

Project Update: February 2024

Major Activities performed for the final objective of the project (December 2023 and January 2024)

Team members for this objective:

Bijaya Neupane (Team Leader of the Project), Asmit Neupane, Sanish Neupane and Sundar Shrestha (Field Assistants)

Activity 1: Performed community outreach and awareness activities (through talk programs)

In each study site (buffer zones of Bardia and Chitwan National Parks), 10 community outreach and awareness programs were conducted in areas severely affected by human-megafaunal conflicts. Of these, 6 events were held in local schools and 4 with buffer zone users' committees. Each program had around 50 participants, except in some programs exceeding this number. The duration of each program was approximately 2 hours, excluding preparation and closing time. During the sessions, our team introduced the objectives of the project and delivered a 45-minute talk in Nepali, covering megafaunal ecology, safety measures, and conservation. Visual aids displaying similar information were presented on chart papers in simple Nepali language. Brochures, containing safety precautions, megafaunal ecology, and roles of major megafaunal species, were distributed to participants. Following the talks, a 30-minute discussion allowed participants to engage with the team, exploring ongoing issues faced by the local communities and possible local mitigation strategies for human-megafauna coexistence. Overall, the programs effectively disseminated crucial information to large audiences in severely affected areas.

Activity 2: Displayed colorful and pictorial large flex poster in the severely affected sites

After each talk program event, we hung large, colorful, and pictorial waterproof posters in prominent locations where people frequently pass by. These displays will help disseminate information to a large number of people particularly about the importance of conserving megafaunal species and measures to mitigate conflicts that eventually promote co-existence.



Photo 1. Talk program with buffer zone users' committee in Chitwan National Park, Nepal.



Photo 2: Talk program with school students in the buffer zone of Bardia National Park, Nepal.



Photo 3: Encouraging students for conservation awareness during the talk program in buffer zone of Chitwan National Park, Nepal.



Photo 4: Distributing brochures during the talk program.



Photo 5: Group photograph after the talk program (1st.)



Photo 6: Group photograph after the talk program (2nd.)



Photo 7: Discussions with buffer zone users committee at the end of the talk program (1st.)



Photo 8: Discussions with buffer zone users committee at the end of the talk program (2nd).



Photo 9: Participants of buffer zone users committee after the talk program.



Photo 10: Displaying and fixing the water-proof durable flex print in the affected village 1



Photo 11: Displaying and fixing the water-proof durable flex print in the affected village 2



Photo 12: Displaying and fixing the water-proof durable flex print in the affected

village 3

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