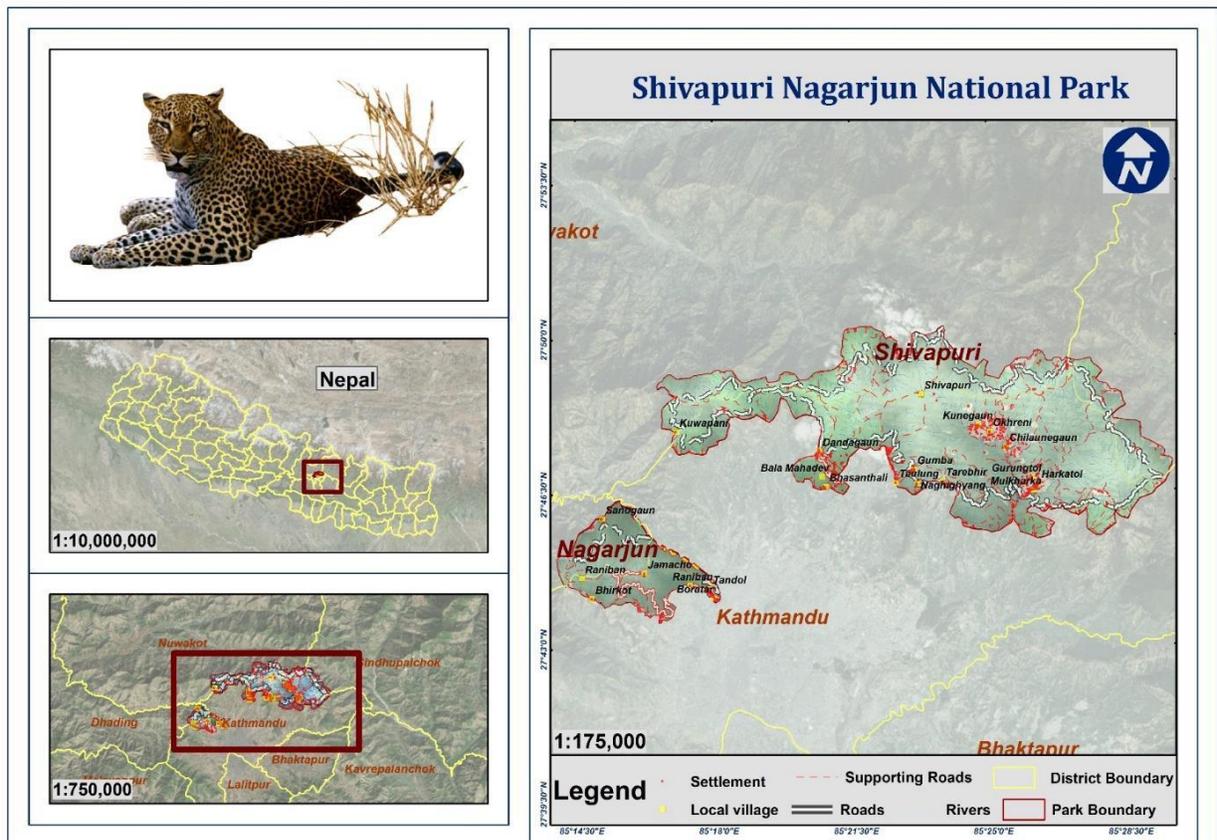


## Project Update: July 2017

The research was conducted in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park, which is the only protected area lying entirely within the Nepal's mid hills ecosystem. It is spread over Kathmandu, Nuwakot, Dhading and Sindhupalchok districts of central Nepal. The elevation ranges from 1350 to 2732 m and its boundary is demarcated by a 111 km long boundary wall and 95 km long ring road. It is the true representation of the mid-hills in the protected area system of Nepal. It is located on the northern fringe of Kathmandu valley and lies about 12 km away from the capital city between 27° 45' to 27° 52' northern latitude and 85° 15' to 85° 30' eastern longitude. The park gazette as the country's ninth national park in 2002, covers an area of 159km<sup>2</sup>. The upper slopes are covered with forest (Birch et al., 2012). The Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park is situated in the north of Kathmandu which is one of the primary sources of freshwater for Kathmandu valley. SNNP has been managed by the Department of National Park and Wildlife conservation (DNPCW)/ Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (MFSC), with the support of army, who has six military posts around the park (Shrestha, 2012).



Location Map of Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park

During the preliminary field visit (10<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> June 2017), I hired two local forest technicians and one MSc Zoology student from Tribhuvan University to assist me. For the next 13 days, we went to each household on the buffer zone of Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park. In the remaining 2 days we visited in District Forest Office and met concerned authorities for getting information of human-leopard conflict. In this visit we tried find the victims of human injury from common leopard attacks over the last 5 years in my study area. In this field we could not found human casualties but there were several attacks on cattle near the settlement areas of SNNP. We collected the detailed information regarding the situations when and where the incidents took place. We took the photographs and GPS coordinates of each household where we visited. There was a raining period when we have visited in the field and took the information in stipulate time. Some goats, local dogs, hens were killed by leopard near settlement zones. Some local villagers were irritating on leopards due to loss of their cattle, hens and other domestic animals. When we visited during early morning, then we found fresh pug mark, scats of common leopards. At that time we have taken the photographs of them. Due to devastating earthquake, most the houses were damaged so, there will be another chance for conflict between human and leopard at the buffer zone of SNNP.



Left: Pugmark. Right: Scats.

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