

**Project Title: Conflict to Co-Existence: Empowering Local Communities to Reduce Human-Elephant Conflict in Far-West Nepal**

**Project no: 40414-2**

**February 2025 UPDATE**

**Report for Rufford Foundation**

**Activity 1: Engagement with Shuklaphanta National Park (ShNP) Officials and Buffer Zone Users' Committee Members**

**Pre-Implementation Activities and Community Engagement**

Prior to initiating the community awareness campaign, an introductory consultation meeting was convened with the Buffer Zone Management Committee, chaired by Mr. Purushottam Wagle, Conservation Officer at Shuklaphanta National Park, Kanchanpur. The meeting served to present and discuss the project objectives, as well as to plan the project's activities. Through participatory discussion with the user groups, we identified priorities, and key activities were finalized. The participants contributed meaningful insights and constructive suggestions on the complexities of the human-elephant conflict (hereafter, HEC), reflecting a high level of community engagement and reinforcing the program's potential to drive positive and community-led outcomes.



**Photo:** Pre-implementation project meeting with the Buffer Zone Management Committee, attended by Mr. Purushottam Wagle (Conservation Officer of Shuklaphanta National Park)

Initially, the project proposed educational outreach programs in three local schools. However, based on community recommendations, the initiative was expanded to six

schools—three from each of the Bedkot and Shuklaphanta user committees. Activities included essay competitions, art contests, and school seminars, all designed to enhance understanding of elephant behavior and conflict management. These events were well received and deemed highly effective, as they provided students with essential knowledge about human-elephant conflict and elephant behavior. Students shared the knowledge they had gained with their families and communities, thereby extending the program's impact across the wider community.

Similarly, the initial plan included organizing three Livelihood Opportunities Trainings for local communities and two Training of Trainers (ToT) sessions on immediate deterrence methods for the Rapid Response Teams. However, following consultations with local communities and members of the Buffer Zone User Groups, the plan was revised to better reflect local needs. As a result, three Training of Trainers (ToT) programs were conducted, focusing on practical and immediate deterrence techniques for mitigating human-elephant conflict by local Rapid Response Teams.

### **Education Awareness material design and printing and distributed**

A total of 200 posters and 300 brochures were produced and distributed to raise public awareness about human-elephant conflict (HEC) and elephant conservation. These materials were shared with the Buffer Zone Management Committee, user groups, local communities, and school students to promote coexistence, highlight preventive measures, and encourage active community participation in elephant conservation. The posters featured essential information on conflict mitigation strategies, safety tips for elephant encounters, and methods to protect crops and property. They also explained the causes of conflict, the role of Rapid Response Teams (RRTs), and emphasized the importance of community cooperation. The materials were user-friendly, incorporating visual illustrations and Nepali language.

**परिचय**

राष्ट्रिय रोग प्रज्ञाकारी एलफन्ट अभियान भारत (Elandotara Aikyaan Bharat) (Elandotara Aikyaan Bharat) अभियान एलफे हाती (Elandotara Aikyaan Bharat) राखेन । एलफन्ट हाती एलफन्ट अभियान एलफन्ट अभियान १३ मुकुटकायन करि ६८-७० हजारको संख्यामा रहेको छ । एलफन्ट हाती अभियान राखन हाती भन्दा बढी छ । एलफन्ट हाती अभियान राखन हाती भन्दा बढी छ । एलफन्ट हाती अभियान राखन हाती भन्दा बढी छ ।

**राष्ट्रिय रोग प्रज्ञाकारी एलफन्ट अभियान**

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## Activity 2. Radio jingle development and broadcasting

Since October 2024, educational radio jingles on elephant conservation and HEC mitigation have been broadcast thrice daily (6:30 am, 7:30 am, and 8:00 pm) on Radio Mahakali. These jingles aim to raise awareness on elephant behavior, conflict causes, and preventive strategies. The radio program has become a vital outreach tool by reaching remote and vulnerable communities, covering areas beyond the immediate project areas, and extending the impact to wider communities. While the original project proposal mentioned a broadcast period of only three months, the project has since collaborated with local media partners who have expressed interest in continuing the awareness broadcasts for up to one year. This campaign is scheduled to continue broadcasting until October 2025, helping to sustain the message and strengthen behavior change. Community feedback indicates that the program has been effective in improving knowledge and fostering a more informed, proactive approach to elephant conservation and human safety. At the same time, an awareness news article on human-elephant conflict was published in New Janakranti Daily to enhance public knowledge.

इन्द्र न्यूनीकरणका उपायहरू अपनाउँ, हातीलाई मिलनसार साथी बनाउँ र आफू पनि बच्चा हातीलाई पनि बचाउँ ।

## मानव-हाती बीच द्वन्द्व होइन सहअस्तित्व कायम गरौं



Rufford

Rufford Small Grant  
को सहयोगमा मानव-हाती द्वन्द्व न्यूनीकरण  
र माथ्याडोर्छे क्षेत्रको विकास परियोजना

बष जानकारीका लागि: awbalramnschu@gmail.com

In Collaboration with



Media Partner

### हाती संरक्षण किन?

१. हाती संसारकै सबैभन्दा ठूलो शाकाहारी, लोपोन्मुख अमूल्य प्राणी हो।
२. हाती र मानिस बिचको सम्बन्ध प्रत्यक्ष अर्थात अप्रत्यक्ष रूपमा परापूर्वकालदेखि निकै घनिष्ट रहेको छ।
३. हाती अत्यन्त बुद्धिमानी र धार्मिक तथा सांस्कृतिक महत्त्व बोकेको प्राणी हो।
४. हातीलाई दैनिक जसो १५०-२०० किलो खानाको आवश्यकता पर्छ र खाएको त्यो खाना, नोबर वा मलको रूपमा प्राप्त हुन्छ जसले नयाँ विश्वा उम्रिनुमा मद्दत पुऱ्याउछ र प्राकृतिक सन्तुलन कायम राख्छ।

### द्वन्द्व बाट बच्नका लागि के गर्ने त?

१. हातीको आनीबानी, मौसम, बसाइँसराइ एवं हाती हिड्ने बाटो र सम्भावित क्षेत्रको जानकारी राख्ने र सुरक्षा उपाय अपनाउने। सम्भव भए वस्ती स्थानतर्फ गने।
२. हाती कतै छ जानकारी राख्ने र हाती आएको बाह्य पाउना साथ सुरक्षित स्थानमा बस्नुहोस्।
३. मानव जीवनको रक्षा अन्य भन्दा महत्त्वपूर्ण हुन्छ त्यसैले उपयुक्त सुरक्षा विधि अपनाउनुस्।
४. घरेलु मदिना र नुन हातीलाई धेरै मन पर्छ त्यसको वास्ना वा लोभले हाती माउँ बस्तीमा आउने गर्दछ त्यसैले जाँड रक्सीको सेखन नगर्नुस् तथा घरमा पनि नराख्नुहोस्।
५. हातीले क्षती नपुऱ्याउने बालीहरू जस्तै आलु, खुर्सानी, कानली, पिँडालु, सुती, अदुवा खेती गर्नुहोस्।
६. हातीलाई लक्ष्मेट्ठा सुरक्षित स्थानबाट समूहमा लखेट्ने र सम्बन्धीत निकायमा खबर गर्ने र उपयुक्त विधि अपनाउनुहोस्।
७. घर वरिपरि भौँडी र बोटहरू नराख्नुस्, घर वरिपरि बली वा आमो बालेर उज्यालो राख्नुहोस्।
८. हाती छेकवारको लागि विद्युतीय तारबार, सिउँडी र मीरीपालन अपनाउन सकिन्छ।
९. मानव-हाती बीचको द्वन्द्व न्यूनीकरण बारे जनचेतना अभिवृद्धि तथा समुदायमा सुचना दिई एक सचेत नागरिकको भूमिका निर्वाह गर्नु।
१०. तपाईंको माउँघरमा जसरी हाती आइपुग्नेमा नजिकको सुरक्षा निकाय, वनकार्यालय, राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्ज तथा नौज-वस्ति वासीलाई खबर गर्नुहोस्।

### हाती संरक्षण कसरी गर्ने ?

१. वन जंगल तथा वासस्थान सुधार् नरी र हातीको दैनिक मार्गलाई क्षती नपुऱ्याउँ (बचाउँ)।
२. हाती एक प्राणी हो त्यसैले हामी होक्सान नगर्ने भन्दाैमा करेन्ट अथवा बन्दुकले हातीको प्राण नसर्ने बरु हातीले नगर्ने क्षतीबाट बच्ने उपायहरू अपनाउँ।
३. हातीका अग्रहस्को चोरी-शिकारी जस्ता अपराधिक गतिविधिहरूलाई रोक्ने।
४. माउँ-समाजमा हातीको महत्त्वबारे जनचेतना फैलाउँ र हातीलाई बचाउन संरक्षण अभियान लाई सफल बनाउनको निम्ति सबैले मिलेर हातेमालो नरी।

## Activity 3: School Based Conservation Awareness Programs

From December 2024 to January 2025, a series of educational seminars and essay and arts competitions were conducted in six schools situated within the buffer zones of the Bedkot and Shuklaphanta user groups. These initiatives aimed to raise awareness among students through interactive lectures and creative competitions about elephant conservation and practical strategies for mitigating HEC. The program featured interactive learning sessions, essay writing, and arts competitions, encouraging students' active participation and motivating them to become young ambassadors for elephant conservation.

## Schools Participating in Different Activities:

### 1. Ganesh Adharbhuṭ Vidyalyaya, Bedkot Municipality

An essay writing competition was held, drawing enthusiastic and active participation from students. Mr. Keshav Joshi secured first place, Mr. Himansu Joshi came second, and Ms. Shrijal Shah secured third place. Prizes were awarded to the top three students, and



certificates of participation were distributed to all contestants. The event was honored by Mr. Arjun Singh Kadayat, President of the Bedkot User committee, and Headmaster Mrs. Manju Joshi, along with teachers and students. The program fostered enthusiasm and encouraged engagement in elephant conservation efforts.



**Photo: School seminar and prize distribution program at the Ganesh Adharbhut Vidyalaya**

### **Shree Ratna Secondary School, Chatari, Bedkot Municipality**

An art competition was organized to showcase students' creativity in drawing. Ms. Srijana Sharki secured first place, Ms. Ramita Sunar second, and Ms. Smarika Tamata third. Prizes and certificates were distributed to the contestants. The prize distribution ceremony was held in the presence of Mr. Arjun Singh Kadayat, President of the Bedkot user committee, Headmaster Mr. Sher Bahadur Sharki, school staff, and students.



**Photo: School seminar and prize distribution program at the Ratna Secondary School**

### **Shree Nav Durga Adharbhuṭ Vidyālaya, Nayagaun, Bedkot Municipality**

An essay competition was conducted with the participation of ten students. Ms. Prerana Pant secured first place, while Mr. Bibek Thapa and Ms. Bhuwaneshwori Kathayat were awarded second and third positions, respectively. Prizes were distributed to them, and all participants received certificates along with educational materials to recognize their contributions. The prize distribution ceremony was held in the presence of Mr. Arjun Singh Kadayat, President of the Bedkot User Committee; Headmaster Mr. Maheshwor Datt Bhatta; along with other school staff and students. The program effectively encouraged students to engage thoughtfully with conservation themes, fostering greater awareness and interest in elephant protection.



Photo: School seminar and prize distribution program at the Shree Nav Durga Adharbhuṭ Vidyālaya, Kanchanpur

### **Shree Laxmi Secondary School Khairbhatti, Bheemdatt Municipality-15**

Twelve students participated in the essay competition. Prizes were awarded to the top three performers, and certificates of participation were distributed to all contestants. The prize distribution ceremony was held in the presence of Headmaster Mr. Prakash Chand and other school staff and students.





Photo: School seminar and prize distribution program at the Shree Laxmi Secondary School

### **Shree Siddhanath Secondary School, Badaipur, Bheemdatt Municipality**

A total of 22 students participated in the essay competition. Prizes were awarded to the top three performers, and certificates of participation were distributed to all contestants. The event was conducted in the presence of Conservation Officer Mr. Purushottam Wagle from Shuklaphanta National Park, Headmaster Mr. Jaya Bahadur Bista, and other school staff and students. The students actively engaged in the program, demonstrating strong interest and enthusiasm for elephant conservation and human-elephant conflict (HEC) mitigation activities.



Photo: School seminar and prize distribution program at the Shree Siddhanath Secondary School

### **Shree Baijnath Vidhya Niketan Awasiya Vidhyalaya, Bheemdatt Municipality**

A drawing competition was organized, where students actively showcased their artistic talents to express ideas about elephant conservation. Prizes were awarded to the top three performers, and certificates of participation were distributed to all contestants. The event was conducted in the presence of Headmaster Mr. Bhandev Bhatta and school staffs and students. The students actively engaged in the event, showing strong interest and enthusiasm for elephant conservation and human-elephant conflict (HEC) mitigation activities.



Photo: School seminar and prize distribution program at the Shree Baijnath Vidhya Niketan Awasiya Vidhyalaya

### **Overall Impact:**

These school-based awareness programs proved highly effective in promoting elephant conservation and fostering a deeper understanding of human-elephant conflict among the young generation. Through the combination of educational content, creative competitions, and stakeholder involvement, students explored key topics including:

- The ecological importance of elephants
- Causes and prevention of human-elephant conflict
- Peaceful coexistence with the Elephant



#### Activity 4: Installation of Awareness Hoarding Boards

Two hoarding boards were installed to raise awareness on elephant behaviour, conservation, and HEC mitigation. The first board was placed at Champa Chowk in the Bedkot user committee area, and the second board was repaired and reinstalled at Madan Chowk in Bheemdatta Municipality, further expanding outreach to local communities. The installation were carried out in the presence of Mr. Purushottam Wagle, Conservation Officer of Shuklaphanta National Park, the President, Mrs. Bhanmati Khadayat, of the Bedkot user committee, and other user committee members and representatives.



#### Activity 5: Field Survey and data collection

The second phase of the field survey was conducted in January and February 2025, covering five key user committees. Data were collected through structured questionnaires documenting crop loss, human and property damage, and the timing, locations, and demographics of conflict incidents. Spatio-temporal patterns of conflict were assessed through surveys, interviews, observations, and field visits. The survey aims to identify conflict hotspots and guide future mitigation efforts. A total of 250 questionnaires were completed during the project period, and data analysis is ongoing.

#### Conclusion

The project's activities have successfully laid the foundation for long-term engagement and collaborative conflict mitigation. Community-driven approaches have strengthened both the relevance and effectiveness of each initiative. Moreover, the collected field data will support a comprehensive analysis of human-elephant conflict

(HEC) patterns and the effectiveness of existing mitigation measures. The project will continue to foster a collaborative environment for elephant conservation in Nepal.

Photo@Balram Awasthi & Suraj Joshi, Gorakh Saud, Sarita Bhatt