Project Update January 2014

Progress Online Transect Survey for Tiger's Prey Base Density Estimation

Direct and indirect methods have been used for estimating abundance of ungulate species (Seidensticker 1976b; Dinerstein, 1980; Khan *et al.* 1996, Karanth and Nichols (1998). As Wegge & Storaas (2009) recommended, prey base monitoring by line transects from elephant back has been conducted to estimate the density of tiger prey species in south west corner of Bardia National Park and Bardia-Katarniyaghat corridor. The generated data will be analysed with the program DISTANCE 5.0 (Thomas *et al.* 2006). Line transects have been placed in an east-west direction in whole area in which the transect interval was 500 m between two transects and lengths varying from 1 to 6 km. Altogether, 67 transects were surveyed and data analysis work is ongoing. After data analysis it will generate total prey density and determine the status of food supply for predator.



Left: Line transect design for prey base estimation. Right: Me with technicians conducting transect survey for distance sampling in field.