Promoting human-tiger coexistence in Parsa National Park

[Interim Report]

August 2025

Submitted to

WildCats Conservation Alliance

Reporting Period

1 February 2025 – 31 July 2025

WildCats interim (mid-year) Reporting Form

This report will be made public. If it contains confidential or sensitive information, please also provide a revised report for sharing with the public.

Section I. Project Information

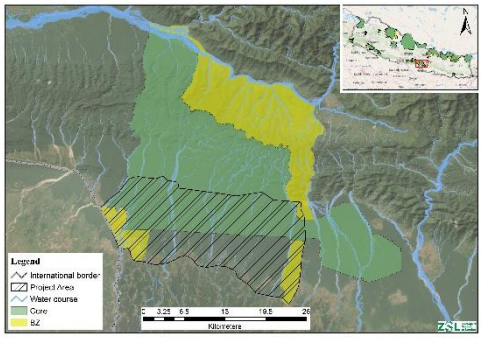
Project Title: Promoting human-tiger coexistence in Parsa National Park

Grantee Organisation: Zoological Society of London

Location of project: Southern part of PNP and its buffer zone, adjoining national, collaborative forests (27.223384N, 84.820104E)

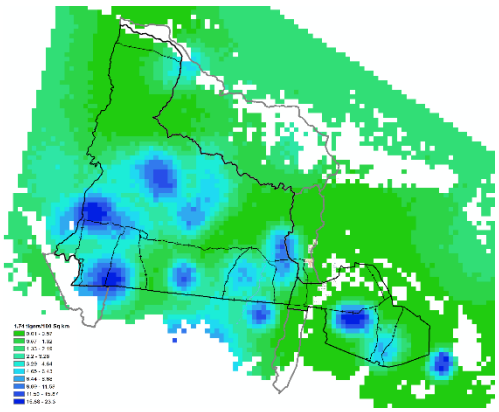
Size of project area (if appropriate):

This project is implemented in Parsa National Park, which has a total area of 627.39km^2 (including 30 km^2 settlement), adjoining collaborative forest (109 km^2) and adjoining settlement (33 km^2)



No of tigers and / or Amur leopards in project area, giving evidence & source:

Tigers number in PNP: 41 (±SE 2.8) (38-50 at 95% CI)



Partners: *(Please give details of partners, including communities, academic institutions etc. for this project.*

Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC)

The DNPWC is the government authority responsible for managing all the Protected Areas (PAs) of Nepal. ZSL has signed a MoU with DNPWC in 2014 and has a close working relationship with the DNPWC and PA managers and staff including Parsa National Park. DNPWC facilitates project implementation and is responsible for overall monitoring and evaluation of the project as stated in the MoU between DNPWC and ZSL through Project Coordination Committee (PCC) (detailed in monitoring and evaluation section). The project will help DNPWC improve prey abundance and water supply in strategic locations in the park area, helping to sustain a healthy tiger population. In turn, this will reduce the probability of Human Tiger Conflict (HTC. Valuable knowledge gained from this project will be applied to other tiger-inhabited PAs of Nepal, helping to mitigate HTC. The project was prepared under the guidance of DNPWC and facilitates in contributing to important

policy documents such as Tiger Conservation Action Plan (2023 – 2032), Management plan of PNP and its buffer zone (2023/24 – 2027/28), TAL Strategy and Action Plan (2015 – 2025.

Parsa National Park (PNP)

In 1984 PNP was gazetted as a wildlife reserve, primarily aiming to preserve the wild Asian elephant and their remaining habitat. Moreover, the park holds estimated 41 wild tigers along with some other globally important wildlife species such as dhole, sloth bear, sambar deer, etc. It is one of the important areas which connected with Chitwan National Park (CNP) and Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR) in India to form Chitwan-Parsa-Valmiki Complex. The complex is a vast expanse of protected forested land, spans 100 km of the Terai Arc landscape and has been designated as a crucial and prominent territory for tiger conservation. CNP in Nepal boasts a thriving tiger population which serves as a source for both VTR in India and Parsa National Park, demonstrating the transboundary nature of this landscape. The 2015 expansion of PNP was significant, extending PNP's area to 627.39 sq.km from 499 sq. km, and in 2017 its status was upgraded to a National Park, ensuring additional protections. ZSL has established Project Management Unit (PMU) at PNP, chaired by the Senior Conservation Officer of PNP and members including officer of ZSL, facilitate and implement project activities jointly. Moreover, the PMU is responsible for coordination, facilitating project activities, monitoring progress, and reporting to the Project Coordination Committee (PCC).

Buffer Zone User Committee (BZUC) and Collaborative Forest User Groups (CoFUG)

Realising the importance of community participation and ownership for sustained conservation progress, the Government of Nepal adopted participatory approach introduced the concept of Buffer Zone in 1993, with the aim of institutionalising community-based organisations; improving the livelihood conditions of buffer zone communities; and contributing significantly to biodiversity conservation by reducing prevailing conflicts through forging partnerships with local communities. Similarly, adjoining national forests in the south were designated to collaborative forests in partnership between the provincial government, local government and local forest user groups in Nepal's Terai, particularly in the management of large, contiguous forests. The project works with active participation from members of BZUC and LFUG as citizen scientists in form of "Bagh Mitra". The selection process of these community champions has been done in consultation with BZUC and LFUG.

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Actual start date of project: *(if different from 1st February)*

Reporting period: 1 February 2025 – 31 July 2025

Section II. Project Progress

Summary of progress for the first 6 months: *(Please provide a summary that describes how your activities are addressing the problems you identified in your application and what successes you have achieved so far this year which we can use in our communication materials.)*

- Three inception workshops – one meeting at central level with DNPWC and two at site level with PNP and Divisional Forest Office (DFO) Parsa were conducted to share overall project goals, objectives, activities and roles of relevant stakeholders.
- 15 hectares grasslands (12 ha in Mahadev grassland with 6 plots of 2 hectare each and 3 ha in Jamuniya grassland) was managed within the core area of PNP. Vegetation assessment was carried out to assess the effect of grassland management interventions (cutting, burning, cutting & burning) on the species composition including change in abundance of invasive species and camera trap were also deployed to assess the intensity of utilisation of managed grassland patches by the wildlife. Baseline information was collected before carrying out management intervention.
- Site selection for managing a waterhole completed through the consultation with park authorities and considering distribution of tiger densities. The management will be done after the rainy season.
- 20 camera traps have been deployed in the southern fringe area of PNP and adjoining collaborative forest to monitor pre-monsoon wildlife movement and activity pattern in the fringe area. A total of 16 mammal species including tiger, leopard and prey species were recorded in the area.
- 15 local youths were identified and formed as Bagh Mitra through the series of consultation meeting with the community and stakeholders around the southern fringe of PNP. These youths were capacitated through a two-day long training session on effective delivery of information about tiger and its conservation in their locality. Additionally, an awareness delivery handbook was developed and shared with Bagh Mitra. The handbook was drafted by the ZSL and reviewed by relevant stakeholders, which includes, background of Bagh Mitra, summary of dos and don'ts for a Bagh Mitra, encounter with major wildlife, and ways to avoid the fatal situation.
- A brief operation manual for Bagh Mitra including Dos and don'ts was drafted by ZSL and shared with all relevant stakeholders for review.
- A total of 22 awareness sessions were delivered by these Bagh Mitra directly reaching to 295 (183 male and 112 female) individuals. Pre and post knowledge assessment has showed a significant increase in conservation related knowledge of 80% against pre assessment.
- First coordination meeting between Bagh Mitra and conservation authority was conducted to share the activity conducted by Bagh Mitra and movement of wildlife in the fringe areas and possible ways to avoid conflict to promote Human-tiger coexistence.

Details of activities and results to date: *(Please give details of progress made towards the objectives & outputs of your Logframe by carrying out the activities included in your Workplan. Please include the appropriate quantitative and qualitive data from the measurable indicators that you identified in your Logframe. Please add any relevant charts, maps and images.)*

Cross-cutting Activity

Activity 1.1: PPC and Inception workshops

The PCC meeting was conducted at DNPWC. In the meeting, ZSL staff shared presentation on Project overall goals, objectives, activities, and the budget. The PCC decided to implement the project in PNP with site level inception meetings.

As mandated by the PCC, site level inception meetings were conducted. Two site level inception meetings at site level (one with PNP, and the other with DFO Parsa) were conducted. During the meeting, project goals, objectives, activities, budget, and project sites were shared.

The inception meeting with PNP was chaired by senior conservation officer of PNP where staff of ZSL shared project overall goals, objectives, activities, and role of PNP in the activity implementation. PNP shares 23 km long border with government managed forest under DFO Parsa in the south. The area is suitable habitat for tiger as the last national tiger survey (2022) reported that the forest outside the PNP is also used by the tigers. So, the project has also envisioned to promote human-tiger coexistence in this area outside the PNP. In order to onboard relevant stakeholders from the part of DFO Parsa the second inception meeting was held with them where the Chairperson of Paterwa Sugauli Rural Municipality (PSRM) ward – 2 chaired the session, Chairperson of Sakhuwa Prasauni Rural Municipality (SPRM) ward – 2, Chairperson of SPRM ward – 3, Chairperson of Gaadimai Collaborative Forest Users Group (CoFUG), Bhumari Mai tourism board, executive committee members of PSRM and SPRM wards, staff of DFO Parsa posted in Rangpur Sub-Divisional Forest Office (SDFO), Basantpur SDFO, Sabaiya SDFO, Badnitar SDFO, and staff of PNP participated.

Objective 1: Improved habitat for tigers and prey base within the core areas of Parsa National Park

Output: 15 hectares of grassland and one water retention pond maintained, with monitoring of these restored sites and scientific data and evidence gathered on its effectiveness.

Activity 1.2. Management of 15 hectares of grassland

Grassland selection

After consultation with PNP officials, three potential sites for grassland management namely Charbhaiya grassland (3 ha), Jamuniya grassland (3 ha), and Mahadeva grassland (34 ha) in PNP were identified (figure 1), and a preliminary joint monitoring of these grasslands was conducted in March. Considering project requirement, Jamuniya grassland and Mahadev grassland which are 12 km apart from each other were selected for management.

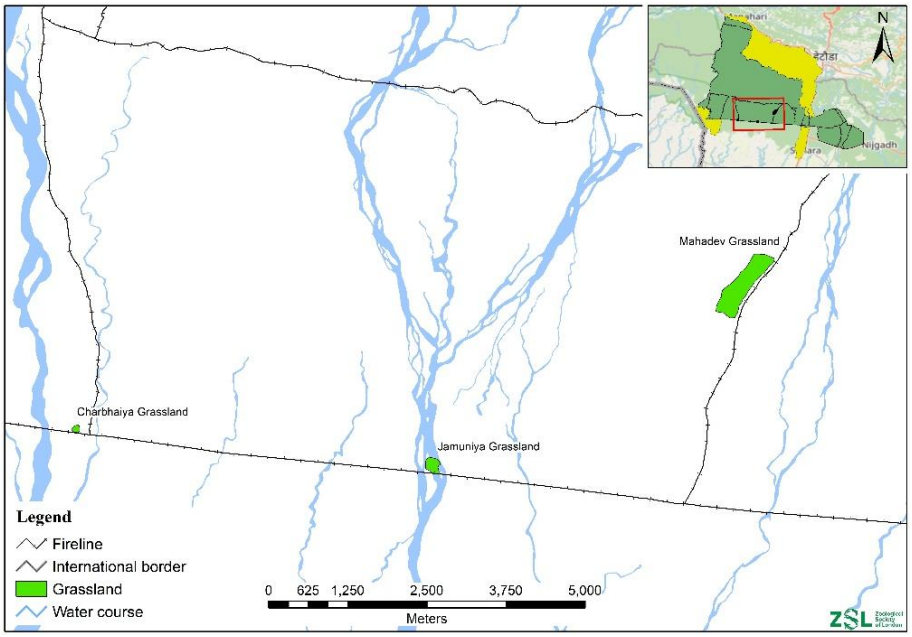

Figure 1: Map showing location of three grassland identified through KII

Pre-management monitoring

A preliminary assessment of the grasslands was carried out in April. The main aim is to identify sampling efforts and to record the list of grass species presence in the selected grassland (to serve a baseline for comparison). Sampling efforts help determine the number of samples required to obtain representative vegetation data from sampling areas. We randomly laid down 1x1 m quadrants with equally spaced grids of 10x10cm in different direction within the selected grassland patch. After that we recorded bare ground, litter, animal dropping, fire and vegetation from each quadrant. Within each quadrant, we used the point intercept method at 100 sampling points to record the number of the different plant species. Based on the sampling effort curve (figure 2), it was determined that a total of 12 quadrants would be required to have a representative sample from the selected grassland. Hence, a total 12 quadrants in managed area and 12 quadrants in unmanaged areas will be considered to assess the effect of grassland management interventions in the selected grassland patches during the assessment periods.

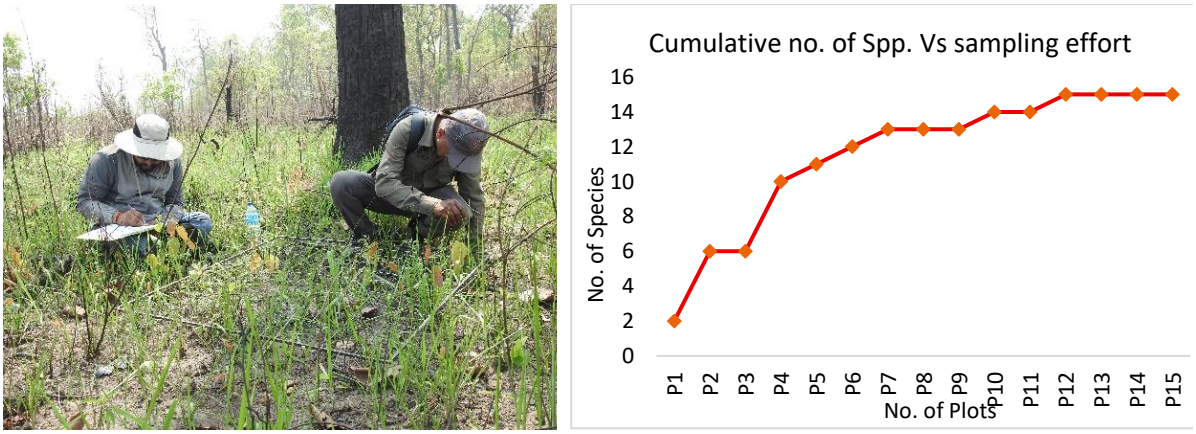

Figure 2: field staff conducting vegetation survey (left), Survey effort analysis curve (right)

During this pre assessment, a total 15 plant species in Mahadev and 6 (including 2 unknown species which were removed later) species in Jamuniya were Documented. In Mahadev grassland *Imperata*

cylindrica and *Desmostachya bippinnata* species were dominant while in Jamuniya grassland *Saccharum spontaneum* species was dominant. Three species namely, *Imparata cylindrica*, *Grewia Sapida*, and *Millettia extensa* were common in both the grassland patches (Table 1). Pre-intervention survey provided a valuable information to set baseline on vegetation condition. The average height of the vegetation was found 25.7 cm in Mahadev while 48.25 cm in Jamuniya.

Table 1: List of species recorded in the survey

SN	Species	Family	Grassland
1	Imperata cylindrica	Poaceae	Both
2	Murdanhia Edulis	Commelinaceae	Mahadev
3	Desmostachya bipinnata	Poaceae	Mahadev
4	Cyperus Esculentus	Cyperaceae	Mahadev
5	Cyperus Niveus	Cyperaceae	Mahadev
6	Saccharum bengalnses	Poaceae	Jamuniya
7	Grewia Sapida	Malvaceae	Both
8	Xeromphis Spinosa	Rubiaceae	Mahadev
9	Eupatorium Odoratum	Asteraceae	Mahadev
10	Murraya Koenigii	Rutaceae	Mahadev
11	Lepidagathis Incurva	Acanthaceae	Mahadev
12	Vetiveria zizanioides	Poaceae	Mahadev
13	Shorea Robusta	Dipterocarpoceae	Mahadev
14	Millettia Extensa	Fabaceae	Both
15	Indigofera Heterantha	Fabaceae	Mahadev
16	Phoenix Humilis	Arecaceae	Mahadev

Grassland management

After the pre-management survey, 6 plots of 2-hectare each were established in Mahadev grassland covering 12 hectares (figure 3) while a whole 3-hectare block in Jamuniya grassland was considered for limiting management. In Mahadev each plot was demarcated with four 2.5 feet tall concrete pillar numbered as ABCD for establishing permanent plot for monitoring (figure 4).

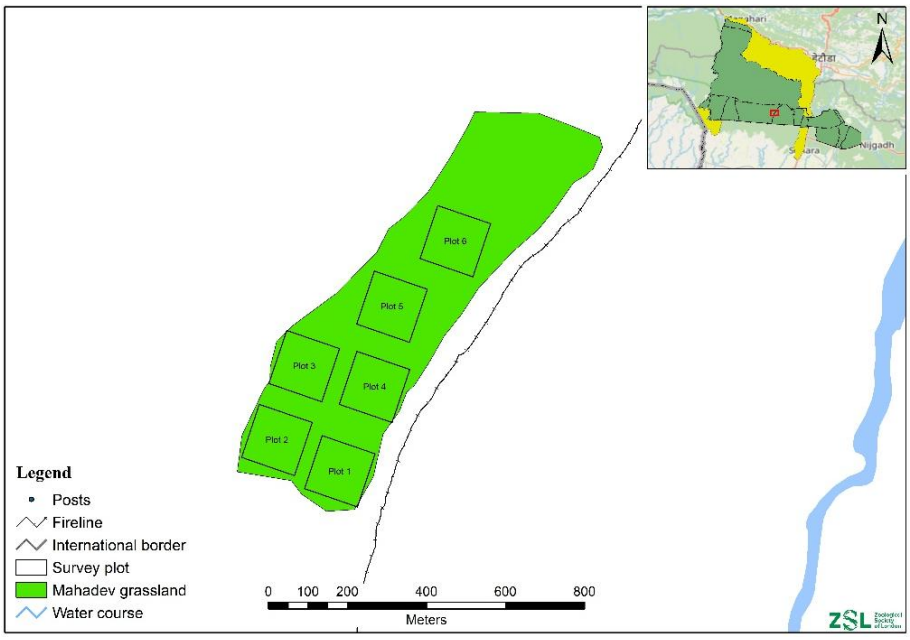

Figure 3: Map showing location of 2-hectare plots inside Mahadev grassland


Figure 4: Staff establishing concrete pillar (left), close photo of C pillar of plot number 2 (right)

After the establishment of plots, management intervention was performed inside the plot. These interventions align with the government's broader target of managing 100 hectares of grassland within the park. The management activities included grassland cutting, removal of invasive species, following the GoN wildlife habitat management guidelines 2080. The management intervention started from the end of April and completed in the Second week of June. During this period, joint monitoring of management was conducted three times to ensure proper execution of the management.




Figure 5: Photo of management plot before intervention (top left), grassland being managed (top right), Joint monitoring (middle left), grassland after management with cutting and burning (middle right), Drone image of grassland (bottom)

Post-management survey

20 days after the management intervention, a detailed survey of these grasslands were conducted from 10 – 12 July. Total 48 quadrants, 12 in managed plots and 12 in unmanaged area, were surveyed in both the grasslands. The survey employed the same method as performed in the pre-management assessment. Eight camera traps (6 in Mahadev grassland and 2 in Jamuniya grassland) were deployed in the managed plots to assess the frequency of wildlife visitation in the managed grasslands.

Post – management survey will be carried out again after second round of management in October. Detailed analysis will be carried out to assess the change in vegetation composition and animal visitation rate. The result will be compiled and shared separately with the final report.

Figure 6: Staff conducting vegetation survey in unmanaged area (left), Staff testing camera trap deployed in managed grassland (right)

Activity 1.3: Management of water retention pond

During this reporting period, identification and preliminary site visit to select water retention pond for the management was carried out. With PNP recommendation and tiger density information, Kalidaha (figure 7) is selected where a structure to retain water in the downstream of Kalidaha will be constructed. The structure will capture water flowing through the Kalidaha, which will maintain and facilitate ground water recharge for wildlife and surrounding vegetation throughout the year. The activity is planned to implement in October as suggested by "Wildlife habitat management

Directives, 2080" that highlights to carryout waterhole management related activities after monsoon period (June – September).

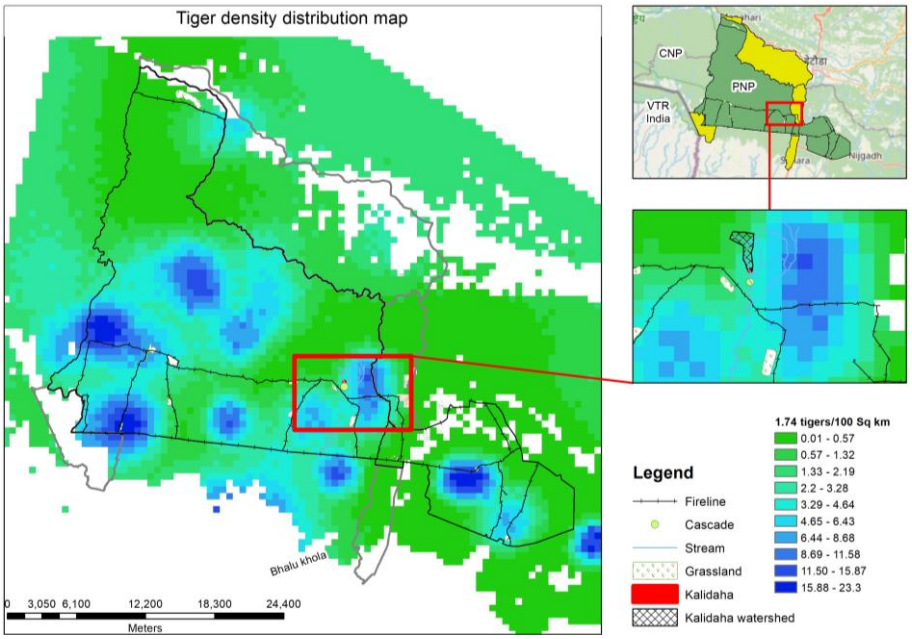

Figure 7: Map showing tiger density distribution in Parsa National Park (adopted from Status of Tiger and Prey in Nepal, 2022)

Additionally, a central level monitoring team led by the deputy director general of DNPWC visited the selected grassland and waterhole management site (Figure 8). During the monitoring visit, the team suggested to map out the overall waterhole of Kalidaha to maintain upstream areas to control sediments flow in the waterhole and expand the cascade system. As per the suggestion, a map was prepared and shared with the team (figure 9).

Figure 8: ZSL Nepal policy coordinator briefing at Kalidaha (left), joint monitoring of waterhole maintained through past WCCA project (right)

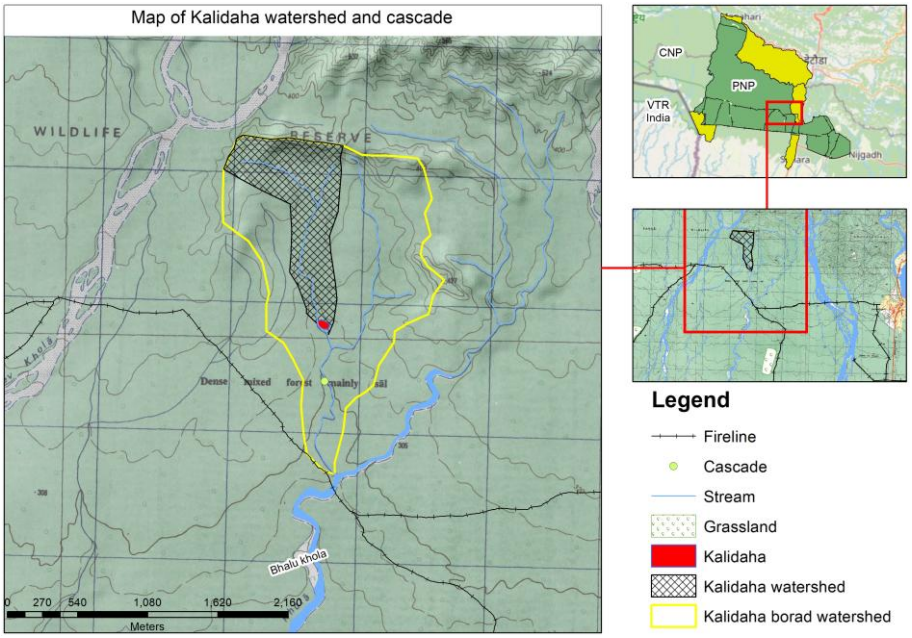

Figure 9: Map showing location of proposed waterhole maintenance site and Watershed of Kalidaha with Topo map as base layer

Activity 1.4: Deploy camera traps along the fringes of the park to monitor wildlife activity and movement patterns

Based on the series of consultations PNP and DFO, and as per the HTC incident record, southern part of PNP and adjoining collaborative forest stretching 32 km from Bhedaha Khola in the east to Sikaribas Khola in the west was selected for regular monitoring of wildlife movement. In the selected segment, 20 camera trap grids of 4 km^2 each, aligning with National Tiger Survey protocol was established for camera trap deployment. Out of these 20 grids, 14 lies in PNP and 6 in the adjoining collaborative forest. We deployed single camera in each grid to record the movement of wildlife.

The first set of 14 camera traps in the PNP jurisdiction were deployed on 22 April 2025 to capture pre-monsoon activity of wildlife in the area. The cameras were deployed for 29 days and retrieved on 20 May 2025. During this period, 973 images of wildlife were captured by the camera traps. For the second deployment, only data were extracted from 14 cameras and deployed in the same location while additional 6 cameras in the collaborative forest area were deployed. Second data retrieval took place on 19 July 2025 and the repetition of the same camera trapping is planned to deploy after the monsoon season.

Figure 10: Staff deploying first set of camera trap in PNP area (top left), staff retrieving data (top right), staff deploying camera in collaborative forest area (bottom left), camera damaged by elephant (bottom right).

The preliminary analysis showed that the area is being used by 16 mammal species including tiger, sloth bear, small cats and prey species. Spotted deer were found to have highest number (104) of capture event (an event was set at 30 minutes) followed by wild boar (48), sambar (46) while only 3 events of tiger and 4 events of leopard were captured. The movement of tiger was recorded at camera station 18, 19, and 7 ranging from 3 km to 5 km away from the nearest settlements. For leopard the movement was recorded in camera number 3, 5, 12, and 15 within the distance of 0.8 km to 4.3 km from the nearest settlement.

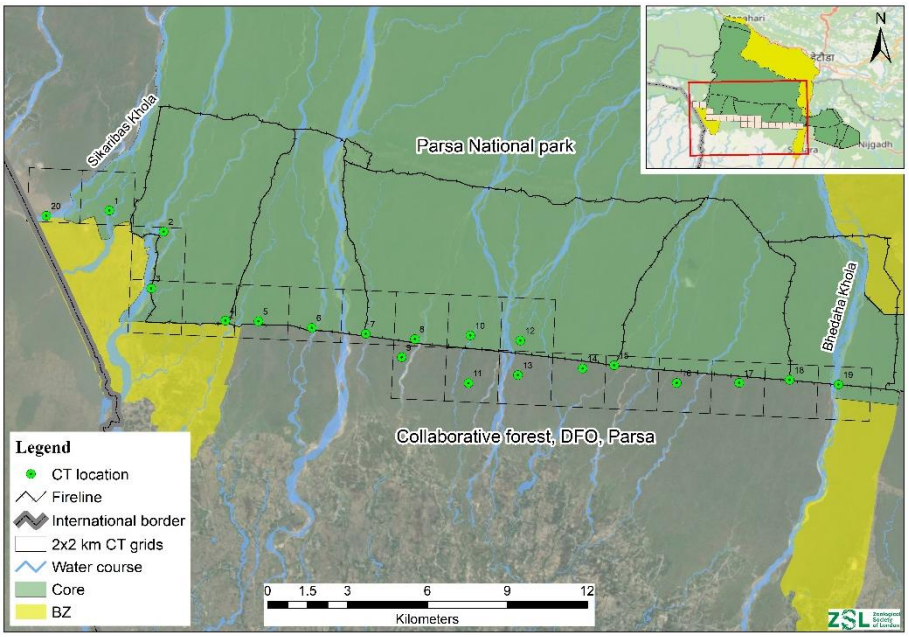

Figure 11: Map showing camera trap grids and distribution of camera trap.

Figure 12: Photos of wildlife captured by the camera trap (tiger, common leopard, sloth bear, and sambar deer)

Table 2: Detail of species captured in the camera trap

Family or Subfamily	Scientific Name	Local Name	IUCN Status	No. of Images	No. of Events	No. of Stations Detected in
Canidae	*Canis aureus*	Golden jackal	LC	16	8	7
Felidae	*Felis chaus*	Jungle cat	LC	5	5	2
Felidae	*Panthera pardus*	Leopard	NT	4	4	4
Felidae	*Panthera tigris*	Tiger	EN	9	7	3
Herpestidae	*Herpestes edwardsii*	Indian grey mongoose	LC	3	1	1
Ursidae	*Melursus ursinus*	Sloth bear	VU	11	11	7
Viverridae	*Viverricula indica*	Small Indian civet	LC	1	1	1
Bovidae-Bovinae	*Boselaphus tragocamelus*	Nilgai	LC	39	14	7
Cervidae-Cervinae	*Axis axis*	Chital	LC	495	104	10
Cervidae-Cervinae	*Muntiacus vaginalis*	Barking deer	LC	21	10	7
Cervidae-Cervinae	*Rusa unicolor*	Sambar	VU	103	46	8
Suidae	*Sus scrofa*	Wild boar	LC	149	48	10
Leporidae	*Lepus nigricollis*	Indian hare	LC	6	6	3
Cercopithecidae	*Macaca mulatta*	Rhesus monkey	LC	83	18	9
Cercopithecidae	*Semnopithecus schistaceus*	Nepal grey langur	LC	23	8	6
Hystricidae	*Hystrix indica*	Indian crested porcupine	LC	5	4	2

Detail technical report including data analysis of all the seasons will be submitted separately with the final report.

Objective 2: Reduce HTC and promote human tiger coexistence through mitigation and prevention strategy establishing and mobilising local citizen scientist (Bagh Mitra) and conservation technology

Output: Reduction in HTC incidents through increased awareness, use of conservation technology, effective mitigation measures and stakeholder coordination.

Activity 2.1: Training of Tutors (TOT) for fifteen local "Bagh Mitra" (citizen scientists)

Identification of Bagh Mitra

Prior to TOT, Bagh Mitra identification was one of the important activities. As agreed with the conservation authorities during the site level inception meetings, a total of six community level meetings were organized. Out of these six meetings, four were organized in the buffer zone of PNP and two were organized in the area of DFO Parsa. The sites for meeting were selected based on the past HTC incidents as well as covers the communities within the buffer zone of PNP in the south.

In the buffer zone of PNP, the first meeting was held at Panchamukhi Buffer Zone User Committee (BZUC), the second was held with the members of Kusumbatika BZUC and Nirmal BZUC, the third at Janahit BZUC, and the fourth at Sunakhari BZUC. In these meetings total 170 (119 male and 51 female) participants were present including chairman and executive committee members of respective BZUCs, representatives from Community Based Antipoaching Units (CBAPU), homestay entrepreneurs, Officials from PNP, and staff of ZSL. Similarly, in community within DFO jurisdiction, the first meeting was held at Bhaata Basti and the second at Kataani village. Total 73 (58 male and 15 female) participants were present in the meetings including chairman of collaborative forests, executive committee members of local government, officials of DFO, and staff of ZSL.

The main aim of these meetings was to identify members of Bagh Mitra and their role in bridging gap between conservation authority and local community on delivering reliable information to promote human tiger coexistence in the locality. The meeting was facilitated by ZSL staff by delivering a brief presentation on overall project goals and objectives and criteria for identifying Bagh Mitra and awareness delivery mechanisms to reach wider audience. The criteria for Bagh Mitra included, past involvement in awareness activities, residents of the locality, and willingness to work as volunteer for tiger conservation. At the end of the meeting, 15 local youths were identified and formed as Bagh Mitra. Newly formed Bagh Mitra included 10 youths (2 persons from each BZUCs of PNP) and 5 youths from DFO Parsa area.

Figure 13: Meeting with Panchamukhi BZUC (top left), meeting with Sunakhari BZUC (top right), meeting with Janahit BZUC (middle left), joint meeting with Kusumbakita BZUC and Nirmal BZUC (middle right), meeting with Bhaata community (bottom left), and meeting with Kataani community (bottom right).

ToT for Bagh Mitra

A two-day training session to 15 identified Bagh Mitra was conducted from 30-31 May 2025 at Subarnapur in the buffer zone of PNP. The training was formally inaugurated by Senior Conservation Officer of PNP, where he delivered the significance of the Bagh Mitra initiative in promoting HTCx. The first technical session covered the importance of wildlife including tiger in maintaining healthy ecosystem, wildlife conservation efforts of government of Nepal, role of PNP and local communities in wildlife conservation. The second and third technical sessions were focused on major problem causing wildlife and their behaviour, habitat type of wildlife and risk to nearby communities, situations when human and wildlife encounters, effective strategies to avoid wildlife attack, brief on wildlife rescue and handling process, access to wildlife information, process and necessary

document for claiming wildlife damage relief fund, and Bagh Mitra communication standards. These sessions were delivered by conservation officer of PNP. In the fourth technical session, ZSL staff presented on wildlife monitoring techniques, dos and don'ts of Bagh Mitra, brief on the use of awareness delivery materials, code of conduct for delivering awareness session, and documentation of awareness session delivered, and Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC) incidents. In the second day, the participants were taken to nearby forest to field exposure to know the wildlife presence signs and signals including pugmark, scratch, and scrap marks of carnivore signal call of deer, monkey, birds were distinguished. A refresher training to these Bagh Mitra will be conducted in the next reporting period.

Figure 14: Senior Conservation Officer of PNP delivering inaugural speech (top left), ZSL staff delivering technical session (top right), Bagh Mitra group photo after field demonstration (bottom left), group photo session at the end of the training (bottom right).

Activity 2.2: Engage "Bagh Mitra" (citizen scientists) in awareness delivery

Awareness delivery material

For an effective delivery of awareness, a handbook was prepared and printed and distributed to Bagh Mitra. The document has five chapters including the concept and origin of Bagh Mitra Initiatives (Chapter 1), the code of conduct for Bagh Mitra including dos and don'ts (Chapter 2), behaviour of four major species including tiger, leopard, elephant, and bear that may attack human and ways to avoid confrontation (Chapter 3), and things to consider while entering forest (Chapter four), and Calendar and important days for wildlife conservation (Chapter 5).

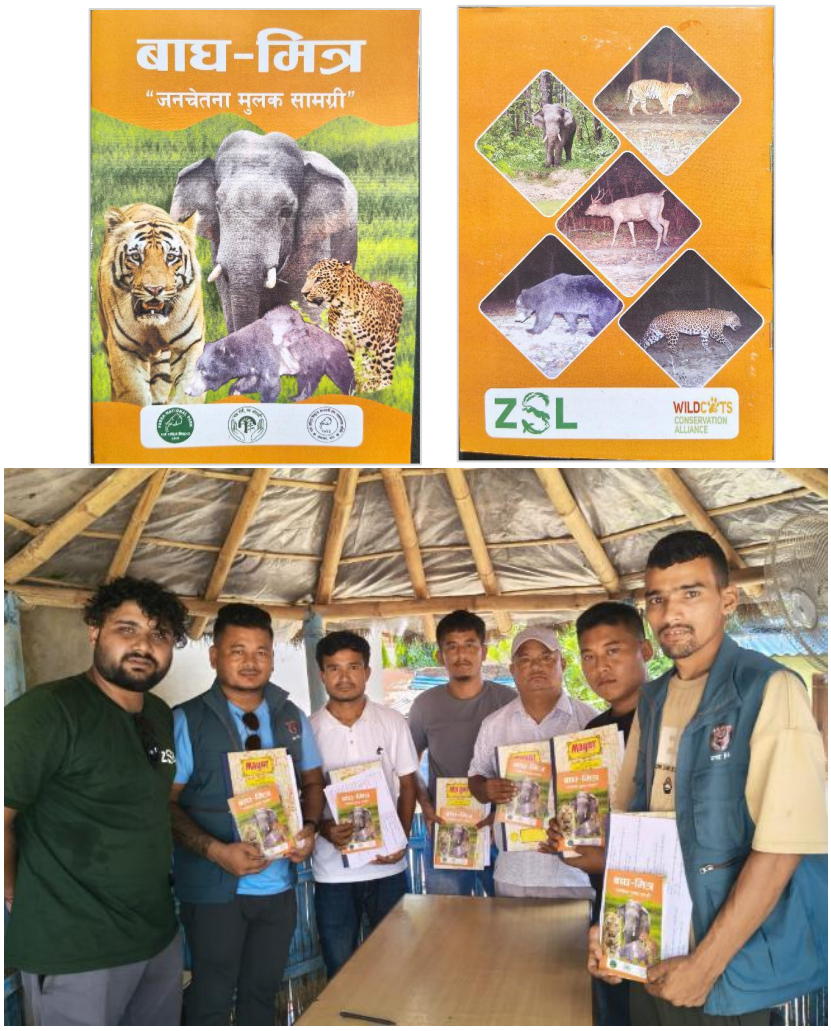

Figure 15: Bagh Mitra awareness handbook front cover (left) and back cover (right), handbook handover to Bagh Mitra (bottom)

Awareness delivery by Bagh Mitra

12 Bagh Mitra are actively involved in awareness delivery in their community during this reporting period. These youths have already conducted 22 awareness events directly reaching 295 local people (183 male and 112 female). The awareness session focuses on HTC avoidance strategy which includes, information on behaviour of major conflict causing wildlife, wildlife signs to observe while in the forest, situation of human-wildlife encounter, signs wildlife shows before attacking, steps to avoid wildlife attack, and what to do if attacked by wildlife. An assessment of knowledge after the session delivery by the Bagh Mitra showed an increase of 80% as compared to pre-test.

Figure 16: Bagh Mitra Mr Niroj Pradhan delivering awareness to locals of Buddha tole were there for forest product collection and grazing their cattle (top left and right). Bagh Mitra Mr Dilli Bahadur Thapa conducting school awareness (middle left) and community awareness (bottom left). Bagh Mitra Pramod Yadav conducting community awareness (bottom left). Bagh Mitra Karan Shrestha conducting community awareness (bottom right).

Activity 2.3: Establish coordination mechanism and coordination meetings

Communication standard (operation manual) for Bagh Mitra

Bagh Mitra are local youth who are willing to volunteer with nominal support from the project to increase a positive attitude among local people towards tiger conservation and coexistence. These youths conduct awareness campaigns mainly focusing school students and community. Additionally, the youths are responsible to inform about the occurrence of Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC) incidents, aware people for potential HWC if animals are around the community, facilitate wildlife

damage relief claim process, and advocate existing legal provisions related to wildlife conservation. More importantly, these youths are envisioned to act as a liaison to communicate between local communities and conservation authorities following the established communication standards to disseminate credible information at both ends. For this purpose, a joint meeting-cum-workshop was organized by DFO Bara to prepare a communication/operating manual for these Bagh Mitra. Key participants included Senior Conservation Officer of PNP, officials of DFO Makawanpur, officials DFO Parsa, officials of DFO Bara, officials of DFO Rautahat, officer of ZSL, and officers of other conservation organization. The meeting formed a team under the chairmanship of conservation office of PNP with officer of ZSL and other conservation organization as members. ZSL took lead in establishing the communication standards for Bagh Mitra and initial draft has been prepared and submitted with relevant stakeholders for review.

Figure 17: ZSL staff presenting brief of the project and working modality of Bagh Mitra (left), group photo of the participants (right)

Coordination meeting between Bagh Mitra and Conservation authorities

First coordination meeting was conducted at PNP headquarters with the main objective of strengthening collaboration between Bagh Mitra and conservation authorities to reduce human-tiger conflict around PNP and DFO Parsa. In the meeting 29 participants including Senior Conservation Officer of PNP, other officials of PNP, officials of DFO Parsa, Bagh Mitra, and staff of ZSL were present. The meeting was facilitated by officer of ZSL who presented overall progress of Bagh Mitra and shared the results of wildlife monitoring conducted through camera trap deployment in the fringe areas. In the discussion session, participants talked about the possible ways to avoid HTC in the area including early warnings, community awareness, and rapid response. Additionally, Bagh Mitra shared their experience of conducting awareness sessions. The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to enhance coordination, regularly update conflict response manual, and support for active involvement of Bagh Mitra in the frontline in the community for HTC mitigation.

Figure 18: ZSL staff delivering presentation (top left), Bagh Mitra expressing their views during the discussion session (top right and bottom left), Senior Conservation Officer of PNP providing insights at the end of the meeting.

Give details of any obstacles to success that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. *(Please provide detailed examples, explain what impact these will have on the project results and the changes to the budget and timetable of project activities.)*

The project has not encountered any significant obstacles during this reporting period, however, following were some challenges that the project teams faced.

- The project necessitated the engagement of wide range of stakeholders, and it posed a considerable challenge in coordinating with stakeholders resulting in some delay in implementation.
- Identified Bagh Mitra may migrate to other areas which result in selection of new individuals for the same role which will be time-consuming that may result in delayed delivery of awareness session.
- Loss and damage incurred to camera traps resulting in loss of valuable data and undermines the effort of implementation team.

Budget: Is the spend on target? **If not, please give details and provide an updated budget sheet.**

Yes. All the expenditure are made on the target.

Media: Please provide a list of recent publications and media both local and national which mentions the work funded by this project and/or mentions WildCats Conservation Alliance.

A blog covering the a case of this project was submitted to WCCA in July which was published in their website *(Link: https://conservewildcats.org/2025/07/28/bagh-mitra/).*

WildCats Conservation Alliance asks for at least 7 relevant high-resolution jpeg files of images of the project activities during this time period.

A separate folder containing 7 relevant high-resolution jpeg files are attached separately with this report.