

Project Update: January 2019

Activities during October-December 2018

1. Project inception meeting

I completed a project inception meeting in Kathmandu on 22 September 2018 to gather initial background on human-wildlife conflict and relevant methodology to be applied for pilot survey as well as a final survey for collecting baseline data. I invited researchers who have undertaken studies in Humla before, and some old herders who are now living in Kathmandu. The main aim of the inception meeting was to collect initial information and more specifically to discuss the field methodology.

2. Pilot survey

I completed pilot visit to all the major settlements within Namkha Rural Municipality during October and November 2018 and conducted informal discussions with herders and locals about wildlife in the region, types and nature of human-wildlife conflict. This visit was crucial in collecting background information for the final questionnaire design and delivery. The major findings of the pilot survey are presented in the table 1.

Table 1: Ward-wise major settlements within Namkha Rural Municipality and types of conflict with wildlife species

SN	Ward	Settlements	Species and nature of conflict
1	1	Hepka, Dinga, Tangin, Chhu Farka, Palamu, Sabdung	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Black bear => Crop damage, human casualties• Porcupine => Crop damage• Snow leopard => Livestock depredation
2	2	Kermi, Chaduk	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Black bear => Crop damage, human casualties• Porcupine => Crop damage• Jackal => Livestock predation• Snow leopard => Livestock predation

3	3	Khagalgaon, Gumba, Khaloe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black bear => Crop damage, human casualties • Porcupine => Crop damage • Jackal => Livestock predation • Snow leopard => Livestock predation • Common leopard => Livestock predation, human casualties
4	4	Yalwang, Yangar, Chala	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jackal => Livestock predation • Snow leopard => Livestock predation • Common leopard => Livestock predation, human casualties • Black bear => Crop damage, human casualties
5	5	Yari, Zhing, Tumbu, Muchu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Snow leopard => Livestock predation • Jackal => Livestock predation • Blue sheep => Crop damage
6	6	Til, Halji, jang	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Snow leopard => Livestock predation • Wolf => Livestock predation • Jackal => Livestock predation • Blue sheep => Crop damage



Dog-Jackal hybrid pup photographed in Kermi village, Humla.



Tenzing (PI) in informal discussion with women's group chairman at Halji, Humla.



Grazing yak near Jang village, Humla.



Golden Jackal and Himalayan griffon competing for food in Khagalgaon, Humla.