

Project Update: August 2017

Activities done:

- GPS points of the conflict areas have been taken. The Mechinagar Municipality (former Bahundagi Village Development Committee was included) is believed to be the entry point for the elephants from India which has been seen true during the survey. The movement was high near the Mechi River which joins Nepal to India. The process of conflict hotspot mapping is on progress.
- A set of questionnaire was prepared to assess the conflict related information from the conflict areas. Some of the results from Bahundagi indicated that the two peak seasons for crop raiding are maize or wheat maturing time (June– July) and paddy maturing time (September –November). Most of the crop raiding and property damage occur in night. Trans-boundary herd damages substantial crop due to big herd size.
- A couple of focus group discussions were organised from which some of the points such as
 - Compensation being a tangible and immediate relief to economic burden imposed by injury or death.
 - Economic loss can be reduced by plantation of alternative crops.
 - Guarding has been the effective method till now to chase the elephant.
 - Other community enhancing compensations such as school scholarship and employment priorities should be given to the families that have suffered loss from the human-elephant conflict.
 - A cross-border workshop should be held to figure out common conflict mitigation methods.
- Discussion with community forest user groups and training for the forest guards of community forest user groups were conducted in the communities adjoining the forests where the movement of wild elephant has seen.

