

Project Update: November 2023

Within the two buffer zones of protected areas (Bardia National Park and Chitwan National Park of Nepal) (Figure 1), the community outreach and awareness programmes will be conducted in the purposively selected severe sites in terms of intensities of human-megafaunal conflict (HMC) based on past documented studies and the outputs of my first fieldwork research (Figure 3).

Based on this criterion, the selected buffer zone area will be the south-eastern region of Chitwan National Park (wards of Madi Municipality and Thori Rural Municipality) and the north-western region of Bardia National Park (wards of Thakurbaba Municipality, Geruwa Rural Municipality, and Barahatal Rural Municipality) (Figure 2). The community outreach and awareness programmes will be conducted starting from the beginning of December 2023.

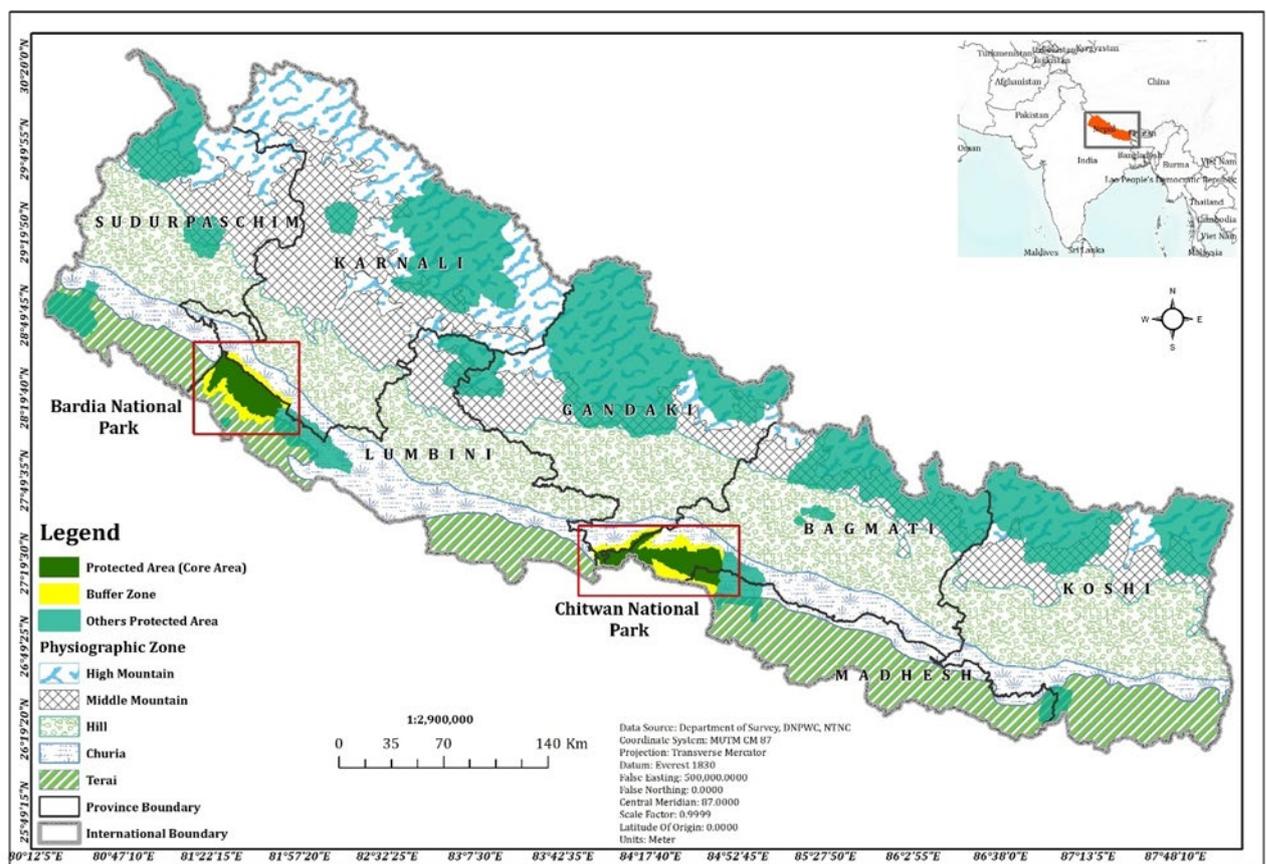


Figure 1. Map of the two buffer zones of Nepal (Bardia National Park and Chitwan National Park)

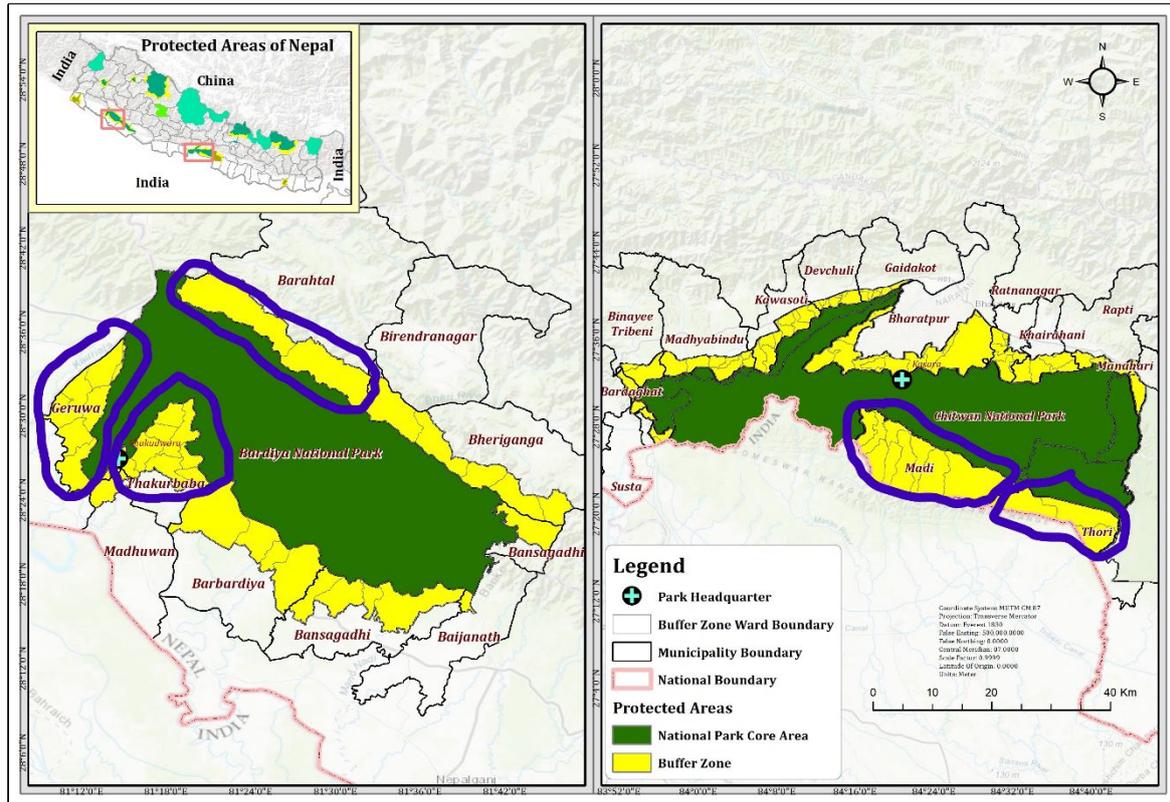


Figure 2. Map of the two study areas (buffer zones) for community outreach and awareness activities. The municipality and rural municipality within the buffer zones are marked with blue circles/ovals on the map.

Major activities during community outreach activities and awareness programs

The participants will be from 10 different local communities or villages within the selected site of each buffer zone. The community outreach and awareness will be performed through the talk programmes consisting of participants groups belonging to local farmers, livestock owners, school, and college students, protected area staff, representatives of buffer zone user committees, and local government offices. Invitations and information on programmes will be sent to the participants soon for those representative groups of people for the scheduled programmes. During the programmes, posters, and charts will be displayed, and the brochures prepared in simple Nepali language with photos, charts, and diagrams will be distributed during the programme.

The brochures will mainly contain information on the major factors for wildlife attacks and damage, ecology, and behaviour of attacking species, safety precautions and measures required for reducing both human attacks and other damages by wildlife as well as ecological importance and measures required for conserving the endangered and threatened wildlife species. In addition, one large hoarding board will be installed and displayed within each local community where the talk programme will be organised. I believe that the talk programs followed by important community outreach information on brochures and hoarding boards will greatly impact the victims' communities by educating and awaking them about the possible risk of wildlife attacks and important measures to conserve wildlife species.

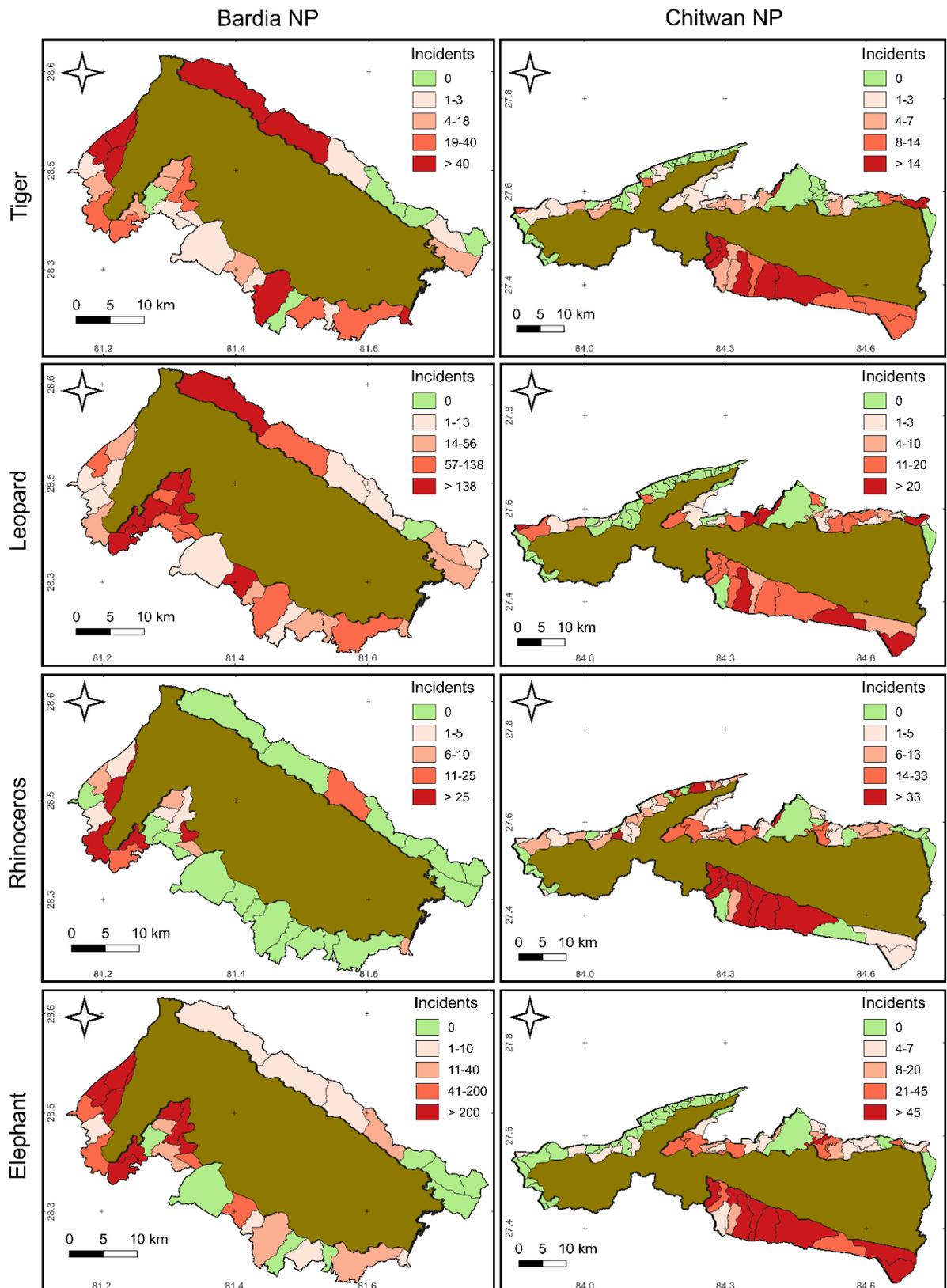


Figure 3. Species-specific number of reported incidents caused by four major megafaunal species in Bardia and Chitwan National Park of Nepal during 2013-2022.