Project Update: November 2023

Summary
The illegal wildlife trade is one of the key threats to species survival and its regulation and monitoring are dependent on accurate species identification. Plants are particularly difficult to identify which is aggravated when trade parts like stems, roots, etc., are dried and processed. There are very few resources that address the plant identification issues linked to their traded parts in trade, that are hardly accessible to Nepalese enforcement officials and local harvesters. This project aims to understand the extent of species identification among key trade stakeholders, in particular the enforcement officials and plant harvesters. In this respect, we wanted to assess the species identification capacity, train, and reassess to understand the effectiveness of the training. In doing so, we selected two districts as key project sites and from here, we chose one harvest community and one group of enforcement officials (note: we are keeping the names of places anonymous for public reports). So far, we completed our field scoping, selection of species for the study, preparation of survey tools, piloting. We also conducted pre-assessment survey and training to 18 enforcement officials and 19 local harvesters in one of the project sites.

In the second quarter, we made following progress:

Pre-assessment surveys conducted
Finalisation of survey tools: We finalised our survey tools after incorporating the comments/suggestions obtained during the pilot testing (conducted with five local harvesters in one of the project sites).

Species identification pre-assessment surveys: We conducted pre-assessment surveys with 18 enforcement officials and 19 plant harvesters based on our survey tools. The harvester community was identified through our pilot survey and initial reconnaissance with the plant trade stakeholders and willingness (verbal) of harvesters to participate in the overall research.

We are also discussing the possibility of conducting pre-assessment surveys with some herbal traders based in Kathmandu for the survey.

Species identification training to enforcement officials and medicinal plant harvesters
Species identification training materials: We prepared species identification training tools (in the form of PowerPoint slides) in Nepali language considering needs based rapid assessment and literature review. We ensured that the information in the training was relevant to the local harvesters and enforcement officials, as well as to national context. For this, we used the photographs obtained during our market survey and photos of species advertised for sale over the e-commerce platforms popular in Nepal, China, and India (the purpose of including photos from Indian e-commerce IndiaMART, and Chinese platform Alibaba was because a majority of our medicinal plants are traded to India and China). We used photos of parts in trade.

Species identification training: We trained 20 enforcement officials and 20 local plant harvesters in one of the districts that is known for illegal harvest and trade of medicinal

plants.

Activities planned for the future:
- Species identification training to be conducted in one community.
- Species identification capacity assessment of medicinal plant traders in a major city of Nepal.
- Post-training assessment to be conducted with enforcement officials and plant harvesters.
- Data entry.

Project progress vs plan

Activity no.	Year 1 (2023)			Year 1 (2024)	
	Apr-June	July-Sept	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr
1	Project scoping				
2		Training			
3		Questionnaire surveys and interviews			
4			Data compilation, entry, and analysis		
5			Results dissemination		

Note: The colors show progress. Green = activity completed, Orange = activity ongoing, Gray = activity not yet started

Below: Few highlights from the species id training materials, questionnaire survey, and pre-assessment

वन्यजन्तु अवैध व्यापार नियन्त्रणमा
प्रजाति पहिचानको महत्व

Reshu Bashyal
Research Fellow, Greenhood Nepal
August 2023

Greenhood

Rufford

किन तपाईहरुले प्रजातिहरु वारे जान्नुपर्ने?

Greenhood

- वन्यजन्तु व्यापार नियन्त्रणमा सबैभन्दा अगाडि रहेर काम गरेपनि आवाश्यक तालिमहरु एकदमै कम हुने
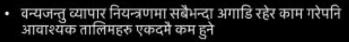
- प्रजातिको सहि पहिचान वन्यजन्तु (आवैध) व्यापार व्यवस्थापन (नियन्त्रण) को प्रथम कडी

Tools can't duplicate personal experience; ultimate decision is yours!

WILDLIFE SENTINEL

WILDSCAN

SUBMIT A TIP

ROUTES: WILDLIFE SENTINEL

Seto Mushli   **Paanchaunle**

वन्यजन्तु (तथा वनस्पति) अपराध नियन्त्रण र संरक्षणमा प्रजाति पहिचान (Pre-training assessment)

वन्यजन्तु (तथा वनस्पति) सम्बन्धि हुने अपराध नियन्त्रणमा स्थानिय निमायक निकायहरुको भुमिका अहम् छ। वन्यजन्तुको प्राकृतिक वासस्थानमा देखिने स्वरुप र ब्यापारमा देखिने स्वरुप निक्कै नै भिन्न हुन्छ जसले वन्यजन्तुको आखेटोपहार पहिचानमा चुनौती थप्ने गर्छ। यस किसिमको चुनौती कम गर्न केहि प्रयासहरु भएका छन् तर यो समस्या सुल्झाउनका लागि पर्याप्त भने छैनन्। सोहि कुरालाइ मध्यनजर गर्दै हामीले केहि स्थानिय वन अधिकारीहरु सँग ब्यापारमा वन्यजन्तुको पहिचान क्षमता सर्वेक्षण र आवश्यक तालिमबारे यस कार्यशाला आयोजना गरेका छौं।

यस कार्यशालामा तपाइलाइ विभिन्न वनस्पतीको ब्यापारमा देखिने स्वरुपहरुको फोटोहरु देखाइने छ र सोको पहिचानबारे केहि प्रश्नहरु सोधिने छ। यस सर्वेक्षणमा तपाईको व्यक्तिगत परिचय खुल्ने कुनै पनि जानकारी संकलन गरिने छैन। यस सर्वेक्षणमा सहभागी हुँदा कुनै पनि शारीरिक वा मानसिक अफ्ठ्यारो पर्दैन र यसमा दैनिक जीवन भन्दा फरक कुनै जोखिम छैन। यो सर्वेक्षणका लागी करिब ३० मिनेट समय लाग्छ र तपाइले आफुलाई उपयुक्त हुने समय र स्थानमा गर्न सक्नुहुन्छ।

यो सर्वेक्षणमा तपाईको सहभागीता पूर्णरुपमा स्वैच्छिक हो र कुनैपनि समयमा तपाईले आफ्नो सहभागिता रद्द गर्न सक्नुहुनेछ। यदि तपाईलाई प्रश्नको उत्तर दिदै गर्दा बिचमा पुगेर सहभागी हुन मन लागेन भने आफ्नो इन्टरनेट ब्राउजर बन्द गर्नुहोस् यसो गर्दा तापाईको डाटा त्यहाँ रहँदैन। यस अध्ययनबारे केहि प्रश्न छन् भने यस अध्ययन परियोजना प्रमुखलाई सम्पर्क गर्नुहोस्। यदि, तथापि तपाईलाई कुनै प्रश्न आपत्तिजनक लाग्यो भने तपाई त्यो प्रश्नको उत्तर नदिन वा अर्को प्रश्नमा प्रवेश गर्न स्वतन्त्र हुनुहुन्छ। तपाईले प्रदान गर्नुभएको तथ्यांक यस अध्ययनको उद्देश्यहरूको लागि मात्र प्रयोग गरिनेछ।

यो अध्ययन ग्रिनहुड नेपालको नैतिक समिक्षा समिति र प्रक्रियाहरु अनुरुप जाँचपास गरिएको छ। तलाका दुईवटा बक्सहरु चेक गरेपछि तपाईले माथिका सबै कुराहरु पढेर बुझनु भएको छ र तपाईका प्रतिक्रियाहरु यो अध्ययनमा प्रयोग गर्न अनुमति दिनुभएको छ भन्ने पुष्टि हुन्छ।

यो अध्ययन परियोजनाको बारेमा प्रदान गरिएको जानकारी मैले पढेको छु र यसमा मेरो संलग्नताको प्रकृति पनि बुझेको छु। मैले प्रदान गरेका कुनैपनि जानकारी पुर्णरुपमा गोप्य छन्। म सहभागि हुन सहमत छु र कुनैपनि समयमा मेरो सहभागिता रद्द गर्न सकिन्छ भन्ने