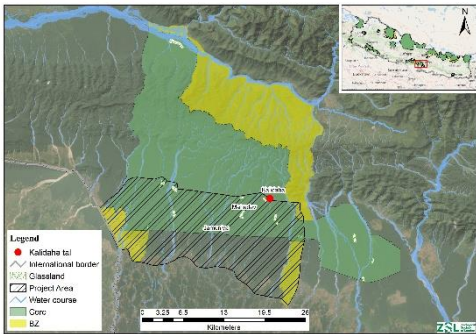
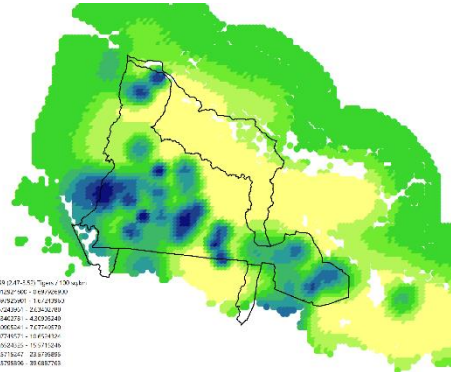


WildCats interim (mid-year) Reporting Form

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 II	
Grantee Organisation: Zoological Society of London	
Location of project: <i>(Please include a map with longitude and latitude.)</i> Southern part of PNP and its buffer zone, adjoining national, collaborative forests (27.223384N, 84.820104E)	
Size of project area in km² (if appropriate): This project is implemented in Parsa National Park, which has a total area of 627.39km ² core area, 30 km ² settlement in the buffer zone, 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: Tiger number: 71 (SE ± 5.51) (63-86 at 95% CI) Tiger Density: 2.99 (SD 0.27) (2.47-3.52 at 95% CI) (DNPWC Press Release, 29 July 2026) 
Partners: <i>(Please give details of partners, including communities, academic institutions etc. for this project, particularly those that will have any responsibilities for delivering any of the work.)</i> <u>DNPWC</u> The Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) is the government authority responsible for conserving wildlife and landscapes of ecological importance. It is responsible for the overall management of Nepal's PAs, including the buffer zones. ZSL signed third MoU with the DNPWC in 2024 and has a close working relationship with the PA manager and DNPWC staff in the PNP. The DNPWC facilitates project implementation and is responsible for overall monitoring and evaluation of the project. The project will help DNPWC improve prey abundance and water supply across the park area, helping to sustain a healthy tiger population. In turn, this is expected to reduce the probability of Human Tiger Conflict (HTC). Valuable knowledge gained from this project	

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which will be applied to other tiger-bearing PAs of Nepal, helping to mitigate HTC in the known conflict hotspots of Chitwan, Banke, Bardia and Shuklaphanta NPs and their buffer zones.

Parsa National Park (PNP)

The Chitwan-Parsa-Valmiki Complex, 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. Chitwan National Park in Nepal boasts a thriving tiger population which serves as a source for both Valmiki Tiger Reserve in India and Parsa National Park, demonstrating the transboundary nature of this landscape. ZSL and partners work to establish a stable population of tigers by augmenting transboundary cooperation, mitigating human-tiger conflict, restoring and managing critical habitats, and strengthening the engagement of local communities.

PNP was gazetted as a wildlife reserve in 1984 with primary aim of protecting the wild Asian elephant and preserving their remaining habitat in the south-central lowland of Nepal. In 2015, the 128 sq. km Halkhoriya forest block was added to Parsa Wildlife Reserve, expanding its core habitat from 499 sq. km to 627.39 sq. km. Later in 2017, its status was changed into a National Park for ensuring protection of large-scale ecological system of the landscape with regulated tourism activities to support revenue generation and livelihood of buffer zone community.

At the PNP, a Project Management Unit (PMU) is established for the implementation and monitoring of the ZSL supported activities. The PMU is chaired by the Senior Conservation Officer of PNP and includes conservation officers of PNP and officer of ZSL as members. The PMU is also responsible for coordination reporting to the Project Coordination Committee (PCC).

Division Forest Offices (DFO)

DFO Parsa, is main responsible body for the management of forest and wildlife outside the PNP and its buffer zone in the Parsa District. In this project, the DFO Parsa is the main coordination point for monitoring tigers and conducting the awareness campaign through Bagh Mitra will be conducted in the settlements near the forest under sub-division forest offices. DFO Parsa has its six sub-division forest offices headed by forest officers for who are mainly responsible for looking after the field duty.

Buffer Zone User Committee (BZUC) and Local Forest User Groups (LFUG)

Realising the importance of community participation and ownership for sustained conservation progress, the Government of Nepal adopting 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, national forests were designated to collaborative forests in partnership between the central government, local government and local forest user groups in Nepal's Terai, particularly in the management of large, contiguous forests.

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The selection process of the Bagh Mitra community champions will be undertaken in consultation with the BZUC and LFUGs. Through active participation of community, the project aims to ensure ownership and sustainability to its planned interventions.

Project Contact Name: *(main contact via email)*

Dr Bhagawan Raj Dahal, Country Representative

Sunjeep Pun, Senior Programme Officer (KTM)

Prachanda Maharjan, Programme Officer (Parsa)

Email:

BhagawanRaj.Dahal@zsl.org

Sunjeep.Pun@zsl.org

Prachanda.Maharjan@zsl.org

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

Reporting period: 1 February 2026 – 31 July 2026 (six months)

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.)*

The project kick-off with inception meetings and central level and site levels to share overall project goals, objective, activities, budge, and roles of key stakeholders. In this reporting period, under habitat management total 15 ha of grasslands have been managed, and two check dams have been constructed in Kalidaha lake. Pre and post management monitoring survey of the managed grassland were also completed to document effectiveness of the management interventions.

15 Bagh Mitra were provided with refresher training, 30 awareness delivery manuals were also distributed, trained Bagh Mitra conducted 45 targeted awareness sessions reaching 554 (332 males, 222 females) community members. With the aim to monitor the pre-monsoon movement of tiger, 21 camera traps were deployed in the fringe area.

The progress of the project is in track against the timeline of the proposal. In the next reporting period, second round of grassland management and monitoring is planned in part of habitat management while 45 community awareness events, and post-monsoon monitoring of fringe area are planned.

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 qualitative data from the measurable indicators that you identified in your Logframe. Please add any relevant charts, maps and images.)*

Crosscutting Activity

WildCats Conservation Alliance is a wild tiger and Amur leopard conservation initiative between Dreamworld Wildlife Foundation and the Zoological Society of London, (UK charity# 208728).

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PCC and Inception workshops

ZSL Nepal organized a Project Coordination Committee (PCC) meeting at the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) with aim to share the goals, objectives, activities, budget and responsibility of relevant stakeholders in the current project. The meeting was chaired by Deputy Director General (DDG) of the DNPWC in presence of Director General (DG) of the DNPWC, heads of ecology and wildlife crime sections, officers of planning, management, conservation education sections of the DNPWC and policy coordinator of ZSL Nepal. Additionally, achievement and success of past project including Bagh Mitra initiative, grassland management effectiveness, effectiveness of Kalidaha restoration, and fringe area monitoring were also shared in the meeting. The PCC decided to conduct an inception meeting in the project sites at Parsa and start the project activities.

As decided by the PCC, two inception meetings, first at the PNP and the second at DFO Parsa were held. Similar to PCC, overall goals of the project, activities, budget were shared in the meetings. The meetings held in PNP brought together Senior Conservation Officer (SCO), conservation officers of PNP, and ZSL staff. Similarly, at DFO Parsa, DFO authorities including Sub-divisional officers, local community representatives were present. In both the meetings, all participants, pledged to work together on wildlife monitoring and community awareness ensuring a landscape-level approach to human-tiger coexistence promotion across the project sites.

Output 1: A strategically selected 15 hectares of grassland maintained two times a year and a restored Kalidaha lake from siltation through two upstream check dams.

Activity 1.1 Grassland management

In line with the Nepal Government's Wildlife Habitat Management Directive, 2080, a total of 15 hectares of grassland in the core habitat of PNNP has been designated for a rigorous multi-year restoration initiative: Mahadev (12 ha) and Jamuniya (3 ha). The primary objective of this intervention is to enhance foraging quality for prey species by creating habitat mosaic and controlling invasive species that outcompete favourable native vegetation. These grasslands were identified for long-term management under the first phase of the project.

Pre-management monitoring

Through this phase, second round of pre-management data collection was completed by using quadrant-based monitoring method. This baseline data was collected precisely within the same geographical grids identified in the previous year, focusing strictly on the unmanaged surrounding areas to serve as an accurate ecological control.

The field team utilized a highly precise sampling frame to document physical features and vegetation structure. Specifically, a 1m x 1m primary quadrant split into 100 sub-quadrants of 10cm x 10 cm was deployed across the sites to record exact species composition, frequency, and invasive density. Moving forward, the grassland management intervention will be executed two times per year, consistently for the next three years. Following each intervention, structured post management monitoring will evaluate ongoing shifts in vegetation structure, prey abundance, and habitat use

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dynamics. The findings from this longitudinal study will ultimately be compiled into a peer-reviewed manuscript to share critical conservation insights with the global scientific community.



Field staff conducting vegetation survey 1



Field staff conducting vegetation survey 2

Grassland management intervention

15 hectares of grassland in two patches (12 ha Mahadev and 3 ha in Jamuniya) were managed in late May 2026. Implemented interventions focused on improving habitat structure through controlled burning, targeted removal of invasive species, manual thinning and thrashing of non-desirable vegetation, and the collection and piling of woody debris at designated locations. To secure long term restoration outcomes, these management practices will be executed twice annually across the same 15-hectare area over a five-year implementation period.



Mahadev – Before grassland Management



Mahadev – Ongoing grassland Management



Mahadev- After Grassland Management



Jamuniya – Before Grassland Management

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Jamuniya – Ongoing grassland management



Jamuniya – After Grassland Management

Post-management monitoring

As part of post management monitoring, field assessments were conducted maintaining the gap of at least 15 days after the first round of management intervention completed. In Mahadev, post management monitoring was conducted between 18 and 19 June 2026 while in Jamuniya between 16 and 17 July 2026. This difference in the monitoring period was mainly because of the intervention in Jamuniya was delayed due to onset of monsoon. A total of 24 plots (12 in managed block in Mahadeva, and 12 in managed block in Jamuniya) were systematically surveyed using standardized quadrants. Additionally, for evaluating the efficiency of the survey method, additional 24 quadrants were also surveyed through unframed method following the same principle of quadrant survey.



Mahadev – Post grassland survey



Mahadev – Post grassland survey

WildCats interim (mid-year) Reporting Form



Jamuniya – Post grassland survey



Jamuniya – Post grassland survey

Planned activity under Habitat management and monitoring

As stated in the workplan of the project, second round of habitat management and monitoring will be conducted in the next reporting period. Similarly, results of data analysis of monitoring including comparison of pre-management and post-management will also be submitted with the final report.

Activity 1.2 Restoration of Kalidaha

Kalidaha lake is one of the important perennial sources of water for wildlife in the dry landscape of PNP. However, in the month of September of 2024, the lake was completely filled by the debris brought by a heavy rainfall in the same month. It not just filled with the silt but also resulted in haphazard channelization of water downstream which resulted in the limited supply of water for wildlife to drink. Although, a regular removal of siltation work is conducted by the park, siltation control and Debris flow as well as tapping water downstream were identified as an immediate need for restoration and sustained availability of water in the lake.

In the first phase of this project a check dam was constructed in the downstream of the lake while in this phase two check dams were constructed in the upstream to control siltation and Debris flow into the lake. In the upstream two gabion mesh-wire dams were constructed just 10 metre in the north of the lake. The design consists of gabion mesh foundation and concrete top allowing shallow runoff through the gabion and wildlife crossing from the concrete top.



First checkdam construction site before construction



Ongoing construction of the first checkdam

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After construction of first checkdam



Second checkdam construction site before construction



Ongoing construction of second checkdam



After construction of second checkdam

Monitoring of Kalidaha lake

In order to monitor the effectiveness of constructed check dams regular monitoring of the lake is ongoing throughout the project period by documenting the lime lapse video of the lake. Final video will be shared in with the final report including post monsoon status of the lake.

Output 2. HTC incidents reduced through effective mobilisation of 15 Bagh Mitra, 90 community level awareness reaching 900 local people.

Activity 2.1 Refresher TOT of Bagh Mitra

Fifteen Bagh Mitra (Friend of Tiger) were identified and trained in the previous phase. In this phase, these Bagh Mitra were assessed against their engagement in the awareness campaign and reviewed their contributions. It was found that, 1 Bagh Mitra was not actively engaged and was replaced with new member who is willing to contribute to tiger conservation.

This activity was planned to conduct in this reporting period, however shifted to next reporting period because the similar activity was conducted by the PNP. A two-day training was delivered to 15 Bagh Mitras with an aim to refresh their knowledge on human-tiger coexistence promotion. In the training, ZSL staff played key roles in designing objective-led curriculum, and delivered technical sessions on including camera traps, early warning systems, and specialized mobile applications, alongside sessions on wildlife behaviour.

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WildCats interim (mid-year) Reporting Form



PNP SCO delivering his speech during the program



Lt. Colonel deployed in the park delivering his speech at the closing ceremony



The park ranger delivering presentation about importance of wildlife conservation in PNP



The park's conservation officer delivering presentation about the legal aspects and Bagh Mitra Operation Manual



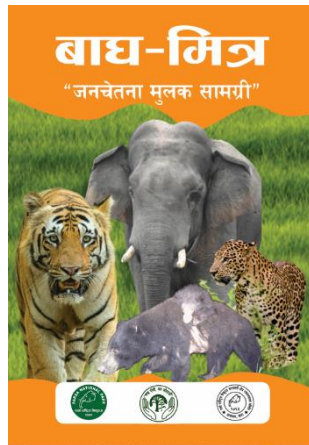
ZSL Nepal's field staff delivering the presentation about the role of Bagh Mitra in Tiger conservation and things to consider while delivering awareness in the community

Activity 2.2 Awareness material

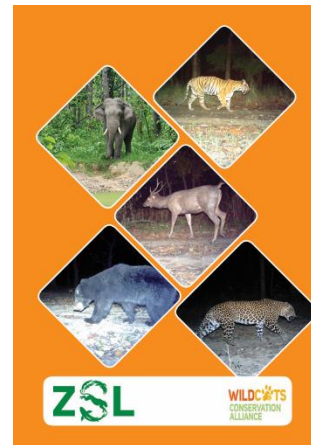
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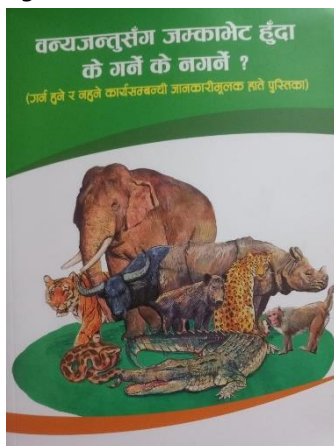
Recognizing that clear, relevant awareness materials are essential for enabling Bagh Mitras to effectively communicate human tiger coexistence messages, the project successfully reviewed, updated, and reprinted the educational materials originally developed during the phase one of this project. 30 copies of these revised materials were printed, and all 30 copies were distributed to Bagh Mitras along with the national park and DFO Parsa officials, BZUCs representatives, collaborative forests from DFO Parsa across the southern fringe area of the park for raising awareness in their local community.



Front Page – Revised Awareness Materials



Back Page – Revised Awareness Materials



Revised Awareness Materials



Group photo- Bagh Mitras holding distributed awareness materials

Activity 2.3 Awareness-raising activity delivery by Bagh Mitra

In the first phase, Project identified Bagh Mitra delivered 120 sessions reaching 1402 community members. An increase of 35% in the knowledge of the participants regarding human-tiger coexistence was achieved. The initiative continued to drive community-led behaviour change campaign in the vulnerable settlements in the project sites. Moreover, at the end of the first phase an Operational Manual for conducting Bagh Mitra campaign was prepared jointly by the PNP and conservation organization working in the area including ZSL. In 2082 BS (6 February 2026), the Operational Manual (2082 B.S.) for the "Friends of Tiger" Program was officially endorsed by the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC). The manual was designed as a standardized and replicable framework which will equip both protected area authorities and

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adjoining Division Forest Offices to effectively mobilize local youth champions across other landscapes in Nepal.

Recently published paper analysed the response of 245 tiger attack survivors or an adult member of the family (in case of fatality) in the TAL of Nepal. The study identifies extreme form of tiger attack on human occurred during the livelihood activities inside the forest areas. The paper also argues that majority of victims has education of secondary level and below¹. The Bagh Mitras also target to raise the awareness of community people who go to forest as well as other members of the community on practical, preventative actions to avoid dangerous encounters with tigers and other wildlife.

In this reporting period, identified 15 Bagh Mitras conducted 45 targeted awareness sessions, directly educating 554 individuals (332 males, 222 females). The knowledge of the awareness session participants was assessed using pre and post assessments to measure and reinforce key learning outcomes.

Overall, the activity is making progress toward its annual objective of conducting 90 awareness events to directly reach 900 community members. Serving as a crucial bridge between vulnerable communities, park authorities and DFOs authorities, these Bagh Mitra are driving measurable behaviour change and fostering a strong multiplier effect, as direct participants actively share safety practices and coexistence principles across the broader landscape.



¹ Dhakal, B. K., B. R. Lamichhane, S. Kandel, N. Subedi, M. Low, and T. Silwal. 2026. "Tigers in the Neighborhood: Factors Associated With Fatal Tiger Attacks in a Human-Dominated Landscape, Nepal." *Ecology and Evolution* 16, no. 8: e74206. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ece3.74206>.

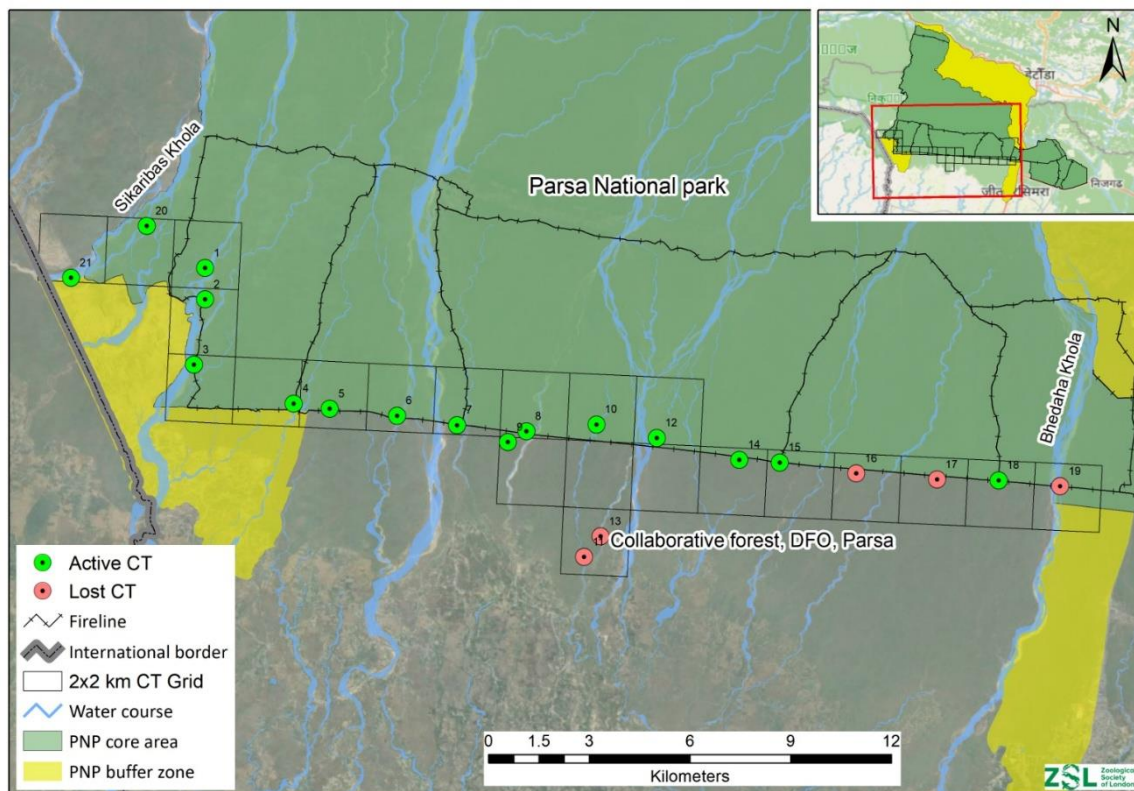
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Bagh Mitra delivering awareness in the community

Activity 2.4 Fringe area monitoring

As part of five-year initiatives of monitoring tigers in the fringe areas, a camera trap deployment in the fringe areas to monitor the tiger movement in the pre-monsoon for the current project was conducted. A total of 21 camera traps were deployed across the southern belt of PNP and adjoining forest areas from 6 April 2026 to 15 June 2026.



Map showing the core area of PNP (green), buffer zone of PNP (yellow), camera trap grids of 2 km x2 km (hard black line), camera location (lime green circle), and camera loss location (coral pink)

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Staff deploying camera trap



Images of wildlife captured in the camera trap

The data of the camera trap is retrieved on 15 June 2026. The retrieval team found that five cameras deployed in the four locations were not found in the deployed locations (possibly lost).

Second round of deployment will start from October 2026 and detail analysis of the camera trap with comparative result of pre and post monsoon for this phase will be presented with the final report.

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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.)

N/A

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

No, the budget was spent on the target as per the budget sheet.

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.

Topic	Link
Equipment handover	Link

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

High-resolution images are attached separately while the video will be shared with the final report.