

Project Update: March 2017

During this project period, the scheduled activities, that mainly include data collection, have been conducted. The preliminary data on livestock depredations and human injuries caused by leopards and compensation payments made for such attacks were collected by visiting offices of the Chitwan National Park and Buffer Zone Management Committee. The data sets of land cover GIS maps and wild prey densities were obtained from Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, and rainfall and temperature data from Department of Hydrology and Meteorology. Similarly, field visits and observations in the national park and buffer zone were conducted to get information on potential leopard attack hotspots, conflict scenarios across the study area, existing livestock husbandry systems, distribution of leopard habitat and human settlements. Key informant interviews (n=11) were conducted with park wardens, rangers, buffer zone representatives, local farmers, and community forest guards to get insights on conflict mitigation efforts, mechanism of community participation, and threats to leopards. The questionnaire survey with the victims of leopard attacks has begun and is underway.



Left: Researcher in accompany of community forest guard and other local people visiting a site (banana farmland) in the buffer zone where a calf was killed by leopard in December, 2016. Right: Chair of a buffer zone user committee briefing about mess cum barbed wire fence constructed in the boundary of Ghailaghari Community forest to prevent leopards entering human settlement.