

Project Update: October 2012

A team of three led by a field biologist visited the project area twice in June and October 2012. Community consultation was conducted in seven places to confirm the potential red panda habitat for establishing blocks. Altogether eight monitoring blocks were established as shown in the Table 1. The presence of red panda was recorded in seven blocks. No any sign was found in a block established inside the Illadada Kisonma Himchulli Community Forest in Lelep VDC. A total number of 30 transects covering 21.8 km distance was surveyed.

Table 1: Detail of monitoring blocks

S.N.	VDC	Number of Blocks	Number of Transects	Length of transects (m)
1.	Olangchungola	1	3	2,700
2.	Lelep	3	11	6,900
3.	Tapethok	1	4	3,200
4.	Yamphudin	3	12	9,000
Total		8	30	21,800

Meetings were held with the locals including the members of Community Forest User Groups, mother groups and youth groups to form the Red Panda Conservation Committee (RPCC) in Yamphudin, Lelep and Tapethok VDCs. The participants of those meetings were sensitised towards the red panda ecology and conservation needs. The formation of RPCC has been scheduled to be in next trip on November 2012.



Left: A team member consulting locals in the field. Right: Scat recorded inside a temporarily abandoned cattle shed.