

## Distribution Update

### Asiatic golden cat and red panda in Tinjure-Milke-Jaljale area

JEEVAN RAI<sup>1\*</sup>, KAUSHAL YADAV<sup>1</sup>, YADAV GHIMIREY<sup>1</sup>, RAJU ACHARYA<sup>1</sup> and KAMAL THAPA<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Friends of Nature (FON) Nepal, PO Box 23491, Sundhara, Kathmandu, Nepal

<sup>2</sup> Rural Reconstruction Nepal, Kathmandu, Nepal

\*Email for correspondence: ljeevan9211@gmail.com

Recent camera trapping effort during November 2017 in Tinjure-Milke-Jaljale (TMJ) area in Eastern Nepal led to the discovery of two rare species, Asiatic golden cat and red panda. There was no previous documentation of the presence of these species in the TMJ region.

#### Asiatic golden cat

Asiatic golden cat *Catopuma temminckii* is one of the eight species of small cats found in Nepal. It is an extremely rare felid species for Nepal and has been photographed only once before in 2009 at Makalu-Barun National Park. A single image of a grey morph of this species was photographed in TMJ during the survey (PHOTO 1).

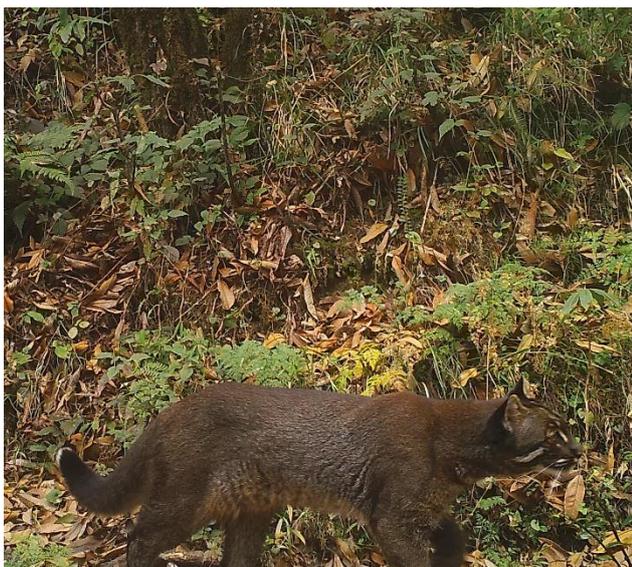


PHOTO 1: Asiatic golden cat, grey morph camera trapped in TMJ area.

#### Red Panda

Red panda *Ailurus fulgens*, a charismatic small carnivore species, is highly endangered both in Nepal and world.

They are found in Nepal from mid-hills to sub-alpine region. The species was recorded from three different sites in TMJ area (PHOTO 2).

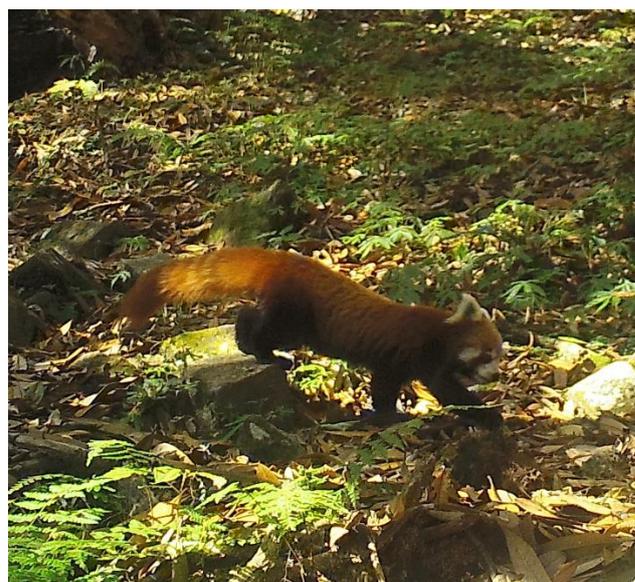


PHOTO 2: Red Panda camera trapped in TMJ area.

#### Biosketch

JEEVAN RAI is working with canid species and has a special interest on dholes. He is interested in monitoring the recolonization of dholes in the midhills of Nepal

KAUSHAL YADAV is involved in research and conservation of Himalayan black bears in central Nepal. He is particularly interested in the human-bear interaction.

YADAV GHIMIREY has been involved in research and conservation of small felids in Nepal since 2008. He is interested in interspecific interaction among felids, particularly between clouded leopards and leopards.

RAJU ACHARYA has been involved in wildlife conservation for over two decades. His main interest lies in ethno-zoology.

KAMAL THAPA is a wildlife biologist who is interested in working with highland mammals.