

Project Update: January 2017

This report comprises the summary of field report of last 3 months starting from October 2016. Amphibians (anurans) during this period are rarely seen in the study area because they go for hibernation due to cold climatic conditions as temperature come down to freezing point in the upper valley of the study area. But to our surprise young tadpoles of Himalayan toad do exist and morphologically changes to froglets by December from the eggs laid in August. Tadpoles of *Scutiger sikkimenses* are commonly sighted along the rivulets under the wood debris and on marshy areas. Matured frog and toad are not sighted nor heard. More concentration of the study during these months was given for awareness creation among the rural community by visiting individual households in the remote areas. Power point presentation during the social gathering in the villages where there is electricity supply. School going children and teacher were similarly sensitised on the importance of conserving anurans in the locality through mass gathering. More than 500 heads of people of all walk of life including local community, school going children, loggers, miners and other individual who are living under Bjemina stream catchment area were sensitise through above mentioned medium of communication.

This study being for the first time could report species diversity, distribution and threat factors in the area. However there is still more to be done to make a good conclusion of the anurans of the study area. The breeding behavior and habitat niche of Himalayan bull frog, and distribution and habitat use *Scutiger* species which is rarely sighted in the upper valley above 3000 m asl in the subject of interest. The consumption of Himalayan bull frog is increasing in the locality which is known through informal talk and direct sighting of frogs being collected for consumption. So even this situation is equally important to make a timely study.



Conservation message with local community



Figure 1: Tadpoles of *Scutiger* recorded under oak forest above 3000msl



Timber extraction in the study area.



Young one of Himalayan toad in Blue pine forest in November at an altitude 2500msl