

PARTICIPATORY ANTI-POACHING ALLIANCES MEGHAULI

(2018-2022)

CHITWAN NATIONAL PARK, NEPAL

Final Report 2018-22



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SUMMARY

This is the final report on Participatory Anti-Poaching Alliances (PAPA) – Meghauli project covering four seasons from 2018-22. The first half of the project went very well, where trainings, collaborative meetings and collaborative anti-poaching patrolling, and other field activities were performed effectively on regular basis. However, later years was impacted by Covid-19 pandemic, where gathering and movement of people were restricted to reduce the risks of getting Covid-19 virus. Despite the pandemic risks, when the restrictions were relaxed, anti-poaching activities was conducted wherever and whenever possible in a smaller group of community based anti-poaching unit (CBAPU) youth. Towards the end of the project, when pandemic was fully relaxed, the CBAPU teams were reestablished, mobilized, refresher training on anti-poaching and biodiversity monitoring was provided. Collaborative anti-poaching patrolling with CBAPU, army, CFUGs, local conservationists were re-formed as before. Additionally, environmental cleanup campaigns along rivers banks, lakes and community forests were conducted. Furthermore, as part of the project evaluation activity, camera trapping in Meghauli buffer zone community forests was completed in all four seasons (2018-22).

Initial project year 2018 was declared as ‘No Poaching Year’ in Chitwan. Likewise, no cases of poaching were reported around the PAPA Meghauli area during the entire project period, however, poaching cases were reported in other areas of the Chitwan National Park (CNP). This is because poachers took advantage of the pandemic situations when antipoaching activities were relaxed. The PAPA project activities

helped finding naturally died rhinos, rescued several wildlife species that had come to the villages, assisted in problem tigers' identification and removal, confiscated illegal fishing nets, trained more than 100 CBAPU youth in anti-poaching, removed plastic and garbage from the community forests. The program also increased community knowledge on conservation and increased trust among collaborators. The project also built capacity of the group by providing bicycles and t-shirts. The wildlife assessment in Meghauli buffer zone community forests documented 16 different mammalian species photographed during the project period. On average 12 species were photographed each season including endangered tigers and hog deer. The data indicates the effective management of buffer zone community forests that harboring endangered and vulnerable mammalian species and providing critical extended habitat.

The implementation of CBAPU throughout the buffer zone of CNP is appreciated, as it provides the infrastructure and legal provisions to establish anti-poaching units or groups in the local buffer zone communities. However, initial assistance seems important to bring partners together, provide training, and keep youth motivated, and interested in the anti-poaching activities at all times. Last but not least, such project should be expanded in other areas of the buffer zone to support the CBAPU groups. Established and effective anti-poaching CBAPU around the CNP can contribute greatly to reduce poaching and thereby contribute to the overall 'No Poaching Year' declaration by the CNP.

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INTRODUCTION

Poaching and illegal trade of tigers and rhinos, two-iconic species of wildlife in Nepal have become the continuous threat for their long-term survival in its natural environments. Body parts of both these species, have a very high demand for traditional medicinal purposes in illegal international market. The Government of Nepal along with their conservation partners committed to protecting these species, and increase their population to its capacity. The Nepal's mission of doubling the tiger population by 2022 compared to tiger population estimates of 2010 was accomplished. Likewise, rhino population counted in 2021 showed 752 animals compared to 645 in 2015, an increase of 16% was outstanding.

Poachers have always taken advantage of the unstable and uncertain situation in the country such as insurgency in the past and now Covid pandemic situation. The Covid pandemic had created lockdown period and also limited movements of people. This impacted the anti-poaching activities of the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), CNP, Nepal Army, and conservation organizations, including field staff. During such lockdown period six musk deer were killed by poachers in Sagarmatha National Park in 2020. Likewise, in CNP four rhinos have been reported killed in season 2020-21 and so declaration of 'No Poaching Year' was not accomplished during and after Covid pandemic. Although, previously CNP was successful in declaring 5 years (2011, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2018) as no poaching years.

Despite the challenges during the pandemic and increase in poaching cases, CNP anti-poaching authorities changed the strategies and focused on searching and arresting

known and suspected poachers. The strategy worked and they were successful in arresting/sentencing 27 poachers in 2020-21. One of the poachers was sentenced to 7 years in jail and fined Rs. 1 lakh (US\$847) on April 25, 2021. He was a notorious wildlife smuggling ringleader, Kunjok Lama, who was accused of smuggling endangered wildlife parts including tigers from India through Nepal to China. Likewise, on February 10, 2021, CNP declared the names of 14 poachers arrested within few months from different locations within Chitwan and elsewhere. They were charged for killing rhinos, and smuggling their parts. The CNP authorities says that there are nearly 100 suspected/convicted poachers that are still at large. The new strategy was quite effective, where one of the alleged rhino poachers surrendered himself to authorities in early July 2021.

The success of arresting suspected/convicted poachers has been the collaborative efforts among the park staff, Nepali Army, and CIB (Central Investigation Bureau) of Nepal Police. In some case local community based CBAPU in the buffer zone was helpful providing information about the poachers and assisting authorities. The CBAPU concept was first initiated in Bardia National Park (BNP) in 2009 (Fig 1). The success and effectiveness of this youth mobilization was then replicated in other areas of the BNP and later was applied to all terai parks. The BNP formally institutionalized the CBAPU youth group and mobilized under the supervision of park ranger to campaign against illegal activities to control poaching mainly in the buffer zone and beyond. The network member of these CBAPU youth group became very effective as they have good surveillances in the buffer zone communities and could easily expand their activities much beyond the park and Buffer Zone boundaries. These

youths were provided conservation training including participation in the joint patrolling with the park rangers, game scouts, and army personnel. The CBAPU members were volunteers, needed to be motivated, encouraged, trained, trusted, rewarded for their voluntary works on anti-poaching activities. Once these were developed, they became dedicated to the conservation of wildlife in their localities and helped control poaching.

In CNP where the CBAPU initiatives has been adopted in recent years, the Participatory Anti-poaching Alliance (PAPA) - Meghauli project was undertaken in 2018 to assist in its organizational structure, coordination, and collaborative anti-poaching patrolling with park game scouts and army personnel. The idea was to follow the working modality of BNP and be effective in assisting CNP in their anti-poaching efforts.

The specific objectives were:

- To establish and strengthen collaborative anti-poaching alliances among stakeholders and build trust.
- To build the capacity of these alliances by providing training, field gears, conservation awareness activities.
- To collaborate and conduct regular wildlife monitoring, patrolling and surveillance to stop illegal human activities.
- To evaluate project outcome systematically by investigating wildlife status in the area.

METHODOLOGY

Participatory Anti-poaching Alliance (PAPA): Meghauli

The PAPA project is implemented in Meghauli, which in 2014, has been included into Bharatpur Metropolitan City, Chitwan district and is divided into two wards (27 and 28). The Chitwan district has the 3rd highest population growth of 2.1% in the country after Kathmandu and Rupendehi districts respectively. In 2021, Chitwan population was 722,168 compared to 579,984 in 2011. Likewise, in 2021 Bharatpur municipality had a population of 369,268, compared to 285,167 in 2011, an increase of 2.5%. Finally, in 2021, Meghauli population was approximately 14,214 (ward 27: 7845 people and ward 28: 6369 people).

The Meghauli Buffer Zone User Committee (BZUC) was established in 1998, after the implementation of Buffer Zone Act of 1996. The new Act introduced provisions to provide 30-50% of park revenue back into the buffer zone communities. The fund is channeled through BZUC. At Meghauli BZUC, there are 81 consumer user groups. The Meghauli BZ covers an area of 78.18 sq km which includes nine buffer zone community forests covering an area of 1682 hectare (16.82 sq km). Nine buffer zone community forests at Meghauli are: 1. Radha Krishna; 2. Sadabahar; 3. Rapti Niyantran; 4. Hariyali Rapti; 5. Malika; 6. Narayani; 7. Bardaha-3; 8. Bardaha-7; and 9. Bardaha-4&6.

The Meghauli is strategically located by the confluence of two very important river systems: Narayani River and Rapti River. Both these rivers form the alluvial floodplain, that deliver critical grassland and riverine habitats, providing the life

supporting system for all wildlife and human being. Additionally, these rivers also serve as a natural boundary between the CNP and Megghauli. Due to its close proximity to the CNP, both wards (27 & 28) have been included in a buffer zone of the park and its community forests. These 9 community forests not only provide basic natural resources to local people, but also provide additional habitats for wildlife including tigers. This area has seen the highest incidents of human-wildlife conflicts due to its proximity to the park, high density of tigers and increasing human populations. Despite the challenges, the residents of Megghauli understand the importance of wildlife and its habitats and are supportive of the conservation initiatives to co-exist with its wildlife neighbors.

Under the guidance and supervision of BZUC, CBAPU groups are formed for anti-poaching activities and conservation awareness campaign in the localities. The BZUC election is held every 5 years. In 2019, election was held and Mr. Maya Ram Choudhary, was elected as a new Megghauli buffer zone chairperson and took office responsibilities. This is interesting to note that CBAPU groups are also formed institutionally under the BZUC and go through similar process of election to form the CBAPU operating group. By the mid- 2020, previously formed CBAPU groups were dissolved and new groups were reformed. But the process of formation was slowed due to pandemic.

Collaborative Meeting

Initially, several interaction meetings were conducted to bring together all the stakeholders of Megghauli that included representatives from CNP, CBAPU, BZUC, Community Forestry User Groups (CFUGs), Nepal Tiger Trust (NTT) and Nepal Army.

These meetings were held at Megghauli Ranger Post and BZUC office. These meetings were initially held to form the anti-poaching alliances, discuss and strategize the anti-poaching activities including training, joint patrolling, awareness campaign, wildlife monitoring and reporting. Such meetings are also used to discuss current issues and plan for upcoming activities.

During the mid part of the project, fewer interaction meetings were held to discuss the anti-poaching activities among all stakeholders. The regular collaborative meeting was impacted due to Covid-19, when country-wide lockdown came into effect from 24 March 2020 to 21 July 2020. However, smaller group meetings among fewer members, regular telephone/online conversation were conducted to give continuity to activities and discuss immediate issues. For example, environmental cleanup campaign and camera trapping planning meeting was held in smaller related groups.

However, during 2021-22 season, larger group meeting was held in March and July of 2022. In these meetings approximately 40 people from Megghauli BZUC, chairpersons of Bharatpur Municipality ward 27 and 28, CNP staff, CFUG, NTT, local cooperatives representatives participated and discussed about the conservation issues and its solutions.

Training of CBAPU

During the first season of project period, two different training workshops have been conducted to build the capacity of the alliance's members. The first training was held on 3 November 2018 for one day that focused on Footprint Identification Technique (FIT), where 19 individuals participated. The participants included from CNP, BZUC, CFUGs, CBAPU, Naturalist, nature guides and NTT technicians. Ms.

Amy Fitzmaurice, Wild-crew of Oxford University volunteered to be the guest trainer for this training. This program was focused on skill development regarding more efficient techniques on footprint photography and its digitization. FIT helps identify individual animal from its footprint (track/pugmark). The second workshop was conducted for two days from 28 May to 29 May 2019, focused on antipoaching issues and resolutions. There were 84 participants. The event was inaugurated by the local politician, chairman of Meghauli ward-27. The chief trainer was Mr. Bishnu Thapathalia, Conservation Officer of Banke National Park, Mr. Tikaram Poudel, former Conservation Officer of CNP. An Army officer also presented his perspectives on wildlife security and encouraged youth group to collaborate on saving wildlife by assisting to control poaching and other illegal activities. NTT members Mr. Ramsingh Gurung, also shed lights on the importance of tigers and rhinos in wildlife and their significant role in ecological balance. Mr. Baburam Mahato, and Mr. Raju Kumal provided support during the field activities.

When the pandemic was relaxed, a refresher training was also held for CBAPU members at the Meghauli BZUC office on 9 February 2021. There were 62 participants attended the refresher training. Finally, two days GPS (Global Positioning System) use training was held on 1st and 2nd December 2021 at Tharu Home Stay – Meghauli. Rupesh Maharjan, a graduate student conducted the training where 13 people from different background such as army, local nature guides, and hotel employees participated. They were first provided the concept and operational mechanism of GPS unit and then were provided the field training on marking and collecting GPS points along the monitoring route. Finally, the participants were trained on how to load the collected GPS points into

the computer using different software applications such as Google Earth, GPX and MS Excel. Also, they were trained on the use of mobile based GPS platforms such as Obital Map and Google Map. Such GPS use training is important in collecting field data.

Regular Monitoring and Patrolling Activities

Three different modes of monitoring and patrolling (foot, bicycle and boat) were conducted by the joint patrolling teams. On foot patrolling on a regular bases were performed by CBAPU, BZUC, CFUG, Army, and Park game scouts. The patrolling was conducted on rotational basis covering all the nine buffer zone community forests and park borders. Each team consisted of 10-12 people and monitoring ranged from 2-6 times during a month. However, during the pandemic period, joint patrolling was minimized, anti-poaching patrolling were limited to individual group basis. The CBAPU and forest guards in a group of 2-4 people conducted the patrolling in their respective community forests to keep any illegal human activities at bay. During pandemic, top priorities were the safety and well-being of these front line people.

The bicycle monitoring and patrolling were mostly done by the CBAPU and youth members in a group ranged from 8-11 people. The project provided the bicycle and was given to most needy CBAPU member. Joint bicycle patrolling was done 1-2 times a month. Finally, the patrolling on boat was conducted on Rapti and Narayani River on a quarterly basis. The joint team included were CBAPU, Army, BZUC, CFUG, and Park staff. The project provided t-shirts and were distributed to active CBAPU youth, forest guards, and key user group members to keep them motivated.

In addition to monitoring and patrolling the alliances also assisted Park authorities in human-tiger conflict situations such as removal of human killing tiger and

assisted in rescue of wildlife from the human settlement and relocating them to their natural habitat. Likewise, the team also took active part in wildlife rescue operations as it occurs.

Conservation Awareness Campaign

Several conservation and environmental related awareness campaigns were organized. On world environmental day each year cleanup campaign was organized where plastic, bottles and garbage were collected from the buffer zone forested areas. In later years the garbage collection tin was also distributed and placed in strategic locations for people to throw the garbage. Likewise, conservation based extra-curriculum activity was also conducted in school. Participated in the bird conservation awareness program, where kids were informed and encouraged toward bird conservation. Furthermore, tiger documentary movie was shown in public places in the communities during evening hours. Additionally, alliances member participated in Meghauli Tourism Promotional Festival (1-5 March 2020) held at Meghauli Airport field. Tiger conservation slides show was presented and visitors were informed about project activities. Finally, each year except pandemic year 2021, Kathmandu Forestry College students approximately 40 students visited Meghauli for their 10 days of field courses. The alliances members provided them field skills training on tiger and wildlife monitoring and field safety measures.

Project Evaluation

The PAPA project was evaluated based on the occurrence of poaching cases and status of wildlife in the area. The status of wildlife occurrence and distribution in the Meghauli buffer zone community forests were obtained using camera trapping. The

camera trapping in the Megghauli buffer zone was conducted in all four seasons from 2018-2022 (Fig 2). The first season (2018-19) camera trapping was conducted from 16 November 2018 to 25 May 2019. Three camera blocks were established and total camera trap nights was 615. Likewise, the second season (2019-2020) camera was placed from 3 May to 10 June 2020, covered two forest blocks and 228 total trap nights. Similarly, third season (2020-21) camera trapping was done from 1 December 2020 to 24 March 2021. This season the four blocks of area was covered. In each block five sets of cameras were placed, whereas, in the last two blocks, camera trap set was reduced to four sets because of malfunctioning of camera trap. Altogether, total camera trap nights were 478 and trap nights in each block varied from 22 to 30 nights. Finally, in season four (2021-2022), camera trapping took place from 25 Sept 2021 to 29 November 2021. Two forest blocks were covered with a total trap night of 227. The photographed animals were identified, IUCN status checked and categorized into two groups common and rare, based on the number of photographs obtained. The species photographed each season is compared with other seasons.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Team Capacity Building

The Megghauli BZUC committee led most of the PAPA collaborative activities in partnership with NTT, CBAPU, CNP, CFUGs and Nepal Army. Project evaluation activities including camera trapping was led by NTT in association with the alliance partners. During the first year of project initiation 7 CBAPU sub groups in Megghauli were formed and 2 more were in the process of formation. These 7 CBAPU subgroups

consisted of 118 youths (93 male, and 25 female youth volunteers). CBAPU is operated by an executive body of 13 youths representing each subgroup. The CBAPU in coordination BZUC, CFUGs, CNP, and Nepali Army does joint patrolling, complementing government's effort to curbing poaching. Likewise, each group are active in regular patrolling, environmental cleanup activities, conservation awareness campaigns and keep surveillance on any illegal activities in their respective areas. Such collaborative joint activities increase interactions among partners which enhances building trust to one another. FIT training was one of the first team building activities, where 19 individuals representing: CNP, BZUC, CFUG, CBAPU, naturalists, nature guides and NTT technicians participated. Tiger tracking using pugmark techniques is a cost-effective way of monitoring individual animals such as tigers in an area. Our hope is that the participants use this tracking technique and monitor individual animals with confidence and take necessary actions for its protection. The second training focused on effective ways of anti-poaching patrolling and monitoring activities. In this training, 84 CBAPU members participated. They gained the knowledge and importance of wildlife presence in the park and also in their community forests. They also increased their understanding on how they can contribute in the conservation of the critically endangered species in collaboration with the partner organizations. They learned effective patrolling skills, surveillance in the community, how to create active awareness campaigns, collaboration, and reporting skills. Such training and interactions activities among alliances is one of the main focuses of the project. Finally, the 3rd training was held as refresher after the pandemic was relaxed and CBAPU youth groups were reformed in all nine buffer zone community forests after BZUC election. The

refresher training in 2021 was similar to above 2nd training where 62 members participated. In addition to training, 11 bicycles were provided to field assistants and few CPAPU members. Likewise, 2 binoculars and t-shirts were also distributed as part of the capacity building and to keep members motivated for the anti-poaching activities.

Monitoring and Patrolling Outcome

Joint patrolling with national park army soldiers and game scouts were a new experience to the CBAPU members. Regular patrolling with participants from different organizations allowed interactions that helped understand the perspectives of one another. Overtime such interactions during joint patrolling enhanced their understanding of the situations and build trust to achieve common goals of creating zero poaching in the area. However, in latter part of the season joint patrolling was not encouraged due to Covid-19 pandemic. Patrolling had to be limited to smaller individual group. Despite of it, no cases of poaching have been recorded at the Meghauri during the entire project period. Some of the highlights of patrolling outcome is listed below:

1. Two people were caught with “tilari jaal” (big fishing net) and handed over to CNP authorities. Many fishing nets were confiscated when people were fishing illegally.
2. Five pythons, four snakes and one cobra found in the village were rescued and released in the BZ forest. There are few snake handlers in the community and their work has been appreciate.
3. Three rhinos; two dead and one injured were found by CBAPU during patrolling and reported to Park authorities for necessary actions.
4. Two problem tigers from Meghauri community forest was removed in 2018 and 2021.

The NTT technicians, BZUC and CBAPU members helped CNP authorities in finding

and removal of problem tiger from the Megghauli BZ community forests.

5. On several (5) occasions, NTT technicians and CBAPU members helped CNP and BZUC authority to normalize the tense situation in the event of human-wildlife conflict that occurred during the project reporting period.

6. One gharial crocodile with its snout entangled in fishing net that had difficulty in opening the mouth has been reported to CNP for rescue operation.

7. A spotted deer was rescued and release back into the wild. During scaring away, the deer got stranded in farmers compound and got strained.

Conservation Awareness Campaign Outcome

Different conservation awareness activities were conducted during project period including regular collaborative meetings, trainings, environmental cleanup campaigns, conservation awareness in schools, participation in Tourism Promotional Festival, slideshows / tiger documentary shows, and assisting college students in their field projects. Some highlights of such activities are listed below:

1. On average two joint meetings in each season was held with stakeholders including CNP officials, BZUC members, Army personnel, CFUGs, NTT, and CBAPU members. In each meeting approximately 40 people actively participated and discussed conservation issues and possible solutions.
2. Three different training workshops were conducted for CBAPU and other stakeholder on wildlife importance, monitoring, and their conservation. Altogether 165 CBAPU members received the training and implemented it during their field patrolling.

3. Environmental (garbage/plastic) cleanup campaign was conducted twice in the

season. Several sacks (15-16) of plastic waste were collected and removed. In later season dustbins/garbage cans was also placed in strategic locations.

4. Each season conservation based extra-curricular activity was conducted in local school.
5. Project supported local bird conservation youth activity in October 2019 by collecting catapults from children and giving them other entertainment alternative.
6. Partner organizations including NTT participated in Meghauli Mahotsav (Meghauli Tourism Promotional Festival) in March 2020. Nearly 2000 visitors came to NTT stall and more than 500 people saw tiger conservation slide show.
7. Assisted in field training of 40 undergraduate students of Kathmandu Forestry College for 10 days each season. Altogether 120 students gained field skills in camera trapping, pugmark identification, wildlife sign surveys, safety measures.
8. In each season, organized 4 wildlife documentary shows (mainly of tiger) for public in the evening. It is an open-air public film documentary show, much welcomed by the local community.

Project Evaluation

Mammalian species photographed during the past four seasons in and around Meghauli buffer zone community forests are shown in Table 1. Altogether 16 different mammalian species have been identified and recorded. This includes the endangered tigers and vulnerable rhinos, photographed in all four seasons. The mammalian species photographed each season ranged from 10 to 13. However, additional mammalian species seems to be photographed each additional season. Documenting additional

species of wildlife provides good indication of the importance of the habitat as well as a success of the project. Furthermore, it shows the importance of the buffer zone community forests supporting the endangered mammalian species such as tigers, hog deer and vulnerable species like rhino, leopard, sambar and sloth bear.

Table 1 List of wildlife species photographed in the Meghauli buffer zone community forests during 2018-22 seasons.

Sno	Mammal Species Photographed	IUCN Status	Common / Rare			
			Season 2018-19	Season 2019-20	Season 2020-21	Season 2021-22
1	Rhino	Vulnerable	Common	Common	Common	Common
2	Tiger	Endangered	Common	Common	Common	Common
3	Leopard	Vulnerable	Rare	-	-	-
4	Sambar	Vulnerable	Rare	-	Rare	-
5	Chital	Least Concern	Common	Common	Common	Common
6	Hog Deer	Endangered	Common	Common	Common	Common
7	Wild Boar	Least Concern	Common	Common	Common	Common
8	Jungle Cat	Least Concern	Common	Rare	Common	Rare
9	Golden Jackal	Least Concern	Common	Rare	Common	Rare
10	Indian Grey Mongoose	Least Concern	Rare	-	Rare	Rare
11	Large Indian Civet	Least Concern	Rare	-	-	-
12	Small Indian Civet	Least Concern	Rare	-	Rare	Rare
13	Rhesus Macaque	Least Concern	Common	Common	Common	Common
14	Common Palm Civet	Least Concern	-	Rare	-	-
15	Sloth Bear	Vulnerable	-	Rare	Rare	Rare
16	Indian Hare	Least Concern	-	-	Rare	Rare

Conclusions

In conclusion, the Nepal Government implementation and operation of a CBAPU represent a crucial step towards conservation of endangered tigers and rhinos and combating the detrimental effects of poaching and illegal human activities in all protected areas. By empowering these CBAPUs can not only protect these endangered

species, but also foster a sense of ownership and responsibilities of their local natural environment.

The success of CBAPUs relies on effective collaboration between government agencies such as park, army, local non-governmental organizations like NTT, BZUC, CFUG and international partners like The Fund for The Tiger, McDougal Foundation. This collaborative approach ensures that a comprehensive range of resources, knowledge, and expertise is brought together to control the pressing issue of poaching.

As CBAPUs continue to evolve and expand, it's imperative to prioritize collaboration with alliances, ongoing training and capacity-building of these units. By equipping community members with the skills and understanding they need to deter and report poaching activities, it can create a lasting impact and pave the way for a declaration of No Poaching Year.

Finally, the combat poaching through CBAPU is one of the collective responsibility and dedication. By working together, we can mitigate the threats to our tigers, rhinos and all other wildlife, protect our ecosystems, and leave a legacy of conservation for generations to come.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to thank the DNPWC for implementing the CBAPU concepts in Chitwan and supporting PAPA- Meghauli Project. We are also grateful to the Chief Conservation Officer of CNP for collaboration and providing support of Rangers and Game Scouts. Additionally, we appreciate the participation of Nepal Army and providing guidance and training on effective patrolling skills. We also would like to thank the Meghauli resident for their support in cleanup campaign and keeping surveillance on illegal human behavior. Finally, we acknowledge the financial support from “The Fund for The Tiger”, The World Charity Foundation, McDougal Foundation, and International Trust for Nature Conservation, without their contributions this project would not have been possible.

FIGURES

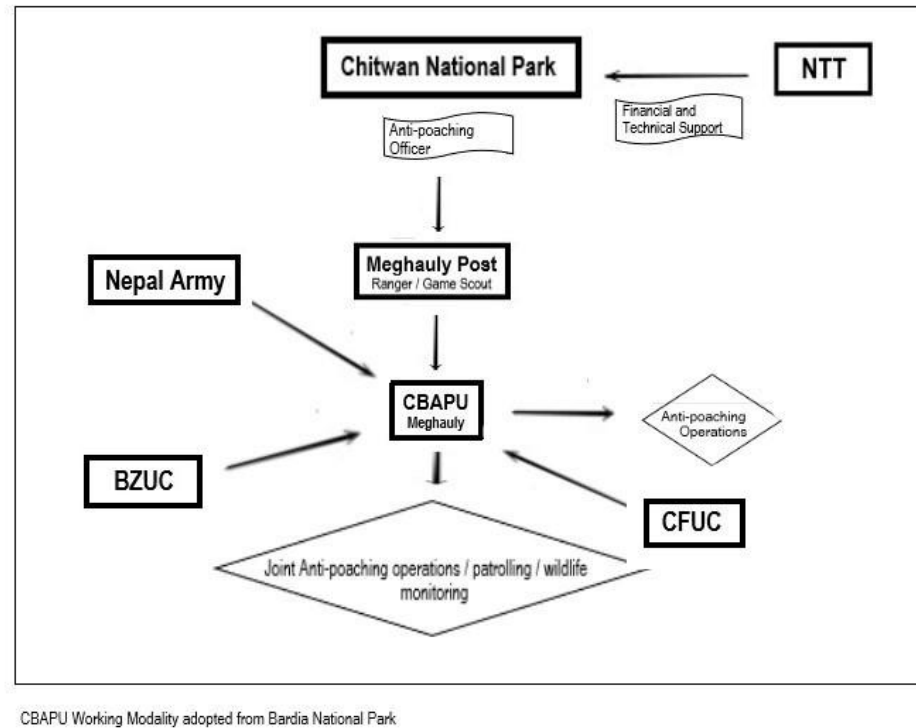


Figure 1: Participatory Anti-Poaching Alliances (PAPA) – Meghauli project working modality adapted from Bardia National Park.

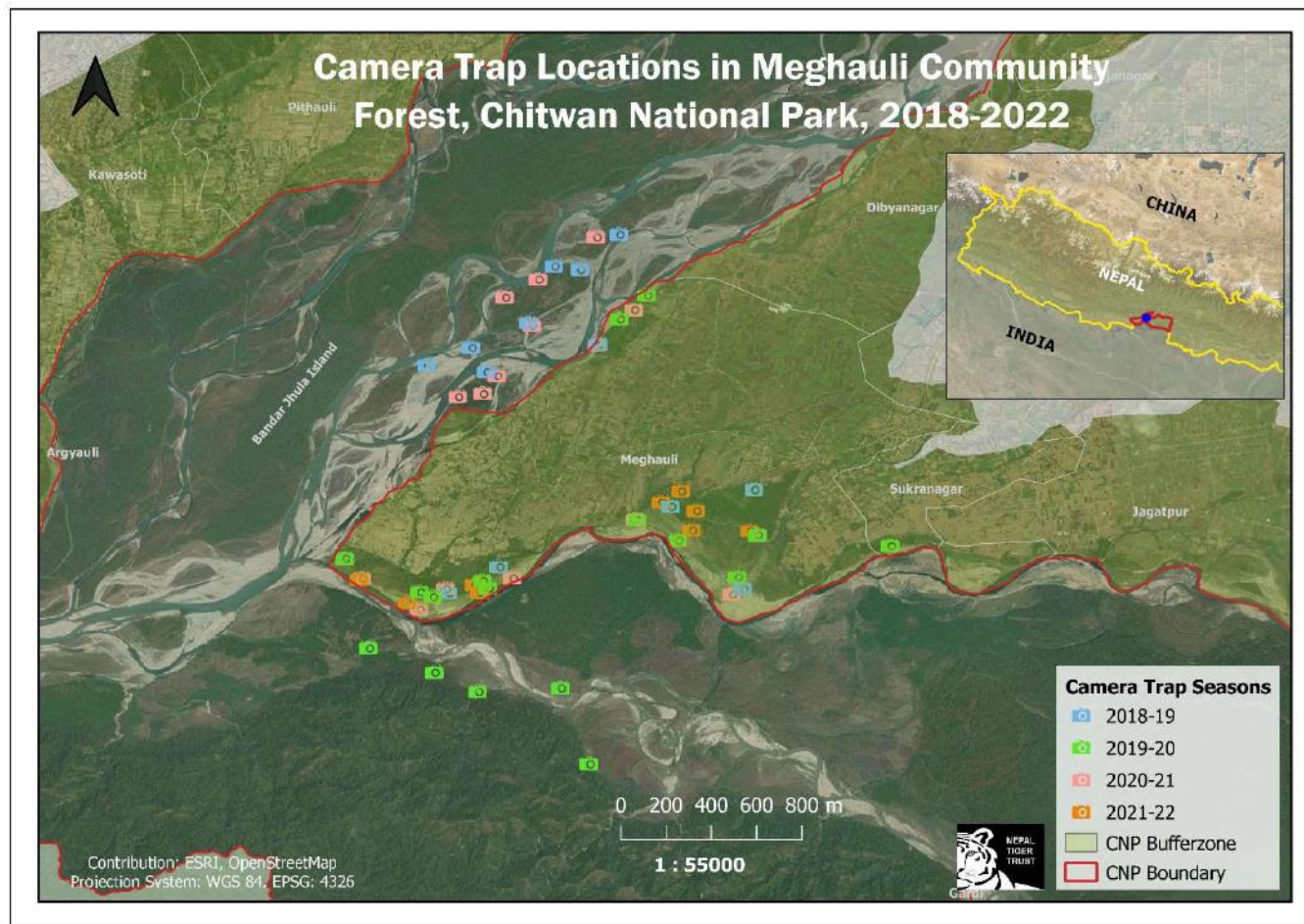


Figure 2: Camera trap locations Meghauri buffer zone community forests during 2018-22, includes 5 trap locations inside the CNP to capture problem tiger in 2019-20.

APPENDIX - Photos

Appendix (a): PAPA Meghauli field activities photos 2018-22



Appendix (b): PAPA Meghauli Training photos 2018-22



Appendix (c): PAPA Meghauli photographed animals in community forests 2018-22





Appendix (d): PAPA Meghauli photographed birds in community forests 2018-22



Appendix (c): PAPA Meghauli domestic animals and people photos in community forests 2018-22



Appendix (f): PAPA Meghauli Outcome during 2018-22; dead rhino found, wild animals rescued, illegal use of fishing net confiscated, problem tiger removed, awareness created, cleaned environment, and overall poaching controlled.

