

Project Update: October 2016

I have conducted direct observation and opportunistic visual encounter survey methods into human residence indoors and outdoors; near to the bank of water bodies; piles of logs, rocks, concrete and culverts; agricultural lands, crop fields and farms; community forest, roadside and any other suitable habitats at different sites in Rupandehi district. Thirteen different species of snakes belonging to eleven genera and four families (Typhlopidae, Boidae, Colubridae and Elapidae) were recorded. Besides these, five species which were thrown at roadside with severely damaged body parts, difficult to identify and categorised as unidentified species.

Ramphotphlops braminus (Brahminy worm snake), *Python molurus bivittatus* (Burmese rock python), *Amphiesma stolatum* (striped/ buff-striped keelback), *Boiga trigonata trigonata* (common cat snake), *Coelognathus helena helena* (common trinket snake), *Coelognathus radiates* (copper-headed trinket snake), *Lycodon aulicus* (common wolf snake), *Lycodon jara* (yellow-speckled wolf snake), *Oligodon arnensis* (common kukri snake), *Ptyas mucosa mucosa* (Asiatic rat snake), *Xenochrophis piscator* (chequered keelback), *Bungarus caeruleus* (common krait). *Naja naja* (spectacled cobra/ common cobra) are the snakes found during the survey.

Rescued snakes

The villagers had killed the mother cobra due to the fear of being bitten and other 10 small babies were died due to the lack of knowledge on handling and bagging processes. During the discussion session of "Inception workshop on snake, snakebite and snake conservation" for the first time in western Nepal, i got this information from the participant from Nawalparasi district due to which we were able to rescue 10 out of 10 newly hatched common cobras (*Naja naja*) and released them into their natural habitat in the Shankarnagar community forest in coordination with Shankarnagar Banbihar and Research Center. The dead mother and her babies were preserved at Kaligandaki Health Foundation, Nawalparasi. Because of the positive effects of our workshops and awareness programs, altogether we have rescued 35 snakes in this season including *Python molurus bivittatus*, *Amphiesma stolatum*, *Coelognathus helena helena*, *Lycodon aulicus*, *Oligodon arnensis*, *Ptyas mucosa mucosa*, *Xenochrophis piscator* and *Naja naja*. Most of the caught snakes were released into Shankarnagar, Ramnagar and Shivanagar community forest. Some of the *Python molurus bivittatus* (Burmese rock python) were handed to the Zoological Garden of Shankarnagar Banbihar and Research Center.



Naja naja (spectacled Cobra)



Bungarus caeruleus (common krait)



Python molurus bivittatus (Burmese rock python)



Coelognathus helena helena (common trinket snake)



Lycodon aulicus (common wolf snake)



Oligodon arnensis (common kukri snake)



Ptyas mucosa mucosa (Asiatic rat snake)



Unidentified snake

Rescued Snakes



Naja naja (10 alive and 11 dead including mother)



Rescued *Python molurus bivittatus*



Newly hatched *Naja naja*



Rescued *Naja naja* releasing to their natural habitat



Naja naja Hatchlings



Rescued *Naja naja* going to their natural habitat