

Project Update: June 2012

Awareness program

- **Workshop on causes of HTC and its mitigation measures at buffer user committee (BUC) level:**

Conservation awareness based workshop was conducted in two phases; i.e. 1st phase in the month of July 2011, and 2nd phase in the month of March 2012, by involving different stakeholders (Buffer Zone Community Forest User Groups, Eco-clubs, Buffer Zone User Committees, local farmers' group, etc) in order to create awareness about causes of human-tiger conflict and its possible community based mitigation measures. This event helped us to create forum for imparting knowledge and draw the public attention towards biodiversity conservation, and empower them in conservation endeavours.



Figure 1: Workshop cum training



Figure 2: During training session

- **Local Community based FM Radio program (Weekly basis):**

Radio programme named *Conservation Campaign* has been conducting since September 2011 from Vijaya FM Community Radio, a local community-based radio station located in the project area. This is a weekly basis radio programme which was conducted every Friday at 7:00 pm in collaboration with other Rufford grantees; especially to broadcast the biodiversity conservation related issues, challenges and its sustainable conservation measures for public hearings covering large audience at a time. Besides, World Environment Day was celebrated by doing boating at Narayani River (boarding at national park and buffer zone) on 5th June 2012. A large mass of the people comprising of school students and local users had participated in the program. The participants were briefed on the importance of earth's resources such as soil and water resources, forest resources, biodiversity and its conservation as a whole for maintaining the healthy and rich environment.



Figure 3: Earth Day celebration

Conflict mitigation activities, conservation actions and Capacity building programs

- **Establishment of seed fund for piloting livestock insurance scheme at BUC level and their institutionalization:**

Initially we had proposed for the establishment of seed fund for piloting livestock insurance mechanism at three buffer zone user committee (BUC) level with allocating total budget 750 Pound Sterling, but now we realized that its implementation part is really complicated and needs huge budget for proper institutionalization in the BUC level – as it covers larger areas with diverse socio-economic complexity and public interest. Because of these reasons we had added new program; i.e. providing improved cattle shed

and livestock development program as a substitute program. Accordingly, we had provided nine small sized improved livestock shed at three BUC level as a pilot project especially to those people who are affected from wildlife damage and the poorest of affected community. As compensation to losses is very minimal or negligible and awareness level amongst local community to conservation of big cats is low. So, if simple precautions are taken losses can be minimized greatly and situation can be reversed. Therefore, this project has encouraged local communities to construct predation proof livestock shed and stop grazing inside the forest (tiger habitat).



Figure 4: Small sized improved livestock

- **Wildlife habitat management training (grassland and waterholes) to the local users:**

Three days community based habitat management training (grassland, waterholes, etc) with field visit programme was conducted during the month of February 2012. During this period local users were trained and also provided them opportunity in the field observation program of affected sites. This program will form the basis to enhance the capacity of local users towards wildlife habitat management; which will ultimately help the habitat conservation for many endangered wildlife species. In this programme, altogether 40 people from different 20 Community Forest User Groups of BZUC level were participated and trained by couple of forestry/wildlife experts.



Figure 5: Field observation and monitoring. Figure 6: Observational tour at commercial fish farming

- **Conservation based income generating activities :**

A conservation based income generating activity like fishery, livestock development activities were introduced by involving the buffer zone resident communities in order to enhance their livelihoods and thereby reduce human pressure over the park resources. Besides, we organized observational tour at commercial fish farming and livestock farming.



Figure 8: Maintenance of community based fish pond



Figure 9: Livestock farming

- ***Electric fencing maintenance and management:***

Though there were installed electric fences in the human-wildlife conflict prone areas through national park's buffer zone support program, but regular maintenance and management of such resources is lacking due to lack of sufficient fund as well as effective monitoring and evaluation. Thus, we recommend that such activities should be implemented promptly. In order to sustain this program, we had provided financial as well as technical support especially for the maintenance and management of these installed electric fencing.



Figure 10: Electric fencing installed by buffer zone support. Figure 11: Monitoring and maintenance of electric fencing program