

Project Update: June 2016

Blackbuck is a tropical antelope endemic to Indian subcontinent. Studies on blackbuck have majorly concentrated the protected areas or areas which are stronghold of species. Everywhere in its distribution range outside protected area system; the blackbuck is in conflict with the farmers due to crop raiding done by it. This conflict often leads to create negative attitudes and perception of humans towards blackbuck and wildlife as a whole. Keeping this as background the present study was initiated to assess the status of the blackbuck and its interaction with the local villagers/farmers in the agriculture dominated landscape of Aligarh District of the western Uttar Pradesh.

Preliminary findings suggest that the blackbuck is found in fields belonging to 20 villages of the district. The population is scattered, highly skewed in numbers and keeps on moving between villages. As of now, the smallest population comprised of only three individuals while the maximum population comprised ~200 individuals. These are raw estimates as the process of data collection is ongoing and final analysis will be done after all data is collected. The raw estimates of the population has shown a positive sign of increase in population since the last estimate that was conducted 20 years ago.

Data on behavioural aspect of the blackbuck is being carried out and after complete analysis of the data information about behaviour will be presented. As far as people's attitude and perception is concerned, 87 interviews have been conducted encompassing 16 villages of the district. This exercise is also underway and results can only be presented after data collection is over and complete analysis of the interviews is done.



Adult Male

Young male





Mixed group

Interaction with villagers

