

## **Project Update: October 2017**

On 28<sup>th</sup> March 2017, the Bangladesh Slow Loris Research Team got a call from Conservator of Forest through Wildlife Inspector Abdullah As Sadik that a Bengal slow loris was caught in Choklangura of Durgapur Upazila under Netrokona District and the team has a chance to rescue the individual.

In early morning of 29<sup>th</sup> March 2017, three members of Bangladesh Slow Loris Research and conservation Project reached the location and rescued the little animal from Md. Taijul Islam's home in presence of local ranger. The loris was kept in on floor under a bamboo cage and people gave bread, banana and boiled egg as food. The weight of the adult female was more than 1.4 kg with a length of about 33 cm. A very small infection was seen on its left shoulder. We predict that the injury occurred recently, probably during catching by local people.

We made an informal survey among the presence people to understand what people think about this cutest animal. When asked about the possible ways of coming loris in the village, the answers were hurting. We could know that few people influenced Mr Taijul to keep the loris and not to inform Bangladesh Forest Department. Few people believed that there is an illegal wildlife trader unit in the area and the loris somehow escaped from the traders. Most people of the gathering believed that loris parts have a greater medicinal value. So, we decided to fill the people knowledge gap and made an informal public awareness campaign among the crowd for changing their attitude towards loris and other wildlife. We also briefed what will be their duty if further such accident happens in the area. We got directions from Mr Abdullah As Sadik and project's Chief Researcher Mr. Hassan Al Razi over phone. It was decided to release the Loris to Satchari National Park (SNP) of Habigonj District where a viable loris population is serving. The study area of the project is also the Park.

At dusk, we reached to SNP with the loris in a handmade paper cage. We decided to observe behaviour for a night at least as a rehabilitation process before releasing otherwise it was disturbed for few days. We instantly made a semi-wild artificial ground where loris can freely move and gave most preferred foods (based on our research; unpublished).

The animal was active and normal. The injury seemed easily recoverable. In early morning, the loris was released in a pre-selected location of the forest in presence of Park Ranger and Beat Officer. The loris was marked temporarily before releasing to identify later by the researcher team for post-releasing observations.

Few images captured during the rescue process:



Left: Receiving Loris from Mr. Taijul Islam. Right: Informal public awareness campaign



Rescued Bengal Slow Loris, the only nocturnal non-human primate of Bangladesh.



Releasing Bengal Slow Loris in SNP in presence of Ranger and Beat Officer.

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**Citation:** Al-Razi, H. Ahmed, T., M.S. Hasan and S. Nath. 2017. A report on rescuing a Bengal Slow Loris from Durgapur, Netrokona. Bangladesh Forest Department. 3pp.