Project Update: May 2018

Firstly, a Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) was conducted to understand the present status of the resources and different ecosystem services that local people are getting from the conservation area and its buffer zones. Local people, members of Krishnasar Conservation and Management Council members, officials of Krishnasar Conservation Area actively participated the event. Their socio-economic profile, their dependencies on ecosystem services and community hazards were discussed broadly. We listed the provisioning, regulating, supporting and cultural services provided by the ecosystems. We then prepared a resource map of the conservation area and its buffer area, and determined resources extraction sites and various types of human activities.



Citizen Scientist Training:

A 1-day capacity building training on "Blackbuck Habitat Survey and Information collection Techniques" was conducted in the Krishnasaar Conservation Area to prepare local youths as citizen scientists. Local youth club members, lecturers and students of Babai multiple campus and game scouts of Krishnasaar Conservation Area actively participated the training. Mr Prabin Baral (zoologist) gave the overview of the status of biodiversity and wildlife in Nepal, conservation status of mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians and updated different research techniques used in wildlife research. The principle investigator discussed on the role of local citizens as citizen scientists in wildlife conservation, and taught them the techniques of using GPS, Camera traps, DBH tape, quadrats, etc. The participants learnt to identify different wildlife (visual encounter/ pellets/scats/footprints, etc.) found in the conservation area. They learnt to collect information on blackbuck habitat as well as information collection of different wildlife of the conservation area. Altogether 15 participants received the training.



Citizen Scientist Training



Game Scout Mr. Hariram Yadav demonstrating how to differentiate foot marks and pellets of different species as well as identify the species seen.



Citizen Scientists collecting data after the training in Krishnasar Conservation Area.

Field Survey: Cumulative impacts of anthropogenic disturbances on Blackbuck

Since Krishnasaar Conservation Area is 16.95 sq. km, we overlaid grids of 300 x 300 m on the map of Krishnasaar Conservation Area including its buffer zones. We carried out line transects in east-west direction and surveyed the grids. We recorded presence evidence of blackbuck (Antelope cervicapra) (visual encounter, foot marks and pellets) and laid a 10 X 10 m plot in each recorded presence point. Different habitat types and threat related variables and presence evidence of potential competitor and predators in the plots were recorded. At each place of sighting of an animal, human movement, presence of roads/road-trails, settlements, movement of vehicles, livestock grazing, fodder and firewood collection, deforestation, fire and other threats was recorded. Similarly, natural disturbances such as flood, presence of stray dogs, wild animals including predators (based on the presence signs) were recorded. The proximate variables of each surveyed plots with the household, road/footpath, farmland, water sources, forest, etc. were also recorded. Different habitat variables like habitat types (forest, cultivated land, scrubs and bushes etc.), canopy cover, shrub cover, ground cover, shrub height, grass height, tree height etc., were noted 150 m distance.



Human Induced threats in Krishnasaar Conservation Area



Evidences of presence of other wild mammals in KrCA, Bardiya



Radio Interview:

Role of Local Citizen Scientists in Wildlife Conservation- An Interview in Radio Babai 106 MHZ, Gulariya, Bardiya.



News Releases:

News release in Bardiya Times-online magazine.



Link:

http://bardiyatimes.com.np/%E0%A4%95%E0%A5%83%E0%A4%B7%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A3 %E0%A4%B 8%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%B0%E0%A4%95%E0%A5%8B- %E0%A4%85%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%B8%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A5%E0%A4%BE - %E0%A4%AC%E0%A5%81%E0%A4%9D%E0%A4%A8-%E0%A4%AF/

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