

Forest Guardian, Surat Kumar Rai
Final Report for Bioparc Doué la Fontaine



Name: Surat Kumar Rai

Location: Memeng, Phalelung Rural Municipality, Panchthar dsictrict, eastern Nepal

Community Forest: Aahale Narehung CF

Age: 48

First year as FG: 2014

Family size: 3

Surat Kumar Rai has been a Forest Guardian (FG) for eight years and would like to continue the role for another eight years. He is amazed by the willingness of local communities to collaborate to conserve red pandas. Surat rejoices in conducting household questionnaire surveys and is always excited to attend various capacity-building trainings. He is actively working as a road contractor in his village. He has developed a solid network of professional friends through his job.

Surat's 2022 FG achievements are as follows:

- Attended the capacity-building training with 16 FG colleagues in Panchthar district on May 25, 2022. The training provided a refresher of various habitat and population monitoring techniques.
- Patrolled his community forests (CF) along with other members of anti-poaching network including Community Forest User Group (CFUG) members, Nepali police, and local representatives. The patrol unti recorded incidents of anthropogenic habitat degredation caused by livestock grazing, forest fire, and fodder, fuel wood, NTFP, and timber extraction.
- Completed red panda population and habitat monitoring four times this year. (Photo 2).
- A Red Panda Conservation Scholarship was awarded to Surat's son this year (Photo 1 & 3). RPN started this education scholarship program in 2019 to provide financial support and necessary school supplies to local student, including children and siblings of FGs.

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- Involved in the free anti-rabies vaccination campaign in Phalelung Rural Municipality..In total, 224 dogs and 37 cats were vaccinated during the campaign in all 8 wards of Phalelung.
- Volunteered in other conservation activities such as forest and water pond conservation.



Photo 3: Surat Kumar Rai as a Forest Guardian representatives during the red panda conservation scholarship awarding ceremony.

