

Project Update: November 2020

1. Conducted questionnaire surveys with 192 households around Chitwan National Park (in buffer zone) regarding the study on local peoples' perception towards tiger and leopard (work completed).

- Using the semi-structured questionnaires, the surveys were mainly done by field assistants under the close supervision of the researcher. Separate questionnaires were used to collect the information about perception of respondents towards tiger and leopard. The survey involved random selection of respondents (households) in the buffer zone of the park making sure that the selection would represent all four sectors of the park (Sauraha, Kasara, Madi, and Amaltari). The survey was carried out with the household head or a household member from August to November 2020. Ethical considerations were followed during the process.

2. Conducted questionnaire surveys with the 177-local people around Chitwan National Park (in buffer zone) so as to evaluate the effectiveness of mitigation measures adopted to address human-tiger conflict and human-leopard conflict (work completed).

- The surveys were mainly done by field assistants under the close supervision of the researcher using semi-structured questionnaires. Separate questionnaires were used to collect information about the measures adopted to address human-tiger conflict and human-leopard conflict. The respondents (households) were randomly selected from among the local communities in the buffer zone of the park such that it would represent all four sectors of the park (Sauraha, Kasara, Madi, and Amaltari). The respondents include both the households which lost humans/livestock to big cats during the last 3 years and those which did not lose any. Household heads or members participated in the survey and all ethical considerations were followed during the process. The survey was conducted during from August to November 2020.

3. As a part of evaluation of adopted conflict mitigation measures regarding human-tiger and human-leopard conflict, the information on budgetary allocation, annual programmes and activities, adopted conflict mitigating measures, conflict minimisation policies, and amount of relief/compensation paid toward tiger and leopard attacks on human/livestock during the last 3 years have been collected from the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, Chitwan National Park, and office of the Buffer Zone Management Committee.

4. The analysis of data obtained from questionnaire surveys regarding perception study (S. N. 1) and evaluation of adopted conflict mitigating measures (S. N. 2) is underway.

5. First drafts of the local conflict management plans for two conflict hotspots (one each of tiger and leopard) have been prepared and these drafts will be presented in the local workshops to be held sooner. Besides this, public conservation awareness and school programs are expected to be done in the near future. The schools have long been closed due to COVID restrictions.

