Project Update: December 2017

Left to right: Taking foot print; Harvesting time; Bee hive fence & Raided house.

We have completed all most all activities of the project. The project is at last stage where data collection after the implementation of beehives is going on. We got a great response from the team member as well as community. The community here easily accepted the noble method and interacted very cordially.

We chose the most suitable habitat as pictured by result of my previous project supported by Rufford. The bee project is implemented in Ganesh Tole of Nijgadh Municipality of Bara district in central Nepal. This area has regular visits of elephants of Parsa National Park and has been a hotspot of human-elephant conflict as it was the most suitable habitat from previous geospatial study.

Left: Piluwa's plot (red square). Right: Nijgadh plot (red square).

The beehive fence method is implemented in two places. One, encompassing the farmer's house and another surrounding the farmlands with the area of about 1.5 ha both being very prone to elephant raids annually.

For the first time in Nepal, beehive fence project is led by Roshan Kumar Thakur, research officer of HEMS Nepal and partnered with NBrCc, and two fresh wildlife graduates Sonam Bhattarai and Kiron Paudel assisted in project activities.

The community is very delighted to have bees guarding their crops from elephant and also they have an alternative source of income. In central Nepal, we are protecting 1.5 ha farm at one site and one home at another site which has annual raids. The main aim of this project is to reduce human-elephant conflict and add alternative income to the marginalised community. The community in previous years faced regular crop raids while this year they found hope. In 2018, the team is extending the beehive fence project in Bardiya (Western Nepal). Requests from different regions with high human-elephant conflict come to us and we are planning to expand as much as possible.

Tentative Bardiya plot.

Firstly we did a preliminary meeting with the farmers to show how this concept worked. Then we conducted beekeeping training to the concerned farmers and then we build the beehive fences. They were also made familiar with other benefits of beekeeping. From 15 beehive fence installed at farm, we harvested twice after installation and the quantity was 45 kg per harvest. The elephant friendly honey was consumed in local market which was added income to the farmers. The beehive fence project to save a home has also shown positive results. Out of two raids after the installation of beehive fence, elephant had not been able to raid the house. Previously, four sacks of rice were raided from the very house. Each year that house gets raided by elephant. Houses with bees were found not to be raided. Our both models showed positive results.

Pre intervention Meeting; Theory and Practical session of training

The communities were overjoyed and benefited by the training. They gained confidence and the knowledge.

Nijgadh Plot

Date: Time: GPS point: **N**

Data taken by:

Data entered by:
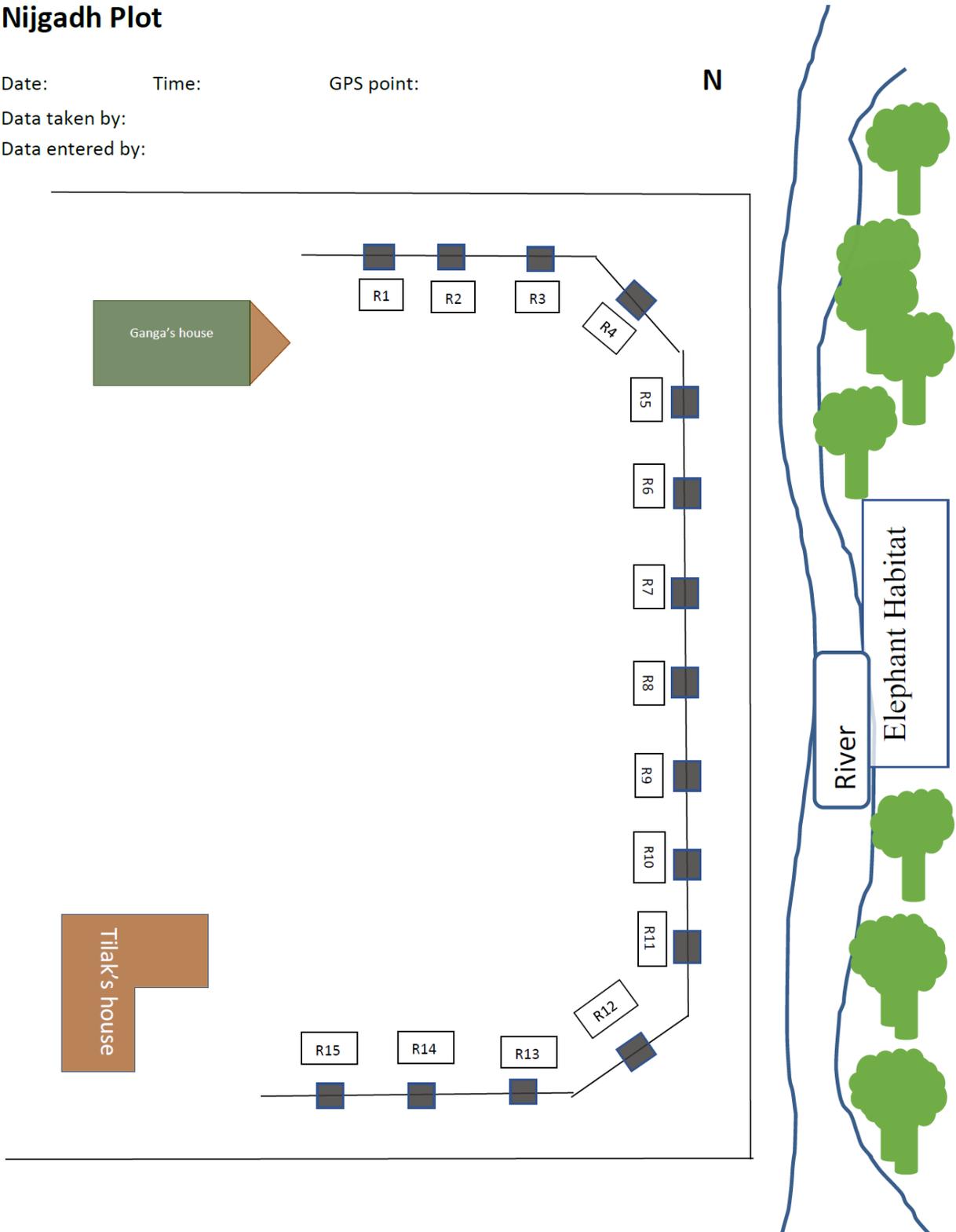
Piluwa's plot

N

Date: Time: GPS point:

Data taken by:

Data entered by:

R2

R3

R4

R5

Elephant Habitat

Forest

Barbed wire