

Status of Human-Wildlife conflict and Assessment of Crop Damage by Wild Animals in Buffer Zone Area of Banke National Park, Nepal

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ABSTRACT

This study was carried out to investigate human-wildlife conflict in and around buffer zone of Banke National Park (BNP), Nepal. It is aimed to assess major causes of human-wildlife conflict (HWC) such as the extent of crop damage, livestock depredation, human casualties, etc. and to identify local people's attitude towards wildlife conservation and management. Primary data was collected through preliminary field observation, focus group discussion, key informant survey and a questionnaire survey of households. Agricultural crop damage was the major problem faced by the local respondents. Wild boar followed by deer and common leopard were found as major culprit for crop-raiding and livestock depredation with Index of Relative Ranking (IRR) value 0.96, 0.8 and 0.77 respectively. High level of conflict was observed during the mid-night and the peak time like morning and night where livestock go to the field and return to their home. Communities living in close proximity to the park seemed to be more prone to damages. As the distance from the park boundary is decreased by 100 m then the total loss is increased by NRs. 3885 as revealed by the linear regression ($R^2=0.8086$). More positively, regarding the measures such as regular patrolling, net fencing, electric fencing, and compensation for crop damage have been recommended to reduce HWC. Further, it is also suggested that the active participation of local people in conservation and awareness program can play a vital role to reduce and mitigate the HWC at the community level.

Key words: Buffer zone, Crop raiding, Compensation, Livestock depredation, Property damage

