National Trust for Nature Conservation

Bardia Conservation Program



Activity Report

Community Level Workshop to Address Human Tiger Conflict in Bardia National Park and Buffer Zone

Organized by:

NTNC-BCP in coordination with Department of National Park and Wildlife Conservation, Bardia National Park, Federation University-Australia, The Rufford Foundation and ZSL Nepal Program

Background

This workshop entitled "Community Workshop on Human Tiger Conflict" was organized in Thakurdwara Bardia by National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC), Bardia Conservation Program (BCP). NTNC-BCP in collaboration with Federation University-Australia conducted a study on human tiger conflict in the buffer zone area of Bardia National Park. The project was a part of PhD work conducted by Mr. Babu Bhattarai (Conservation Officer at Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation) in Nepal. In Bardia, the research covered buffer zone settlements under three buffer zone user committees (BZUC) viz. Geruwa, Suryapatuwa and Thakurbaba User Committees. The research was intended to address human-tiger conflict in a national scenario of increasing tiger population. A number of factors related to human tiger conflict, for example choice of cereal crops, exposure to the core forest, and access to improved corral were examined in detail.

This workshop was basically designed to disseminate the project findings to the key stakeholders of the study area. In addition we discussed contemporary human wildlife conflict issues in detail, and assessed key interventions for the future. Through the workshop we entertained 42 participants from different walks of life including buffer zone user committee member, buffer zone community forest user group members, local elected government body (ward chair persons), *badghars*, park authorities; community based anti-poaching unit members and local farmers of the study area.

The workshop concluded with number of issues that should be addressed by conservation stakeholders and local government bodies in the future to maintain human wildlife harmony, and to sustain increasing tiger population in this productive landscape.

The Workshop

The half day workshop proceeded by a welcome remark from Mr. Shyam Kumar Thapa, Office-In charge/Conservation Officer at NTNC-BCP. Mr. Thapa briefly explained the objectives of the workshop and key expectations from the participants. His remarks were soon followed by two technical sessions of about one hour each.

Session 1: Current status of human-wildlife conflict in Bardia National Park and buffer zone-delivered by Mr. Badri Binod Dahal, Assistant Conservation Officer, BNP

The major objectives of this session were to share and discuss upon (a) current status of human-wildlife conflict in Bardia National Park and buffer zone (spatio-temporal patterns of human and livestock casualties, crop damage and property damage), (b) major areas of investments to minimize human wildlife conflict, and (c) case wise issues to conflict mitigation measures. His presentation was followed by a guided discussion, where participants added their observations on the success/failure of conflict mitigation measures.

Session 2: Human-Tiger Conflict in Bardia National Park buffer zone-delivered by Mr. Laxmi Raj Joshi, Conservation Officer at NTNC-BCP (On behalf of Mr. Babu Bhattarai, PhD Researcher at Federation University-Australia)

This session intended to share the findings of PhD projected conducted by Mr. Babu Bhattarai at Federation University in Australia. Research findings were shared among the participants.

Session 3: Guided discussion

A number of invites from local government and buffer zone user committees/user groups shared their opinions on observed trends of human-carnivore conflict in Bardia, and potential projects for the future.

There were a total of 42 participants in the program (M:38; F:4; Janjati:26; BCT:16). The program concluded with the remarks from Vice-Chairperson of Thakurbaba User Committee.

Major Observations:

- Human-wildlife/human-carnivore conflict is in a continuous increasing trend despite of number of interventions made by different conservation/development stakeholders in the past.
- The landless people living in park fringes who often are not able to get compensation over losses are hardest hit by wildlife conflict
- A sustainable operation of different conflict mitigation measures needs continuous investments (on losses and damage) from concerned stakeholders
- Development of alternative crops needs investments on whole-sum approach including the value-chain
- Government compensation procedures should be simplified ad easily approachable
- Research should be contextual, and should incorporate parts of livelihoods support activities
- Local government bodies and conservation stakeholders should work together to form better policies and make investments on conflict mitigation measures
- Although there are number of conflict mitigation measures in practices, the following measures are sustainable as per the understanding of local people:
 - Mesh wire fencing couple with an improved form of electric fence
 - > Gabion box filling along the river corridors
 - Alternative crops (by ensuring value chain including availability of underutilized forest products like *Banmara* for energy use)
 - ➤ Alternative income generative activities by mobilizing local corporate groups

List of Annexes

Annex 1 Program Banner













Annex 2 Program Schedule

कार्यक्रम विवरण

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१२:००-१२:३०	मानव बाघ द्वन्द्व बारेको अध्ययन उपर छलफल	लक्ष्मीराज जोशी
१२:३०-०१:३०	मानव वन्यजन्तु द्वन्द्व समाधानका लागि आगामि दिनमा अपनाउनुपर्ने रणनीति बारे छलफल	
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Annex 3 List of Participants

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Annex 4 Activity Photographs







