

## Project Update: April 2019

In this phase we successfully conducted the following activities.

### **TASK I: FINDING SUSTAINABLE ALTERNATIVES TO THE HUMAN-USED RESOURCES OF THE KRISHNASAAR CONSERVATION AREA, NEPAL**

This activity was conducted with active participation of the local people living in and around the conservation area, members of Krishnasaar conservation and management council members, and officials from the Krishnasaar Conservation Area. We first conducted a lecture session and shared some information about how earth looks like with and without wildlife, the historical and present global scenario of human-wildlife conflicts and co-existence, benefits of human-wildlife co-existence, practices adapted for human-wildlife co-existence globally and in Nepal, how we can minimise disturbances to wildlife, parallelly upgrade our economy along with biodiversity conservation.



The second section was related to finding appropriate alternatives to human-used resources that are extracted from the conservation area. In this section we mainly focused on following issues and opened floor for open discussion.

#### **Issue 1: Alternatives to crops:**

The discussion forum came up with following alternatives that can be practically used as an alternative to palatable crops raided by blackbuck. Cultivating unpalatable *Mentha* (supermint family) can be a high price crop. There are oil extraction plants in the locality. The present necessity is securing a reliable market to sell the oil, which can be any company or the government. By now, the oil is exported to India at risk.

- a. Sugarcane farming: This can be a good alternative. The sugarcane can be sold to sugar manufacturing companies. Also, sugarcane juice is consumed in high amount during the hot seasons in the local city.
  - b. Underground crops: potato, sweet potato, peanuts, etc.
  - c. Banana and chilli farming, etc.
- These crops are favored by the soil and can be sustainable.

### **Issue 2. Alternatives to firewood extraction in Krishnasaar Conservation Area:**

There is very less conflict for firewood in the conservation area, as the trees are few and tall. Since, government is translocating the resident people inside the conservation area to new places, firewood extraction will be solved.

### **Issue 3. Alternatives to grass extraction from Krishnasaar Conservation Area**

Plantation of shrubs and trees as biological fence around the boundary of crop fields is favoured. Since shrubs and trees are seasonal, some grasses still need to be managed. The CA plans to translocate people living inside the CA and build metal fence.

### **Issue 4. Alternatives to illegally harvested plants and animals from the Krishnasaar Conservation Area**

Mostly, vegetable plants like *Jibre*, *Niuro*, *Saag* (local names) and fish and snails are collected by Tharu community. At the very first they argued that the quantity they extract is negligible, but later were convinced that the species are available in small amounts, they cannot support their need for whole year, and many species might go extinct. Hence, they are motivated to farm fish and poultry and cultivate vegetables in their farm.

### **Issue 5: Community Based Ecotourism:**

The discussion came up with the following outcomes:

Development of living/time spending environment for tourists by building parks, view towers and museums. This can be the successful with the support from government. Improving homestays and adding more homestays with food taste from local farms can be effective. Establishment of hotels for quality living and easy excess roadways to reach there. Additionally, local people will be cultivating organic vegetables and develop handicrafts as gift items. Adding other deer and antelope in the CA can be done after studying if they can live together and CA supports the food for them.

## **TASK 2: CONSERVATION AREA CLEANING PROGRAM- PROTECTING BLACKBUCK AND OTHER WILDLIFE FROM PLASTICS**

Since consumption of plastics by animals can be fatal, we conducted a conservation area cleaning program. The primary goal was to aware school students about the health of wildlife, importance of pollution free habitat for wildlife as well as the risk of consumption of plastics and other anthropogenic pollutants. Thirty students from

different nearby schools, teachers and CA officials actively participated the programme, interacted and discussed well and participated in cleaning event. Teacher Mr Krishna Prasad Kandel and wildlife conservationist Mr Tejab Pun delivered information about the health and hygiene requirements for wild animals and how we can play important roles in keeping wildlife healthy. We made groups and covered whole of the conservation area for collecting pollutants inside the CA. We disposed the pollutants properly.



### **TASK 3: PREPARATION AND INSTALLATION OF TRAFFIC SIGNAL:**

To make vehicle drivers aware of the animal hit by vehicles and to avoid accidents, we installed traffic signals along the roads near the Conservation Area.



#### TASK 4: PROJECT COMPLETION REPORTING

Finally, we presented our project output so far to the local community and CA office. After understanding the scenario and the research outcomes, we shared our results and prioritised that an individual animal can not be kept beyond their life cycle but a population can be conserved practically if managed carefully. Since we are being benefitted with ecosystem services (provisioning, regulating, cultural and supporting), it is our duty to minimize threats and protect the nature.



