

Project Update: December 2016

1. List of field equipment and stationary procured for the project:

1. GPS handset.
2. Field guides on HEC.
3. Binoculars.
4. Printing of survey forms.
5. Training stationary (charts, markers, masking tape).

2. Identification of target group September 2016

Target groups were successfully identified for the project implementation programme with the local knowledge on the HEC and places where most human and elephant conflict arises. The local leaders and prominent community members were informed through the key informant interviews about the main aims of the project and who are to be involved in the project implementation. Following this, awareness of the project and its motives were given to local leaders, dealing staffs, relevant stakeholders who will be involved later in the field.



The assessment of HEC and co-existence will be done in the following identified target groups which are all located in the fringe forest areas:

1. Jomotshangkha area/ Golanti.
2. Samdrup choling/ Bangtar.
3. Martang/Sukuni.
4. Deothang/Ompori CF area.
5. Samrang/satpokhar.

Elephant's migratory route (Photo below)



Elephant watch tower in the mid of forest at Deothang



These places were identified as the most HEC rampant areas where elephant encroaches into the human habitation and agricultural field. As per the information from the local people, the elephant mostly inhabits in these places as it shares its borders with Assam (India). Due to the habitat destruction in the lower foothills of Indian state, the elephant moves to these places in search of food and shelter.

3. Project inception meeting and awareness October 2016

A 2-day meeting and awareness with the key informant, local leaders and relevant stakeholders were carried out at each and every identified place of target groups to inform and sensitise them about the project inception and its main objectives. Some forestry officials from various field offices have also joined the day meeting and awareness campaign.

4. November 2016 until the end of December 2016

Five days hands-on training on HEC survey using the HEC assessment sheet and interviews for field staff and enumerators were conducted accordingly. The field training was successfully carried out with the technical backstopping from experts from College of Natural Resources, Divisional Forest Office and Forest Range Offices in the field.

After the completion of hands-on training, inputs on problem analysis (how HEC arises and what are the measures people use to solve HEC locally) were discussed thoroughly with the participants from all the identified groups. The inputs on the formation of CBCM (community based conflict management) and HEC monitoring were also given to the participants. The main motive of CBCM and monitoring was also discussed. Communities were given awareness on the importance of elephant habitat conservation and maintenance of elephant migratory routes in their nearby forest areas.

Notes: The field surveys, mapping of rampant HEC areas and social survey on HEC are still in progress and it will be reported in the later project updates.



Elephant found dead at the trans-boundary route, India.
Photo by Sonu.



Local people of Samrang in

