

Project Update: July 2017

- A. Geospatial habitat suitability and migratory pattern study.
- a. Stakeholder consultation and CBOs selections: five CBAPOs, five BZUCs, 10 CFUGs and five eco-clubs were identified. Two people from each CBO were selected, trained and mobilised for organising conservation education programme in five identified conflict zones of Bara, Makwanpur and Sarlahi districts. Two trimester meetings of selected CBOs and district level stakeholders coordination meeting was organised to share the progress of the study.
 - b. Field work:
Study area was divided in to 15 x 15 km grids. Forest roads, trails were used as transects for detecting presence or absence of elephants. Transects were 2 km long and 500 m wide and were used for detecting presence or absence of signs of elephants where forest roads and trails were absent inside forests.
 - c. Vegetation survey: 10 x 10 m for trees and poles, 5 x 5 m plots for shrubs and regenerations, 1 x 1 m plots for herbs and NTFPs were used. All the vegetation was counted, identified and recorded on notebook for habitat analysis.
 - d. Faunal survey: Mammals, birds, herpetofauna and other animals detected during field work were also noted. Rhino, blue bull, tiger, deer and birds were also recorded, counted in the study area.
 - e. Elephant presence signs i.e. Elephant tracks, dung, footprints, tree bark peeling and breaches signs were detected and recorded along with land use and forest condition.
- B. Human elephant coexistence study
- a. Major human-elephant conflict areas were identified and most were selected for human-elephant coexistence study.
 - b. Social survey and stakeholder consultations were accomplished.
- C. Conservation Awareness raising work
- a. Eco-club formation cum activation of old and defunct eco-clubs for conducting conservation awareness programme. We have conducted five meetings for activation of local eco-clubs and it was reformed. These are eco-clubs formed in Bara, Parsa and Makwanpur districts of Central Nepal.
 - i. Namuna ecoclub pathalaiya, Bara under chairmanship of Kabin Yadav.
 - ii. Braham kali Ecoclub, Manhari 7, Makawanpur.
 - iii. Rastriya Aadharbhut bidhyala ecoclub, Manhari 7, Makwanpur.
 - iv. Baljyoti Ecoclub Manhari 6, Makwanpur.
 - b. Elephant conservation rally:
Conservation rally was jointly organised by Parsa National Park, Zoological Society of London, local drinking water supply and sanitation committee, local police and armed police force and Buffer Zone User Committee as well as eco-clubs. It was organised on June 5th 2017 on the occasion of

World Environment Day 2017. This rally was supported by Rufford for disseminating elephant conservation messages through this conservation rally and this rally was led by Namuna youth. Eco-club Pathalaiya, park staff, district forest office staff, Buffer Zone User Committee members, local armed police force, local people, school kids, drinking water and sanitation user committee, and local school teachers. This rally was jointly conducted by local Buffer Zone User Committee, Buffer Zone Community Forest User Groups, Pathaliya Eco club and local people. The aim of conservation rally was to educate local people about elephant conservation by giving wildlife conservation message to them. About 290 students, local armed police force, local people, Parsa National Park staff were involved in this rally. It was a very fruitful programme. Local people appreciated it a lot and also participated in it.

- c. Elephant conservation radio programme: Seven episodes of 15 minutes conservation radio programme on "Save the Elephants" with main slogan "Hatti Mero Sathi" were prepared and broadcast through local FM radio, Radio Samarpan 98.2 MHz Simra Bara. This FM has broader coverage and better response from local students, local people and other stakeholders.
 - d. Eco-clubs selection cum reformation:
Two eco-clubs which were previously in existence were used for this conservation education programme. Three more eco-clubs will be formed in Sarlahi districts which will be used for school education on conserving elephants.
 - e. School programme: 20 schools were selected for school education on elephant conservation along with biodiversity conservation outside the protected areas.
 - f. Beneficiaries: Five eco-clubs having 65 students and 10 teachers, 1000 students from 10 secondary level schools were involved in this project. Buffer Zone User Committees, Buffer Zone Forest User Committees and local people as well as park staff were also involved during stakeholder consultation, conservation education, conservation rally and conservation radio "Save the Elephants" Hatti Mero Sathi monthly episodes for disseminating wild elephant conservation in central Nepal.
1. Other works under progress
- a. Second phase school education programme is underway for educating kids of higher secondary schools of Bara, Parsa, Sarlahi and Makwanpur district through local CBOs and Eco clubs.
 - b. Education material postures and pamphlets are being printing.
 - c. Fieldwork for geospatial study for habitat suitability and migratory corridor, coexistence stud were completed.
 - d. Social survey was completed within most severe human-elephant conflict area.
 - e. Data analysis, Report preparation work is in progress.

2. Photographs:



Elephants sighted during study



Conservation rally



Social survey for Human elephant coexistence study