Project Update: October 2018

The first phase of the field survey on alpine musk deer (*Moschus chrysogaster*) in the Api Nampa Conservation Area (ANCA), far western Nepal has been successfully completed. The following are the achievements.

1. Identification of the intensive study area:
After discussion with ANCA staff, local people, leaders, herders, teachers and forest user group members, we were able to identify the intensive study area in ANCA in accordance with feasibility of landscape.

2. Field Survey:
We have conducted the field survey based on direct and indirect sign of musk deer at Ghusa and Khandeshori. Habitat parameters such as topography and vegetation factors were recorded to understand the habitat type preferred by musk deer. Threats to the musk deer also recorded. Furthermore, we also identified the high conservation priority areas from the project site.

Fifty snares were removed from the habitat of the musk deer and destroyed it by burning.

3. Questionnaire Survey:

Semi-structured and open ended questions were developed to conduct questionnaire survey in the field. We interviewed 35 individuals including farmers, herders, ex-poachers, hoteliers, teachers and officials of the ANCA and also conducted two focus group discussion.

The findings of the survey will be shared in the upcoming workshop.

Study Area

Left: Laterine. Right: Team Leader collecting field data.

Questionnaire Survey

Left: Research Team. Right: Livestock at musk deer habitat.

Left: Snares collected from the study area. Right: Snares destroyed by burning.