

Project Update: February 2022

Up to now, we've completed our research work and carried out our fishing cat conservation campaign. We did a camera trap survey as well as a pugmark sign survey. Luckily, we were able to capture images of the fishing cat from three different locations as well as their pugmark sign, which I've shared with you in my previous update. In addition, we have conducted a questionnaire survey and recorded the perception of people towards the fishing cat conservation. Based on those results, we devised conservation awareness campaign materials which we used to share our findings and aware about fishing cat conservation to the local community people.

As a part of the awareness campaign, we have conducted conservation outreach programmes in several communities and schools within our project area. In addition, the project has given wildlife monitoring and conservation training to more than 25 personnel from different occupational backgrounds (local wildlife technicians, local community leaders, and local wildlife guides). The training motivated and helped to strengthen their capacity for long-term monitoring and conservation of the species as citizen scientists. Similarly, we also carried out our awareness programme in 10 different schools. We've used posters, videos, and presentation slides to convey our message regarding fishing cat conservation to larger and more diverse audiences. With this campaign, the effort of the project has reached more than 500 households directly and indirectly.

Not to mention, I have presented my findings in the "Second Rufford In-Country Conference- Sri Lanka" organised by the Bio Conservation Society (BCSL). Also, I have shared my experience and findings from the project in a workshop organised by Nature Conservation and Study Center (NCSC), Nepal. At the moment, I am working both on the final evaluation report and detail report, which I will share as soon as I complete it.

Lastly, I would like to once again thank The Rufford Foundation for the immense support without which the initiation of the conservation work would have been very challenging. Your support has not only given hope for the long-term conservation of fishing cat in Chitwan National Park but also has offered a great opportunity for many people working in conservation sectors like me. I am extremely hopeful that I will be able to receive similar support in the coming future as well.

For now, I have attached the images showing the conservation activities that we did during our project period.







