

Project Update: August 2011

After the preliminary survey, the field data were collected from May to July 2011 by using systematic line transects with the distance of 200 m in between. Some part of Churia range, south from the Sauraha inside the Chitwan National Park was covered and some important habitat features which were assumed to influence the occurrence of four-horned antelope were noted down. Most of the signs of antelope were observed at the lower half of the Churia hills (mixed sal forest). Sign encounter rate was less than 1 sign/km. The sign survey was affected by regular pre-monsoon rain (that might have washed away some signs of animal!) and the thick forest floor which was not burnt this year by forest fires that occur during dry season. The main threats noticed for this shy creature were habitat destruction (by invasive species such as *Mikania* and *Lantana*, and human encroachment in the area) and the presence of predators such as tiger, leopard, and jackal. This information has been disseminated among the park people and local people during informal meetings.



Left: Dung pile of FHA that had been disturbed by rain. Right: General habitat of FHA.