

Project Update: July 2017

Potential habitat of red panda for Selela FMU has been identified through consultation meeting in April 2017 at Haa. The following three important parameters were considered while identifying potential red panda habitat.

- i. Elevation range between 2,000 and 4,400 m.
- ii. Forest type: fir, rhododendron and coniferous forest with bamboo in the understorey.
- iii. River networks and records of direct sighting.

We overlaid the potential habitat on the FMU map with 9.6 km² grid and further divided this into six sub-grids, each with an area of 1.6km² with Arc GIS 9.3 version to facilitate data collection. One grid falls outside the delineated potential habitat. However, all five transect grids were selected for intensive survey.

Each transect was surveyed during April 2017 with altitude ranging from 2,529 to 3,529m in logged areas and 2,708 to 3,008m in unlogged areas. The second phase of survey is scheduled for July 2017.



Left: Consultation meeting with core team members of red panda field survey at Haa. Right: Consultation with local people of Bampo village to understand Red panda habitat.



Left: Team leader setting GPS to start survey with survey team members under unlogged FMU area. Right: Measuring girth of a spruce tree in logged forest for red panda habitat assessment.