

Project Update: August 2014

Background

Tanahun district is situated in the eastern part of western Development Region of the country. This district lies in between 27° 36' to 28° 5' N latitude and 83° 57' to 84° 34' E longitude. The total physical area of this district is 1546 km². Its elevation ranges from 187 m above sea level to 2323 m above sea level. This district has sub tropical to cool temperate climate having average daily maximum and minimum temperature of 25°C and 15°C respectively. It has one municipality and 46 village development committees (VDCs). The watershed condition of Tanahun district is marginal. An average 68 % of the total populations of the Tanahun district are engaged in agriculture activities. The 67.84 % of the people are economically active with male and female 33.47% and 34.37% respectively. According to the land use pattern, forest occupies 40.5%, agriculture land 41.4 %, and pastureland occupies 0.5 % of total land area of the district.

With the increasing populations of wild animals as well as of human and livestock combined with declined suitable habitats, the chances of human wildlife conflicts is in rise by many folds in the districts. VDC level interaction meeting chaired by the district forest officer was organised at Bhanu on 24th June 2014 to discuss the pertinent issues of human wildlife conflicts prevailing in the Bhanu VDC and to develop networking mechanism to minimize human wildlife conflict. (Table 1: list of participants). The meeting was attended by the participants from various organizations such as community forest user groups (CFUGs), schools, and district forest office as well as the representatives of the local people. Altogether 21 participants attended the meeting.

Major issues

Data of human wildlife conflicts (HWC) were collected from district forest office. Crop raiding, livestock depredation injury to human and wildlife are the major incidents. Since 2010, more than 12 human wildlife conflict events were occurred. The main wildlife species in conflict are leopard, monkey and deer. Three humans were injured from leopard and 10 leopards were killed by human during 5-year period. Retaliatory killing is appearing as a common phenomenon in the district. Per year two leopards are killed as retaliatory killing. Monkeys are considered as crop raiding animals in Tanahun district. Due to the lack of information about the relief policy, till now nobody could get the relief money from government in Tanahun district. The leopard conflict requires the topmost priority in rectifying the problem and instant delivery of compensation to the loss.

Major decisions of the meeting

The major decisions that were made during the meeting in order to minimise human wildlife conflict and to support human wildlife coexistence are given below:

1. Publicising legal provisions of instant delivery of compensation or relief to the loss by Nepal Government.
2. Inclusion of wildlife conservation and human wildlife conflict mitigation related activities in operational plan of community forestry and Implementation of these activities by the CFUGs according to their plan.
3. A Human Wildlife Mitigation Coordination Committee is formed at VDC level to minimize the conflict and wildlife conservation as a mechanism of networking among the CFUGs.
 - Coordinator- Mr. Surya Bdr. Newar, Belthumki CFUGs, Bhanu-3, Tanahun
 - Member- Ms. Shanta Dhakal, Lamidanda CFUGs, Bhanu-2, Tanahun
 - Member- Mr. Nabaraj Dhakal, Bhanubhakta CFUGs, Bhanu-3, Tanahun

- Member- Mr. Dhruva Kumal, Jamuneswara Khalatidanda, CFUGs, Bhanu-4, Tanahun
 - Member- Mr. Gobinda Bdr. Thapa, Ratmate Padharidunga CFUGs, Bhanu-9, Tanahun
4. Preparation of constitution of above-mentioned committee facilitated by district forest office.
 5. Establishment of local relief fund in collaboration with Nepal government and other line agencies.
 6. Promotion of greenery at public land and barren land of community forest in collaboration with district forest office.

Wildlife conservation is beyond the control of one CFUG. Thus, there is an urgent need of collaboration among various CFUGs to conserve the wildlife and to mitigate the conflicts. Therefore, formation of human wildlife conflict mitigation committee and establishment of local relief fund is a new innovation for wildlife conservation in Community Forestry. These decisions will play a crucial role for policy revision in the national level and wildlife conservation at the landscape level.

SN	Name of Participant	Organization	Remarks
1	Ram Babu Paudel	District Forest Office, Tanahun	
2	Bishnu Hari Pandey	Bhanu Jayanti Management Committee, Tanahun	
3	Ram Gayak	Ilaka Forest Office, Tanahun	
4	Shankar Ranabhat	Jamune Sywara Khalante community forest user group (CFUG), Bhanu-4, Tanahun	
5	Indu Dhakal	Belthumki CFUG, Bhanu-3, Tanahun	
6	Ram Kumar Shrestha	Belthumki CFUG, Bhanu-3, Tanahun	
7	Kamala Ghartimagar	Belthumki CFUG, Bhanu-3, Tanahun	
8	Surja Bdr. Newar	Belthumki CFUG, Bhanu-3, Tanahun	
9	Dhruva Kumal	Jamune Sywara Khalante CFUG, Bhanu-4, Tanahun	
10	Sabitra Shrestha	Belthumki CFUG, Bhanu-3, Tanahun	
11	Usha Shrestha	Belthumki CFUG, Bhanu-3, Tanahun	
12	Krishna Raj Bastola	Bhanubhakta CFUG, Bhanu-3, Tanahun	
13	Shanta Dhakal	Bhanu Jayanti Management Committee, Tanahun	
14	Dal Bahadur Ranabhat	Lamidanda CFUG, Bhanu-2, Tanahun	
15	Suklal Shrestha	Bhanubhakta CFUG, Bhanu-3, Tanahun	
16	Ram Bdr. Ranabhat	Bhanubhakta CFUG, Bhanu-3, Tanahun	
18	Nawaraj Pandit	Bhanubhakta CFUG, Bhanu-3, Tanahun	
19	Prem Rana	Ratomate Patharidunga CFUG, Bhanu-9, Tanahun	
20	Dambar Bdr. Gurung	Bhanubhakta CFUG, Bhanu-3, Tanahun	
21	Govinda Bdr. Thapa	Ratomate Patharidunga CFUG, Bhanu-9, Tanahun	



VDC level Interaction/consultation meeting with CFUGs member and government staff.

The following table presents present status of the project implementation. The implementation is in accordance with the planned schedule in proposal. It is expected that it will be completed as proposed

Summary of Progress against proposed timeline

S.N.	Activities	Month proposed	Status
1.	Start-up workshop	1st	Completed
2.	Checklist development	1st	Completed
3	Review and analysis	2 nd to 11th	On going
4	Consultation and interaction	3 rd to 11th	On going
5	Participatory assessment of causes and trends	3 rd to 6 th	Completed
6	Local level sharing workshop	4 th to 8 th	On going
7	Field survey and observations	3 rd to 11 th	On going
8	GIS and mapping	3 rd to 9 th	On going
9	CFUG networking	7 th to 10 th	Completed
10	Formalising networking	9 th to 10 th	In next 2-3 months
11	Self-monitoring	Whole	Regular
12	Production of leaflets/brochures	11 th	In next 4 th month
13	Reporting	12th	In next 5 th month