

Illegal hunting of prey species in Northern Part of Bardia National Park, Nepal: implication for carnivore conservation

Solar Maintenance and Photography Training



26 November - 3rd December 2015

Report submitted:

31 December 2015

Training Report

Training name:	Solar Maintenance and Photography Training
Training venue:	National Trust for Nature Conservation – Bardia Conservation Program, Thakurdwara, Bardia
Training duration:	26 November to 3 December 2015
Beneficiaries of the training:	12 Youth of northern buffer zone and one staff of BNP
Training resource persons (Solar-Technical):	Kedar Guragain, Maintenance In Charge, Suryodaya Urja Pvt. Ltd, Kathmandu. Ram Prasad Sigdel, Suryodaya Urja Pvt. Ltd., Kisan Kumar Chand, NTNC-BCP.
Resource Persons (Tiger conservation-CBAPU mobilization):	Mr. Ashok Bhandari, Bardia National Park. Mr. Purushotam Sharma, Bardia National Park. Mr. Bhojraj Pantha, Bardia National Park. Mr. Netra Raj Acharya, Buffer Zone Management Council.
Logistics and Management:	Mr. Shree Ram Ghimire Mrs. Bina Bhattarai
Food and accommodation:	Mr. Bir Bahadur Choudhary Mr. Mohan Choudhary
Transportation (Pick up, drop and jungle drive):	Mr. Kararu Choudhary Mr. Phirulal Choudhary
Elephant ride (park visit-participants):	Mr. Hari Bahadur Choudhary Mr. Bal Krishna Choudhary
Training collaborators:	Rufford Small Grants Foundation National Trust for Nature Conservation Bardia National Park Buffer Zone Management Council of Bardia NP

Introduction

Bardia National Park (BNP) is located in Midwestern Terai of Nepal covering an area of 968 km². During park establishment phase, the needs and aspirations of local communities and their involvement in the conservation of wildlife and forest resources was neglected as the government had more protection oriented policy at that time. Some 1,572 households were evacuated in 1984 from Babai valley to extend the area of BNP into the current size and natural resources use rights of the communities living in the northern periphery was also compromised. The interventions in the name of conservation created some disagreement between park and local communities. Government of Nepal realized the importance/involvement of local communities for biodiversity conservation fulfilling some of their basic needs of natural resources through buffer zone concept in 1996. As a result, an area of 327 km² around the southern, western and eastern border of BNP was declared as buffer zone and the communities (ca. 150,000 people) were provided 50% of the Park's revenue to carry out conservation and development activities. However, buffer zone was not declared in the northern part of the park where majority of the people were living in the inaccessible hills on the abject poverty. The people of northern periphery of BNP were thus neglected by the park and were not supportive to conservation endeavors of the Government of Nepal. The local communities were found involved on illegal hunting of wildlife and clearance of remaining degraded forest lands. BNP lost all the Rhinos in Babai valley (>70 individual Rhinos) and tiger number was also decreased by 60% between 2000 (48 adult tigers) and 2008 (18 adults). After realizing the situation, an area of 180 km² including 4 VDCs (Taranga, Hariharpur, Lekhparajual and Chhinchu) of northern periphery of BNP was declared as buffer zone in 2010. The northern buffer zone has 1,599 households with total population of 8,995. At present, there are 4 Buffer Zone User Committee (BZUC) formed in four VDCs to mobilize local people in conservation. The community has started to gain supports from the 50% of the park's income though it is very small amount.

Geographical difficulties, illiteracy, poverty are major driving forces of local communities towards poaching and illegal wildlife trade. To mobilize local youths engaging them on wildlife conservation BNP, NTNC and other supporting organizations has started anti-poaching activities establishing Community Based Anti Poaching Units (CBAPUs). Youth mobilization on anti-poaching seems to be effective means to conserve wild animals as BNP is able to collect more than 250 guns from local communities in support of other conservation organizations. The individuals who were getting involved on wildlife poaching are now shifted their occupation to income generating activities and getting involved on wildlife conservation. BNP and NTNC have supported solar panel, off

season vegetable farming, goat/pig rearing, zinger, lemon cultivation etc. after buffer zone declaration in northern buffer zone to uplift socio economic status of local communities and to engage them for income generating activities. Solar power is the only means of light in rural villages of northern buffer zone so it is important to train local youths for regular maintenance of the solar. We believe the trained youths on solar maintenance use their skill and get income which will be motivating factor for their engagement on anti-poaching activities in the villages. The solar maintenance training to local youths was conducted in November 27 to December 3, 2015 at NTNC-BCP in collaboration with BNP, NTNC and Rufford Small Grants Foundation-Illegal hunting of prey species in northern part of Bardia National Park, Nepal.

Objectives

- To train local youths on solar maintenance
- To encourage local youths (CBAPU members) on Tiger conservation
- To develop skill and confidence of local youths on income generation ensuring employment opportunities at local level and reduce dependency on hunting

Program Detail

Participants were arrived at NTNC-BCP on 26 November, training started from 27 November 2015 and participants departed on 3 December after completion of the training. There were altogether 13 participants representing three youths from Chinchu, three from Lekhpurajul, three from Hariharpur, three from Taranga and one from BNP. Training was conducted on participatory way providing both theoretical and practical classes. The following topic were discussed and practiced rigorously during the training. Every day, there was breakfast on 8 am and then theoretical/practical class started. Short break with tea/biscuits was on 11 am, lunch time was on 1 pm and 4:30 was the closing of the training.

On 29th November mornings, Prof. Wendy Wright from Federation University, Australia briefed an introductory lecture on protected area management in Australia and appreciated the community involvement and progress made by Nepal towards wildlife conservation. Participants were able to know about Australia's wildlife species, their conservation, protected areas management and compared it to Nepal. On 30 November, Steb Fisher from Australia trained the participants along with local nature guides on photography. Better technique for photography is important for nature guides as all the participants appreciated the training and felt confident on

photography after the training. 13 nature guides from Thakurdwara and 12 staffs of NTNC-BCP were participated at the photography training.

The solar maintenance training was basically focused on the following topic along with practical sessions. Training material was photocopied and provided to all participants along with necessary equipments for their daily use.

- Introduction of electricity
- Introduction and measurement of voltage, current and resistance
- Types of current AC and DC
- Source of electricity
- Introduction ,types and working procedure of solar module
- Introduction of battery, battery components, types, battery acid
- Chemical reaction of lead acid battery
- Series connection of battery, panel, connection of battery and panel
- Environmental effect of battery and solution
- Wire size, DC to DC converter, DC to Ac convertor

Outcome of the training

- 12 CBAPU members of northern BZ and one BNP game scout trained on solar maintenance training
- The participants reflect their commitment towards tiger and their prey species conservation in northern BZ
- Local communities of northern BZ benefited getting local resource persons for solar maintenance
- 12 CBAPU members now started to get extra benefit being local resource person of solar maintenance
- 25 individuals of nature guide and NTNC-BCP staffs trained on professional nature photography
- Awareness level of participants for tiger and other species conservation enhanced through solar and photography training
- Participants got exposure on Nepal's and Australia's protected area management

Conclusion

From this training, 12 members from three users committees of northern buffer zone and one BNP staff are well trained on solar maintenance. Basic equipments for regular use, to maintain solar and training manual was provided to participants. Local youths

who are also engaged on CBAPU, got skill based training, which is useful for them to get local level employment opportunity. The training was useful to motivate and encourage local youths on tiger conservation. The skill they obtained from this training helps to generate income selling their skill in rural village for solar maintenance. Similarly, 25 individuals representing from different hotels of Thakurdwara, community based organizations and NTNC-BCP staffs were trained on nature photography.

Name list of solar maintenance training participants

SN	Name	Address	Remarks
1	Surya Bahadur Sunar	Hariharpur CBAPU	Member
2	Bishnu Bahadur Bista	Chinchu BZUC	Member
3	Bal Bahadur Bogati	Hariharpur CBAPU	Member
4	Krishna Bahadur Hamal	Hariharpur CBAPU	Member
5	Krishna Bahadur Rokaya	Lekhparajul CBAPU	Member
6	Dhan Bahadur Bhandari	Hariharpur CBAPU	Member
7	Khdga BC	Lekhparajul CBAPU	Member
8	Ramesh Gharti Magar	Lekhparajul CBAPU	Chairperson
9	Kamala Pariyar	Lekhparajul CBAPU	Member
10	Durga Bahadur Khatri	Chinchu CBAPU	Member
11	Yubraj Mahara	Chinchu CBAPU	Member
12	Bharat Oli	Chinchu CBAPU	Member
13	Nirmal Chaudhary	Bardia National Park	Game scout

Name list of photography training participants

S.N	Name	Address	Remarks
1	Ram Bahadur Shahi	BNCC	President
2	Khadga Bahadur Khadka	Bardia Jungle Cottage	Nature Guide
3	Anu Ram Choudhary	Thakurdwara-7	Nature Guide
4	Santa Choudhary	Thakurdwara	Nature Guide
5	Sibaraj Magar	Jungle Heaven Hotel	Nature Guide
6	Pramod Karki	Jungle Heaven Hotel	Nature Guide
7	Umanga Khadka	Bardia Jungle Cottage	Nature Guide
8	Ram Bahadur Khadka	Bardia Wildlife Resort	Nature Guide
9	Om Prakash Rajbhandari	The Den hotel	Nature Guide
10	Mukti Ram Rijal	Racy Shade Resort	Nature Guide
11	Hemanta Pd. Acharya	CBAPU	President

12	Nirajan Chhetri	CBAPU	Member
13	Madhu Sudan	CBAPU	Member
14	Binti Ram Choudhary	NTNC-BCP	Program Asst.
15	Pradeshu Choudhary	NTNC-BCP	Program Asst.
16	Kishan Bahadur Chand	NTNC-BCP	Driver
17	Kumar Khadka	NTNC-BCP	Program Asst.
18	Bina Bhattarai	NTNC-BCP	GDA
19	Ram Raj Choudhary	NTNC-BCP	Wildlife Tech.
20	Phiru Lal Choudhary	NTNC-BCP	Wildlife Tech.
21	Khusi Ram Choudhary	NTNC-BCP	Wildlife Tech.
22	Shree Ram Ghimire	NTNC-BCP	Sr. Admin Asst.
23	Shailendra Yadav	NTNC-BCP	Program Asst.
24	Monsoon Pokharel Khatiwada	Freelancer	Biologist
25	Aashish Tripathi	NTNC-BCP	Trainee

Photographs of the training



Participants testing battery



For Chief Conservation Officer of BNP delivering his conservation speech on opening ceremony of the training



President of BZMC delivering his conservation speech on opening ceremony of the training



Resource person of the training taking theoretical class



A group of participants doing practical



Resource person mentoring participants



Photography training



A group of photography training participants in front of BNP gate