

Project Update: January 2016

The winter habitat selection of red panda in forest research preserve of Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environment (UWICE), Bhutan commenced from December 2015. A total of 69 plots were laid and surveyed in the total area of 11 km². Elevations in the study area ranged between 2964 m to 3945 m asl. The survey plots were located in three main forest types (fir forest, mixed conifer forest and blue pine forest) dominated by the undergrowth of *Yushania maling* and *Borinda grossa* bamboos.

The very important finding was that the red pandas were extensively feeding on *Borinda grossa* regenerations. Many feeding signs were recorded on the regenerations along with maximum red panda dung on the feeding sites. We have come to know that red pandas were having cub(s) – probably sub adults, during the time of survey and we have come to know this through the differences in the dung size.



Fresh red panda dung in the snow



Differences in red panda dung (probably mother and cub)



Looking for red panda signs



Red panda feeding signs on *Borinda grossa*