

## Project Update: March 2009

A project “Ensuring Park and People Co-existence in Nepal” being implemented in Chitwan National Park has aimed at assessing human casualties caused by wild animals.

Relevant information and data on human casualties such as number of deaths and injuries, wild animals responsible incidents, reason for the incident and compensation received after the incident were collected from the park buffer zone offices, Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, and the buffer zone management committee. Some victims were visited to observe their living situation after the incident. A semi structured questionnaire was administered to gather first hand information from the victims and buffer zone committee members.

Bear (*Ursus maritimus*), boar (*Sus scrofa*), crocodile (*Gavialis gangeticus*), elephant (*Elephus maximus*), common leopard (*Panthera pardus*), rhino (*Rhinoceros unicornis*), and tiger (*Panthera tigris*) were reported to be the animals responsible for the most human deaths and injuries in these reports. The highest deaths were caused by tiger whilst the greatest injuries were reported to be caused by bear attacks.

In context to Chitwan National Park, the park buffer zone has been providing US\$ 641 (Rs. 50,000.00) for the loss of human life and a maximum US\$ 320 (Rs. 25000.00) for bodily harm. Besides, there is provision of a stipend of US\$ 19 (Rs 1500.00) per year for schooling children of the victims. However, this amount hardly covers the expenses of stationery.

The following are ongoing activities:

1. Data collection and analysis.
2. Conduction of workshop.
3. Writing report.
4. Designing a poster.
5. Communication and coordination for biogas installation.



Injury by bear in Madi



Injury by rhino in Sauraha