

Project Update: August 2010

A 1-month questionnaire survey was done from June 29 to July 29 2010 in the adjoining five villages of Bardia district and five villages of Surkhet district that surround the Babai Valley of Bardia National Park - all prone sites for poaching activities. Mainly small mammals like pangolin, porcupine and hare species were found to be targeted for poaching and all these are taken individually rather than in organised way. These small mammals were killed for the meat only and no such trade of their body parts was recorded. For curbing these poaching activities they suggested awareness and incentive programmes. Some respondents were found to be still optimistic about the presence of pygmy hog (*Porcula salvanius*) in the Babai valley, which is to be confirmed from the camera trapping in the area along with other small mammal assessment after the monsoon rainfall from October onwards.