

ASSESSING DISTRIBUTION, HABITAT, AND THREATS TO CHINESE PANGOLIN IN KAMALA RIVER BASIN, CENTRAL NEPAL

Second quarterly report

OCT-DEC 2019



SUBMITTED TO:

QUARTERLY UPDATES:

The team completed various activities in the second quarter as per the proposed plan:

ACTIVITIES COMPLETED:

Coordination with the stakeholders in the field

After consulting and securing approvals from the concerned stakeholders like Divisional Forest Office (DFO) Sindhuli, Udayapur, Siraha, and Dhanusha during the first quarter, we took our research forward with the on-field coordination. The coordination with other local stakeholders like Community Forestry User Group (CFUG), women's group and other groups helped us identify the prominent habitat hotspot for Pangolins. Furthermore, Greenhood Nepal also provided us with constant support for technically and logistically as assured throughout the period.



Data collection from field

Two teams were formed in order to collect the data on distribution, habitat and threats to Chinese pangolin from three districts altogether. One team was assigned for Sindhuli and Siraha districts while next was for Udayapur District.

However, the data collection was completed only in two districts, Sindhuli and Udayapur. The data collection on Pangolin and their burrows could not be completed in Siraha as the DFO Siraha and CFUGs and locals of Siraha mentioned there is no record of presence of Pangolin in Siraha. Thus, under consultation with the team and the experts, the data collection field was limited to two districts and the rest part of data collection from Siraha will be done in all remaining three districts.

Specially from Sindhuli district the field data collected was from Kamalamai Janmasthan Community Forest, Bhiman Pannesi Community Forest, Mangalpur Community Forests. Similarly, the data in Udayapur district was collected from Nepaltar CF, Gauribari CF, Ghumti CF, Patnahari CF and also from private forests. The methodologies for the data collection was followed as per our proposal. The community forests were selected based on experts and stakeholder consultations. Meanwhile, the data collection from the Dhanusha is planned to be completed on the third quarter.



Questionnaire survey

Along with data collection from the field, the questionnaire survey was also completed by the two teams in Sindhuli and Udaypur districts in this period. The total number of 20 questionnaire survey was conducted in each district. Plus, Key Informant Interview were also carried out with selected people. The participants were selected purposively based on their knowledge and experience with Pangolin. Local people, CFUG user groups, relevant local experts and certain government officials were the major interviewee of questionnaire survey. Their feedbacks, suggestion and pangolin relevant stories and information were also incorporated.

Workshop in Sindhuli

The third workshop of the project was conducted in Dudhauri, Sindhuli instead of Siraha due to reported absence of Pangolin in Siraha. The workshop was conducted on 20th November 2019. The workshop included 38 participants from different CFUG user groups, teachers, students and other local people concerned about pangolin conservation. The assistant forest officer of Sindhuli District and other representative from Dudhauri Sub-Division Forest Office was also present in the program.

This workshop also followed the module of first two workshops at Sindhuli and Udayapur districts. It was a participatory workshop where participants were shared about the status of the pangolin in the local, national as well as international level. The conservation importance and benefits along the local and global threats were also shared in the session. In addition, the legal concern associated with this species was also highlighted. The participants also shared their own stories and knowledge on Pangolin and also about many ecological benefits of this species.



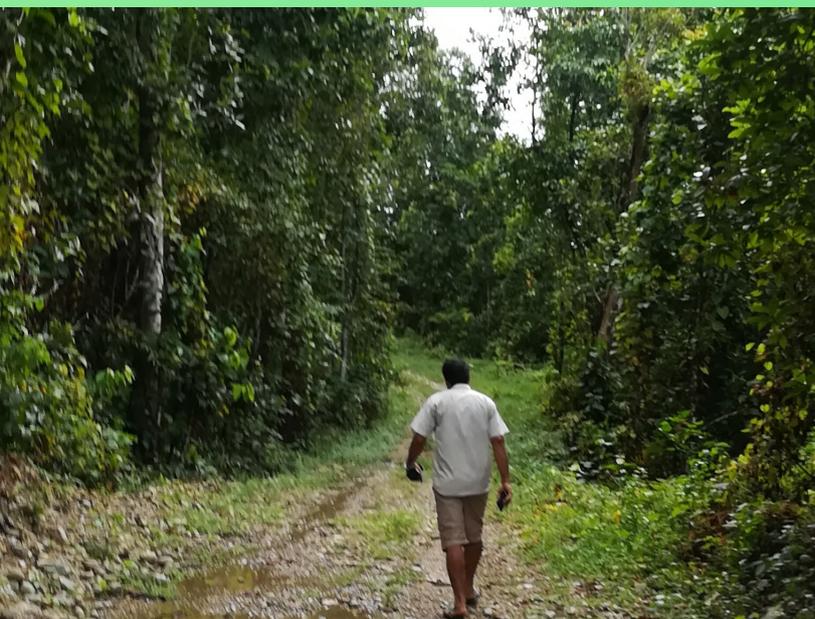


CHALLENGES

1 Post - monsoon roads were causing hindrance during our travel.

2 The absence of Pangolin in Siraha compelled us to reframe research and workshop plans.

The uncompleted part of Siraha district will be covered in next three district of Kamalamai River basin.



FURTHER PLANS

Plans for third quarter:

Celebration of World Pangolin Day

The further plan in the third quarter is to celebrate Pangolin Day (February 15, 2020). The team is planning to celebrate this day in Udayapur with sensitization programs and other form of activities like art competition etc. The Udayapur district has been proposed as it has been identified as one of the prime habitats and the awareness level among the local people seems to be limited based on our field observation. Our research finding and the stake of the local government, DFOs, CFUGs and the local people for long term and the effective conservation of this critically endangered species will also be discussed in the event.

Data collection and workshop in Dhanusha

The field data collection and questionnaire survey of Dhanusha is also planned to be completed in the third quarter, immediately after the completion of Pangolin Day. The final workshop of the research project is also planned to be completed in Dhanusha district.



