Project Update: December 2024
Project ID: 41915-1
Project Location: Syangja, Nepal

Activity 1: Bat Garden Creation

We have successfully created three bat gardens in Syangja. Each garden was designed to provide a natural foraging environment by planting insect-attracting flowers, including Marigold, Godawari (Chrysanthemum), Hibiscus, and Parijat (Night-flowering jasmine). These plants attract insects, providing bats with a natural food source and promoting their well-being. Before the creation of these gardens, a bat count survey was conducted at each garden and each cave entrance to establish a baseline for bat activity. After the flowers bloomed, a follow-up bat count was carried out to monitor changes in bat presence and activity levels. The gardens are created and maintained with the active participation of local communities, promoting habitat enhancement for insect-eating bats and ensuring sustainability.

Figure 1: Plantation of flowers for creation of bat garden

Figure 2: Bat garden creation (plantation of flowers and bamboo fencing)

Figure 3: Bat garden monitoring after blooming of flowers

Activity 2: School Conservation Camp

Three school conservation camps were conducted, engaging a total of 130 students across three school in Syangja. The camps focused on raising awareness about the importance of bats in maintaining ecological balance and their role in pest control and pollination. Interactive activities such as presentations, discussions, and poster demonstrations were conducted to make the sessions informative and engaging. Feedback collected after the sessions indicated a significant improvement in students' knowledge and a positive attitude towards bats. By involving students, we aim to cultivate a generation of conservation-minded individuals who will advocate for bats and biodiversity. A pre survey to understand the knowledge and attitude of the students was conducted prior to conservation camps. A follow-up post survey will be conducted after six months to monitor the change in knowledge and attitude towards bats.

Figure 4: Participants attending conservation camp at Araniko Secondary School

Activity 3: Public Conservation Camps

Three public conservation camps were organized, involving 60 local community members**.** The camps focused on raising awareness about ecological importance of bats such as their role as controlling insect's populations and contributing to pollination and seed dispersal. Participants were introduced to practical conservation strategies, such as creating bat-friendly habitats, reduce pesticide use, and disturbances around roosting sites. Awareness material including

posters were distributed during these sessions to extend the message of bat conservation beyond the participants.

These camps created a platform for dialogue, where participants shared their perceptions and experiences with bats. By the end of the sessions, many participants expressed a deeper appreciation for bats and were positive about supporting conservation initiatives.

Figure 5: Participants with bat poster after successful public conservation camp

Activity 4: Organic Fertilizer and Organic Pesticides Training

We successfully conducted two training sessions on organic fertilizer and organic pesticides production, with a total of 47 participants. The training emphasized using locally available resources, such as agricultural residues, and animal manure, to produce eco-friendly fertilizers and pesticides. Participants were trained on step-by-step processes, including material collection, composting and creating nutrient rich fertilizer and pesticides. Demonstrations were conducted to ensure hands-on learning, and to support this effort, fertilizer-making drums were distributed to participants, enabling them to apply the skills learned during the training. The training was facilitated by the experts from Agriculture Department of Putalibazar Municipality, Syangja.

The training sessions aimed to reduce dependency on chemical fertilizers, which can harm both the soil and insect population – primary food source for bats. All the participants were provided with a bin to prepare the fertilizers and pesticides at home. In addition, these practices contribute to sustainable farming and provide an economic benefit to the community by reducing input costs.

Figure 6: Organic fertilizer and pesticide making training for participants of Putalibazar, Syangja

Figure 7: Organic fertilizer and pesticide making training for participants of Rangbang and Khangrang, Syangja

Figure 8: Poster for bat conservation

Figure 9: Local’s collecting materials for organic fertilizer and pesticide making

Figure 10: Material preparation for Organic Fertilizer and pesticide

Figure 11: Team leader monitoring bat garden with her 11 month old baby