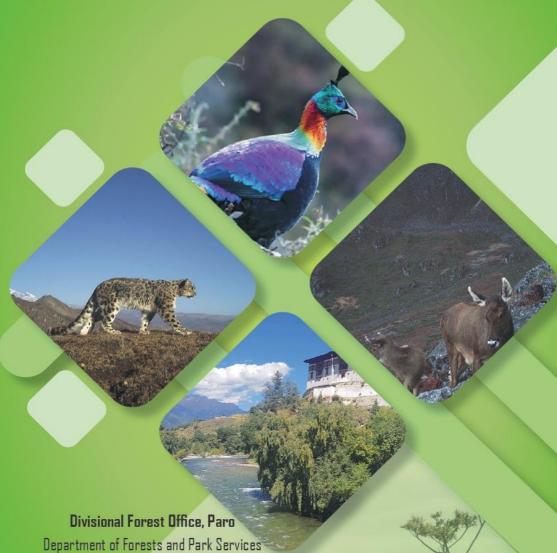


# BIODIVERSITY ASSESSMENT REPORT





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Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources





## Divisional Forest Office, Paro

Department of Forests and Park Services Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources

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#### Layout, Designed and Printed at:

Bhutan Printing Solutions (www.prints.bt)

## Suggested citation

Divisional Forest Office (2024). *Biodiversity Assessment Report of the Divisional Forest Office, Paro.* Department of Forests and Park Services, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources. Royal Government of Bhutan.

#### Photo credits

Namgay (Chief Forestry Officer), Sherab Jamtsho (Sr. Forestry Officer), Lham Dorji (Forestry Officer) and Sonam Phuntsho (Sr. Forestry Officer) of the Divisional Forest Office, Paro with additional camera trap images of NTS 2023 and NSLS 2023.

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#### ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN MINISTRY OF ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS & PARK SERVICES



#### Foreword

The Department of Forests and Park Services is pleasured to present the report of the Biodiversity Assessment conducted by the Divisional Forest Office at Paro under the auspices of the Department of Forests and Park Services. This endeavor represents a significant milestone in our ongoing commitment to understanding and safeguarding the natural resources of Bhutan.

Bhutan's extensive forest cover has long been established and recognized as one of the biodiversity hotspots with conservation ingrained in national policies. Over half of the nation is designated as Protected Areas to ensure the preservation of its diverse ecosystems. The Living Landscapes Project of WWF funded by the German Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV) through the International Climate Initiative (IKI) helped conserve and manage biodiversity in the IKI Landscape beyond the PAs. Biodiversity assessment is one of the many conservation activities funded by the project.

The biodiversity assessment conducted in the Division and supplemented by past national surveys and other documents provided invaluable insights into the Division's biodiversity. About 333 species of plants belonging to 86 families; 30 mammal species belonging to 28 genera and 14 families; and 212 species of birds belonging to 140 genera under 52 families were recoded so far. This indicates the commendation, protection and conservation activities implemented in the Division.

This assessment serves not only as a baseline data for future research but also for better conservation and management planning. I extend my commendation to all those involved in this endeavor and hope that the insights gained from the assessment will help guide future efforts to conduct similar assessment and preserve the ecological integrity of Bhutan for generations.

Director

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#### Acknowledgment

The management of the Divisional Forest Office (DFO), Paro would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Living Landscapes Project of WWF funded by the German Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV) through the International Climate Initiative (IKI) for their generous funding and unwavering support. Their contributions have been instrumental in bringing the Biodiversity Report to fruition. The IKI Project's commitment to environmental conservation and sustainability has enabled this office to undertake a comprehensive survey that significantly contributes to understanding biodiversity in this crucial region.

The DFO, Paro also would like to commend the diligent staff who contributed to data collection. Their hard work, dedication, expertise, and passion was vital in gathering the necessary information for this report. Their unwavering commitment to the cause deserves the deepest gratitude.

Additionally, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Ngawang Gyeltshen, Sr. Forest Ranger of DFO, Wangude for his invaluable contribution throughout the data analysis process. His expertise and dedication in producing precise and comprehensive results have been indispensable.

The DFO, Paro is thankful to all organizations and individuals whose efforts have contributed to the successful completion of this report.

(Namgay)

**Chief Forestry Officer** 

Divisional Forest Office, Paro

## **Acronyms and Abbreviations**

BC Biological Corridor

B2C2 Bhutan Biological Conservation Complex

BFL Bhutan for Life

BMP Biodiversity Monitoring Protocol

CFO Chief Forestry Officer

CITES Convention on International Trade in Endangered

Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

CMP Conservation Management Plan

DBH Diameter at Breast Height

DFO Divisional Forest Office

DoFPS Department of Forests and Park Services

EN Endangered

FMID Forest Monitoring and Information Division

FNCRR Forest and Nature Conservation Rules and Regulations

FNCA Forest and Nature Conservation Act

FRPMD Forest Resources Planning and Management Division

HWC Human Wildlife Conflict

IKI International Climate Initiative

IUCN International Union for Conservation of Nature

JDNP Jigme Dorji National Park

JKSNR Jigme Khesar Strict Nature Reserve

km<sup>2</sup> Square Kilometer

LC Least Concern m<sup>2</sup> Meter Square

MoENR Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources

NCD Nature Conservation Division

NT Near Threatened

NFI National Forest Inventory

NSLS National Snow leopard Survey

NTS National Tiger Survey

Non-Wood Forest Product NWFP

Quick Response Team QRT

RBA Rapid Biodiversity Survey

Relative Density RD

Standard Deviation SD

**SMART** Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool

Vulnerable VU

World Wildlife Fund WWF

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### **Executive summary**

The comprehensive Biodiversity Assessment which was carried out for the first time under DFO, Paro collected information on plants, mammals, and birds based on the systematic surveys for plants and birds and pooling data from previous national surveys and individual records. The biodiversity survey was carried out in 28 grids, and data from 76 camera stations from NTS and NSLS were pooled.

A total of 333 plant species belonging to 86 families were recorded across the seven forest types. These species exhibit nine major life forms: conifer trees, evergreen trees, deciduous trees, evergreen shrubs, deciduous shrubs, perennial herbs, annual herbs, biennial herbs, and spore-bearing plants. The trees and shrubs represent 27 families with 61 species, spanning altitudinal gradients from 2400 to 4649 meters(m). The ground vegetation comprises 66 families and 272 species, including 26 annual herbs, 10 biennial herbs, 188 perennial herbs, and 48 species of spore-bearing plants. Through cluster analysis, seven forest types were identified: Fir, Juniper, Broadleaved, Hemlock, Evergreen Oak, Spruce, and Blue Pine Forest.

In general, all Gewogs showed a higher prevalence of young trees within the DBH class of 1cm-20cm and the lowest occurrence of mature trees of DBH from 121cm-140cm. Samar Gewog showed the highest number of trees with DBH from 1-20cm. Notably, Shaba Gewog has no trees above DBH class of 61-80cm. These patterns suggest that major portion of forests in all the Gewogs are predominantly young stands.

A total of 30 mammal species were recorded belonging to 28 genera and 14 families. Of the 30 species, five are Endangered, eight are Vulnerable, five are Near-Threatened, and 12 are of Least Concern according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List. Significantly, the Woolly hare (*Lepus oiostolus*), Tibetan wolf (*Canis lupus chanco*), and Thorold's deer (*Cervus albitrostris*) have been documented within the Division for the first time.

Around 83 species of birds belonging to 52 genera and 30 families were recorded from the 28 survey grids across an altitudinal range from 2188 to 5663m. Furthermore, with additional records reported by Mr. Chencho Wangdi in 2020 and 2021, Paro now hosts 212 species of birds, belonging to 140 genera under 52 families. Among these recorded species, one species is classified as Vulnerable, eight as Near-Threatened, and 203 are categorized as Least Concern according to the IUCN Red List. Approximately 78% of the recorded bird species were identified as forest birds, while the remaining 22% were water birds.

### 1. Background

#### 1.1. Introduction

The Divisional Forest Office (DFO) at Paro is one of the 14 Divisional Forest Offices in the country under the Department of Forests and Park Services and it covers an area of 1609km². It was established in 1991 from the erstwhile Paro Logging Division, which was managed by the DFO, Thimphu. The DFO, Paro encompasses 10 Gewogs in Paro and four Gewogs in Haa Dzongkhag. About 61% of the Division is under forest cover (DoFPS, 2022). The Division has four major areabased management regimes namely Forest Management Unit (FMU), Community Forest (CF), Local Forest Management Area (LFMA) and Biological Corridor (BC 01). Additionally, the Division implements other cross-cutting management programs such as Non-Wood Forest Products (NWFPs), Payment of Environmental Services (PES), Plantation and Nursery programs.

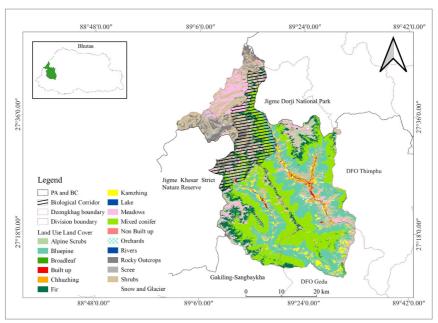


Figure 1: Land Use Land Cover map of Divisional Forest Office, Paro along with BC 01 (LULC 2016)

The Division lies between the two Protected Areas (PAs): Jigme Khesar Strict Nature Reserve (JKSNR) and Jigme Dorji National Park (JDNP). The BC 01 runs through Tsento and Bji Gewogs of Paro and Haa Dzongkhags respectively, connecting JDNP and JKSNR (Figure 1). The Division shares its boundaries with Thimphu DFO to the east, JDNP in the north east, Gedu Division in the south and JKSNR in the west. The Division has rich biodiversity with charismatic mammal species such as Tiger (*Panthera tigris tigris*), Snow leopard (*Panthera uncia*), Red Panda (*Ailurus fulgens*), Himalayan musk deer (*Moschus leucogaster*) and Bhutan takin (*Budorcas taxicolor whitei*). Until 2022, no biodiversity assessment was conducted in the Division except for BC 01 which was conducted for BC management planning. Therefore, biodiversity assessment was initiated in September 2022 with support from the IKI Project, WWF Bhutan. The primary objective of this initiative was to assess vegetation, mammals and birds in the Division but outside BC 01.

## 1.2. Objectives

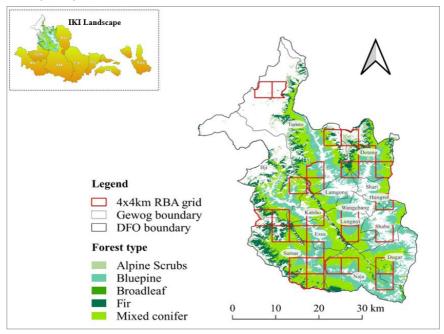
The main objective of the biodiversity assessment was to collect information on the richness of biodiversity such as species, vegetation structure and floristic composition of all forest types along the altitudinal gradient, as well as information on mammals and birds. The assessment will not only serve as a baseline data but also help in making management and conservation plan for the Division in ensuring sustainable use of natural resources.

#### 2. Materials and Method

#### 2.1. Study Area

The survey was conducted in 28 grids located in 11 Gewogs namely Dogar, Doteng, Hungrel, Lungnyi, Naja, Shaba and Tsento under Paro Dzongkhag and Bji, Essu, Katsho and Samar under Haa Dzongkhag. The survey grids covered forest types such as Alpine forests, Blue Pine, Broadleaved, Fir and Mixed Conifer forests (Figure 2) between an elevation of 2408m to 4649m covering approximately 83,623.77 hectares (Table 1). The survey was conducted for vegetation, mammals and birds simultaneously

considering the resource constraint. The survey area excluded BC 01 as it had already been surveyed for developing the Conservation Management Plan (CMP).



**Figure 2:** 4x4km Rapid Biodiversity Assessment (RBA) grids within Divisional Forest Office, Paro

## 2.2. Sample Design and Survey

## 2.2.1. Flora Diversity

The forest area in the Division was stratified into five different forest types. Out of total 86 grids, 28 grids were selected representing 30% of the total study area using random sampling (Table 1). Each grid followed standard size of 4x4km designed during the National Forest Inventory by the Forest Management and Information Division (FMID) in 2022. This decision was made exclusively due to logistical and time constraints. The number of grids sampled was based on the area of each forest type, stratified for the assessment.

rotest office, rato				
Forest type	Area(ha)	Area in %	30% of total grid	
Fir	32687.24	39	9	
Mixed conifer	18632.31	22	7	
Blue pine	20947.65	25	8	
Broadleaf	6376.26	8	2	
Alpine areas	4980.31	6	2	
	83623.77	100%	28	

**Table 1:** Number of grids determined for each forest type within Divisional Forest Office, Paro

Vegetation composition was surveyed along the altitudinal gradients from 2408 to 4649m in the selected grids. A total of 168 sampling plots were randomly selected which were distributed along the altitudinal gradients for trees and shrubs as well as ground vegetation including epiphytes and spore bearing plants.

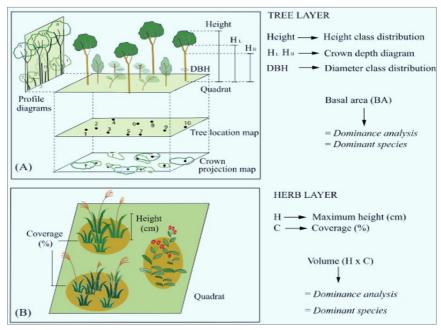


Figure 3: Vegetation survey plot design.

Sample plot size of 20x20m was established at different altitudinal ranges for trees and shrubs to include at least 0.01% of the study area. Sub-plot measuring 2x2m was established inside the tree sample plots to enumerate herbaceous (ground layer) species including epiphytes and spore bearing plants (DoFPS, 2020). Vegetation survey was conducted at two levels (Figure 3 A & B): (A) for trees and shrubs layer and (B) for ground/herb/ epiphyte layer enumeration inside each plot. All free-standing plants (herbs, epiphytes, spore bearing plants) with stem DBH less than 1cm were recorded. For trees and shrubs, all individuals occurring within the quadrant attending a height of more than 1.3m were measured. DBH was measured to determine the Basal Area (BA) and DBH class distribution. In the ground layer, herbs were identified, and the tallest height of each species was measured. The coverage AOO (Area of Occurrence) of each species in percent was recorded. In addition, variables such as altitude, aspect, and slope were also recorded in each plot (Table 2).

Field equipment such as a compass, clinometer, Global Positioning System (GPS) device, diameter tape, measuring tape, and smartphones were used for measuring and recording the data.

Table 2: Dependent and independent variables along with their measurement scales

Dependent Variable	Measurement Scale	Independent Variable	Measurement Scale
DBH (cm)	Interval	Slope (degree)	Interval
Height (m)	Interval	Aspect (degree)	Interval
Basal Area (cm <sup>2</sup> )	Interval	Altitude (meters)	Interval
Species diversity	Nominal		
Species composition	Nominal		
Stem Density (No)	Ratio		
Species richness (No)	Ratio		

## 2.2.2. Mammal Diversity

Information on mammals was collected from the past data of National Forest Inventory (2022), National Tiger Survey (2023) and National Snow Leopard Survey (2023) reports. In addition, information was generated from the SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool) data of the Division and other available reports.

#### 2.2.3. Avifauna Diversity

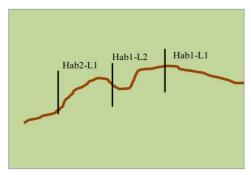


Figure 4: Avifauna survey plot design.

Survey transects of minimum of 1km length run through various habitats. Trail transects consist of walking along an existing trail such as a footpath, animal tracks and roads. The evidence of birds such as sightings and calls were recorded in the plots laid for observation along the trails (Figure 4). Data was collected in the data collection format prescribed in

the Biodiversity Monitoring Protocol (BMP) for birds. MacKinnon List method was deployed for listing all birds heard or sighted in chronological order of detection (DoFPS, 2020). This method helps derive abundance indices of individual species by calculating the proportion of samples in which each species occurred. Additional bird list was derived from the field report by Mr. Chencho Wangdi in the year 2020 and 2021.

## 2.3. Data Analysis

## 2.3.1. Flora Diversity

Based on relative frequency, relative density and relative dominance (cover) values, Importance Value Index (IVI) was obtained (Brown & Curtis, 1952). DBH of individual trees was divided into various classes and formed the individual heights. Height-class graphs of tree and shrub species in each plot were prepared using the ceiling functions of Microsoft Excel (MS) 2016. IVI values of different species were then arranged in decreasing order. Species richness was determined by using the Shannon-

Weiner Index-H' (1963). Shannon-Wiener Diversity Index (H') was calculated using Relative Basal Area data.

$$\textit{Relative Basal Area} = \left\{ \frac{\Sigma_i^x}{nBA} \right\}$$

Where  $\Sigma_i^x = \text{sum of basal area of } i^{\text{th}}$  species in a plot and nBA = Total basal area of all individuals of all species in a plot.

$$Eveness(J) = \frac{H'}{\log N2}$$

Shannon – Wiener Diversity Index 
$$(H') = \sum_{i=1}^{s} (P_i x \ln P_i)$$

Basal Area (BA) of each tree species (BA in cm²) was calculated using the DBH data and then the relative proportion of each species' relative basal area in percent (RBA%) was calculated. The BA for each tree species was computed using the DBH data and subsequently, relative proportion of each species' basal area as percentage (RBA%) was determined. DBH data was used for analyzing DBH class distribution of each tree species. Similarly, height class was analyzed using the tree height data of each species. Species abundance was expressed in stem density and BA. Relative basal area of each species was used as an abundance measure of species in a community/ecosystem/environment. Dominant species along the altitudinal gradient in each plot were determined based on the dominance analysis in PC-ORD.

Preliminary data were processed using the pivot-table of MS Excel 2016. Once the data was processed, species composition was compiled. The processed data was analyzed using PC-ORD version 5.1. (McCune & Grace, 2002) and Cluster analysis was performed using the distance measure of Relative Sorensen (Bray-Curtis method) and Wards as linkage method (Pakgohar et al., 2021). Through this method, classification of different natural communities of forest or vegetation types was classified based on the floristic composition.

#### 2.3.2. Fauna Diversity

The field-acquired data underwent comprehensive compilation and analysis, employing a diverse set of tools, including MS Excel 2016. The analysis integrated multiple software applications including pivot-table and Camera Trap R Shinny package to execute essential tasks such as figure generation and conducting significance tests. Within the scope of the analysis, Geographic Information System (GIS) software QGIS 3.26 was deployed for the production of maps.

#### 2.3.3. Avifauna Diversity

Data derived from the transect survey underwent cleaning and organization in MS Excel 2016, utilizing the pivot-table function. Species diversity, richness and evenness were assessed using the Shannon-Wiener equation (Margalef, 1968) to determine abundance relative to different forest types. Additionally, graphical representation illustrating family-wise bird species richness was generated through the latest stable release of the R package, version 4.3.3.

#### 3. Results and Discussion

## 3.1. Flora Diversity

A total of 333 species belonging to 86 families were recorded during the survey. Out of the 333 recorded species, 272 were ground vegetation including epiphytes and spore bearing plants, while the remaining 61 species were trees and shrubs. Trees and shrubs were recorded from 168 sampling plots whereas ground vegetation including epiphytes was recorded from 206 sampling plots.

#### 3.1.1. Floristic Composition of trees and shrubs

Tree and shrub vegetation consisted of 61 species belonging to 27 families. The floristic composition of the 11 Gewogs along the altitudinal gradients is presented and arranged into major lifeform groups (Figure 5). These groups consist of Conifer (71.1%), Evergreen trees (10.7%), Deciduous trees (6.7%), Evergreen shrubs (4.1%) and Deciduous shrubs (1.4%).

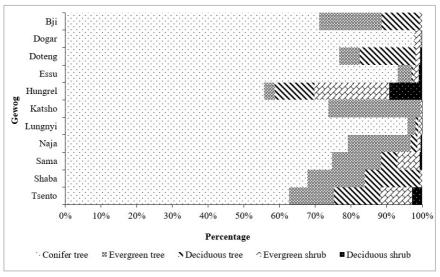
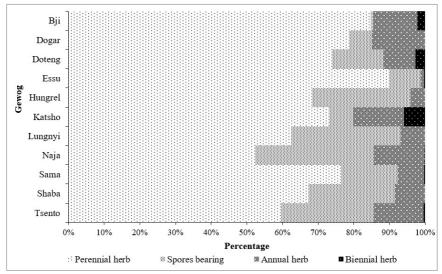


Figure 5: Floristic composition of trees and shrubs.

The composition of trees and shrubs was mostly dominated by Conifer species of *Pinus wallichiana*, *Picea spinolusa*, *Abies densa* and *Tsuga dumosa* followed by evergreen tree species of *Quercus semicarpifolia*, *Rhododendron arboretum* and *Phoebe lanceolata*. Deciduous trees were mostly dominated by *Acer campbelli* and *Populus ciliata*. Species such as *Pieris formosa* and *Rhododendron* species form the evergreen shrubs while species such as *Viburnum* sp. and *Enkianthus deflexus* form the deciduous shrubs.

## **3.1.2.** Floristic Composition of the ground vegetation and epiphytes

The total ground vegetation comprised of 272 species belonging to 66 families of which 188 species were perennial herbs, 26 species were annual herbs, 10 species were biannual herbs and 48 species were spore bearing plants. Ground layer species composition in 11 Gewogs are arranged by lifeform groups (Figure 6). Perennial herbs consisted of 71.5%, annual herbs 9.7%, biennial herbs 1.1% and spore bearing plants 17.6% respectively.



**Figure 6:** Floristic composition of the ground vegetation and epiphytes including spore bearing plants.

#### 3.1.3. Forest Zone classification

Among the 11 forest types found in Bhutan, seven forest types exhibit distinct patterns according to the cluster analysis performed for the Division (Figure 7).

#### a Fir Forest

Fir Forest was found between an altitude of 3100-3300m and precipitation of 1300-2000mm. The indicator species was *Abies densa* (P\*0.0002) along with *Prunus* sp. (P\*0.0002). Fir trees were found dominant in Doteng, Essu and Tsento Gewogs.

#### b. Juniper Forest

Juniper Forest was found mostly in Dogar, Doteng and Tsento Gewogs of Paro Dzongkhag between an altitude of 3700-4200m. The dominant species recorded were *Juniperus* species (P\*0.0002) and *Larix grifithii* (P\*0.0002).

#### c. Broad-leaved Forest

Broad-leaved Forest was found between an altitude of 1000-2900m. The indicator species for this type of forest were *Acer campbellii* (P\*0.0002), and *Betula alnoides* (P\*0.0012). These species were found dominant in Bji Gewog of Haa, and Doteng, Hungrel and Tsento Gewogs of Paro Dzongkhag.

#### d. Hemlock Forest

Hemlock Forest were found between an altitude of 2800-3100m and precipitation of 1300-2000mm. The indicator species recorded was *Tsuga dumosa* (P\*0.0002) and was mostly found in Doteng, Lungnyi and Naja Gewogs of Paro and, Essu and Samar Gewogs of Haa Dzongkhag.

#### e. Evergreen Oak Forest

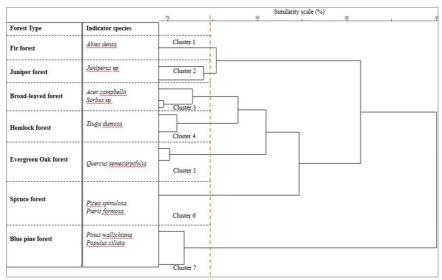
Evergreen Oak Forest was found in Katsho and Samar Gewogs of Haa, and Naja and Shaba Gewogs of Paro Dzongkhag between an elevation of 1800-2000m (2600m) and precipitation of 2000-3000mm. The indicator species recorded was *Quercus semicarpifolia* (P\*0.0002).

#### f. Spruce Forest

Spruce Forest was found in Dogar, Doteng, Hungrel and Lungnyi Gewogs of Paro Dzongkhag and Katsho and Samar Gewogs of Haa Dzongkhag at an altitude between 2500-3100m and precipitation of 500-1000mm. The most significant indicator species recorded were *Picea spinulosa* (P\*0.0002) and *Pieris formosa* (P\*0.0438). It was also reported that *Picea spinulosa* trees were mostly infested by the bark beetle (*Ips schmutzenhoferi*) in Paro and Haa areas

## g. Blue Pine Forest

Blue pine Forest was mostly found in Shaba, Hungrel, Lungnyi and Naja Gewogs. The indicator species recorded were *Pinus wallichiana* (P\*0.0002) and *Populus ciliata* (P\*0.0122). Blue pine tree is the most preferred timber for construction and for making furniture. This forest type was found between an altitude of 2100-3000m.



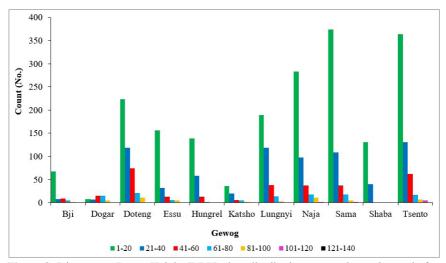
**Figure 7:** Cluster dendrogram depicting 7 cluster solutions with indicator species and forest types. The similarity index scale (%) is arbitrarily marked at 68% with dashed lines

#### 3.1.4. Forest structure features along the altitudinal gradient

Structural traits along the altitudinal gradients were described based on six features such as maximum height, maximum DBH, BA, species number and species diversity (Annexure 3). Species richness was accessed in two different vegetation layers: trees and shrubs, and ground vegetation including epiphytes and spore bearing plants. The Diversity Index (H') ranges from 0.55 to 1.03 in 11 Gewogs (Annexure 3). The forest stands structural feature was derived from DBH class and height class distribution at an interval of 20cm each with seven (Figure 8) and six classes (Figure 9).

## 3.1.5. Species Dominance Curve

The dominance curve depicts the distribution pattern of trees and shrubs ordered by abundance using Relative Basal Area percentage (RBA%). The most dominant species in descending order were *Pinus wallichiana*, *Picea spinulosa*, *Abies densa* and *Tsuga dumosa*. The least dominant species were *Acer* sp., *Berberis aristata*, *Lindera angustifolia* and *Piptanthus nepalensis* (Figure 10).



**Figure 8:** Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) class distribution arranged at an interval of 20cm with seven classes

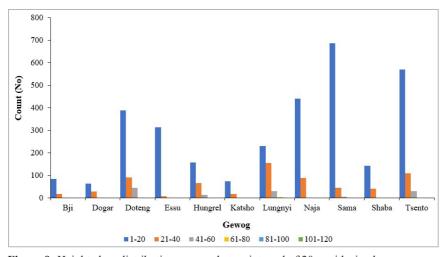


Figure 9: Height class distribution arranged at an interval of 20m with six classes.

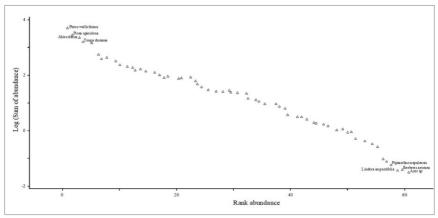


Figure 10: Species dominance curve of trees and shrubs.

#### 3.1.6. Species Area Curve

Species-area curve was generated for 168 sampling plots using the PC-ORD employing the Relative Sorensen (Bray-Curtis Method). The resulting curve indicated inadequate sampling as it did not reach the asymptotic point. It implies that the increasing number of sampling plots could reveal a higher diversity of plant species beyond the current count of 61 species (Figure 11). First-order Jackknife estimates suggested 72 species, while second-order estimates indicated 77 species within the study area. Among the recorded species, 12 species exhibited single occurrence, while 7 species showed two occurrences.

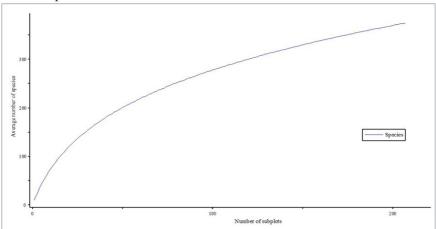


Figure 11: Species-area curve generated through employing Relative Sorensen.

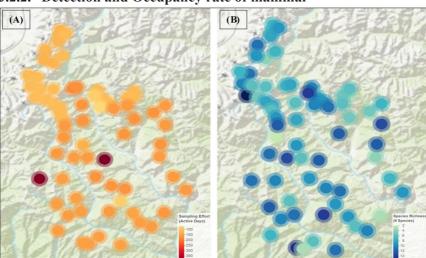


Figure 12: Vegetation diversity; (A) Fern, (B) Gentiana depressa, (C) Quercus semicarpifolia and (D) Rhododendron cinnabarinum

## 3.2. Fauna Diversity

## 3.2.1. Abundance and Diversity of Mammal

A total of 30 mammal species were recorded belonging to 28 genera and 12 families including Felidae, Bovidae, Canidae and Cervidae (Figure 15). Of the 30 species, five are Endangered, eight are Vulnerable, five are Near-Threatened and 12 are of Least Concern according to IUCN Red List status (Figure 14). The five endangered species of mammals are Tibetan wolf, Asiatic wild dog, Tiger, Himalayan musk deer and Red Panda; the vulnerable species are Snow leopard, Common leopard, Asiatic black bear, Bhutan takin, Sambar deer, Thorold's deer, Himalayan serow and Gaur, and Near-Threatened species are Asiatic golden cat, Marbled cat, Assamese macaque, Himalayan weasel and Goral. The species list also includes the new records to the Division; Woolly hare (*Lepus oiostolus*) which was recorded during the NTS in 2023 and NSLS in 2023. During the NSLS 2023, Tibetan wolf (*Canis lupus filchneri*) and Thorold's deer (*Cervus albitrostris*) were also recorded from Nubri area.



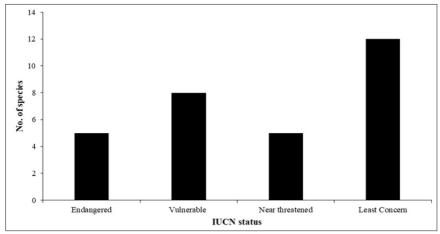
## 3.2.2. Detection and Occupancy rate of mammal

Figure 13: (A) Sampling effort and (B) Species richness.

Considering 30 camera trap days as an occasion, Asiatic golden cat, Himalayan marmot, Asiatic black bear, Takin, Sambar deer, Red Panda, Gaur, Marbled cat, and Tiger displayed notably high detection rates. Conversely, Blue sheep, Tibetan wolf, Thorold's deer, Musk deer, Serow, and Grey langur exhibited the highest occupancy rates (Annexure 7). The detection of various species and their richness appeared uniformly distributed across all camera trap stations (Figure 13).

#### 3.2.3. Occurrence and Significance of Predator

The Division is endowed with faunal diversity with predators at the apex. These magnificent predators play vital role in maintaining the ecological equilibrium of the forest and shaping the behaviors and populations of prey species which indicates the overall health of the ecosystem. The predators such as Tiger, Snow leopard, Tibetan wolf and Asiatic wild dog (Figure 16) roam freely in the Division. The occupancy rate for Snow leopard (0.99), Tibetan wolf (1) and Asiatic wild dog (0.99) was relatively higher than Asiatic black bear (0.5). However, the detection rate of the Asiatic black bear (0.49) was observed higher than the other three predators (Annexure 7).



**Figure 14:** International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red list status of the mammal species

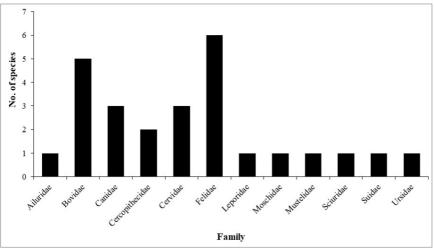


Figure 15: Mammal diversity determined through camera traps

## 3.2.4. Occurrence and Significance of Prey species

The Division is home to diverse prey species including Barking deer, Sambar, Blue sheep, Takin, Musk deer, Serow, Goral, Himalayan marmot and Wild pig. These species play crucial role in the forest ecosystem by serving as prey for large predators and the predators regulate the population of prey animals, thereby maintaining the balance in the food chain. Animals such as Barking deer, Sambar, Serow, Goral and Wild pig contribute significantly to the mammal diversity and ecological dynamics in the lower region of the Division, while Blue sheep and Himalayan marmot known for their adaptability to high altitudes play important role as key herbivore and prey base in the mountainous terrain (Figure 18). Their presence underscores the importance of conservation efforts in protecting these species and ensuring the overall health and stability of the forest ecosystem in the region.

#### 3.2.5. Activity pattern of the Predator and Prey

An assessment of the activity patterns of different species was done by analyzing the frequency and timing of individual photographs acquired for each specific species in the camera traps. These photographs with their timestamps constituted a comprehensive dataset illustrating the active and inactive phases of each animal. Analysis of these photos showed the distribution and distinctive activity patterns of different species thereby enhancing our understanding of behavioral patterns of mammals in the mountain ecosystem.

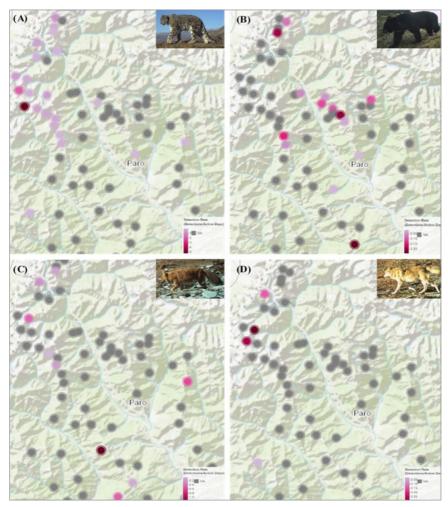
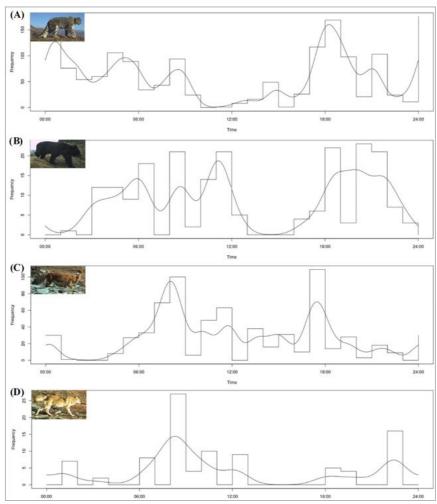


Figure 16: Distribution and detection rate of predators; (A) Snow leopard, (B) Asiatic black bear, (C) Asiatic wild dog and (D) Tibetan wolf



**Figure 17:** Activity pattern of the predators; (A) Snow leopard, (B) Asiatic black bear, (C) Asiatic wild dog and (D) Tibetan wolf

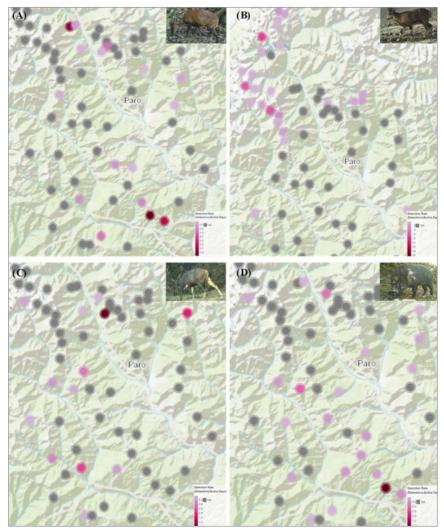
## 3.2.5.1. Activity Pattern of the Predators

Predators like Asiatic wild dog and the Tibetan wolf displayed similar activity patterns. These species were observed to be active from early morning to afternoon hours, while the Asiatic black bear was primarily active during morning and evening hours. In contrast, Snow leopard exhibited crepuscular behavior, being active in the late evening and from midnight to early morning (Figure 17A).

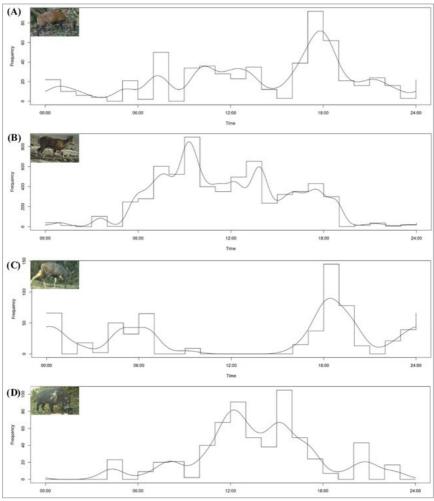
Consequently, conducting comprehensive surveys or research in subsequent phases is found important to understand the intricacy of predator-prey relationships. Understanding these dynamics will help prepare and implement conservation management plans thereby enabling effective preparation and implementation of human-wildlife conflict to coexistence strategy.

#### 3.2.5.2. Activity Pattern of the Prey species

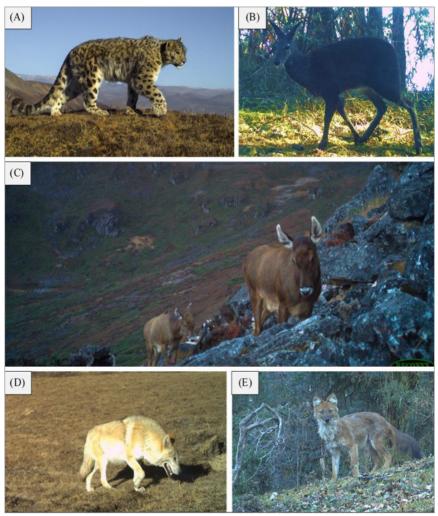
Wild pig, Blue sheep and Barking deer showed similar activity patterns of diurnal behaviour. This finding indicates that these prey species predominantly exhibit temporal overlap activity with that of Asiatic black bear, Asiatic wild dog and Tibetan wolf (Figure 19; A, B & D). Conversely, Sambar showed nocturnal behavior primarily active during night time sharing a high activity overlap with the Snow leopard (Figure 19; C).



**Figure 18**: Distribution and detection rate of prey species; (A) Barking deer, (B) Blue sheep, (C) Samber deer and (D) Wild pig



**Figure 19**: Activity pattern of the prey species; (A) Barking deer, (B) Blue sheep, (C) Samber deer and (D) Wild pig



**Figure 20:** Predator and Prey species; (A) Snow leopard, (B) Musk deer, (C) Thorolds' deer, (D) Tibetan wolf and (E) Asiatic wild dog

#### 3.3. Avifauna Diversity and Richness

A total of 83 bird species belonging to 30 families were recorded from different forest types and an elevation ranging from 2188 to 5663m during the rapid biodiversity assessment. Major forest types covered were Alpine forests, Blue Pine, Broadleaved, Fir and Mixed Conifer forests. The highest cumulative number of species observed during the field survey was from the Mixed Conifer Forest followed by Fir and other forest habitats (Figure 21). The bird data was combined with the reports of Mr. Chencho Wangdi, who conducted the study along the Pachhu River in 2020 and 2021. Thus, the total record of birds in the Division is 212 species belonging to 140 genera and 52 families. The highest number of species recorded belonged to the Muscicapidae family followed by Fringillidae and Anatidae (Figure 22).

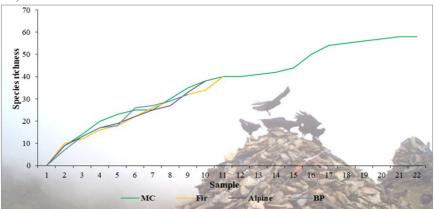


Figure 21: Species richness in different forest type.

Out of 212 species recorded in the Division, one (0.5%) is Vulnerable (Wood snipe), eight (3.8%) are Near-threatened (Bearded vulture, Blacknecked crane, Ferruginous duck, Himalayan vulture, River lapwing, Satyr tragopan, Ward's trogon, Yellow-rumped honeyguide) and 203 are Least Concern (95.7%) according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (Figure 23A). Of the 212 species of birds recorded, about 78% were forest birds which were predominantly found in forest habitats and 22% were water birds residing mostly near water bodies and along streams and rivers (Figure 23B). In total, about 212 species of birds have been recorded in the Division.

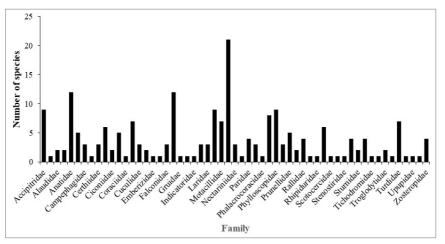


Figure 22: The family-wise number of bird species recorded

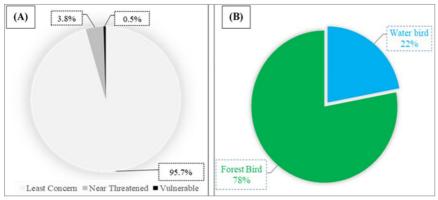


Figure 23: (A) Percentage of IUCN status and (B) Percentage of forest dwelling and water birds



**Figure 24:** Bird species; (A) Satyr tragopan, (B) Rufous-bellied woodpecker, (C) Common kestrel, (D) White-browed rosefinch, (E) Blue-fronted redstart and (F) Winter wren

#### 4. Conclusion

The Biodiversity Assessment provided invaluable insights into the diverse ecosystems and biodiversity in the Division. The survey has recorded 333 plant species across distinct forest types, shedding light on their distribution, life forms, and altitudinal gradients. The identification of seven unique forest types further underscores the ecological diversity and complexity of the region.

The structural feature analysis of trees reveals predominance of younger trees, particularly within the 1-20cm DBH class. This pattern suggests ongoing forest regeneration and highlights the need for sustained conservation efforts to ensure long-term health and resilience of these forest ecosystems. Absence of larger trees in certain Gewogs such as Shaba warrants further investigation and conservation strategies tailored to address specific ecological challenges.

The mammalian fauna recorded in the Division is equally impressive with 30 species being listed including several species that are of conservation concern according to the IUCN Red List status. Additional new record of three species such as Woolly hare, Tibetan wolf and Thorold's deer represents significant additions to the Division's biodiversity records as well for Bhutan.

The avian diversity documented in the survey is commendable with 83 bird species identified across varying altitudinal ranges during the RBA. The status of the Division as a hotspot for bird diversity is further solidified with a total of 212 species. Majority of recorded bird species were classified as forest birds underscoring the critical importance of maintaining and conserving forest habitats to support avian biodiversity.

Therefore, the biodiversity assessment served as a foundational step towards understanding and conserving the Division's unique and invaluable biodiversity. The data will be instrumental in developing future conservation strategies, facilitating evidence-based decision-making. This will also help fostering a deeper appreciation and understanding of the Division's ecological richness for stakeholders and the broader community.

## 5. Management Recommendations

- 1) Future biodiversity assessment attempt in the Division should increase sampling efforts to better understand the biodiversity. Special focus on rare and recently documented species such as Tibetan wolf, Woolly hare, and Thorold's deer. Study on predator-prey dynamics will shed more light interaction between wild animals and local communities which will help develop strategies for conserving key species and addressing potential human-wildlife conflicts.
- 2) Prioritize conservation of different forest habitats and water bodies to enhance bird diversity. Regular monitoring of bird populations will reveal population change and trend for further conservation initiative. Pheasants like Satyr tragopan, Himalayan monal, and Blood pheasant are highly sought by bird watchers however, these birds are also frequently targeted for illegal poaching due to their meat and feathers, necessitating additional protective measures. In addition, involvement of local communities in conservation initiatives through knowledge sharing and active participation will enhance conservation efforts.
- 3) Lastly, the Division should focus on strategies emphasizing the protection of dominant species such as Conifers and Evergreen trees, while also safeguarding ground vegetation to ensure long term conservation while practicing sustainable forest management. Prioritization should be based on species dominance and diversity indices with habitat management considering factors such altitude, aspect, slope, precipitation and other ecological requirements. In addition, adaptive management is crucial focusing on forest structural features and monitoring forests using DBH and height class distributions. It is important to address pest and disease management and promote sustainable timber harvesting.

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## 7. Annexure

**Annexure 1:** Floristic composition of trees and shrubs along the altitudinal gradients and plot details.

Species	Tsento	Doteng	Hungrel	Lungnyi	Shaba	Naja	Dogar	Sama	Essu	Katsho	Bji
(Lifeform- Conifer tree)	RBA	RBA	RBA	RBA	RBA	RBA	RBA	RBA	RBA	RBA	RBA
Pinus wallichiana	29.73	0.67	40.23	38.02	60.14	35.22	10.66	28.64	22.27	31.11	34.52
Abies densa	19.44	28.58	40.23	16.00	00.14	1.33	19.03	3.71	35.49	0.34	8.13
Juniperus sp.	6.85	14.99									
Tsuga dumosa	2.65	9.14	1.73	14.27		25.93	1.27	14.94	11.95	0.18	4.21
Picea spinulosa	2.18	15.90	13.65	20.06	7.62	16.43	60.50	25.44	8.94	42.06	15.79
Larix griffithiana	1.77	2.56		7.43		0.00	2.45	1.26	14.23		0.85
Taxus baccata	0.07	4.96				0.23		0.67			7.70
Juniperus recurva				0.07		0.01	3.93				
Juniperus squamata								0.01			
Juniperus pseudosabina									0.22		
Sub-Total	62.68	76.80	55.61	95.84	67.77	79.14	97.84	74.68	93.10	73.69	71.20
(Lifeform- Deciduous shrub)	RBA	RBA	RBA	RBA	RBA	RBA	RBA	RBA	RBA	RBA	RBA
Viburnum sp	2.09	0.25						0.09			
Enkianthus deflexus	0.51			0.01				0.11	0.77		
Viburnum nervosum	0.12					0.33		0.05			
Corylus ferox	0.05	0.04									
Rosa sp.	0.02							0.01	0.03		
Lonicera sp.	0.01	0.03									
Hydrangea sp.		0.32							0.15		
Rhus sp.			9.22								
Berberis asiatica						0.05					
Rosa sericea						0.01	0.15			0.03	
Berberis aristata							0.00				
Corylus sp								0.34			

Euonymus sp.								0.14			
Sub-Total	2.80	0.65	9.22	0.01	0.00	0.39	0.15	0.74	0.94	0.03	0.00
(Life- form-Decid- uous tree)	RBA	RBA	RBA	RBA	RBA	RBA	RBA	RBA	RBA	RBA	RBA
Acer camp- bellii	6.00	5.85				0.83		0.85			9.83
Sorbus sp.	3.13	0.09	10.23								
Betula utilis	1.02	2.51									
Betula sp.	0.82	4.21						0.26			
Populus ciliata	0.81	0.13	0.23	0.28	15.40	0.54					0.60
Prunus cerasoides	0.58	0.14						0.22			
Prunus sp.	0.49	0.10						0.34	0.03		
Salix alba	0.08	2.05	0.01	0.55			0.05				
Fraxinus sp.	0.02	0.53									0.04
Populus sp.			0.65					1.54			
Phyllanthus emblica						0.45					
Elaeagnus parvifolia						0.02		0.28		0.03	
Salix sp.								0.80	0.35		
Malus sp.								0.12	0.09		
Lindera sp.								0.04			
Magnolia sp.								0.02			
Acer sp.									0.00		
Sub-Total	12.94	15.60	11.11	0.83	15.40	1.83	0.05	4.47	0.47	0.03	10.47
(Life- form-Ever- green shrub)	RBA	RBA	RBA	RBA	RBA	RBA	RBA	RBA	RBA	RBA	RBA
Rhododen- dron sp.	8.16	0.64	0.17	0.31		0.58	1.26	0.93	0.45	0.07	0.26
Ilex dipyrena	0.67	0.24				0.06					0.19
Pieris formosa	0.09	0.04	9.24	0.08		0.35	0.38	1.90	0.82	0.49	
Lyonia ovalifolia	0.09	0.26	10.88	0.75	0.70	0.01	0.22	0.21	0.23		
Benthamidia capitata	0.03	0.04									0.42
Ilex sp.			0.65					0.00			
Daphne bholua							0.10				
Rhododen- dron falconeri								3.13			

Daphne sp.								0.08			
Rhodo- dendron barbatum								0.01			
Rhododen- dron triflorum								0.00			
Lynonia aungtusfiloa								0.00			
Rhododen- dron cinna- barinum									0.06		
Piptanthus nepalensis								0.00	0.01		
Rhododen- dron campy- locarpum									0.01		
Sub-Total	9.05	1.23	20.94	1.13	0.70	0.99	1.96	6.27	1.58	0.56	0.88
(Life- form-Ever- green tree)	RBA	RBA	RBA	RBA	RBA	RBA	RBA	RBA	RBA	RBA	RBA
Quercus se- mecarpifolia	7.52	1.82		2.18	15.68	14.45		12.17	2.51	25.70	3.92
Symplocos sp.	2.66					0.08		0.26			
Rhodo- dendron arboreum	2.00	3.15	1.88		0.45			0.86	1.39		13.53
Gamblea ciliata	0.35	0.75									
Quercus sp.			1.24					0.54			
~ 1											
Phoebe lanceolata						3.11					
Phoebe	12.54	5.72	3.12	2.18	16.13	3.11 <b>17.64</b>	0.00	13.83	3.90	25.70	17.45

**Annexure 2:** Floristic composition of ground vegetation including spores bearing along the altitudinal gradients and plot details.

Species	Bji	Dogar	Doteng	Essu	Hungrel	Katsho	Lungnyi	Naja	Sama	Shaba	Tsento
Spore bearing	RD%	RD%	RD%	RD%	RD%	RD%	RD%	RD%	RD%	RD%	RD%
Artemisia sp.	0.00	0.00	0.32	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	3.44	0.27	0.00	0.00
Artemisia thellungiana	0.00	7.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.29	0.00	0.00	0.00
Aster sp.	0.19	0.12	0.07	0.00	0.16	0.00	0.92	0.42	0.00	0.00	0.28
Drymaria sp.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Eleusine indica	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.40	0.00	0.00	0.00
Euphorbia sp.	0.00	2.48	0.00	0.00	3.45	0.00	0.15	1.49	0.03	0.00	0.03

										1	
Euphrasia melanosticta	0.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.02	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.00
Fagopyrum sp.	0.00	0.00	0.76	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Galinsoga parviflora	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.02	0.00	0.00	0.00
Galium aparine	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.08	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00
Galium sp.	0.00	2.69	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.38	0.00	0.35	0.21	0.00	0.00
Gentiana sp.	3.62	0.00	0.19	0.00	0.00	3.07	0.09	0.00	0.63	0.00	1.90
Geranium sp.	5.24	0.00	0.42	0.31	0.00	2.05	0.33	0.00	0.08	0.00	0.79
Grass	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.07	0.00	8.67	7.78
Hackelia sp.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.65	0.00	0.00	0.23	0.00	0.00
Impatiens sp.	0.00	0.00	0.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.06
Oxalis sp.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.19	0.00	0.00	0.06
Persicaria sp.	0.38	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.33
Pilea sp.	0.00	2.44	2.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.00	1.44
Primula denticulata	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.71	0.00	0.00
Primula smithiana	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.48	0.00	0.00
Primula sp.	0.00	0.00	1.70	0.61	0.30	0.59	1.14	0.17	2.56	0.00	0.13
Ranunculus sp.	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Senecio sp.	2.28	0.00	2.48	0.00	0.00	5.49	2.10	0.00	1.05	0.00	0.62
Sonchus sp.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.52
Torilis japonica	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sub-total	12.44	15.02	9.08	0.92	4.12	14.26	6.90	14.18	7.35	8.67	13.94
(Habitat-Bien- nial herb)	RD%	RD%	RD%	RD%	RD%	RD%	RD%	RD%	RD%	RD%	RD%
Cirsium sp.	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09
Cynoglossum furcatum	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.18	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cynoglossum sp.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Heracleum nepalense	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05
Heracleum wallichii	0.00	0.00	2.59	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Oenanthe javanica	1.32	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.46	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pleuros- permum sikkimense	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pleurosper- mum sp.	0.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Taraxacum eriopodum	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.20	0.00	0.00	0.31	0.00	0.31
Taraxacum parvulum	0.57	0.00	0.00	0.31	0.00	1.23	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00
Sub-total	2.23	0.00	2.74	0.31	0.00	5.89	0.10	0.18	0.35	0.00	0.45
(Habitat-Pe- rennial herb)	RD%										
Abelmoschus manihot	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.19	0.00	0.00
Acanthocalyx nepalensis	0.00	0.00	0.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Acmella uliginosa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.30
Aconogonon hookeri	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Aconogonon polystachyum	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Aconogonon sp.	0.00	0.00	0.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.26
Ainsliaea aptera	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.70	0.00	0.04	0.14	0.00	0.06
Ainsliaea latifolia	0.00	0.00	7.16	0.00	1.29	0.00	5.06	0.19	4.22	0.00	2.41
Ajania nubi- gena	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Aletris pauci- flora	0.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.28	0.42	0.00	0.00	5.61
Allium sp.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.86	0.00	0.00
Allium wal- lichii	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ananas comosus	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.00
Anaphalis margaritacea	0.00	0.00	0.14	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.35	0.00	0.00	2.75
Anaphalis nepalensis	0.00	0.00	1.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Anaphalis sp.	0.00	0.42	0.62	0.09	7.62	2.35	2.20	3.25	5.84	0.00	0.19
Anemone demissa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Anemone sp.	0.00	0.00	1.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.21
Artemisia indica	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.09	0.00	0.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Astilbe rivularis	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02
Astragalus sp.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.97	0.00
Bergenia sp.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.38	0.00	0.00
Bistorta macrophylla	4.53	0.00	0.00	3.68	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.54	0.00	3.12

Bistorta sp.	1.68	0.00	0.92	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09
Bistorta vacciniifolia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.20
Bistorta vivipara	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bryocarpum himalaicum	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bupleurum candollei	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	2.28	0.82	0.54	0.00	0.12	0.00	1.08
Calanthe sp.	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.68	0.00	0.00	0.59	0.00	0.00	0.03
Caltha palustris	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Campanu- la sp.	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.33	0.00	0.00	0.00
Carex duthiei	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.00
Carex sp.	47.04	19.47	18.16	36.00	3.32	3.52	9.17	2.42	17.19	15.50	4.22
Chusua pauciflora	0.29	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Circaea alpina subsp. Imaicola	0.00	0.00	1.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.66	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.21
Clematis montana	0.00	0.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Clematis sp.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.73	0.00	0.00	0.66	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Clinopodium umbrosum	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.32	0.00	0.68	0.17	0.02	0.00	0.00
Clintonia udensis	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.33
Cortiella hookeri	0.15	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.76	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Corydalis juncea	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.37	0.00	0.00	0.19	0.00	0.00
Corydalis sp.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10
Cremanthodi- um sp.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.18
Cyananthus incanus	0.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cyananthus lobatus	0.60	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.34
Cyananthus sp.	0.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.32
Cynanchum auriculatum	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cynodon sp.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.41	0.00	0.00	0.00
Danthonia sp.	1.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Digitaria sp.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.23	0.00

Dubyaea											
hispida	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00
Elatostema lineolatum	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.71
Elatostema sp.	0.00	0.00	0.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.30	0.00	1.15
Elsholtzia sp.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.18
Elsholtzia strobilifera	0.00	0.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.00
Epiglossum sp.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Epilobium sp.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Equisetum diffusum	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.00
Eupatorium nodiflorum	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.90	0.00
Euphorbia griffithii	0.00	0.00	0.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.87	0.00	2.00	8.12	0.09
Festuca sp.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fragaria nubicola	0.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05
Fragaria sp.	0.00	0.22	1.35	0.00	2.38	3.52	1.56	0.00	5.43	0.00	0.08
Gentiana algida	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.08
Gentiana urnula	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02
Goodyera sp.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02
Gueldenstaed- tia himalaica	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00
Halenia elliptica	0.57	0.66	0.14	3.68	1.32	8.34	0.66	1.49	0.34	0.00	1.68
Hedera nepalensis	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.65	0.34	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hedychium sp.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.78	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.33
Hemiphragma heterophyllum	0.38	0.00	0.14	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.12	0.84	0.00	0.53
Herminium sp.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Holboellia latifolia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00
Houttuynia cordata	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.28	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hydrangea sp.	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hypoxis aurea	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.31	0.00	0.00	0.00
Inula hookeri	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.19	0.00	0.00
Iris clarkei	0.00	14.83	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.21	0.00	0.99	1.86	0.00	0.00
Iris sp.	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.61	0.00	0.00	3.89	0.00	2.98	0.00	0.00

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Juncus sp.	4.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.22	0.00	5.28	0.00	0.00
Lagotis sp.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Leontopodi- um sp.	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Lespedeza gerardiana	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.84	0.00
Leucas ciliate	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ligularia atkinsonii	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.68	0.00	0.00	2.05	0.00	0.00
Ligularia mortonii	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.70	0.00	0.00	0.71	0.00	0.00
Ligularia sp.	0.00	0.00	0.25	10.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.55	0.00	1.84
Lobelia sp.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.00
Lomatogonium brachyan- therum	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.29
Lomatogoni- um sp.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.02
Lomatogoni- um stapfii	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.29
Maianthemum sp.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.04
Meconopsis paniculata	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Meconopsis sp.	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Meeboldia sp.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.30	0.00	0.00
Megacodon stylophorus	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mentha spicata	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Microstegi- um sp.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Microstegium vimineum	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18.08	0.00
Mulgedium sp.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Myriactis nepalensis	0.00	0.00	0.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
Myriactis wallichii	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.52	0.00
Nardostachys grandiflora	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.70	0.00	0.00
Neopicrorhiza scrophularii- flora	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07
Nepeta sp.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.37	0.00	3.43	0.00	0.10	0.53	0.00	0.00
Onosma hookeri	0.00	0.00	0.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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Ophiopogon sp.	0.00	0.00	5.12	0.00	7.63	0.00	0.09	5.63	0.00	0.00	0.39
Ophiopogon wallichianus	0.00	0.00	1.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Osmanthus sp.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00
Oxygraphis endlicheri	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Oxytropis lapponica	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.09
Panax pseu- do-ginseng	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02
Parasenecio palmatisectus	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Parasenecio sp.	0.00	0.00	1.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Parnassia chinensis	1.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.46	0.00	0.00	0.15	0.00	0.00
Pedicularis megalantha	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.38	0.00	0.00
Pedicularis siphonantha	3.46	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.43	0.00	0.00
$Pedicular is \ {\rm sp.}$	2.76	0.00	0.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.14
Phaeonychium parryoides	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.72	0.00	2.65	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Phlomis rotate	0.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.32
Phlomis sp.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.06	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00
Phyallanthus virgatus	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.11
Plantago depressa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Plantago erosa	0.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.13	0.00	0.00
Plantago sp.	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.43	0.01	0.00	0.00
Poa sp.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00
Polygonatum sp.	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50
Potentilla anserina	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07
Potentilla coriandrifolia	0.46	0.00	0.00	0.61	0.00	8.20	0.00	0.00	0.09	1.34	3.44
Potentilla cuneata	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02
Potentilla fruticosa	0.00	0.00	0.41	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Potentilla peduncularis	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.23	0.00	0.37	0.00	0.00	0.18	0.00	0.00
Potentilla sp.	5.57	0.00	3.46	0.98	0.00	0.00	0.33	0.73	1.35	0.00	2.99

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Prangos sp.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Prunella vulgaris	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.31	0.00	0.00
Pterisan- thes sp.	0.00	0.00	0.82	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pyrola rotun- difolia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pyrola sp.	0.00	0.00	0.00	14.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.13	0.00	0.00
Rheum nobile	0.00	0.00	0.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rhodiola sp.	3.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.91
Roscoea sp.	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rubia manjith	0.00	1.93	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10
Rubia sp.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.31	0.00	0.26	0.28	0.00	0.00	0.09
Rubus caly- cinus	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rubus fockeanus	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rubus fragari- oides	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.80	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rubus sp.	0.00	2.31	6.11	12.51	2.84	0.76	7.33	14.39	7.49	0.00	2.73
Rumex nepal- ensis	0.00	0.00	2.52	0.00	0.62	0.00	0.38	0.74	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rumex sp.	2.53	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00
Salvia cam- panulata	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Salvia sp.	0.00	29.56	3.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.92	3.88	0.85	0.00	3.27
Sambucus adnata	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.46	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05
Sanicula elata	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.27	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Saussurea auriculata	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.55	0.00	0.00
Saussurea nishiokae	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.18	0.00	0.00
Saussurea sp.	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.55	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.00	0.78
Saxifraga sp.	0.71	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Selinum candollei	0.00	0.00	1.38	0.00	1.64	5.34	1.23	0.12	0.23	0.00	2.24
Selinum walli- chianum	0.00	0.00	0.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.01
Senecio laetus	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
Senecio ra- phanifolius	0.27	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00
Senecio royleanus	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00
Senecio scandens	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04

Stellaria sp.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.70	0.00
Streptopus											
Strobilanthes	0.00	0.00	0.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
sp.	0.00	0.00	2.67	0.00	0.70	0.00	0.53	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.40
Swertia bimaculata	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.51	0.00	0.00	0.24
Swertia hookeri	0.00	0.00	0.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Swertia multicaulis	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Swertia sp.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.63	0.00	0.00
Synotis sp.	0.00	0.00	4.34	0.05	14.96	0.00	4.74	0.00	0.00	7.03	3.83
Synotis wallichii	0.00	0.00	3.23	0.00	0.00	5.87	0.00	0.00	1.33	0.00	0.46
Thalictrum foliolosum	0.00	6.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.19	0.00	0.00	0.00
Thalictrum reniforme	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.62	0.00	3.14	0.68
Thalictrum sp.	0.00	0.00	0.56	0.00	2.25	0.00	0.45	1.55	0.00	0.00	0.32
Trifolium repens	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.38	0.59	0.00	0.00
Triosteum himalaynum	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.51	0.58	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.00
Urtica dioica	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.30	0.00	0.00	0.00
Utricularia sp.	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Veronica sp.	0.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.19	0.00	0.00
Vincetoxicum hirundinaria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.70	0.00
Viola biflora	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.41	0.00	0.00	0.32	0.00	0.00
Viola sp.	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.01	0.00	1.39	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Waldheimia glabra	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sub-total	84.76	78.66	73.92	89.96	68.24	73.05	62.41	52.52	76.57	67.16	59.50

(Habitat-Spore bearing)	RD%	RD%	RD%	RD%	RD%	RD%	RD%	RD%	RD%	RD%	RD%
Athyrium sp.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.18	0.00	0.00	0.00
Atrichum undulatum	0.00	0.00	0.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bazzania tirlobata	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Breutelia sp.	0.00	0.00	0.98	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cladonia sp.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.34
Conocepha- lum sp.	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Dicranum scoparium	0.00	0.00	0.22	0.00	11.88	0.00	0.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.56
Dicranum sp.	0.00	0.00	1.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.89
Drynaria sp.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00
Dryopteris sp.	0.00	6.21	0.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.84	0.00	0.00	4.38
Entodon sp.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09
Helodium sp.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.15
Hymenophyl- lum sp.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.47
Hypnum cu- pressiforme	0.00	0.00	0.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hypnum sp.	0.00	0.00	0.37	0.00	3.18	0.00	6.86	0.00	0.00	16.63	3.62
Lepisorus sp.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.79	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.00
Lobaria sp.	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Lycopodium sp.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.84	0.00	0.00	0.00
Metzgeria furcata	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04
Neckera sp.	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Onychium cryptogram- moides	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00
Onychium sp.	0.00	0.00	0.93	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.38	0.44	0.00	0.00	0.00
Osmunda cinnamomea	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.22	0.00	0.00	0.00
Osmunda sp.	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.61	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Peltigera sp.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.47	0.00
Philonotis fanacata	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Philonotis sp.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Plagiochila sp.	0.00	0.00	0.28	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Plagiomnium sp.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01

Grand total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Sub-total	0.57	6.32	14.26	8.82	27.63	6.80	30.58	33.12	15.72	24.17	26.12
Woodwardia unigemmata	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Thuidium sp.	0.00	0.00	0.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.63	0.00	0.00	6.34	1.36
Thelypteris sp.	0.00	0.00	0.24	0.00	0.28	0.00	0.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.68
Thamnolia vermicularis	0.00	0.00	1.29	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sphagnum sp.	0.57	0.00	0.00	6.36	0.00	0.82	0.00	0.00	9.02	0.00	0.71
Selaginella sp.	0.00	0.00	0.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.36	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rhytidium rugosum	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.73	0.00
Rhodobryum roseum	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.27
Rhodobryum giganteum	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.73	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02
Ptilium cris- ta-castrensis	0.00	0.00	2.39	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.45
Pteris sp.	0.00	0.00	0.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.29
Pteris cretica	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.31	5.36	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pteridium sp.	0.00	0.00	2.75	2.46	11.52	0.00	6.88	0.00	6.71	0.00	4.91
Pteridium aquilinum	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.98	0.00	6.81	0.00	0.00	0.00
Polytricum commue	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.16
Polytrichum sp.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.08
Polystichum sp.	0.00	0.00	1.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.15	0.74	0.00	0.00	1.55
Pogonatum sp.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Plagiomni- um undulatum	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.11

# **Annexure 3:** Plot summary for eleven Gewogs

Gewog	Bji	Dogar	Doteng	Eusu	Hungrel	Katsho	Lungyni	Naja	Samar	Shaba	Tsento
	,-	vg			g						
No. of plots	4	9	23	6	10	4	18	29	25	8	32
Altitude Range(m)	3039- 4834	1955- 3900	2270- 5552	2527- 4085	2210- 3752	2658- 4134	2200- 4110	1925- 4107	2474- 4597	2113- 4003	2496- 5213
Tree plot size(m^2)	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400
Herb plot size(m^2)	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
BAcm^2	67176	133815	352443	121487	103761	55653	323098	329195	331913	43993	356039
BAm^2	6.72	13.38	35.24	12.15	10.38	5.57	32.31	32.92	33.19	4.40	35.60

Diversity H'	1.3	1.09	1.76	1.29	0.97	0.93	1.42	1.47	1.81	1.36	1.67
Diver- sity H' (Whole)	0.95	0.55	0.95	0.76	0.59	0.60	0.84	0.74	1.03	0.76	0.83
Diversity (No)	14	13	28	21	16	9	13	21	37	6	30
Max. DBH(cm)	105	105	120	103	72	85	110	130	135	53	118
Max. Ht(m)	37	33	85	30	52	28	64	60	120	48	63

### **Annexure 4:** List of mammals.

Common name	Scientific name	Family
Alpine marmot	Marmota marmota	Sciuridae
Asiatic black bear	Ursus thibetanus	Ursidae
Asiatic Golden Cat	Catopuma temminckii	Felidae
Barking deer	Muntiacus muntjak	Cervidae
Bengal Tiger	Panthera tigris ssp.tigris	Felidae
Bhutan Takin	Budorcas taxicolor ssp. Whitei	Bovidae
Blue Sheep	Pseudois nayaur	Bovidae
Common Leopard	Panthera pardus	Felidae
Gaur	Bos gaurus	Bovidae
Goral	Naemorhedus goral	Bovidae
Grey Langur	Semnopithecus entellus	Cercopithecidae
Himalayan Musk Deer	Moschus leucogaster	Moschidae
Himalayan Serow	Capricornis sumatraensis ssp. thar	Bovidae
Leopard Cat	Prionailurus bengalensis	Felidae
Assam macaques	Macaca assamensis	Cercopithecidae
Marbled Cat	Pardofelis marmorata	Felidae
Red fox	Vulpes vulpes	Canidae
Red Panda	Ailurus fulgens	Ailuridae
Sambar deer	Rusa unicolor	Cervidae
Snow leopard	Panthera uncia	Felidae
Thorold's deer	Cervus albirostris	Cervidea
Tibetan Wolf	Canis lupus ssp. filchneri	Canidae
Wild boar	Sus scrofa	Suidae
Wild dog	Cuon alpinus	Canidae
Woolley Hare	Lepus oiostolus	Leporidae

Yellow-throated Marten	Martes flavigula	Mustelidae
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# Annexure 5: List of herpetofauna

Common name	Scientific name	Family
Himalayan Mountain Keelback	Amphiesma platyceps	Colubridae
False Wolf snake	Dinodon spp	Colubridae
Himalayan Toad	Duttaphrynus himalayanus	Bufonidae
Asian Common Toad	Duttaphrynus melanostictus	Bufonidae
Indian forest skink	Sphenomorphus indicus	Scincidae
Sikkim false wolf snake	Lycodon spp	Colubridae
Himalayan Keelback	Rhadophis himlayanus	Colubridae
Eastern Keelback	Herpetoreas platyceps	Colubridae
Himalayan Pit Viper	Protobothrops himalayanus	Viperidae

### **Annexure 6:** List of birds

Common Name	Scientific Name	Family	ICUN Category
Alpine Accentor	Prunella collaris	Prunellidae	LC
Alpine Chough	Pyrrhocorax graculus	Corvidae	LC
Alpine Thrush	Zoother mollissima	Turdidae	LC
Altai Accentor	Prunella himalayana	Prunellidae	LC
Ashy Drongo	Dicrurus Leucophaeus	Dicruridae	LC
Ashy-throated Warbler	Phylloscopus Maculipennis	Phylloscopidae	LC
Asian Barred Owlet	Glaucidium cuculoides	Strigidae	LC
Bar-headed Goose	Anser indicus	Anatidae	LC
Barn Owl	Tyto alba	Tytonidae	LC
Bearded vulture	Gypaetus barbatus	Accipitridae	NT
Bhutan Laughingthrush	Trochalopteron imbricatum	Leiothrichidae	LC
Black Bulbul	Hypsipetes leucocephalus	Pycnonotidae	LC
Black Eagle	Ictinaetus malaiensis	Accipitridae	LC
Black Kite	Milvus migrans	Accipitridae	LC
Black Stork	Ciconia nigra	Ciconiidae	LC
Black- throated Thrush	Turdus atrogularis	Turdidae	LC
Black-crowned Night Heron	Nycticorax nycticorax	Ardeidae	LC
Black-faced Laughingthrush	Trochalopteron affine	Leiothrichidae	LC
Black-necked Crane	Grus nigricollis	Gruidae	NT

Black-tailed Crake	Zaporina bicolor	Rallidae	LC
Black-winged Cuckooshrike	Lalage melaschistos	Campephagidae	LC
Blood Pheasant	Ithaginis cruentus	Phasianidae	LC
Blue Whistling-Thrush	Myophonus caeruleus	Muscicapidae	LC
Blue-fronted Redstart	Phoenicurus frontalis	Muscicapidae	LC
Blue-rock Thrush	Monticola solitarius	Muscicapidae	LC
Blyth's Leaf Warbler	Phylloscopus reguloides	Phylloscopidae	LC
Brown Dipper	Cinclus pallasii	Ciconiidae	LC
Brown Parrotbill	Cholornis unicolor	Sylviidae	LC
Brown Shrike	Lanicus cristatus	Laniidae	LC
Brown-headed Gull	Chroicocephalus brun- nicephalus	Laridae	LC
Brown-throated Fulvetta	Fulvetta ludlowi	Sylviidae	LC
Buff-barred Warbler	Phyllocopus pulcher	Phylloscopidae	LC
Cattle Erget	Bubulcus ibis	Ardeidae	LC
Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush	Monticola rufiventris	Muscicapidae	LC
Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush	Trochalopteron erythro- cephalum	Leiothrichidae	LC
Chestnut-crowned Warbler	Phylloscopus castaniceps	Phylloscopidae	LC
Chestnut-tailed Minla	Minla strigula	Leiothrichidae	LC
Citrine Wagtail	Motacilla citreola	Motacillidae	LC
Coal Tit	Periparus ater	Paridae	LC
Collared Grosbeak	Mycerobas affinis	Fringillidae	LC
Collared Owlet	Taenioptynx brodiei	Strigidae	LC
Common Buzzard	Buteo buteo	Accipitridae	LC
Common Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus	Falconidae	LC
Common Kingfisher	Alcedo atthis	Alcedinidae	LC
Common Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus	Rallidae	LC
Common Myna	Acridotheres tristis	Sturnidae	LC
Common Quil	Coturnix coturnis	Phasianidae	LC
Common Raven	Corvus corax	Corvidae	LC
Common Reshank	Tringa totanus	Scolopacidae	LC
Common Rosefinch	Carpodacus erythrinus	Fringillidae	LC
Common Sandpiper	Actitis hypoleucos	Scolopacidae	LC
Common Teal	Anas crecca	Anatidae	LC

Creamson-breasted Wood-pecker	Dryobates cathpharius	Picidae	LC
Crested Kingfisher	Megaceryle lugubris	Alcedinidae	LC
Crimson-browed Finch	Carpodacus subhimachalus		LC
Crow-bellied Drongo	Dicrurus annectens	Dicruridae	LC
Darjeeling Woodpecker	Dendrocopos darjellensis	Picidae	LC
Dark-breasted Rosefinch	Procarduelis nipalensis	Fringillidae	LC
Dark-rumped Rosefinch	Carpodacus edwardsii	Fringillidae	LC
Dark-sided Flycatcher	Muscicapa sibirica	Muscicapidae	LC
Eurasian Coot	Fulica atra	Rallidae	LC
Eurasian Cuckoo	Cuculus canorus	Cuculidae	LC
Eurasian Hoopoe	Upupa epops	Upupidae	LC
Eurasian Jay	Garrulus glandarius	Corvidae	LC
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	Accipiter nisus	Accipitridae	LC
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	Passer montanus	Passeridae	LC
Eurasian Treecreeper	Certhia familiaris	Certhiidae	LC
Eurasian Wigeon	Mareca penelope	Anatidae	LC
Eurasian Woodcock	Scolopax rusticola	Scolopacidae	LC
Eurasian Wren	Troglodytes troglodytes	Troglodytidae	LC
European Golden Plover	Pluvialis apricaria	Charadriidae	LC
Ferruginous Duck	Aythya nyroca	Anatidae	NT
Fire-tailed Myzornis	Myzornis pyrrhoura	Sylviidae	LC
Fire-tailed Sunbird	Aethopyga ignicauda	Nectariniidae	LC
Gadwall	Mareca strepera	Anatidae	LC
Goldcrest	Regulus regulus	Regulidae	LC
Golden Eagle	Aquila chrysaetos	Accipitridae	LC
Golden-naped Finch	Pyrrhoplectes epauletta	Fringillidae	LC
Goosander	Mergus merganser	Anatidae	LC
Grandala	Grandala coelicolor	Turdidae	LC
Great Bittern	Botaurus stellaris	Ardeidae	LC
Great Commorant	Phalacrocorax carbo	Phalacrocoraci- dae	LC
Greater White-fronted Goose	Anser albifrons	Anatidae	LC
Green Sandpiper	Tringa onchropus	Scolopacidae	LC
Green Shrike-babbler	Pteruthius xanthochlorus	Vireonidae	LC
Green-backed Tit	Parus monticolus	Paridae	LC

Greenish Warbler	Phylloscopous trichiloides	Phylloscopidae	LC
Green-tailed Sunbird	Aethopyga nipalensis	Nectariniidae	LC
Grey Bushchat	Saxicola ferreus	Muscicapidae	LC
Grey Heron	Ardea cinerea	Ardeidae	LC
Grey Nightjar	Caprimulgus jotaka	Caprimulgidae	LC
Grey Wagtail	Motacilla cinerea	Motacillidae	LC
Grey-backed Shrike	Lanius tephronotus	Laniidae	LC
Grey-crested Tit	Lophophanes dichrous	Paridae	LC
Grey-sided Bush Warbler	Cettia brunnifrons	Scotocercidae	LC
Grey-winged Blackbird	Turdus boulboul	Turdidae	LC
Hill Patridge	Arborophila torqueola	Phasianidae	LC
Himalayan Beautiful Rose- finch	Carpodacus pulcherrimus	Fringillidae	LC
Himalayan Bluetail	Tarsiger rufilatus	Muscicapidae	LC
Himalayan Monal	Lophophorus impejanus	Phasianidae	LC
Himalayan Vulture	Gyps himalayensis	Accipitridae	NT
Himalayan White-browed Rosefinch	Carpodacus thura	Fringillidae	LC
Himalayan Wood Owl	Strix nivicolum	Strigidae	LC
Hodgson Redstart	Phoenicurus hodgsoni	Muscicapidae	LC
Hodgson's Treecreeper	Certhia hodgsoni	Certhiidae	LC
Horned Lark	Eremophila alpestris	Alaudidae	LC
House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	Passeridae	LC
Ibisbill	Ibidorhyncha struthersii	Ibidorhynchidae	LC
Indian Pond Heron	Ardeola grayii	Ardeidae	LC
Indian Roller	Coracias benghalensis	Coraciidae	LC
Indian-blue Robin	Larvivora brunnea	Muscicapidae	LC
Isabelline Wheatear	Oenanthe isabellina	Muscicapidae	LC
Kalij Pheasant	Lophura leucomelanos	Phasianidae	LC
Large Hawk Cuckoo	Hierococcyx sparverioides	Cuculidae	LC
Large-billed Crow	Corvus macrorhynchos	Corvidae	LC
Large-billed Leaf Warbler	Phylloscopus magnirostris	Phylloscopidae	LC
Lemon-rumped Warbler	Phylloscopus chloronotus	Phylloscopidae	LC
Little Bunting	Emberiza pusilla	Emberizidae	LC
Little Forktail	Enicurus scouleri	Muscicapidae	LC

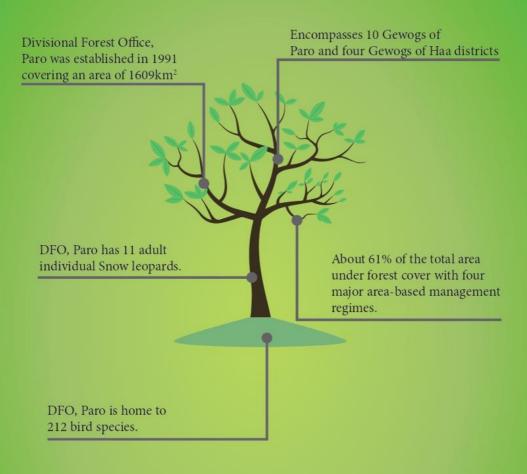
Little Owl	Athene noctua	Strigidae	LC
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Long bellied Thrush	Zoother monticola	Turdidae	LC
Long-billed Plover	Charadrius placidus	Charadriidae	LC
Long-legged Buzzard	Buteo rufinus	Accipitridae	LC
Long-tailed Minivet	Pericrocotus ethologus	Campephagidae	LC
Long-tailed Shrike	Lanius schach	Laniidae	LC
Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos	Anatidae	LC
Mandarin Duck	Aix galericulata	Anatidae	LC
Maroon-backed Accentor	Prunella immaculata	Prunellidae	LC
Mrs. Gould's Sunbird	Aethopyga gouldiae	Nectariniidae	LC
Northern Goshawk	Accipiter gentilis	Accipitridae	LC
Northern Lapwing	Vanellus vanellus	Charadriidae	LC
Northern Pintail	Anas acuta	Anatidae	LC
Olive-backed Pipit	Anthus hodgsoni	Motacillidae	LC
Oriental Cuckoo	Cuculus optatus	Cuculidae	LC
Oriental Hobby	Falco severus	Falconidae	LC
Oriental Honey Buzzard	Pernis ptilorhynchus	Accipitridae	LC
Oriental Skylark	Alauda gulgula	Alaudidae	LC
Oriental Turtal Dove	Stroptopelia orientalis	Columbidae	LC
Oriental White Eye	Zosterops palpebrosus	Zosteropidae	LC
Osprey	Pandion haliaetus	Pandionidae	LC
Pacific Golden Plover	Pluvialis fulva	Charadriidae	LC
Paddyfield Pipit	Anthus rufulus	Motacillidae	LC
Pallas's Gull	Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus	Laridae	LC
Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus	Falconidae	LC
Plain Mountain Finch	Leucosticte nemoricola	Fringillidae	LC
Plumbeous Water Redstart	Phoenicurus fuliginosus	Muscicapidae	LC
Red Crossbill	Loxia curvirostra	Fringillidae	LC
Red-billed Chough	Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax	Corvidae	LC
Red-billed Leiothrix	Leiothrix lutea	Leiothrichidae	LC
Red-breasted Thrush	Tarsiger migratorius	Turdidae	LC
Red-crested Pochard	Netta rufina	Anatidae	LC
Red-headed Bullfinch	Pyrrhula erythrocephala	Fringillidae	LC
Red-vented Bulbul	Pycnontus cafer	Pycnonotidae	LC
Red-wattled Lapwing	Vanellus indicus	Charadriidae	LC
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River lapwing	Vanellus duvaucell	Charadriidae	NT
Robin Accentor	Prunella rubeculoides	Prunellidae	LC
Rock Pigeon	Columba livia	Columbidae	LC
Rosy Pipit	Anthus roseatus	Motacillidae	LC
Ruddy Shelduck	Tadorna ferruginea	Anatidae	LC
Ruddy-breasted Crake	Zaporina fusca	Rallidae	LC
Rufous Sibia	Heterophasia capistrata	Leiothrichidae	LC
Rufous-bellied Niltava	Niltava sundara	Muscicapidae	LC
Rufous-bellied Woodpecker	Dendrocopos hyperythrus	Picidae	LC
Rufous-breasted Accentor	Prunella strophiata	Prunellidae	LC
Rufous-fronted Tit	Aegithalos iouschistos	Aegithalidae	LC
Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher	Ficedula strophiata	Muscicapidae	LC
Rufous-vented Tit	Periparus rubidiventris	Paridae	LC
Rufous-vented Yuhina	Yuhina occipitalis	Zosteropidae	LC
Russet Sparrow	Passer cinnamomeus	Passeridae	LC
Rusty-flanked Treecreeper	Certhia nipalensis	Certhiidae	LC
Satyr Tragopan	Tragopan satyra	Phasianidae	NT
Scaly-breasted Munia	Lonchura punctulata	Estrildidae	LC
Short-billed Minivet	Pericrocotus brevirostris	Campephagidae	LC
Silver-eared Laughingthrush	Trochalopteron melanostig- ma	nelanostig- Leiothrichidae	
Slaty-blue Flycatcher	Ficedula tricolor	Muscicapidae	LC
Snow Pigeon	Columba leuconota	Columbidae	LC
Solitary Snipe	Gallinago solitaria	Scolopacidae	LC
Speckled Wood Pigeon	Columba hodgsonii	Columbidae	LC
Spotted Dove	Spilopelia chinensis	Columbidae	LC
Spotted Laughingthrush	Ianthocincla ocellata	Leiothrichidae	LC
Spotted Nutcracker	Nucifraga caryocatactes	Corvidae	LC
Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler	Pomatorhinus ruficollis Timaliidae		LC
Stripe-throated Yuhina	Yuhina gularis	Zosteropidae	LC
Tibetan Patridge	Perdix hodgsoniae	Phasianidae	LC
Tibetan Snowcock	Tetraogallus tibetanus	Phasianidae	LC
Tickell's Leaf Warbler	Phylloscopus affinis affinis	Phylloscopidae	LC
Ultramarine Flycatcher	Ficedula superciliaris	Muscicapidae	LC
Verditer Flycatcher	Eumyias thalassinus	Muscicapidae	LC

Wallcreeper	Tochodroma muraria	Tichodromidae	LC
Ward's Trogon	Harpactes wardi	Trogonidae	NT
Water Pipit	Anthus spinoletta	Motacillidae	LC
Whiskered Tern	Chlidonias hybrida	Laridae	LC
Whiskered Yuhina	Yuhina flavicollis	Zosteropidae	LC
Whistler's Warbler	Phylloscopus whistleri	Phylloscopidae	LC
White browed starling	Grafisia torquata	Sturnidae	LC
White collared blackbird	Turdus albocinctus	Turdidae	LC
White Wagtail	Motacilla alba	Motacillidae	LC
White-browed Bush Robin	Tarsiger indicus	Muscicapidae	LC
White-browed Fulvetta	Fulvetta vinipectus	Sylviidae	LC
White-capped Redstart	Phoenicurus leucocephalus	hoenicurus leucocephalus Muscicapidae	
White-tailed Nuthatch	Sitta himalayensis	Sittidae	LC
White-throated Fantail	Rhipidura albicollis	Rhipiduridae	LC
White-throated Laugh- ingthrush	Pterorhinus albogularis	Leiothrichidae	LC
White-throated Redstart	Phoenicurus schisticeps	Muscicapidae	LC
White-winged Grosbeak	Mycerobas carnipes	Fringillidae	LC
White-winged Redstart	Phoenicurus erthrogastrus	Muscicapidae	LC
Winter Wren	Troglodytes hiemalis	Troglodytidae	LC
Wood Snipe	Gallinago nemoricola	Scolopacidae	VU
Yellow-bellied Fantail	Chelidorhynx hypoxanthus	Stenostiridae	LC
Yellow-billed Blue Magpie	Urocissa flavirostris	Corvidae	LC
Yellow-breasted Green Finch	Chloris spinoides	Fringillidae	LC
Yellow-rumped Honeyguide	Indicator xanthontus	Indicatoridae	NT

Annexure 7: Detection rate and occupancy of the mammal species

Species	Detection	SE	Lower CI	Upper CI	Occupancy
Blue sheep	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	1.00
Hare	0.07	0.06	0.01	0.32	0.04
Red fox	0.05	0.03	0.02	0.14	0.20
Snow leopard	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.99
Wild dog	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.99
Wolf	0.00	NA	NA	NA	1.00
Marmot	0.49	NA	NA	NA	0.00
Himalayan black bear	0.49	NA	NA	NA	0.00
Thorold's deer	0.00	NA	NA	NA	1.00
Asiatic golden cat	0.49	NA	NA	NA	0.00
Goral	0.00	NA	NA	NA	1.00
Musk deer	0.00	NA	NA	NA	1.00
Serow	0.05	0.03	0.02	0.14	0.20
Takin	0.49	NA	NA	NA	0.00
Barking deer	0.07	0.06	0.01	0.32	0.04
Sambar	0.49	NA	NA	NA	0.00
Wild pig	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.99
Common leopard	0.49	NA	NA	NA	0.00
Red panda	0.49	NA	NA	NA	0.00
Leopard cat	0.07	0.06	0.01	0.32	0.04
Gray langur	0.00	NA	NA	NA	1.00
Gaur	0.49	NA	NA	NA	0.00
Marbled cat	0.49	NA	NA	NA	0.00
Tiger	0.49	NA	NA	NA	0.00



Divisional Forest Office, Paro Department of Forests and Park Services Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources









