

Project Update: February 2013

The research and survey work started in August 2012. As the study area has three Wildlife Sanctuaries, we have to pass through the process of taking permission for survey and other official procedures for initial 2 months. Our actual field work has started after monsoon, when the forests are easy to approach. We have collected the secondary information of human-bear interaction in the study area, past records of sloth bear presence and dividing the study area in to 5 x 5 km² grids as per the previous work. We have surveyed almost 40% of the study area for bear signs and have interviewed the bear victims. The table below summarises the progress of the work and sloth bear signs we recorded in the study area.

Table 1: Summary of field survey till date covering 40% of the study area

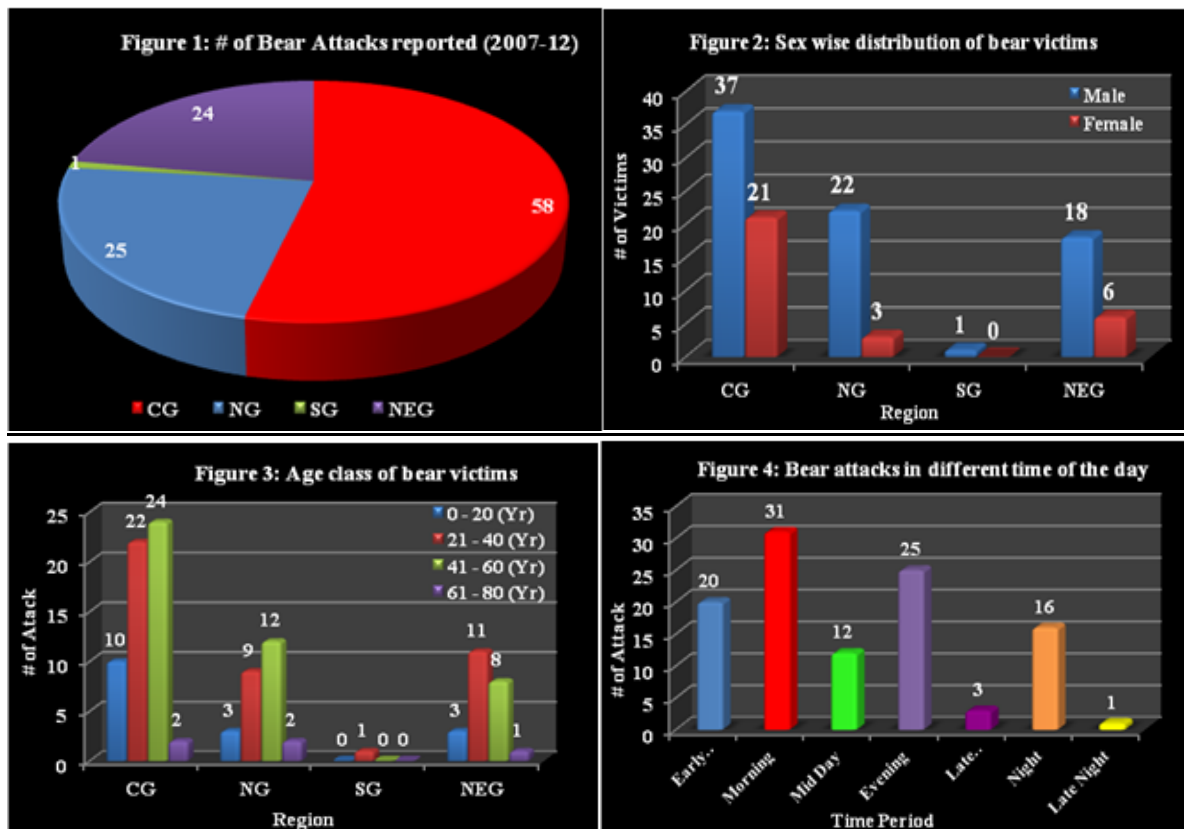
Direct encounters of sloth bear	1
# Scats collected	23
Bear footprints recorded	2
Bear dens located	3
Bear claw marks	6
Open termite mounds	14

Table 2: Status of forest in various bear occupied habitats

	Total Forest (km ²)	Protected Forest (km ²)	Unprotected Forest* (km ²)
North Gujarat	1056	720	336
North-east Gujarat	804	0	804
Central Gujarat	1274	194	1080
South Gujarat	959	608	351

** Unprotected forest includes reserved and unclassed forests*

Human-Bear Conflicts in Gujarat:



CG- Central Gujarat, NG- North Gujarat, SG- South Gujarat, NEG- North-east Gujarat

Work to be done:

1. Finish up the survey of remaining study area.
2. Overlaying the information on map and GIS analysis.
3. Awareness and capacity building programme in high conflict region.