

April - September, 2024

Project title: Science meets Communities: Working Together for Chinese Pangolin Conservation in Kavrepalanchok, Nepal

This report summarizes the activities conducted till date, highlighting the progress made towards achieving the project's objectives.

- 1. Permit Acquisition:** The necessary permits and approvals were obtained from the relevant authorities to conduct the project activities in various community forests within Kavrepalanchok district (Figure 1).
- 2. Reconnaissance Survey:** A comprehensive reconnaissance survey was conducted to identify potential habitats and areas of high pangolin activity. This survey helped in identifying the most suitable locations for camera trap placement. Series of meetings and discussions with ward chairpersons and presidents of community forest were done to gather information throughout the study area.
- 3. Indirect Sign Survey and Camera Trap Placement:** Over 350 camera trap nights were recorded, resulting in three sightings of Chinese pangolins from two administrative regions of the study area (Figure 4). This data will be crucial in understanding the species' behavior, habitat use, and population dynamics.
- 4. Capacity Building:** Over twenty individuals from community forests were trained to develop their capacity towards pangolin conservation and monitoring. This training aimed to equip them with the necessary skills to contribute to the project's objectives (Figure 2 & 3).
- 5. Community and School Awareness Campaigns:** Awareness campaigns were conducted in the community and schools, reaching approximately 400 individuals. These campaigns aimed to educate the public about the importance of pangolin conservation, the threats they face, and the role they can play in protecting the species (Figure 5 & 6).

Progress and Achievements:

The project has made significant progress in terms of data collection, capacity building, and community engagement. The camera trap data provides valuable insights into the species'

behavior and habitat use, while the trained community members will play a crucial role in monitoring and conserving the pangolin population.

Challenges and Future Directions:

Despite the progress made, the project is currently facing significant challenges due to the recent monsoon floods and landslides, which have rendered the roads and forests inaccessible (Figure 7). This has hindered our ability to conduct field surveys and deploy camera traps, resulting in a temporary pause in data collection. Future directions will focus on addressing these challenges, assessing the impact of the natural calamity on the project, and developing a contingency plan to resume field activities once the situation improves.



नेपाल सरकार
वन तथा वातावरण मन्त्रालय

फोन नं { ४-२२७५७४
४-२२०३०३
फ्याक्स: ४-२२७३७४



वन तथा भू-संरक्षण विभाग



प्राप्त पत्र संख्या र मिति:-
पत्र संख्या:- ०८०/८९
च. नं.:- ११८६

(कृपया पत्रोत्तरमा प्राप्त पत्र संख्या
र मिति उल्लेख गर्नुहोला।
बबरमहल, काठमाडौं, नेपाल
मिति : २०८१/०१/०९,
नेपाल संवत् १९४४

विषय: अनुसन्धान अनुमति सम्बन्धमा ।

श्री निधिल श्रेष्ठ
काभ्रेपलाञ्चोक, नेपाल ।

प्रस्तुत विषयमा Biodiversity Conservancy Nepal, Tilottama-7, Manigram, Rupandehi मा Program Officer को रूपमा कार्यरत तपाईंले "Science meets Communities: Working Together for Chinese Pangolin Conservation in Kavrepalanchok, Nepal" को विषयमा अध्ययन अनुसन्धानका लागि अध्ययन अनुमति उपलब्ध गराइदिनु हुन भनि मिति २०८०/११/३० गते यस विभागमा दिनु भएको निवेदन साथ प्रपोजल प्राप्त भयो। सो सम्बन्धमा कारवाही हुँदा मिति २०८० साल चैत्र २७ गतेको प्राविधिक समितिको बैठकको निर्णयानुसार उक्त अध्ययन अनुसन्धानबाट अध्ययन क्षेत्रमा Estimation of Occupancy and identification of site covariates that influence the occurrence of Chinese pangolin लगायतका विषयमा जानकारी प्राप्त हुने भएकोले प्रपोजलमा उल्लेखित Methodology (Camera trapping, Habitat and Occupancy modelling) अनुसार तपसिलको शर्तहरूको अधिनमा रही डिभिजन वन कार्यालयसँग समन्वय गरि सन् २०२४, अप्रिल २१ देखि सन् २०२५, मार्च १५ सम्मका लागि अनुसन्धान गर्नु हुन निर्देशानुसार अनुरोध छ ।

शर्तहरू

१. अनुसन्धानकर्ताले वन ऐन २०७६ तथा वन नियमावली २०७९, राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्ज तथा वन्यजन्तु संरक्षण ऐन, २०२९ र नियमावली २०३० तथा यस मातहतका नियमावलीहरूको पूर्ण पालना गर्नुपर्नेछ ।
२. अनुसन्धान कार्य डिभिजन वन कार्यालयसँगको समन्वयमा गर्नुपर्नेछ ।
३. नमूना संकलन गर्न पाइने छैन ।
४. अनुसन्धानको क्रममा प्राप्त भएको जैविक विविधता संरक्षणसँग सम्बन्धित संवेदनशिल सूचनाहरू गोप्य राख्नु पर्नेछ अनाधिकृत रूपमा त्यस्ता सूचनाहरू कसैलाई पनि उपलब्ध गराउन पाइने छैन ।
५. अनुसन्धान कार्य समाप्त भए पश्चात एक प्रति रिपोर्ट/प्रतिवेदन (कागजी तथा विद्युतिय) यस विभागमा अनिवार्य रूपमा बुझाउनु पर्नेछ ।
६. तोकिएका शर्तहरूको पालना नगरिएमा विभागले कुनै पनि समयमा अनुसन्धान अनुमति रद्द गर्न सक्नेछ । =

(सबनम पाठक)
वन अधिकृत

बोधार्थ

श्री डिभिजन वन कार्यालय, काभ्रेपलाञ्चोक । आवश्यक सहयोग तथा अनुगमनको लागि अनुरोध छ ।

Figure 1: Permit to conduct the study in various community forests of Kavrepalanchok district issued by the Department of Forest and Soil Conservation, Ministry of Environment.



Figure 2: Training the local individuals from the community forests user group on using camera traps in order to develop their capacity and increase knowledge on monitoring and conserving pangolins



Figure 3: Training the local individuals from the community forests user group on using camera traps in order to develop their capacity and increase knowledge on monitoring and conserving pangolins



Figure 4: Chinese pangolins captured by one of our camera traps in Kavrepalanchok district



Figure 5: Students of the school after the completion of the awareness campaign about pangolins, their significance, and the necessity of conservation



Figure 6: Students of the school after the completion of the awareness campaign about pangolins, their significance, and the necessity of conservation



Figure 7: Landslide sweeping away trails and trees in community forests