

Project Update: June 2017

Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary

We conducted our field surveys at Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary from 10th to 17th May 2017. A group of four members, including our Mro parabiologist, surveyed the main water stream and its adjacent area to discover fresh track and active burrows of pangolin. Moreover, we searched all walking trails of the wildlife sanctuary and its adjacent area for active burrows. Unfortunately we did not find any active burrows, though we found around 20 old burrows (used at least 1 year before) and another instance of pangolin poaching with a burrow having been excavated by shovel. Here we were also unable to confirm the species of pangolin present so possible presence of *M. crassicaudata* remains elusive.

We have conducted two focus group discussions and interviewed 10 local people to attain information about recent pangolin sightings. In our two focus group discussions, 20 people were present and shared their knowledge on pangolin sightings and identified local threats. Most of them go to the forest once in a forest and they did not see pangolin within the forest boundary for last 4-5 years. Hunting was identified as one of the major threat for pangolin.



Left: Mro parabiologist Proroy and consultant Tania khan - looking for pangolin burrow or sign. Right: An instance of pangolin poaching.



An unused burrow of pangolin.

Rajkandi Reserved Forest

This reserve is located in the northeast part of Bangladesh, bordering with India. The forest covers a large area of approximately 10,000 ha and is divided into three administrative beats: Kamarchara, Adampur, and Kurma. We surveyed all administrative beats of Rajkandi from 19 May to 27 May, 2017 and found fresh tracks of two pangolins within its borders. The footprint sizes were measured and we identified several active burrows, however we never saw the individuals and therefore could not identify the pangolin species.

Additionally, we observed approximately 100 unused burrows of pangolin, all of which were inactive for more than 1 year and likely used to feed. We also discovered evidence of pangolin poaching in Rajkandi Reserve Forest with one burrow having been excavated by shovel.

We conducted our interview survey with the 15 local people who frequently go to the forest and are living adjacent to the forest. Most of them reported the illegal hunting of pangolin in this reserve.



Left: Rajkandi Reserved Forest. Right: Documenting information on Pangolins sign and burrow.



Pangolin tracks/



Left: Active burrow of pangolin. Right: The excavated burrow of pangolin.

Patharia Reserved Forest

The reserve forest is also located in the north-eastern part of Bangladesh. The reserve is managed under four administrative beats. We planned to do our survey here from 29 May to 07 June, 2017. But due to heavy rainfall we backed to city on 01 June, 2017 and postponed our pangolin survey till the end of June.