

Project Update: December 2015

Seminar on Human- Bear Conflict.

A seminar on human-bear conflict was conducted at the College of Natural Resources, Royal University of Bhutan. The seminar is one of the parts of the projects which aimed at dissemination of Information about Himalayan black bear and advocate the general public on the importance of bear in the eco-system services. The theme of the seminar was human and bear in close harmony for better ecosystem services covering the following points.

1. Bears in Bhutan.
2. Ecology of Himalayan black bears.
3. Ecological significance of Himalayan bears.
4. Human-bear conflict causes and consequences of the conflict and some mitigation measure to avoid the conflict.
5. Take home message to our people.

Take Home Message from the seminar.

- Conservation is for whom?
- Conservation is whose job?
- Understand the ecology of the bear.
 - Live in close harmony with the bears but not in negative interaction.
 - Don't be greedy (leave behind some back in the wild for wild animals).
 - Don't ever encroach or fragment their habitats (if animals could talk, they would drag you to the court and put you behind the bars).
 - If you are residing adjacent/ inside the forest, keep your foodstuffs well preserved.
 - Be aware of dens if you happen to walk in the forest.
 - Refrain walking alone in the forest rather take friends and keep going/talking.

The seminar was attended by more than 100 participants who work with our rural people at different capacities and there is no doubt that these 100 people will pass down the information to as many people they interact and this have rippling effect on the conservation of bears in Bhutan in particular and to the outside world in general.

