

Project Update: November 2019

Project description

Nepal is listed as one of the countries vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Many indigenous communities depended on natural resources are affected by this environmental catastrophe. Chepang community of Nepal is a highly marginalised indigenous group known for bat hunting. Bats play an important role in pollination of Chiuri (*Diploknema butyracea*) essential plant for the community. In recent years, the community has shifted from a semi-nomadic lifestyle to permanent settlement. However, many are still dependent on natural resources for various economic and traditional purposes. Recently, Chiuri plant and bat species are threatened by several anthropogenic and environmental factors. The inter-relationship between the plant, mammal and the community are in a delicate balance that is increasingly threatened by climate and environmental change. The extent to which this disadvantaged community is aware of this relationship and the impacts of climate change will be assessed and ways to increase their resilience will be explored.

Implementation activities

Permission was granted by the Shaktikhor Ward to conduct the study in the area. Preliminary survey as planned was conducted to pre-test the questionnaire. The questionnaire was divided into three themes:

- Questions on Chiuri plant and Chepang community.
- Questions on bats and Chepang community.
- Questions on climate change and Chepang community.

Once the questionnaire was finalised, questionnaire survey in Shaktikhor VDC of Kalika Municipality, Chitwan District was conducted among Chepang individuals. Brief interviews and discussions were also conducted with some participants and a brief general information discussion was done with the local ward office representatives.

Future plans

Focus group discussion remains to be done with the community. This will be finalising one specific capacity development workshop for the community