

Project Update: March 2017

Pre-project key informant interviews identified the provisioning services provided by tree fern to the communities. Tree fern stem (trunk) was used as traditional gate (*tagaro*) at the entrance of house. The preference compared to other wood is due to its resistant nature to decaying and doesn't undergo secondary growth. Similarly, fronds were used as fodder for livestock whereas fiddle head parts were mostly cut haphazardly for food by humans.

In addition, even though key informants insisted on awareness level of tree fern conservation among locals, unsustainable fodder collection and open livestock grazing in tree fern habitat might account as unintentional threats to tree fern. Further, road construction as one part of developmental activities, was found inconsiderate of the tree fern and its habitat and pose additional threats. Only recently, locals were aware of existence value of tree fern due to its existence since Middle Jurassic age and insist to conserve it. However, they still lack strong rationale in conserving tree fern.

The complexity in identifying the use of tree fern, persistent and potential threats as well as people's perception on tree fern conservation and sustainable management, the need of household survey have been felt necessary. Household survey will be an additional component in the project.



Left: Field monitoring of tree fern. Right: Cut stump of a tree fern in Panchase.