

## Project Update: March 2016

The field study was organised from 18<sup>th</sup> October 2015 to 12<sup>th</sup> January 2016 after issuing permission from government authorities in five different sites of Annapurna Conservation Area. Habitat survey (n=84 plots), questionnaire survey (n=23 people), hair trap with honey bait (n=8 traps), faecal (n=27) and hair (n=10) sample collection for genetics and faeces collection (n=66) for diet analysis were successfully organised after a series of meetings with project staff and community leaders. Food items were identified using point frame, volumetric and gravitational methods. The percent frequency of occurrence showed that wild fruits/nuts (85%) are major food followed grasses (43%) whereas small amount of mammal hairs, insects and agricultural crops are also recorded in bear faeces. The next visit will be organised at the end of June 2016 for the collection of summer season faecal sample and intensive questionnaire survey for the assessment of human bear conflict and people perception on bear conservation.



Bear trap with field assistants



Bear trap with field assistants



Feces sample collection and identification of food items with villagers



Identification of food items in feces



Questionnaire survey with hotel owner



Scratches by bears. Photo by Dobato