

Project Update: October 2018

During the course of the First Report (December, 2017 – May, 2018), preliminary surveys in Ghermu VDC were carried out together with social surveys, line transects, collection of herbarium samples, and training of forest guardians.

During the period covered by this report, the following activities were undertaken:

1. Field surveys
2. The conduct of a conservation awareness program in five schools and communities
3. Capacity building training
4. Dissemination of information on the Red panda to the news media.

1. Field surveys

After extensive interviews and discussions with local people, field surveys were carried out in the area of Marsyangdi Gaunpalika (Marsyangdi Rural Municipality) between 2200 and 3700 m asl with the aim of finding new sites of Red panda presence. The team also conducted the second field survey in previously recorded area of Bhulbhule and Bhaundanda and recorded the fecal pellets of Red panda.

(NOTE: According to new geopolitical divisions in Nepal, Marsyangdi Gaunpalika includes most of my study area like Khudi, Ghermu, Taghring, Bahundanda, and Bhulbhule).



One of the field team in Red panda habitat in Marsyangdi Gaunpalika.



Red panda droppings on a tree near Bhaundanda.

2. Conservation awareness program

Awareness programmes and educational activities were conducted in five different schools and communities emphasizing the Red pandas' ecological importance using a projector. Posters, leaflets, and t-shirts with conservation messages concerning the Red panda were distributed to the community forest users, students, teachers and herders. 150 posters and 500 awareness leaflets were distributed during the programme.



Presenting Red panda related material through a projector in the arts room of Shree Pancha Bichar Primary School.



Making a presentation to schoolchildren and teachers about the Red panda and its habitat in Chandradaya Secondary School.

नेपाल लगायत विश्वमा नै लोपोन्मुख अवस्थामा रहेको हाम्रो (रेड पाण्डा) को संरक्षण गरौं ।



परिचय	
उत्पत्तिके नाम	उल्ल, रातो पान्डा, सुके मुटो, कुटी, नीटोटी
अङ्ग्रेजी नाम	Red Panda
वैज्ञानिक नाम	Ailurus fulgens
शरीर	२० - ५२ से.मी (भारो) २ - ५ से.मी (पछी)
पैलछाट	नेपालकायमा भारत, तिब्बत, भुटान र म्यान्मार् (बर्मा)
नेपालमा वनछाट	नेपालको पहाडी तथा हिमाली क्षेत्र जलवेत २०००-४८०० मिटर सम्म
मुख्य आहार	मसिन्धु-विशालीको फल, दुध, जमीनी फल
जन्म	औसत ८-१० वर्ष
भातै लाग्ने समय	पौष-फागुन
कच्चा जन्माइने महिला	जेष्ठ, फागुन

संरक्षण गर्ने तरिका ?

- वनजंगलको संरक्षण गर्ने ।
- संरक्षण सम्बन्धमा जनचेतना गर्ने ।
- वनहड्डेलो, वनफर्छेली नियन्त्रण गर्ने ।
- वातावरण सुगन्धैटी विकास गर्ने ।
- शिवजन्तुको घेरी शिकारी गर्ने निरुसहित गर्ने ।

संरक्षण किन आवश्यक ?

- दुर्लभ प्रजाती ।
- पर्यटन प्रवर्द्धन गरी ठाउँको पहिचान बनाउन ।
- आन्ध्रखल अनुसन्धान ।
- उच्च पहाडी र हिमाली क्षेत्रको वनको सूचक प्रजाती ।

रेडपाण्डा संरक्षणमा हातेमालो गरौं ।

थप जानकारीको लागि:
गणेश धिमिरे
मोबाइल नम्बर: ९८०८९५७८७६
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कृपया रेडपाण्डा सम्बन्धी कुनै सुचना भए हामीलाई जानकारी गराईदिएहुन अनुरोध गर्दछौं ।




Displaying a poster of Red panda information in a classroom.

Drawing competition

Different events of a drawing competition were conducted in five separate schools in Lamjung. These were aimed at primary and secondary school children with the purpose of raising awareness of the Red panda and the need to protect its habitat at an early age. Three students of each school were declared winners on the basis of attractiveness of the picture of Red panda in Shree Himalayan primary School, Shree Ganga Milan secondary School and Shree Chandradaya Secondary School whereas first 5 are selected in Shree Pancha Bichar Primary School and Shree Mahendara Dev Secondary School.





Some of the best drawings during the Drawing Competition.

Some classroom related activities in pictorial form.

The Red panda leaflets formed part of the awareness materials produced in the course of the project.





3. Capacity building training

All junior members of the team and Forest Guardians received practical instruction in the identification of signs of Red panda activity (droppings, footprints, scratch marks, foraging marks) together with the use of GPS, compass, camera trap, quadrat sampling and field data collection procedures. After this instruction, the participants felt confident in surveying areas effectively for the presence of Red pandas.

4. Dissemination of information on the Red panda to the news media.

One 30 minute radio program about the Red panda and the importance of conserving its habitat was broadcast on Radio Lamjung FM 91.8 MHz. To hear the broadcast, click on this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_c66jLf9QE0&t=36s

One article was published in the national newspaper, *The Himalayan Times*, with the title "Endangered Red panda seen in Lamjung for the first time". To read the article, click on this link: <https://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/endangered-red-panda-seen-in-lamjung-for-the-first-time/>

I have made a short video compilation of my fieldwork in Lamjung district, which can be seen by clicking on this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OnXdix9jM1E&t=93s>



Answering a question on Red pandas asked by station manager, Ramje Rana, in a 30 minute program on Radio Lamjung FM 91.8 MHz.