

Project Update: October 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 II (Till October 5)

1. Questionnaire Survey completed:

For the questionnaire survey, a systematic approach was employed, involving the selection of households representing 3% of the total households in the study area. This selection process was facilitated with the assistance of National Trust for Nature Conservation - Gaurishankar Conservation Area Project (NTNC-GCAP) officials. To ensure accurate data collection, a local guide accompanied the survey team to identify the survey areas. The questionnaire survey spanned 25 days, and it provided valuable insights into the perceptions and experiences of local residents regarding human-bear conflicts. Data has been taken from a mixed population with different demographics.

2. Distribution Survey:

The study area was divided into 5x5 km grids and random sampling method was used to collect the data. We also undertook an opportunistic survey due to uncertainty of location. The distribution survey has been successfully completed in Bigu Rural Municipality of Dolakha district with the assistance of two field assistants and one local guide. Signs of black bears have been reported in these areas.

Works to be done in 2023 November-December:

- Completion of field survey.
- Preparation of leaflets and posters for additional education programmes.
- Conducting awareness programme to local people.

Photo



Plates:





