

Promoting Human-Elephant Coexistence in Central Terai of Nepal

Application Id: 45676-C

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Project Update: 1st January 2026

Background

In Nepal, >200 wild elephants are confined to a narrow strip of fragmented Siwalik/Terai forests, divided into four subpopulations. One key subpopulation resides in the central Terai region, spanning Chitwan, Parsa, Bara, and Dhanusha districts. This area is densely populated, and over centuries, forest encroachment and land conversion have reduced elephant habitats and disrupted traditional migration routes. While protected areas like Chitwan and Parsa National Parks offer some safety, elephants require vast territories and often roam beyond these zones, frequently crossing large areas of central Terai.

Outside protected areas, elephants are increasingly vulnerable to human-induced threats, especially conflicts with people. Human-elephant conflict (HEC) is more common in areas outside protected zones, particularly along forest fringes where marginalized communities with limited awareness of elephant behavior live. Many incidents of elephant attacks can be attributed to human actions, which could be avoided through better education and awareness. Research and the Elephant Conservation Action Plan for Nepal (2009–2018 & 2025-2035) emphasize the importance of awareness programs to mitigate such conflicts (DNPWC, 2008). Through past RSG funded initiatives, I have conducted human-elephant coexistence awareness programs in Chitwan, Parsa, Bara, Dhanusha, Sunsari, Saptari and Udaypur districts. These efforts have positive impacts in the communities, reducing human deaths and injuries from elephant attacks. However, recent increases in HEC highlight the need for continued education. This project aims to scale up awareness programs in the central Terai (Chitwan, Parsa, Bara and Dhanusha districts), refreshing local knowledge of elephant behavior and fostering better human-elephant coexistence. By doing so, we hope to reduce conflicts and promote harmonious living between elephants and local communities. The project started in May 2025.

Most of the activities proposed in the project have been completed and few are in progress. This report provides the update on the implementation status of the various activities of the project.

Activities summary

SN	Activity	Progress/achievements	Remarks
1	TOT on Human-Elephant Coexistence (HECx) in Bara (Planned for 18 LRPs)	28 locals participated in TOT program in Bara	In Bara each 4 participants were invited from Chitwan and Dhanusha.
2	Refresher HECx TOT in Chitwan (for 18 LRPs)	20 LRPs participated	
3	Human-Elephant Co-existence Poster	Designed and printed 1000 copies and distributed to ToT participants.	ToT participants shared those posters in their communities during their education outreach programs.
4	HECx Manual updated and printed 150 copies	HECx manual distributed to ToT participants	Manual will be upload and make free to download in my HECx Blog (https://jungalihatti.blogspot.com/)
5	Radio Jingles	Radio Jingles were produced and broadcasted since November 2025	All Jingles will be upload in the blog by the end of January.
6	Human-Elephant Co-existence Education video	18 minutes long educational video was developed and shown in the ToT program. The video is in the form of drama with important messages on elephant's behavior, and actions to reduce human-elephant conflicts.	The video will be Officially Premiering on 11 th January on the "2 nd National Congress of Zoology" among 100s zoologist of the country. After this the video will make available on YouTube channel of Wild Care Nepal to give access to everyone. The participants during the ToT has greatly admired the video.
7	Education Board on HECx	Education board has designed	It will be installed in three different districts in third week of January

मानिस हातीबीचको सह-अस्तित्व



हाती परिसरको गाउँमा । छुट्टा टाढै हाती घानबारीमा अघिअघि आउँदछ ।



है र । त्यसो भए त लौरो भाला हातियार के के छुनु सबै लिएर निस्कौ ।



त्यसो नगारौ । हातीलाई चोट लाग्ने गरी हातहातियारको प्रयोग गर्न हुन्न ।



सुरक्षित रही राँको बाल्ने, टिना, झुम टटाएर हाती सेदाउनु बुझिनुपर्ने हुन्छ ।

हाती गाउँमा आएमा गर्न हुने



✓ सुरक्षित दुरीमा ठाडै रहेर हातीलाई सेदाउनु पर्छ ।

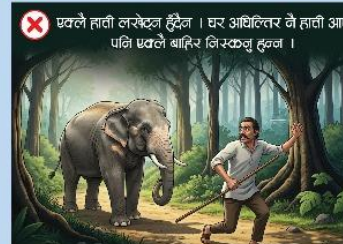


✓ सुरक्षित दुरीमा ठाडै रहेर हातीलाई सेदाउनु पर्छ ।



✓ घर वरपर खुल्ला राखौ । हाती आउने बाटोमा तारबार बाँसको बार र अग्लो मयान बनाएर निगरानी गरौ ।

हाती गाउँमा आएमा गर्न नहुने



✗ छुट्टै हाती लसेट्टा हुँदैन । घर अघिलेतिर नै हाती आए पनि छुट्टै बाहिर निस्कनु हुन्न ।



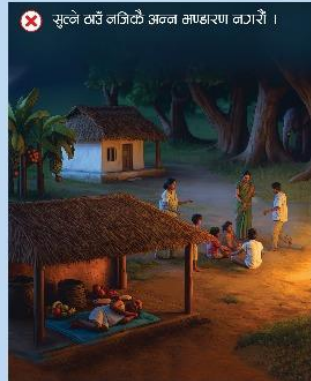
✗ हाती लसेट्टा पारेतिरबाट घेरा हाल्नु हुँदैन । हातीलाई जंगलतिर जान सजिलो हुने गरी लसेट्टा गर्नु पर्छ ।



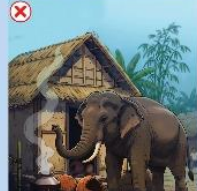
✗ हातीलाई चोटपटक लाग्ने गरी हाती नजिक जानु हुँदैन । हातीलाई चोटपटक लाग्ने हातहातियारको प्रयोग पनि गर्न हुन्न ।



✗ घर नजिकै हातीलाई मनपर्ने फलफुल मलगाउँ ।



✗ सुत्ने ठाउँ नजिकै अन्न माथारण नगारौ ।



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मानिस र हातीबीचको सह-अस्तित्वबारे बुझौ हातीबाट जोडिने उपायबारे समुहमा छलफल गरौ ।



Representative Field photos















