

Project Update July 2014



Based on KCAMC's 40th board meeting decision, we established three Community Managed Livestock Insurance Scheme (CMLIS) for dholes in Lelep, Tapethok and Yamphudin Village Development Committees (VDCs) of KCA. Tapethok CMLIS also included snow leopard along with dhole in the scheme. We had planned two but actually established three CMLISs. KCAMC suggested to establish three new CMLISs in priority areas focusing on dholes instead of integrating dhole into the existing snow leopard CMLIS. Available amount is equally provided to all

newly establish CMLIS as an endowment fund. We are looking for additional endowment fund to make all CMLISs sustainable. By-law of three CMLISs prepared, discussed at the meetings and endorsed by respective CMLIS. Herders were consulted/ played active role in all these processes. We are facilitating respective CMLISs to collect the details of herders and their livestock to be included in insurance scheme. Up to now, 58 herders included their 468 livestock in Tapethok CMLIS. Herders and livestock data collection is in process in Lelep and Yamphudin.



Along with CMLIS work, we have collected 40 putative dhole scats from the pasture lands of KCA. The scats are collected in two tubes with ethanol preservative for genetic tests and same sample with silica descant preservative for diet analysis. We are continuously working to collect more scats. The collected samples will be genetically tested to confirm whether the scats are from dholes or not before doing diet analysis. Difficulties we faced during project implementation and approach we adopted to address them are described in the following points:

- Remoteness of KCA demanded more time and efforts to implement CMLIS.
- Increasing demand of CMLIS programme to include other carnivores as well (black bear, clouded leopard, common Leopard, leopard cat and yellow throated martens)
- The cost of killed livestock is greater than CMLIS provides in relief funds. In average one adult livestock cost around \$ 500 to 600 but herders gets only \$30 - \$40 as relief fund. Herders want to increase the amount of relief fund.
- We have given more time and efforts to reach all the herders and still are in process of reaching them to collect their livestock details to be included in CMLIS.
- KCAMC and local elite people are supporting herders for effective implementation of CMLISs.
- Herders themselves are realising that some compensation is better than none. They were not getting any relief fund for their livestock losses in the past.

- It is important that conservation authorities now show concern for their losses. Herders are positive towards dhole and snow leopard CMLISs, so are demanding for other carnivore schemes as well.
- Herders and communities from outside KCA are also demanding for CMLIS work.

