

Project Update: March 2014

- First round of field visit was conducted in between December 2013 and January 2014.
- Necessary permit was taken from the Department of National Park and Wildlife Conservation. Permit was issued for the period between December 2013 and December 2014. Field permits were again taken to work from both the national parks in Banke and Chitwan National Park.
- Project description was finalised based on the initial discussion with the Banke National Park staff, project staff and Buffer Zone council members.
- Project description was shared with the Chief Wardens of Banke National Park and Chitwan National Park.
- Initial reconnaissance was conducted in the buffer zones of Chitwan and Banke National Park.
- We pre-tested the questionnaires with the local communities in both the buffer zones and also in consultation with the project staffs and the national park officials.
- We finalised three buffer zone user groups in Banke National Park to be our sampling units for the questionnaire surveys. These include:
 - o Dhakeri buffer zone user committee
 - o Deurali hariyali buffer zone user committee
 - o Hatti damar duhiyabari buffer zone user committee.
- Our sampling unit across the buffer zone covers the three districts: Bardia, Banke and Salyan.
- We hired eight assistants to conduct the survey.
- A 1-day training workshop was conducted to train the field assistants on the survey methods.
- Field survey was conducted in January- February 2014 across the Banke National Park.
- A total of 300 households were surveyed in the buffer zone of Banke National Park.
- We redesigned our Bagh Bahadur character to fit our campaign.
- We designed our campaign poster after getting the feedback from the members of the buffer zone council, project staffs and the initial field visit in the Banke national park and also through the discussion with few respondents from the questionnaire survey.

Next steps:

- Survey in the buffer zone of Chitwan National Park.
- Finalising the material for the “hug the tree” campaign.
- Data compilation and analysis

Description	Timeline
Survey in Chitwan National Park	April- May 2014
Campaign in the Buffer Zone of BNP	May-June 2014
Compilation and Analysis	May-August 2014

