

Project Update: February 2023

Executive Summary of the Project

Asiatic black bear is most recently identified on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species in 2016 and is classified as Vulnerable under A2cd criteria, in southern Asia it is considered threatened and as of the studies conducted recently, it is considered as an endangered mammal in Nepal. My research intends to address critical information gaps and establish a baseline data on the black bear distribution, crop raiding and human-attack, conflict area mapping in the Gauri-Shankar Conservation Area (GCA), as well as to increase community knowledge on the importance of black bear conservation through conservation education and outreach programmes. The study area encompasses Dolakha district of Nepal. Similarly, the community will also be made aware of the significance of conserving Asiatic black bears and their need for conservation through this study.

Project Activities

Preliminary Survey: Assessment of local peoples existing knowledge and attitudes toward Asiatic black-bear conservation

I randomly selected 60 households in GCAP (Dolakha district) and asked them some pre-determined questions. I selected people of all age groups to know about the difference in their perception of the black bear. Some pictures of black bears that were extracted from Google and GCAP office were shown to the local people to understand if they can recognise black bears. Most of the people above 50 recognised black bears and mentioned it to be really problematic in the study area. Similarly, the other age groups (25-50 and 10-25) were also resistant to conservation of black bears. Up to now, I have been able to conduct the preliminary survey only and I will be conducting the field survey and questionnaire survey for conflict in April 2023.

Works to be done in 2023 April to July:

- Completion of field survey.
- Questionnaire survey of local people about black bear conservation.
- Preparation of leaflets and posters for additional education programmes.
- Conducting awareness programme with local people.



Figure 1: Interview with local people about their perception on Black bear