

# Strengthening People for Pangolin Conservation in the human-dominated landscapes of Nepal



## 5th Project Update

Submitted To

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## Promote Community-Based Pangolin Conservation Areas as Local Resources/Educational Centers

To promote Community-Based Pangolin Conservation Areas as local resources and educational centers, we have developed interpretative signs and educative banners designed to showcase the ecological and cultural importance of pangolins and their habitats. These materials provide engaging and visually appealing information about pangolin behavior, their critical role in maintaining healthy ecosystems, and the threats they face. Strategically placed within the conservation area, these resources aim to educate visitors, including eco-tourists, researchers, and students, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation for pangolin conservation. By highlighting the uniqueness of these areas, we hope to establish them as hubs for learning, research, and sustainable tourism, encouraging local and global stewardship for these endangered species.



Fig: 1. Pangolin educational banner being installed within Ward office 8 premise, Bhaktapur



Fig: 2. Pangolin education hoarding board beings installed in different strategic locations alongside the forest edge of the Bhaktapur forest and Taudolchhap Community forest



## Conduct community conservation awareness programs

To engage and sensitize diverse groups about pangolin conservation, we conducted targeted school campaigns designed to inspire the younger generation and their communities. These campaigns included interactive learning sessions with visual presentations, storytelling, and activities tailored to students of all ages. Conservation-themed competitions, such as art contests and critical thinking about environmental and biodiversity stewardship. We distributed educational kits, including calendars to ensure that conservation messages extended beyond the classroom. By empowering students with knowledge about pangolins' ecological importance and the threats they face, we aimed to build a foundation for lifelong conservation advocacy within schools and their surrounding communities.



Fig: 3.School kids with pangolin calendar and banners



Fig: 4. Students after conservation classes



Fig: 5. Schools students going through the calendars that were distributed free to all students



Fig: 6 School kids with calendars





Fig: 7. Local shop keeper Aaama reading through the pictures and messages in the calendar



Fig: 8. Pangolin education banners being installed in the famous pilgrimage site of Bhaktapur

## Pangolins and Livelihoods through Sustainable Alternatives

### Capacity-Building Program for Pangolin Conservation and Sustainable Livelihoods

We organized a day-long capacity-building program for 20 interested and underprivileged women to foster local stewardship for pangolin conservation while promoting long-term economic and environmental sustainability. This initiative focused on educating participants about pangolin ecology, community-based monitoring, and developing alternative livelihood options.

#### Training Focus

The training covered income-generating activities such as:

Liquid detergent production

Promotion of eco-friendly tourism

Sustainable farming techniques

By equipping community members with diverse livelihood options, the program aimed to reduce reliance on forest resources, create economic opportunities, and strengthen conservation initiatives.

#### Expert Facilitation

The training was led by Mrs. Laxmi Ranjitkar from Bhaktapur, a highly knowledgeable expert in sustainable livelihood practices. Her expertise ensured the program was well-targeted for local women and marginalized community members.

The program was designed to be informal and interactive to enhance engagement and participation. Participants began with theoretical knowledge, including an introduction to entrepreneurship, startup methods, and key techniques. Practical sessions followed, providing hands-on experience. All participants were supplied with necessary equipment, including gloves, face masks, aprons, chemicals, and bottles. Additionally, five participants received chemical sets to help them kickstart their small-scale businesses.



Fig: 9. Expert Mrs Laxmi Ranjitkar taking class on theoretical session before the demonstration





Fig: 10 Participants in practical session

#### Acknowledgment and Appreciation with token of love

All participants, trainers, and volunteers were provided certificates of training and appreciation letters. Each participants were presented with a Chinese pangolin-printed cup as a souvenir. We have acknowledged the Rufford Foundation, Rufford Small Grants Foundation for the generous financial support and Coalition WILD for the Excellerator Fellowship and Idea wild for equipment support

This initiative not only empowered women by providing alternative livelihoods but also contributed to conservation efforts by reducing community dependence on forest resources. It underscored the importance of sustainable practices for both economic and environmental benefits.



Fig: 11. Certificate distribution in progress by the trainer



Fig: 12. Happy faces of the trainee after receiving certificate, pangolin cup, mask, gloves and chemical set to initiate the business by their own



Fig: 13. Delighted participants with the certificates & trainer





Fig: 14. A group memory with all the participants and trainer



Fig: 15. Our active participants Ms Chinimaya Tamang filling the bottles with the detergent the next day of the training as guided by the trainer



Fig: 16. Some participants with the freely distributed detergent the next day meeting

### Community Dialogues

We facilitated regular meetings and focus group discussions to dispel myths, alleviate fears, and correct misinformation about pangolins. These dialogues emphasized the vital role pangolins play in maintaining healthy ecosystems and supporting sustainable agriculture, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation among community members. During this session, we also taught interested youths to operate the basic process of projector operation with hands on experience.



Fig: 17. Practice with the projector operation





Fig: 18. Talking about the myths, conservation education and updated legal measures on pangolins

### Way Forward

We are collaborating with local governments to incorporate their feedback on pangolin conservation into actionable strategies and ensure its integration into the annual operational plans of local government organizations.

**Thank you very much!**