I. Continuous intervention led to rescue of three Elongated tortoises

Although no tortoises were found during our field survey, our continued engagement led to the rescue of three elongated tortoises. These rescue efforts were successfully coordinated by local community members. One male and one female tortoise were recovered from Jhapa district, while an additional female was rescued from llam district.

2. Celebration of World Turtle Day

A one-day Turtle Conservation Awareness Program was organized in Hetauda on World Turtle Day. The event featured three distinct activities, all centered on the conservation of tortoise and freshwater turtles. It began with a face painting session, followed by a conservation rally where participants raised their voices against keeping turtles as pets, trading them, and other threats to their survival. The second activity was a community sensitization program involving local government representatives, public service officers, community forest officials, and local residents. The organizing team also set up an interactive booth and engaged the general public in discussions to spread awareness about the conservation of turtles and tortoises in Nepal.



Picture 1: Volunteers engaged in activities of World Turtle Day program

3. Community workshop

Another community workshop was held at Jukekhadi Community Forest to raise awareness about tortoise conservation and foster dialogue with local community members. A total of 20 participants attended the program, where conservation messages were shared through interactive presentations. As a symbolic gesture of commitment, participants pledged their support for tortoise conservation by chanting the mantra: "Do not Keep, Do not Eat, Do not Kill." The program was well received, and officials from the community forest expressed their commitment to supporting conservation efforts.



Picture 2: Conservation awareness program at Jukekhadi Community Forest User Group

4. Continued education program

Participants of the Training of Trainers (ToT) program have continued their efforts by reaching out to various schools across Jhapa district to implement school-based education programs. Our local collaborator, the Turtle Rescue and Conservation Centre (TRCC), is frequently visited by schools for educational purposes. The posters and stickers developed during the project are being effectively used as resource materials to support these educational activities.



Picture 3: Some glimpses of educational event at different educational institutions of Jhapa district

5. Stakeholder discussion

A one-day discussion and information-sharing session was organized at the Turtle Rescue and Conservation Centre, bringing together key stakeholders in turtle conservation. Participants included representatives from local government bodies (Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Ward Chairperson, and municipal/ward members), Division Forest Officials, Community Forest Representatives, youth groups, women's groups, journalists, and other interested individuals. The session featured presentations highlighting ongoing turtle conservation efforts, existing challenges, and future needs. Two key outcomes emerged from the event: the Division Forest Office expressed serious concern over turtle exploitation and pledged support for enforcement actions, while Arjundhara Municipality committed to supporting future research and conservation initiatives for turtles and tortoises.







Picture 4: Stakeholder discussion and information-sharing session