Project Update: March 2017

Awareness campaign: The awareness campaign with the villagers and students was done. Much of the awareness campaigns were done with the small groups of people and by door the door service. The schools located in the park were primary (till 6th grade). However, the students being so young were seen showing keen interest in wildlife.

FIGURE 1: Awareness campaign with student and local people

The result was discussed with the forest official and the site of rufous-necked hornbill sighted in higher density was explored to assess the threats to conserve and protect the area. For the winter season, the migration of cattle, shifting cultivation and logging were seen as immediate threats for the habitat degradation. These places were visited and people were aware to retain the tree species which are used by the hornbill for food resources.

FIGURE 2: Transect walk survey and monitoring of Rufous-necked Hornbill

Major threats:

FIGURE 3: Major threats in the rufous-necked hornbill habitat; Left to right: Cattle migration; s hifting cultivation; logging and farm road construction.

Food resources: The food resources of RNH were observed through a transect walk and repeated walk were done to find the mean population estimation.

Fruiting food species consumed by RNH during the winter season (January-February) in Jigme Singye Wangchuck National Park of Bhutan were;

a. *Terminalia chebula*
b. *Ficus benghalensis*
c. *Ficus* sp. 1
d. *Ficus* sp. 2
e. *Ficus semicordata*
f. *Beilschmedia assamica*
g. *Litsea* sp.
h. *Neocinnamomum caudatum*
i. *Parasassafras confertiflora*

Images of food resource used by Rufous-necked Hornbill (*Aceros nipalensis*) for the winter season, wildlife and their droppings encountered during the survey:

FIGURE 4: Food resources used by RNH during the winter season.

FIGURE 5: Unknown fecal droppings of wild animal

FIGURE 6: Wild animal encountered during the survey.