Project Update: April 2016

In the first and second update as submitted in December 2015 and February 2016, we had incorporated listing of flying fox roosting sites, colony size and localities all over Nepal followed by bat hunting survey and awareness programme in the Siwalik Hills of Chitwan district. In this update we have surveyed mid-west areas of Nepaland collected information of four flying fox colonies that includes one completely new site.

We visited following four places to identify the colony size the roosts:

- 1. Dewanbuxapur, Majagaon VDC, Rupandehi.
- 2. Laxmipur, Lumbini, Rupandehi.
- 3. Bhujahawa VDC, Nawalparasi.
- 4. Dawangadhiya, Taulihawa Jailghat, Kapilvastu Municipality (new site).

The size of the colony is 949 ± 109 . They roosted in 11 different trees of species: mango (Mangifera indica), Jamun (Syzygium cumini), Pakhad (Ficus species), Masala (Eucalyptus camaldulensis) and bamboo (Bambusa vulgaris) which is located under personal property. It is a fruit garden situated nearby human settlement and agricultural land.

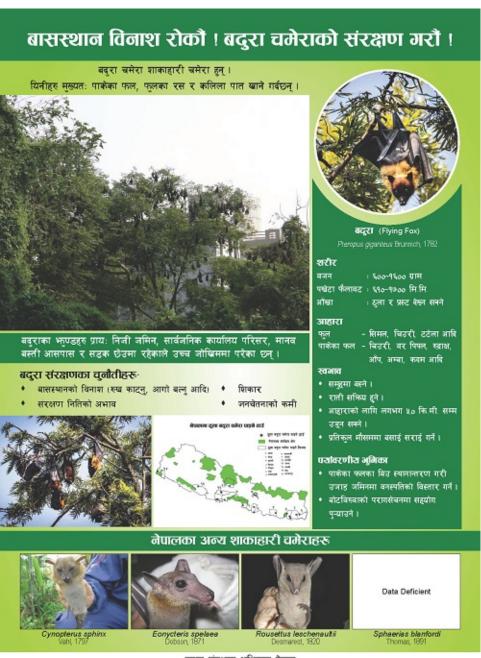
During the visit, public awareness programmes on bats were conducted among locals and schoolchildren. Discussion and question answer sessions were conducted as an outreach programme. Conservation posters on fruit bats were supplied. The posters included the information about fruit bats, ecological roles and conservation threats. The message "Stop Habitat Collapse of Flying Fox" was highlighted in the poster (see below).



Left: School awareness programme. Right: Interaction with public



Left: Roosting Site. Right: Roosting Bats





बदुरा संरक्षण अभियान नेपाल Fruit Bat Conservation Initiative Project, Nepal

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Poster for Fruit Bats Conservation