Project Update: March 2017

Results from Preliminary Field Visit

From the results of the preliminary field visit different planning/strategies has been made for the detailed phase assessment as well as for meeting the desired aims which have been described below:

Transect Route for Detailed Phase Assessment

Two different transects has been identified for the detailed phase assessment through the preliminary field visit.

First Transect Route

Ulleri to Apoon Hill



Second Transect Route

Apoon Hill to Ghandruk



Inventory:

Three transect routes for the detailed phase assessment have been fixed. The number of traps and number of nights for the detail phase assessment will be increased. Forty individual traps were used for each site in two transect routes. There were four sites for each route totaling eight sites for all transect routes. One night trap will be used for each site. Total number of nights for all the sites was eight. Thus the total number of traps that were installed for all the sites was 320.

Inventory Result

Habitat Analysis

The sites where the expected *A.gurkha* were found was in the range of 2300m to 3200m. All the sites where A.*gurkha* were found were coniferous and Rhododendron forest. The description of Habitat of the A.*gurkha* as the result of preliminary survey is given below:

Table 1: Habitat Quality

SN	Location	Tree Species	Ground	Canopy	Slope	Aspect
			Coverage	Cover		

1	Apoon Hill	Rhododendron,	75-100%	50-75%	30%	South East
		spruce, Deodar				
2	Ghorepani	Rhododendron, Juniperus indica,	75-100%	75- 100%	25%	North West
3	Nangethanti	<i>Juniperus indica,</i> <i>Pinus wallichi,</i> Rhododendron	50-75%	50-75%	15%	South
4	Banthanti	Juniperus indica, Pinus wallichi	50-75%	50-75%	10%	East
5	Peak of Ghore pani down to Deurali	Juniperus indica	25-50%	25-50%	25%	North East
6	Deurali	Juniperus indica, Pinus wallichi, spruce, Deodar	75-100%	25-50%	25%	North West
7	Tada Pani	Juniperus indica, Pinus wallichi, spruce, Deodar	50-75%	25-50%	35%	North
8	Ghandruk	Pinus species,	50-75%	50-75%	30%	South West

Capture percentage

In eight different sites of transect 320 traps were installed. Among the 320 traps we captured 11 different species. But among total traps installed, 30 were false traps. Due to different reasons the traps were closed but there were no any species captured.

The capture percentage was calculated as follows:

Capture percentage: (Total Capture/Total trap installed-False Trap)*100 Where,

Total Capture= 65 Total installed Trap= 320 Total False Traps= 30 Then, Capture percentage= (66/320-30)*100 = 22.75%

The capture of species according to the location and grid is given in the table

Table 2: Capture as per location

SN	Location	Capture	Total Traps Installed
1	Apoon Hill	18	40
4	Ghore Pani	7	40
5	Nangethanti	6	40
8	Banthanti	5	40
5	Peak of Ghorepani	4	40
6	Deurali	14	40
7	Tada Pani	8	40
8	Ghandruk	4	40

*False Trap: Those traps which has been closed due to various reasons like movement because of other external sources in outside of traps or those because of movement due to extreme wind and rain.

Capture Species

A total of 65 individuals belonging to 4 different species were captured.

Table 3: Species according to location

SN	Site	Species	Total Number
1	Apoon Hill	Probable Apodemus gurkha	9
		Soriculus nigresum	9
2	GhorePani	Probable Apodemus gurkha	5
		Soriculus nigresum	2
3	NangeThanti	Mus booduga	3
		Soriculus nigresum	3
4	Banthati	Soriculus nigresum	3
		Mus booduga	2
5	Peak of Ghore Pani	Probable Apodemus gurkha	1
		Soriculus nigresum	3
6	Deurali	Probable Apodemus gurkha	5
		Mus booduga	1
		Soriculus nigresum	8
7	Tada Pani	Probable Apodemus gurkha	1
		Soriculus nigresum	7
8	Ghandruk	Soriculus nigresum	3
		Rattus Species	1

Focal Group Discussion

Using photographs of *A. gurkha,* the discussion was conducted various groups who can have better information about Himalayan field mouse. This discussion was focused to find out the major areas and major threats for *A. gurkha* occurring in those areas.

Some Photographs of Field



Left: Measuring Probable Himalyan Field Mouse. Right: Handling the captured Species in Field



Photo 3: Taking Sample from Captured Species