

Project Update: March 2017

The project started on 26th November 2016 after recruiting a project assistant and two field assistants. In the initial stages of our project we gave intensive training to the project assistant and field assistants for conducting field observations and sampling at the garbage dumps.

We conducted preliminary surveys in villages near tourism intensive areas and villages without tourism in the Shiwalik hills landscapes (Terai west). We sampled villages with tourism (Garjiya, Dhikuli, Sawalده) and villages without tourism (Choi, Bailpadao, Ringora, Dhela, Kaladungi, Dhamola) to locate garbage dumps in and around Corbett Tiger Reserve (CTR) landscapes (29°31'48.05"N, 78°46'28.78"E). We size-classified a total of 34 garbage dumps in tourism (n=18) and non-tourism (n= 16) villages as small (10-100 sq m) (n= 10), medium (100-1000 sq m) (n= 18) and large dump (> 10,000 sq m) (n=6) within 250m from the forest edge and mapped perimeters and areas of the dumps. So far we recorded 5 species of mammals – rhesus macaque (*Macaca mulata*), domestic cow, dog, horse, mule and six species of birds – pied starling (*Gracupica contra*), cattle egrets (*Bubulcus ibis*), common myna (*Acridotheres tristis*), bank myna (*Acridotheres ginginianus*), black kites (*Milvus migrans*), and jungle crow (*Corvus macrorhynchos*) during 13 hours of preliminary observation at four different dumps.



Simultaneously, up till now we have conducted outreach activities in January 2017 at three government schools in Gaidikhata near our one of the study site Laldhang, for sensitising school kids on impacts of garbage on domestic and wild animals as well as on human health in collaboration with Nature Science Initiative, Dehradun.

