

Project Update: November 2015

Project Area - Gehrata Gol Community Game Reserve lies in the south of Chitral town along the left bank of Chitral River. The game reserve (950,000 km²) is considered to be one of the "Home of Snow Leopard" and most isolated places in Chitral. Human=carnivore conflict due to livestock predation to large carnivores like snow leopard, Himalayan lynx, wolf and fox has risen sharply in recent years. Assessment shows that during 2013-2014, 632 livestock depredation cases were recorded from the area and in result of retaliatory killing more than 96 carnivores were killed by the local people. It has identified human carnivore conflicts as major conservation issue and need to be address on urgent

If we can secure these carnivore populations in the long term this will have broader biodiversity and social benefits for the local people.

Progress Summary - This project is implanting in GGGR, lies in the south of Chitral town. A HCC due to livestock predation to large carnivores like snow leopard, Himalayan Lynx etc., has risen sharply in recent years. Livestock depredation cases were recorded from the area and in result of retaliatory killing carnivores were killed by the people. This reserve supporting endangered markhor providing livelihoods opportunity for the local people through trophy hunting, killing of carnivore the natural balance in the ecosystem has disturbed, to overcome the issues and to mobilise the local people towards mitigation of HCC through awareness and planning.

Activities Conducted –

1. **Formation of Village Conservation Committee:** - during the reporting period, two Village Conservation Committees (one for male and one for female) were formed, before forming the committees, the procedures, objectives, legal aspects and role and responsibilities were shared with the people, all the stakeholders including nomads, locally known as Gujur, marginalised farmers of the area were also invited in the grand meeting held in the area. For the women committee formation, a separate meeting was also called on the other day. The local people select executive committee for the village conservation (Chairman/Chairperson/ general secetary, etc) through selection methods. Later these VCCs were endorsed through Wildlife Department chitral. It took 3 days to bring all stakeholders in one platform due to their internal conflicts over different ownership disputes over pasture resources in the area, it was cleared to them that formation of Village Conservation Committee for the area is necessary to conserve the area and to protect its resources for long terms benefits of the local people. At the end all the stakeholders agreed.
2. **Livestock Vaccination Campaigns:** Livestock vaccination was highly demanded action in the area, before going to field the local livestock department was consulted and Dr Niyazuddin from Livestock Department Chitral was requested to visit the area and recommend the vaccination. After visiting of the area he shared that different diseases and pets were recorded from the livestock of the area due to these the milk and meat production was less and livestock mortality was high. After purchasing the required items for the vaccination campaign, the 5 day vaccination campaign was planned. In

order to make the campaign more fruitful and to transfer vaccination technique/skill among the local people, village facilitators were involved in vaccination and they were practically trained on field regarding vaccination and other livestock health management techniques by the resource person. During the campaign more than 3800 livestock, mostly goats, were vaccinated and about 512 were given treatment. During the vaccination awareness was also given to the local people on proper management of livestock and their feeding. The community people were also briefed about the importance preventive measures to decrease mortality rate among the livestock in the area.

Participants – 68 people (from all major stakeholders of the area,) 24 women and two wildlife and three forest staff participated in the VCCs formation and three livestock extension workers and six village facilitators (two female) participated in the vaccination campaign in the area.

Challenges - The 2015 Hindu Kush earthquake was a magnitude 8.1 earthquake that struck Chitral resulted huge loses of infrastructure including the project site and due to this its create trouble to implement the agreed project activities, however the agreed activities were achieved due to the commitment of the local people and other stakeholders.

Observations - the livestock vaccination build the confidence of the people and brought positive impact in the involvement of local people in conservation, now the released that the mortality due to diseases are high as compared to depredation in the area.

Pictures of the Event –

1. VCCs formation.



Pictures of the Event –
2. Livestock Vaccination

