

Project Update: August 2018

Workshops and awareness programs in communities:

Snake conservation workshops and awareness programmes were conducted at the following four different communities.

1. Lakshminagar, Dhakdhai, Rohini Gaupalika.
2. Padariya, Bhagwanpur, Lumbini Sanskritik Municipality.
3. Sagrahawa, Makrahar, Tilottama Municipality.
4. Shankarnagar Banbihar and Research Centre, Tilottama Municipality.

We have selected these communities on the basis of discussion held on the district level workshop. In these programmes, we have focused on diversity, distribution and habitats of snakes, identification of venomous and non-venomous snakes and their conservation, procedures for avoiding snakebites, appropriate first aid methods, symptoms of venomous bites by cobra, krait and vipers, treatment after bites, misconception on snakes and snakebites etc. Local people were made aware on importance of snake conservation by mobilising local leaders, community forest user groups, local conservationists, students and teachers, health personnel, media personnel, CBO members through workshops, trainings and discussions. We have distributed educational materials like photographs, posters, brochures, pamphlets and books that were distributed to all the participants. We also have showed snake related video documentaries. Awareness programmes helped to change people's perceptions towards snakes. At the end of each awareness programme, the participants were motivated to share their knowledge at least to their three neighbours, who have missed a chance to participate in awareness programmes.

A huge amount of community people in various study sites have gained knowledge on the conservation of snakes through the conservation awareness programmes, through educational materials (photographs, posters, brochures, pamphlets, books, banners etc.) and through media (local and national newspapers, FM radio and televisions). For these workshop and awareness programmes, we, Nepal Toxicology Association have coordinated with

Biodiversity Conservancy Nepal, Kaligandaki Health Foundation, Shankarnagar Banbihar and Research Center, and Green Youth Lumbini.





Participants of Lakshminagar, Dhakdhai, Rohini Gaupalika after the workshop



Follow up of the communities in Lakshminagar, Dhakdhai, Rohini Gaupalika, few days after workshop



Follow up of the communities in Padariya, Bhagwanpur, Lumbini Sanskritik Municipality few days after the workshop



After the program at Lumbini Sanskritik Municipality, Green Youth Lumbini as Snake Information Centre

Establishment of Snake Information Centre:

With the help of various leaders from communities, we were able to establish Snake Information Centres at four different communities where our snake conservation workshops and awareness programmes were held. These centres will provide all the

information related to snakes. Few copies of the educational materials printed for education and awareness camps were handed over to these centres for reference copies. Materials supported from other sources on conservation will also be kept in these centres soon. The following organizations/places were agreed to serve as a Snake Information Centre.

1. Shankarnagar Banbihar and Research Centre.
2. Padariya, Bhagwanpur, Lumbini Sanskritik Municipality.
3. Lakshminagar, Dhakdhai, Rohini Gaupalika.
4. Sagrahawa, Makrahar, Tilottama Municipality.



Snake Information Centre in Lakshminagar, Dhakdhai, Rohini Gaupalika



Snake Information Centre in Sagrahawa, Makrahar, Tilottama Municipality

Snake Handling Training, Snakebite First-Aid Training and Tong Distribution Program:

We (Nepal Toxicology Association and Biodiversity Conservancy Nepal) jointly have organised snake handling and snakebite first aid training to the community people. Dr. Chhabilal Thapa, President of Nepal Toxicology Association, have guided us to conduct snakebite first aid training in communities. I and Mr. Ashish Bashyal, President of Biodiversity Conservancy Nepal, have trained the participants to rescue the snakes from one place and to relocate them to nearby suitable habitat safely without any harm to the snakes and to the rescuer as well. We also trained them appropriate first aid methods after snakebite. After the theoretical session by us, both of these snake handling and recommended snakebite first aid methods were practised by the participants themselves. These participants were selected from the different communities on the basis of their interest and capabilities to handle snakes. At the end of the training session, we have distributed a non-collapsible snake tong to the participants representing their communities.

- Lakshminagar, Dhakdhai, Rohini Gaupalika (one pair of snake tongs).
- Padariya, Bhagwanpur, Lumbini Sanskritik Municipality (two pairs of snake tongs).
- Sagrahawa, Makrahar, Tilottama Municipality (one pair of snake tongs).
- Shankarnagar Banbihar and Research Centre, Tilottama Municipality (two pairs of snake tongs).



Mr. Ashish Bashyal, President of BioCon Nepal demonstrating snake handling techniques



One of the participants who is also a snake charmer demonstrating his skills to handle the snake with bare hand without the use of snake tong or any snake handling equipment



Kamal Devkota demonstrating snakebite first-aid treatment to the participants



Participants practicing snakebite first-aid treatment while snake bites in the hand



Participants practicing snakebite first-aid treatment while snake bites in the leg



Participants completing their snakebite first-aid treatment task practically



Participants after receiving the snake tong



DFO Romraj Lamichhane receiving the snake tong

Hoarding Board, Tong, Laminated Poster and Educational Materials Distribution:

We have handed over 8 X 5 ft sized hoarding board to the Shankarnagar Ban Bihar and Research Centre in the presence of President Baburam Aryal and Secretary Khimlal Pandey. They have placed this hoarding board at the entrance of Zoological Garden so that the visitors can easily see and read the information mentioned in the board. Every day, approximately, 400-500 visitors come to visit this place. We also have distributed educational materials (brochures, both in English and Nepali, Posters, Souvenir, Health Bulletin etc.) and Mounted Laminated Framed Poster to them. Two snake tongs were also provided to them to make a rescue and relocation of snakes more safety.



8X5 feet sized hoarding board erected at the entrance of Zoological Garden in Shankarnagar Ban Bihar and Research Centre



Visitors reading the information mentioned in the hoarding board





People reading the information mentioned in board before it was placed at Zoological Garden



Khimlall Pandey, Secretary of the Shankarnagar Ban Bihar and Research Centre, receiving the hoarding board and transporting to placed it at Zoological Garden



Researcher and Team Leader Kamal Devkota at the entrance of Zoological Garden after placing the 8X5 feet sized hoarding board

We have also distributed 5 X 3 ft sized hoarding board to the Arjun Kurmi, Prabhu Prajapati and Jagadish Tharu who are the representatives of Green Youth Lumbini, Bhagwanpur, Lumbini Sanskritik Municipality; Lakshminagar, Dhakdhai, Rohini Gaupalika and Sagrahawa, Makrahar, Tilottama Municipality respectively. They have placed those hoarding boards to suitable places where community people can easily see and read the information.

Establishment of Snake Rescue Centre:

As we mentioned previously, we are planning to establish snake rescue centre at Shankarnagar Banbihar and Research Center and already proposed to related department. Shankarnagar Banbihar and Research Center is excited for this and already selected the suitable site for this work. It is still in the process and as soon as it receives the permission from related department, we will establish a rescue centre soon.