

RUFFORD SMALL GRANT

PROGRESS REPORT

Full Name	Ms. Juno Negi
Project Title	Has wildlife had its fair share of the blame? Untangling the role of wildlife in agriculture-abandonment in Garhwal, Uttarakhand, India.
Application ID	38730-1
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The study is being conducted in the Pauri Garhwal district of Uttarakhand, India. The project work has been focussed in the northern region of the district, covering two administrative blocks (also known as CD Block or Community Development Block), namely Pabo and Khirsu.

The project activities are grouped into two broad phases—

Phase I Planning and Execution

Activity 1 Literature review and secondary data

- Secondary data from relevant literature and government reports has been gathered and utilised for the selection of Blocks and villages. Data from the Government of India, Census 2011 has been utilised to stratify villages across 3 blocks based on their respective cultivator population percent.

Activity 2 Primary data collection

- Two sets of comprehensive questionnaires containing both open and close ended questions were prepared in both English and Hindi in the application KoboToolbox. Some of the sections that have been covered in the questionnaire are pertaining to Migrant members, Agriculture and Livestock, Wildlife and Crop loss, including other demographic details. The questionnaires are administered at the household level. Any adult member of the household, preferably the head, or his/her spouse is requested to participate in the interview.

- Our primary data collection methods involve open interviews aided by the questionnaire. To carry out the same, we have, and are following the NCF Wildlife Research Ethics Guidelines (ethics clearance certificate appended here), and the Association of Social Anthropologists of the UK and the Commonwealth (ASA) ethics guidelines.
- Interviews are being conducted by JN with the help of local field assistants.* Till now 30 interviews have been conducted across 7 villages (Figure 1). Each interview takes between 45-60 minutes, and is being audio recorded *only* after obtaining the signed consent of the participant/s. Questionnaire responses are recorded in the survey application KoboCollect.

Activity 3 Data Analysis

- We have initiated preliminary analysis of the data collected till now.

Phase II Documentation and Dissemination

Activity 1 Report Writing and Publishing

- To be undertaken at a later stage

Activity 2 Dissemination of results/findings

- To be undertaken at a later stage

*The fieldwork was hindered by extreme weather conditions, with several areas receiving incessant downpour starting early in June, and continuing still.

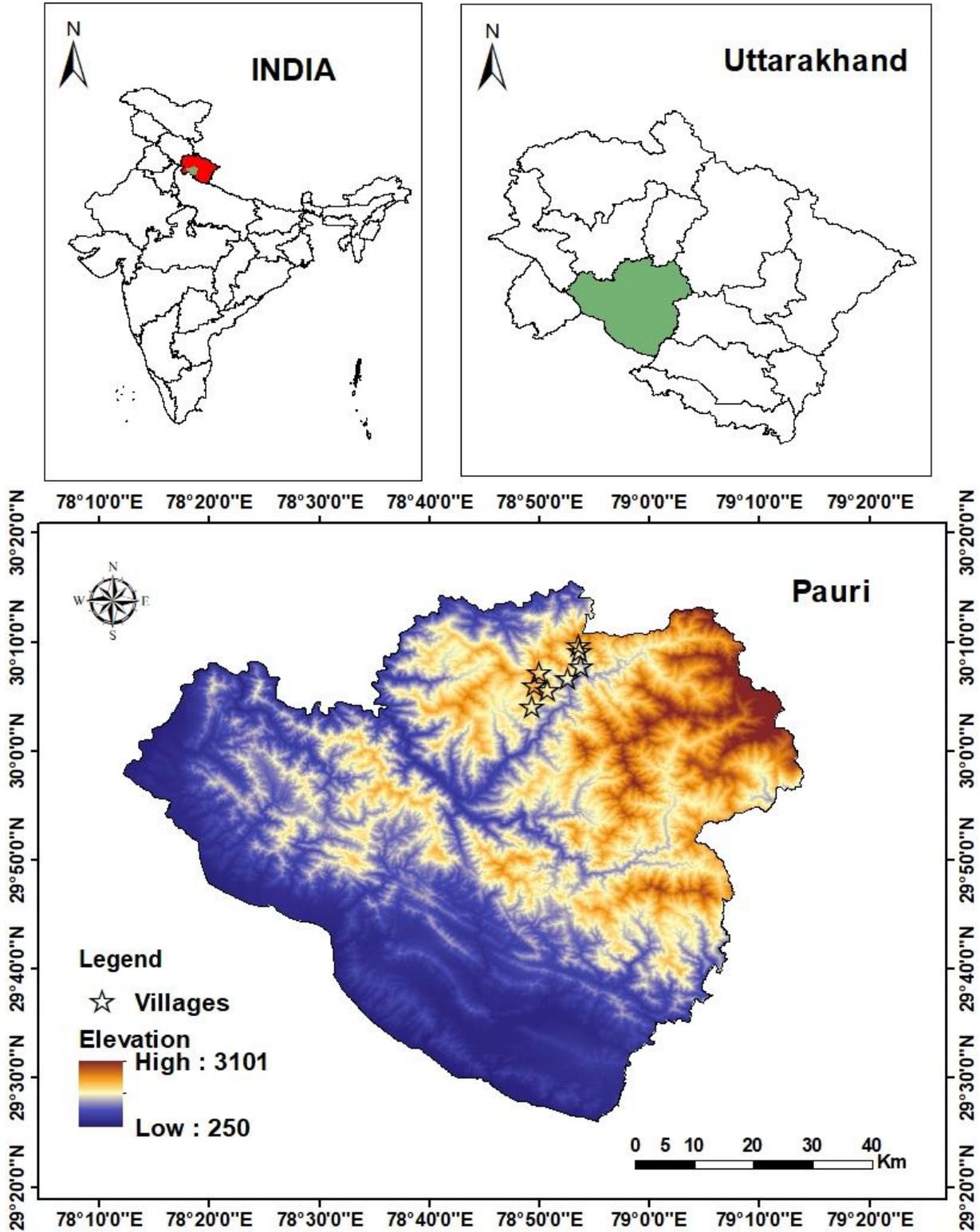


Figure 1 Study area map showing the villages covered till now



Figure 2 Land-use trends in the district Pauri over a 10-year period (2011-21)



Figure 3 Abandoned flanks of agricultural land, and empty houses are a common site in most villages



Figure 4 An interview with the women farmers of a village in Pauri Garhwal



Figure 5 It is quite common to witness a sudden change in weather in the Himalaya. I took this photograph on a day which was fairly sunny to start with, but turned into a picture of grey clouds soon after.