

Project Update: May 2014

After ending the winter hibernation period of amphibians, spring (pre-monsoon) survey has been done in the Tatopani – Ghasa –Jomsom - Muktinath and Tatopani – Ghrepani – Birethanti – Nayapool route of Annapurna Conservation Area in March and April 2014. The survey route consisted of wide range of elevation gradients from 1000 m – 4000 m asl along the major rivers, streams, ponds and associated habitat. A total of seven species were encountered during the visual encounter and dip net survey. Among these species, Boulenger’s high altitude toad (*Scutigera alticola*) was the notable and rare species which was encountered at 3606 m asl in the snowy habitat of Muktinath area. Perhaps this is the highest altitude dwelling amphibian species in world but needs further confirmation. So far, this species has been recorded only from this area in Nepal. This rare and endangered species has been threatened due to the human and tourist encroachment, domestic animals and sewage disposal to its delicate ponds and small high altitude streams.

The next survey will be undertaken during the peak monsoon season from June – August 2014 and it is hoped that more species will be found in this time as this is the primary breeding season for frogs and toads in the region.



Limnonectes syhadrensis (Photo by Bikas Giri - Global Primate Network)



Euphlyctis cyanophlyctis (Photo by Bikas Giri - Global Primate Network)



PI Bikas Giri measuring water temperature of amphibian habitat (Photo by Purna Ale - Global Primate Network)



Scutigera alticola (Photo by Bikas Giri - Global Primate Network)

Unidentified tadpole (Photo by Bikas Giri - Global Primate Network)

