

## Project Update: January 2019

The near threatened (Jnawali et.al 2011) nationally protected striped hyena (*Hyaena hyaena*), a scavenging predator in Nepal, is declining dramatically due to retaliation, persecution, habitat loss, road kill and depleting prey population in lowlands. This project is in ongoing phase for the public awareness through posters, stickers and orientation for developing a network of citizen scientist for regular monitoring and continued community advocacy for hyaena conservation in central lowlands.

### Activities (September- December 2018)

A field assessment was conducted during September and October 2018 in Bara Forest that included Nijhgadh, Singaul and Dhansar area to figure out the scenario for the upcoming field work and a preliminary interview was done with the local people of Sadak Tole (Nijhgadh), Purano Nijhgadh and Singaul area about the perception of community towards striped hyena. Besides this, brief consultation meeting was done with forest guards and Assistant Forest Officer of Divisional Forest Office Bara.



Photo 1: Project Leader collecting local perceptions of hyena

In mid-October 2018, the citizen scientists were educated about morphology and ecological significance of the species, value of scientific study, and its benefit to the community. Altogether, four community awareness programmes were organised an interaction was done with the local stakeholders of Thanimai Community Forest Users Group (Simara), Bandevi and Saraswati Community Forest Users Group (Singaul) and

front line staff of Parsa National Park, Amlekhgunj. Altogether, 58 citizen scientists participated in the orientation regarding striped hyena conservation. It includes representatives from local government, members of Community Forest Users Group, school teachers, representatives of mothers group and staff of Division Forest Office. Similarly, we developed conservation poster on striped hyena conservation and disseminated and shared amongst the conservation stakeholders and partners.

In October 2018, we produced conservation poster with a message delivering conservation sense to public. Likewise in December 2018, our team developed a conservation sticker as a next effective form of outreach material. It is aiming to make the vehicle staff, hotel owners, fuel stations and protection units (Nepal Police and Nepal Army) aware and to minimize the incidences of road kill in central Terai.



Photo 2: Hyena Conservation orientation to frontline staffs @Parsa National Park





Photo 3: Citizen Scientist Orientation @ Sadak Tole, Nijhgadh, Bara



Photo 4: Project Leader in an Orientation about Striped hyena conservation @ Simara, Bara





Photo 5: Conservation Sticker

**Next Plan:**

In January 2019, for the biological monitoring, a research team will be conducting camera trapping for 20 days with 25 infra-red motion sensor camera traps. Camera traps will be deployed in 26 grids for 10 nights in each grid. This area will be surveyed in two deployments.

Besides camera trapping, we will be conducting awareness campaign to minimise road kill events of striped hyenas by distributing conservation stickers with the concerned stakeholders.

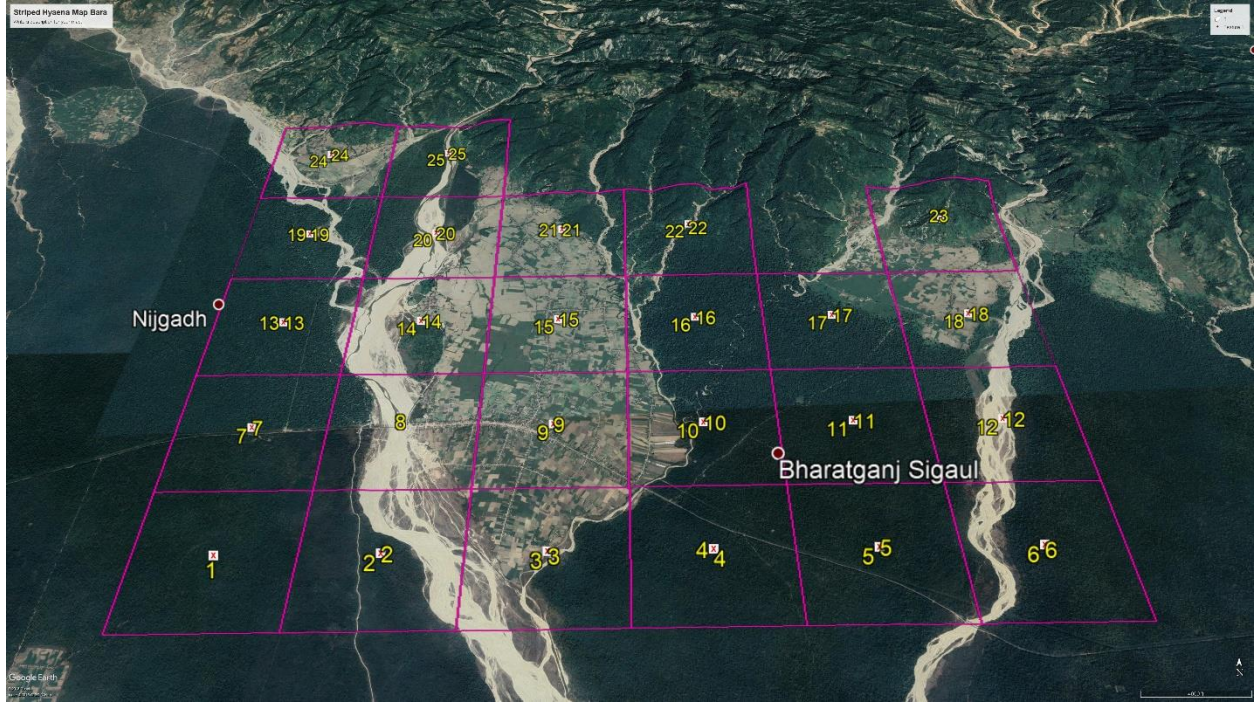


Photo 6: Camera Trap Grids (2\*2 km<sup>2</sup>) showing study area