

## **Project Update: October 2014**

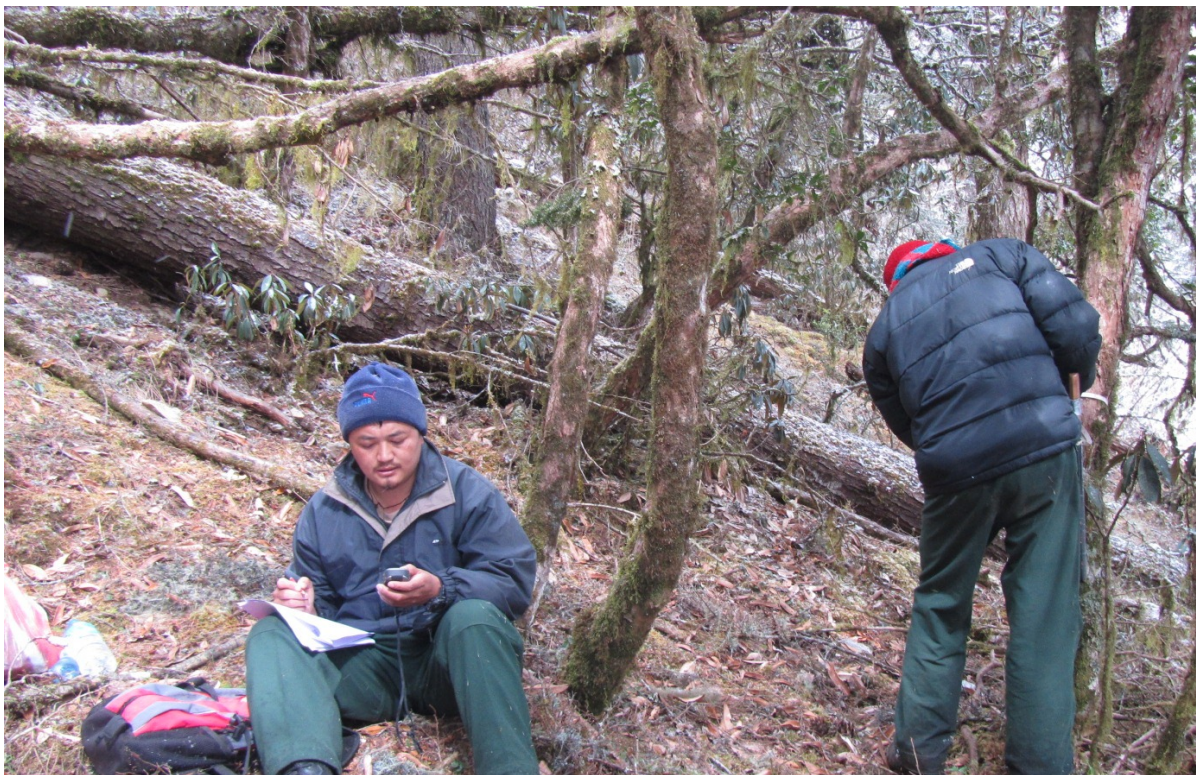
The first phase of red panda survey was initiated from August 2014 in one of the transects of Thrumshingla National Park, namely Dangyungma to Sengor. During the study, red panda signs were recorded in seven of the 40 plots established. In total 80% of the plots were located in fir forest while 20% were located in mixed conifer forest. Red panda presence was highest in fir forest with 86% and 14% in mixed conifer forest.

Most of the bamboo species during the study period were found dead and red panda presence was recorded in those plots in which there was live bamboos.

Red panda presence was recorded within an altitudinal range of 3166 - 3597 m asl and majority was on east facing aspects.

With regards to the disturbances in study site, 70% were anthropogenic and 30% were natural. Anthropogenic disturbance included lopping, harvest of forest products (both major and minor), girdling, livestock and hunting signs while natural disturbances included naturally fallen logs, dead bamboo, landslides and presence of predators (leopard and yellow-throated marten).

Red pandas avoided areas with high anthropogenic disturbances and are found to be accepting natural disturbances with high to moderate disturbances.



Panda survey.