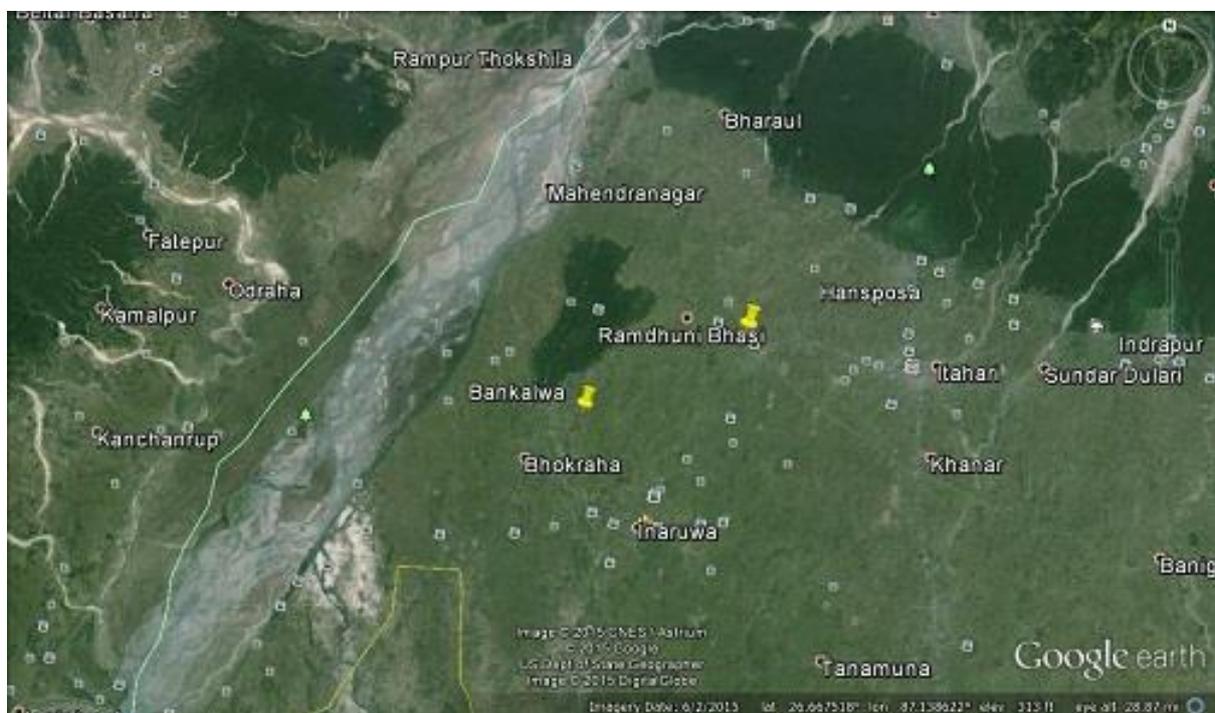


Project Update: January 2016

Bankalwa is a small village located at 10 km north of east-west highway in Sunsari district near Dumraha VDC in eastern Terai. The area was settled around 1960s when the barrage was built in Koshi River. Koshi River is at the west of Bankalwa. Tharu and Madhesi community are the major group of people. Their main occupation is farming, petty business (cycle repairing, small teashops, small shops, etc.) and teaching in the local schools. There are different villages near Bankalwa. They are Hasanpur, Lalpur, Ekrahi, Manpur, Singhiya, Budhnagar, Kalijhoda, Kunyahi, Mainbari, Dhamaura and many others. Sunsari River, Seraha River passes through Ramdhuni forest. Ramdhuni is a small patch of remaining forest in the middle of human dominated landscape. It's a religious forest and there is temple in the middle of forest. The forest is a secondary growth forest with very few old trees.

We have started our camera trapping and so far have recorded Large Indian Civet. Prosecution of wildlife is high in the area. We recorded dead golden jackal and jungle cat in 2 days time. Both were killed in retaliation using rat poison on the killed chicken. The fishing in Sunsari River is high using nets, electrocution and even poison. Even birds like cattle egret, crabs, snails, rats, golden jackals and frogs are killed for consumption by local ethnic Majhi and Satar people.

The habitat is extremely promising for the presence of fishing cat but it is not recorded yet. Very few local people have idea about the fishing cat and just one person confirms its presence during monsoon and has a local name "Pani Biralo" that translates into "Water Cat" in English.





Jungle Cat recorded at the bank of Sunsari River inside Ramdhuni forest. Ramdhuni is a religious forest few 10 km east of Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve