

Female Burmese Python (*Python molurus bivittatus*) released Back to the Wild

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Community Forestry (CF) evolved out of the realization that conventional forest management was incapable of and inefficient for people's active participation in forest conservation. CF in Nepal has evolved through policy restructuring and strengthening of rules and regulations on local control over forest resources (Acharya, 2002). In Nepal, community forests are solely managed for maximizing the timber yield with limited emphasis on wildlife value and such forests may function as a sink for wild animal when management focuses on production. In case of Nepal, mega-vertebrates and a few bird species have been given focus of species conservation and only a few concerns have been given to small faunal groups such as amphibians and reptiles etc., that play great role in terrestrial as well as aquatic ecosystem complex. And most of the research and study are also being focused inside the Protected Areas only and few concerns have been given to the areas outside the protected areas. One-third of the total number of Herpeto species (65) and 25 species of fishes are found outside protected sites (NBRB 2007).

Two sub species of Pythons i.e. *Python molurus molurus* and *Python molurus bivittatus* have been recorded from Nepal (Shah, 1995). Both sub-species are referred as *Ajingar* in Nepali and have been enlisted as protected animal under National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1973 of Nepal.

On 14 July 2012 at 07:15 I observed a python swallowing a chicken inside a poultry farm and two more chickens were killed but not swallowed by it. This poultry farm is almost 1 km away from a community forest named Sati Karnali Community Forest, Far-west, Nepal. This community forest is famous for Rattan forest (*Calamus tenuis*) and also harbours python population and several other species. The author had conducted a study on population status of Python in this forest and had recorded 7 individuals of python through direct sightings (Bhattarai, 2012).

Python is occasionally seen inside the village in the rainy season when agriculture fields and burrows are filled with water. Last year a python was also noticed in the same poultry farm in the rainy season and had killed five chickens in a single night (M. Baidhya, *pers.comm.*). I took the python out of the poultry farm and identified its sex as males have more slender tails and more developed spurs (Lederer, 1956). I also observed the ventral part of the python and easily identified it as a female. I also took the weight and measured the body length of it. It was found to be 8.3 kg and 7 feet long. After that, I placed it into a white coloured sac and released it at Sati Karnali Community Forest, Far-west, Nepal to save it from being killed by local people.

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Reproductive organ of Female Python



Female Python after taking out from Poultry farm

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