

## Project Update: August 2017

Camera trapping exercises are being continued and monitored frequently. Few bears were confirmed to be residential nearby the settlement. The foraging habit and the habitat of the bear need to be protected from further destruction and disturbance by the anthropogenic and restrict major social economic developmental activities within the local community area having direct negative influence to the habitat of bear.



Left: Monitoring the camera trap. Top right: In the field. Bottom right: Residential bear one.

The second phase of camera trapping exercise is still going on within the study area to monitor the movement and presence of bears.

The questionnaire social survey is still undergoing within the project area. The questions are mainly oriented to fulfil the objectives approved by Rufford which are:



1. To investigate the status and distribution of bear in Phobjikha Ramsar site.
2. To assess the root causes of human-bear conflict in Phobjikha Ramsar site.
3. To assess people's perceptions and attitudes towards Himalayan black bear.
4. To provide practical measures to address the human-bear conflict in the country.



Left: Surveying the community within the project area. Top right: Community survey. Bottom right: Surveying the local herder within the project site.

The local community and school students are made aware regarding the Himalayan black bear. The awareness were being carried out by trained and influential local leaders and forest officer within the study area.



Commuity and school awareness.

As shown in above pictures, the distribution of vouchers and pamphlets are being carried out throughout the study area especially in research institution, school within the project area and other area within the buffer zone of the study area.

### **Future Scope and Recommendation**

The study is going to explore the additional scope to mitigate the human-bear conflict after analysing and interpreting the research finding from current study. Beside this the current study will be able to explore the coexistence relationship between bear and other protected animals within the Ramsar site.

### **Acknowledgement**

- Dorji Duba, Sr. Forester, Jigme Singye Wangchuck National Park.
- Karma Lhundup, Forest Ranger, Jigme Singye Wangchuck National Park.
- RSPN, Phobjikha field office.
- JSW National Park, Tshangkha Trongsa.
- Territorial field office, Phobjikha.
- Gup, Phobjikha gewog and Gangtey gewog.