

## **Project Update: January 2018**

This report updates some of the major activities of the project i.e. awareness programmes, capacity development training and result dissemination workshop which were conducted in July and August 2017. Update about the field visit for the data collection for distribution, preferred habitat, and existing threats and questionnaire survey can be found in previous report submitted on July 2017.

### **AWARENESS PROGRAMS \_ FOUR-HORNED ANTELOPE**

#### **i. Poster and leaflet distribution**

Published 1000 Posters and 1000 leaflets highlighting the conservation needs of four-horned antelope (FHA) and its habitat were distributed to government and non-government offices, Nepal Army, local people, Buffer Zone Committee members, Community Forest User Groups, schools, colleges, hotels, journalists, local shops etc. More than 400 copies were left for future distribution to the Banke National Park head office, its sector offices, community forest user groups, Buffer Zone Management Committee offices, Nepal Army, as well as to the non-government offices working for the biodiversity conservation like Zoological Society of London (ZSL), Nepal office.

#### **ii. Community Awareness Programme**

Conservation education classes about distribution status of FHA, their ecological importance, threats and the role of locals in its conservation was conducted for the local community of different Village Development Committees (VDCs). Posters, leaflets and stickers highlighting the importance of antelope and threats to FHA were disseminated, followed by the projection of power point presentations and videos regarding the conservation importance of antelope.

Likewise, we delivered the benefits of conserving antelopes from the aspects of ecotourism for the welfare of local people. The local people were not aware about the presence of such a threatened species in the area. Some people could recognise the species, but they used to assume the species with other common species of deer like spotted deer and barking deer. We believe the awareness activity has played significant role regarding the awareness about the species and its conservation in local level.

As the degree of seriousness of the wildlife-induced economic loss in the buffer zones and negative attitudes of local people towards the wildlife conservation because of the loss was recorded in the previous field visit, the research team realised the need for some mitigation efforts which local people can apply by themselves to minimise the economic loss. So, in addition to the conservation awareness activities, some ideas were shared on the topic "Some Mitigation Efforts to Control Damage By wildlife". In the talk, some traditional and modern ideas that are being adopted to control (without any harm to the animal) the economic loss by problematic animals in Nepal and other countries were shared. The research team hopes that those shared knowledge are being somehow helpful for the local people.

### **iii. School Outreach Program**

School outreach programs (art and essay competitions) were organised in different schools in different VDCs and four winners for each competition from each school were awarded with prizes and certificate along with awareness materials. The students were informed a day before about the competition, so they could prepare well. Chief Conservation Officer of Banke National Park, Mr. Dil Bahadur Purja Pun awarded prizes to the winners (First, Second, Third and Consolation) of the competition in some schools and delivered speech about the FHA, its habitats, problems faced to protect this species so far, its ecological and tourism value and future challenges in conserving this animal.

While conducting this activity, the research team realised that, students, teachers and guardians were unaware about the species, after this activity, there have been a kind of awareness among the teachers, guardians and students about the presence and conservation of threatened species in the area.

In addition to the competition activity, conservation awareness materials related to four-horned antelope, and other threatened species (published under another biodiversity conservation project of SMCRF) was handled to the library of the schools.

### **iv. Awareness Programs for Vehicle Driver**

One major event for awareness for the vehicle drivers was organised on August 3rd 2017 on controlling the road killing of the wild animals including our focal species. In the main patrolling check post of Banke National Park, number vehicle drivers were gathered, and the programme was conducted. Chief Conservation Officer of Banke National Park, Mr. Dil Bahadur Purja Pun delivered the current scenarios of road killings and wildlife in the highway around the national park and mentioned how important the role of vehicle drivers was in controlling such accidents. Principle Investigator, Sabina Koirala, SMCRF also delivered speech on the importance of FHA and other species and discoursed about how road killings can be minimised by simply being aware and controlling speed while driving through national park area. In the event, the published posters and booklets were distributed to the vehicle drivers.

During the programme, more than 800 copies of published stickers were handed over to Officer of Nepal Army Battalion which is responsible for the protection of the national park. The army officer inaugurated the sticker by sticking on a bus. Those 800 stickers were stuck by the Nepal Army staff to each vehicle passing through the check point.

In addition, distribution of awareness materials and stickers were done at other check post, market area and the hotels by the research and conservation team.

### **CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT TRAINING**

Capacity development training was given to 22 participants from all 14 Buffer Zone Management Committees and park staff. We trained them with practical sessions about the field design, census techniques, monitoring techniques, habitat and threat assessment, behaviour data collection, conflict assessment and conservation

awareness activities and community related programmes related to the ungulates and FHA. Assistant Chief Conservation Officer, Lal Bahadur Bhandari, Banke National Park, awarded the participants with certificate.

### **RESULT DISSEMINATION WORKSHOP**

A result dissemination workshop was conducted on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2017 in Banke National Park office. Results obtained from the field survey for distribution, preferred habitat, and existing threats and semi-structured questionnaire survey was disseminated to the Banke National Park staff, Buffer Zone Management Committee members, related NGOs and INGOs representatives and journalists. Furthermore, capacity development training conducted, and ongoing awareness activities were reported to the national park authority during the workshop.

### **PHOTOGRAPHS**



Pictures: Distribution of posters and leaflets to local community.





Pictures: Distribution of posters and leaflets to representatives from different government and non-government sectors (Banke National park head office and its sector offices, community forest user groups, buffer zone management committee offices and ZSL, Nepal) for future and further distribution.



Pictures: Local people reading the published posters and leaflets.





Pictures: Conservation education classes for local people.







Pictures: Students participating in Art and Essay Competition.





Pictures: Prizes and Certificates distribution to the winners and handling of conservation awareness related materials for school library.



Pictures: Awareness program for Vehicle drivers.





Pictures: Distribution of awareness materials and stickers to vehicle drivers.



Pictures: Capacity Development Training



Pictures: Result Dissemination Workshop.