



Brown Bear Monitoring Around Protective Corrals Drass Ladakh



Project by: Mansoor Nabi Sofi, Muzammil Hussain Munshi

Drass, Ladakh

Camera-Trap Monitoring Report

Monitoring Period

April–May 2026

Implemented by: HIMALAYAN BROWN BEAR TRUST

Study Area: Drass, Kargil District, Union Territory of Ladakh, India

Supported by: High Asia Habitat Fund & Department of Wildlife Protection, Forest, Environment & Ecology



Focus of the Monitoring Programme

Himalayan Brown Bear (*Ursus arctos*)

Livestock Protection • Camera-Trap Monitoring • Human–Wildlife Conflict Mitigation



As part of its human–wildlife conflict mitigation programme, the Himalayan Brown Bear Trust installed 10 protective cattle corrals/enclosures at selected locations in the Drass landscape to improve livestock safety and reduce the risk of Himalayan Brown Bear (*Ursus arctos*) attacks on livestock kept in traditional cattle sheds.

Livestock depredation and the presence of brown bears close to livestock holdings can create significant concerns for local communities and may increase the risk of negative interactions between people and wildlife. The installation of secure cattle enclosures was therefore undertaken as a preventive conservation measure to provide safer night-time shelter for livestock and reduce opportunities for brown bears to access cattle sheds.

Following installation of the 10 protective corrals, camera traps were deployed around selected enclosures to monitor brown bear movement and activity in their vicinity. The objective was not only to determine whether brown bears continued to approach the protected livestock facilities, but also to assess the effectiveness of the corrals as a practical livestock-protection intervention.

The camera traps provided continuous, non-invasive monitoring and were used to document the presence, frequency, timing, direction of movement, and behaviour of brown bears near the protected corrals. Photographic records also helped determine whether bears attempted to approach, investigate, or enter the livestock-protection structures.



Monitoring Objectives

The camera-trap monitoring programme aimed to:

- Monitor Himalayan Brown Bear movement around the protected cattle corrals.
- Determine whether brown bears approached livestock enclosures after installation.
- Document the time and frequency of bear activity near the corrals.
- Identify repeated bear movement routes and potential conflict locations.
- Assess the practical effectiveness of protective corrals in reducing livestock

Vulnerability

- Generate photographic evidence for future monitoring and conservation planning.
- Support evidence-based human–brown bear conflict mitigation in Drass.

Intervention and Monitoring Summary

Location: Drass, Kargil District, Ladakh

Intervention: Installation of protective cattle corrals

Number of Corrals Installed: 10

Target Species: Himalayan Brown Bear (*Ursus arctos*)

Monitoring Method: Camera trapping

Monitoring Period: April–May 2026

Primary Purpose: Livestock protection and human–brown bear conflict mitigation

Monitoring Focus: Brown bear movement around protected cattle corrals

The camera-trap monitoring component is particularly important because it provides an objective means of evaluating the intervention. Instead of relying only on reports of livestock attacks or direct sightings, photographic records can demonstrate whether brown bears continue to use areas surrounding livestock facilities and whether their behaviour changes following installation of protective structures.

The information generated through this programme will provide a valuable baseline for evaluating the effectiveness of the 10 protective cattle corrals. Continued monitoring is recommended during subsequent seasons to determine whether the intervention consistently reduces livestock exposure to brown bears and contributes to safer coexistence between local communities and wildlife.

Overall, the initiative represents a preventive, community-oriented conservation approach, combining improved livestock protection with scientific wildlife monitoring. The integration of secure cattle corrals and camera-trap surveillance can help reduce livestock losses, improve community confidence in wildlife conservation, and support long-term coexistence with the Himalayan Brown Bear in the Drass landscape.



RESULTS AND KEY FINDINGS

The camera-trap monitoring conducted around the 10 protective cattle corrals installed by the Himalayan Brown Bear Trust in Drass during April–May 2026 recorded no Himalayan Brown Bear (*Ursus arctos*) movement around the monitored corrals during the survey period.

Review of the camera-trap photographic records revealed no confirmed brown bear visits, approaches, attempts to enter, or other identifiable brown bear activity in the immediate vicinity of the protected livestock enclosures. No photographic evidence of a brown bear approaching or attempting to enter any monitored corral was recorded during the monitoring period.

Key Result

No brown bear attack or brown bear movement was recorded around the monitored protective cattle corrals during April–May 2026.

The absence of recorded bear activity around the monitored corrals during the survey period is an encouraging finding from a livestock-protection perspective. The 10 corrals provided secure livestock enclosures, while camera-trap monitoring allowed the Himalayan Brown Bear Trust to assess wildlife activity around the protected areas.

Livestock Protection Outcome

During the monitoring period:

- 10 protective cattle corrals were installed.
- Camera traps were deployed around selected corrals.
- No Himalayan Brown Bear movement was detected around the monitored corrals.
- No brown bear attack was recorded at the monitored corrals.
- No photographic evidence of bears attempting to enter the corrals was recorded.
- No confirmed brown bear visit to the monitored livestock-protection areas was documented.

These findings provide an encouraging initial indication of the effectiveness of the protective-corrals approach for reducing livestock exposure to brown bears. However, the results apply specifically to the monitored locations and April–May 2026 period. Continued monitoring during additional seasons and years is recommended to assess long-term effectiveness.



CONCLUSION

The April–May 2026 camera-trap monitoring programme in Drass recorded no Himalayan Brown Bear movement or attacks around the monitored protective cattle corrals. The installation of 10 protective corrals by the Himalayan Brown Bear Trust, combined with camera-trap surveillance, represents a practical preventive measure for livestock protection and human–brown bear conflict mitigation.

Continued camera-trap monitoring will be important for evaluating the effectiveness of the intervention across different seasons and for strengthening long-term strategies for safe coexistence between local communities and the Himalayan Brown Bear in Drass.

