

Project Update: March 2014

We are making better collaboration with local communities for Community Managed Livestock Insurance Scheme (CMLIS). Project inception meeting has been organised and project activities were briefed to Kangchenjunga Conservation Area Management Council (KCAMC) at different level and organised community meetings. KCAMC has the overall management responsibility of Kangchenjunga Conservation Area (KCA). KCAMC's 40th board meeting was held in September 7th, 8th, and 9th 2013 at its office in Lelep and officially decided to establish three CMLIS for dholes in priority areas. Up to now, two CMLIS has been established in lower belt of Lelep and Tapethok villages. We are working to establish another CMLIS based on KCAMC board meeting decision and working towards preparation of directives for effective implementation of CMLIS. We are also in touch with concern stakeholders outside KCA boundary for further collaboration for dhole conservation. Dholes are high ranging species and human-dhole conflict also reported from neighbouring village of KCA. We will work out to strengthen our collaboration for dhole CMLIS in corridor areas of KCA neighbouring villages as well.

We have collected 82 putative dhole scats in last survey from KCA and were tested genetically to confirm whether the scats are from dholes or not; before doing diet analysis. Out of 80+ samples tested only six samples were found dhole positive.

Local communities are very supportive to this project. They are actively participating in CMLIS formation and working for its better implementation.



From left to right: Community meeting in KCA; Encounter with a snake in Tapethok village; Wolangchung Gola Village of KCA; Landscape view from Lelep village of KCA; Livestock grazing in the pastureland of Yamphudin. Photos by Ambika Khatiwada