

Project Update: February 2014

Site description

'Shree Devasthan Simdada Community Forest' is located in Kavresthali, a village in Kathmandu valley in the Bagmati zone of central Nepal. This community forest (CF) lies in the lap of Shivapuri Nagarjuna National Park. It covers an area of 35.64 ha. Out of nine wards in Kavresthali Village Development Committee (VDC), it covers three wards, numbers 1, 7 and 9. It was registered in 1994. This CF has mixed type of vegetation that has *Pinus roxburghii*, *Alnus nepalensis*, *Shorea robusta*, *Schima wallichii* and *Rhododendron* sp. as dominant species. It provides habitat to several faunal species like deer, leopard, wild boar, wild cat and porcupine. Agriculture and animal husbandry is the mainstay of the economy of the community forest user group (CFUG) of this CF.

Regarding human wildlife conflict (HWC) in the CFUG of Shree Devasthan Simdada CF, the major contributors are crop raiding, predation of livestock and injury to humans by many wildlife species that come from Shivapuri Nagarjuna National Park and reside in Shree Devasthan Simdada CF. Deer, leopard (common and clouded leopard), wild boar and porcupine are the key species involved in the conflict in this area (Table 1). In addition, there are a number of cases where wildlife involved were either killed or rescued by concerned authorities; one common leopard was killed, and another was rescued by District Forest Office.

Table 1: Wildlife species involved in the conflict

S. No.	Wildlife species involved in conflict		Type of damage	Damage caused to
	Scientific name	Common name		
1.	<i>Hystrix brachyura</i>	Malayan porcupine	Crop raiding	Potatoes, yam and maize
2.	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	Wild boar	Crop raiding	Potatoes, yam and maize
3.	<i>Panthera pardus</i>	Common leopard	Livestock depredation and human casualty	Goat and chicken killed; human injured
4.	<i>Neofelis nebulosa</i>	Clouded leopard	Livestock depredation and human casualty	Goat and chicken killed; human injured
5.	<i>Axis axis</i>	Spotted deer	Crop raiding	Maize

Local people have adopted several mitigation measures such as burning fire and creating noise by hitting metal utensils to keep away these wildlife species and to minimise the conflict.

Recommendations from the local people

- Habitat improvement inside Shivapuri Nagarjuna National Park.
- Creating wall or other barrier so that wild animals from Shivapuri Nagarjuna National Park do not enter Shree Devasthan Simdada CF.

- Conducting conservation education programme among local people regarding wildlife ecology and behavior.



A typical hill farming system in Devasthan CF



Community consultation



Geographical setting of community, forest and farm in Devasthan CF, Kathmandu