

# Report on Training Workshop on Building National Capacity in Research and Monitoring of Small Mammals, 10-17 May, 2014, Nepal

## Executive Summary

A seven-days training workshop on Building National Capacity in Research and Monitoring of Small Mammals was conducted at the premise of the Biodiversity Conservation Center, National Trust for Nature Conservation, Sauraha, Chitwan. Small Mammals Conservation and Research Foundation organized this training with the support of WWF/Hariyo Ban Program with its partner organizations (USAID, WWF, CARE, FECOFUN and NTNC), Chester Zoo and Zoo Outreach Organization.

Twelve participants were chosen for the training from different institutions viz. Central Department of Zoology, TU, Institute of Forestry, Hetauda and Pokhara, T.U., Kathmandu Forestry College, Kathmandu, Khwopa College, TU and Central Department of Botany, TU.

Training included the theoretical classes followed by practicals in the buffer zone of Chitwan National Park. Trainees were introduced with the general concept of small mammal's species of Nepal which included bats, rodents, shrews, small cats, small carnivores, pangolins and red panda and their practical research techniques. Trainees were also made familiar with GIS technology, First aid methods during the field wildlife photography and data analysis using open software R.

The training practical included the bat survey using mist nets and bat detectors. Trainees were shown the methods to handle the bats in the field and take necessary morphometric measurement needed for the identification of bats. Tube traps were used to study the rodents and shrews. Traps kept in the evening were checked early in the morning. Captured rodents and shrews were handled in the field for the morphometric measurement and weight was taken. No animals were harmed. They were identified and released at the trapping sites. Camera traps were used to record the nocturnal animals, like cats, civets etc. The traps were set in the evening and checked early in the morning just before the lecture class sessions.

The training workshop was followed by seven days bat survey of Deukhuri valley in Dang. The survey focused on diversity and distribution of bat species, their habitat mapping and impact of climate change on bat population. Nine species of bats namely *Hipposideros armiger*, *Rousettus leschenaulti*, *Megaderma lyra*, *Scotophilus heathii*, *Cynopterus sphinx*, *Pteropus giganteus*, *Pipistrellus* sp., *Rhinolophus* sp., *Nyctalus* sp. were recorded from different sites of Deukhuri valley of Dang district. More than 50% respondent stated the decreasing pattern of bat population in Dekhuri valley due to habitat loss, deforestation and hunting. In addition to that more than 50% of respondent felt the intensity of rainfall is increasing with hail stone and the earlier maturation flowering plants.

## Goal

The main goal of the training was to capacitate field biologists on small mammal research and survey in the country.

## Methodology

The training was based on lectures and field practical from the expert. Training sessions also encouraged discussion on the lectures and field practical. The training lasted for 7 nights and 8 days.

## Selection of the Participants

Twelve graduate level students from ecology, environment science, forestry, sociology and Zoology were selected on the merit basis. Participants went interviewed by the selection committee before selecting them. Among twelve participants, seven participants were girls and five were boys. Also, among twelve participants one each participants were from chepang, rai, magar and guring community, two participants from newar community and six participants from brahmin community.

## Use of Tools

Different tools necessary for the study of small mammals were introduced and encouraged to be used by the trainee.

## Lectures and Practical

Different experts of small mammals were invited to present the lectures. They were also involved in the practical session for field techniques study of small mammals. Wildlife and ecological study is a multidimensional subject. To carry out a successful wildlife study one must have sound health, ability to work in a group, good interpersonal skill, ability to tackle the emergency situation, field techniques skill, knowledge of data analysis tool, ability to use GIS, photography skills, knowledge of scientific paper writing process. All these topics were covered in the training workshop through various experts.

## Course Evaluation

Training evaluation test were conducted to know the success of the training. Trainees were asked to fill the pre and post assessment forms regarding the training workshop, different aspects of small mammals and the usefulness of the training to them. Feedback of trainees on the training quality, topics of the training and management were also collected. **Submitted by Sanjan Thapa, SMCRF. Email: [info@smcrf.org](mailto:info@smcrf.org)**



Deploy of mist net with the participants at the bank of Rapti river (Photo © SMCRF)