



Status Survey and Conservation of Fishing Cat (*Prionailurus viverrinus*) in Parasi district, Nepal

Project ID: 44076-I

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Implementing organization: Wildlife Conservation and Research Endeavour (WILD CARE) Nepal

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Activity updates

1. Permissions for field work

Status - Obtained

We obtained the necessary permissions to carry out the field work in our study site. These included permits from Department of Forest and Soil Conservation (DoFSC), Social Welfare Council, Division Forest Office (Parasi) and Local governments.

2. Preliminary field visits

Status – Completed

A preliminary field visit was conducted in January 2025 to understand the current field scenario. During this time, necessary rapport was also established with local authorities, such as rural municipalities and the Division Forest Office, to inform them about the project activities. Potential sites were visited with the help of local resource person. A pilot questionnaire survey was also conducted before the actual survey in the surrounding area to gain insights about the area while also checking the effectiveness of the prepared questions. Based on our observation and information gathered, we decided to focus on only two rural municipalities – Pratappur and Susta for our subsequent field works.

3. Development of outreach materials

Status - Completed

Outreach material was prepared that consist of posters (n=1000), stickers (n=500), t-shirt (n=50). Likewise, road signs (n=2) and one information board about fishing cats were also prepared.

5. Fishing Cat February 2025

Status – Completed

As stated, four local participants were supported to attend the training program organized by WILD CARE that focused on conservation outreach for small wild cats. One of the key species highlighted in the program was fishing cat. To maximize the project impact, this year's program was purposely organized within our project site.

6. Camera trap survey

Status – First phase completed

Camera trap surveys were initiated in April. As the site is a human-dominated landscape, we used habitat indicators such as wetlands, fish ponds, and adjacent agricultural fields to guide camera placement. Eight stations were identified, and cameras were placed in pairs whenever

possible. Each station was operational for 15 days, yielding a total of 150 trap nights. No fishing cats were detected during this period; however, a significant number of other wildlife species occurring in the region were recorded. The data are currently being sorted for further analysis. WILD CARE will continue camera trapping in other seasons to address seasonal variation in fishing cat movement and improve detection opportunities.

7. Questionnaire survey

Status – incomplete

Questionnaire surveys were carried out in parallel with camera trap surveys in Pratappur Rural Municipality. A total of 100 respondents were surveyed following a set of prepared questions over a period of 15 days. During the survey, attempts were made to understand peoples' knowledge about the local biodiversity. The data entry is currently taking place.

Plans ahead

1. Continuing questionnaire survey in remaining study sites
2. Carry out second phase of camera trapping
3. Carry out conservation awareness program in schools and local communities
4. Install information board and road signs for wildlife safety

Appendix



Photograph 1: Interactions with local people during the questionnaire survey



Photograph 2: Some snapshots during the Wild Cats Series 2025 program



Photograph 3: Camera trap surveys at Parasi district; **a & b**: PI setting up camera traps at different sites **c**: An individual of Small Indian Civet *Viverricula indica* captured in one of the camera traps