Project Update: March 2015

Field works

Fieldwork was conducted from September 2014 to February 2015 to collect information of both injured and fatal cases of wildlife attacks on humans. We recorded a total of 329 antecedents underlying attacks by different animals from January 2003 to December 2013 in and surrounding landscape of Chitwan National Park, Nepal. Interviews with injured victims and close relatives or eyewitness of the attacks were considered. To collect household information of the victims, 10 years records of human casualties registered at the buffer zone and park office were reviewed. To assess issues under policies and management practices, questionnaires based on anecdotal information concerning wildlife attacks on humans were prepared, pre-tested and finalised. The household survey was administered to injured persons for cases of injuries and close relative or eyewitness of the attacks after getting his/her consent to participate for interview.

Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates of incident sites were collected with the help of victims or close relatives to prepare distribution map and responsible factors of attacks occurrence.

Focus group discussions (about 35 most affected settlements and user committee levels with the involvement of community leaders, victims and local communities) were carried out by using PRA tools (resource map, trend/time line, SOWC analysis, direct observation for damages (where ever possible), key informant interview) with semi-structured checklist to capture the issues of attack, possible mitigation measures and policy reform.

Left: Visit a victim from rhino attack who is unable to stand and walk. Right: Observation visit with fisherman at the edge of Narayani River

Left: Group discussion at Madi. Right: Empty house after killing household head by elephant 3 years ago at Madi

Coordination meeting was held with park office, buffer zone committees, user committees, user groups, WWF/TAL office, NTNC office and discussed the issues related wildlife attacks, preventive measures, management practices and policy issues.

Analysis
After coding and cleaning, the data entry work is completed in SPSS. The analysis work is being initiated.