

Project Update: May 2016

The project work was started with getting permission letters from different sectors of governmental organization. They are Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, Kathmandu, Nepal and Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve, headquarter Office, Kanchanpur.

Questionnaire prepared: Pre-tested semi-structured questionnaire has been prepared.

Orientation program: Orientation program with the local community as well as park authority was conducted and then, local field assistants had been selected in order to carry out field work.

Preliminary Field Visit: Preliminary field visit was carried out in Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve and its Buffer Zone with the help of local field assistants. During preliminary field visit, interaction, crop damage, adopted mitigation measures against wildlife was seen in local community farmland.

Key Informant Interview: Key informants like park warden, Buffer Zone Management Committee president (BZMC), buffer zone user committee presidents, community forestry user group's presidents, local leaders, local forestry staffs, government employers and teachers were interviewed and discussed using open-ended questions.



Left: Interaction with local people on farmland. Right: Scare crow in community farm land



Left: Beating drum in farmland against wildlife. Right: Temporary house and guarding place



Left: Interview with BZMC president, Puskar Bahadur Singh. Right: Interview with local leaders



Left: Interview with Sagarmatha BZUC. Right: Interview with BZUC member president.

Consultation Meeting: Consultation meeting was conducted with the local community representation from Buffer Zone User Groups (BZUGs), Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs), Community Based Anti-Poaching Unit (CBAPU), Community Based Anti-Poaching Youth Club (CBAPYC), teachers, local NGOs, government employers and local farmers in order to understand the scenario of land use land cover change and human wildlife conflict in Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve and its Buffer Zone.



Consultation Meeting with buffer zone community.

Outcomes of Key Informant Survey and Consultant Meeting:

1. **Nature of Human Wildlife Conflict:** The nature of human wildlife conflict in Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve and its Buffer Zone, Nepal are crop raiding, predation of livestock, injury to humans, shelter destruction and store grain destruction by many wildlife species that come from Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve as well as from Dudhuwa National Park, India as the reserve is connected to the national park.
2. **Species Involved:** Wild pig, spotted deer, swamp deer, rhino, blue bull, elephant, porcupine, peacock, monkeys, and rabbits are the key species involved in crop raiding.

Migratory wild elephant's occasional visit from the Dudhuwa National Park as well as wild elephant from Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve are responsible to cause house and store grain destruction.

Tigers, leopard, wild pig, and migratory wild elephant's occasional visit from the Dudhuwa National Park as well as wild elephant from Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve are the key species responsible to cause human casualties.

Tigers and leopards are the key species to cause livestock depredation.

3. It is found that local people have adopted several mitigation measures such as making scare crow, burning fire, live fence, guarding by dogs and creating noise by hitting metal utensils to keep away these wildlife species and to minimize the conflict.
4. Regarding land use land cover change, it is found that agriculture expansion, encroachment, population growth, development infrastructure, overgrazing, uncontrolled forest fire, resettlement by reserve and river bank cutting are the major factors contributing to cause change in land use land cover in Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve and its BZ.

Global Positioning System (GPS) Data Collection:

More than 300 GPS data of different land use land cover has been collected for supervised classification using ERADAS IMAGINE 2014 and Arc GIS 10.3 and ground truthing to check and verify whether land use type on the actual ground is the same as what is shown on the map.



Left: Flowing river inside the park. Right: Pasture land in buffer zone



Left: Grassland. Right: Wetland inside the park



Left: Sandy Area. Right: Flowing mahakali river in buffer zone