

Project Update: July 2021

Focus Group Discussion and Key Informant Interview

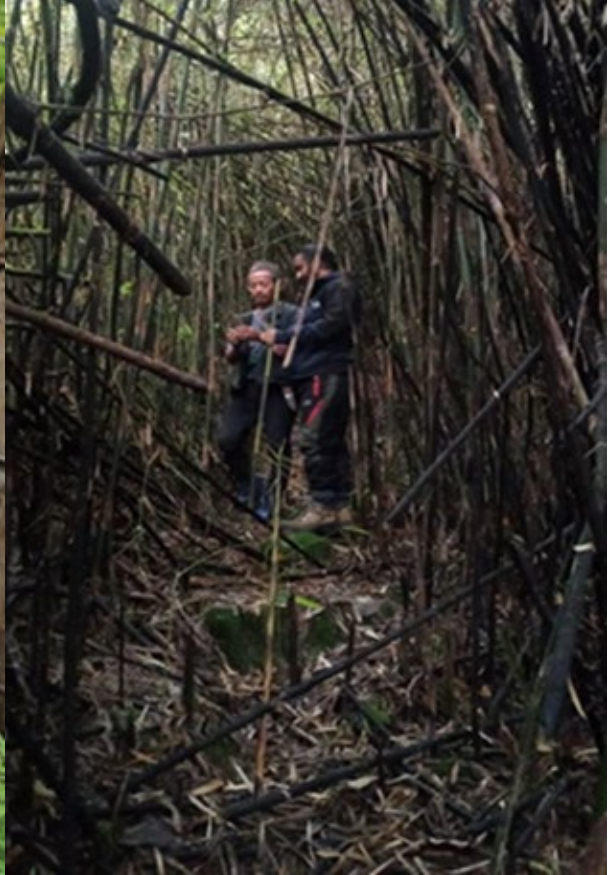
FGD and KII were carried out in Kanchanjunga Conservation Area, Gaurisankhar Conservation Area and Sagarmatha National Park to determine the area where black bear and its occurrence sign are frequently sighted. In addition to this, registered conflict cases in PAs were thoroughly reviewed to identify conflict region. PA staff, members of BZCFUGs & CAMCs were interviewed before non-invasive sampling to increase the efficiency of study.



Non-Invasive Survey

Intensive sampling was carried out in the Kanchanjunga Conservation Area and Sagarmatha National Park where we opportunistically collected faecal and hair samples of the Asiatic black bear. The area which is the potential habitat of black bear consisting of forest, pastureland, edge of the forest and agriculture land were selected for the sample collection. In total we collected 12 scat samples (10 from Kanchanjunga Conservation area and two from Sagarmatha National Park) and 15 hair samples (two from Kanchanjunga Conservation Area and 13 from Sagarmatha National Park). Only those scats which were no longer than a week were collected for DNA analysis and hair samples were collected from the agricultural land and broken branches of trees where bear nested or made scratches which were visually identified as a black bear hair.





Awareness Programme

Awareness programme on conservation and conflict of Himalayan black bear was carried out in Sagarmatha National Park with the users of Buffer Zone Community Forest. Due to the global pandemic protocol the numbers of participants were limited, and we were able to organise one workshop on conservation of Himalayan black bear in Sagarmatha National Park.



One of our research assistants also facilitated the workshop organized by Sagarmantha National Park to reduce Human Wildlife Conflict in the area.



Interaction with People and some glimpses of field survey







Landscape of Gaurishankar Conservation Area



Somewhere Inside Sagarmatha National Park (Note: All the pictures are copyright to PI and team members associated with this project.)