phoksundo National Park. This is an exciting event for conservation worker.

Coordination meeting with locals: We also conducted series of coordination meeting with local leaders in different places to discuss the possible ways of snow leopard conservation and conflict

mitigation. Local people were very positive and willing to work for the conservation of snow leopard in their locality. However, they are seeking external support to help them.