

STRIPED HYAENA

The recent record of road kill of *Hyaena hyaena* in Central Terai of Nepal



IUCN Red List:
Near Threatened
(AbiSaid &
Dloniak, 2015)

Photo by: Dipendra Adhikari

Road kill Striped Hyaena on the side of Highway

Mammalia
[Class of Mammals]

Carnivora
[Order of Carnivores]

Hyaenidae
[Family of Cat-like
Carnivorans]

Hyaena hyaena
[Striped Hyaena]

Species described by
Linnaeus in 1758

Globally, there are four members of the Hyaenidae family; Striped Hyaena (*Hyaena hyaena*), Spotted Hyaena (*Crocuta crocuta*), Brown Hyaena (*Parahyaena brunnea*), and Aardwolf (*Proteles cristata*). The Striped Hyaena is large sized scavenging carnivorous mammal extending from Africa to central Tanzania, Arabian Peninsula, Turkey, Central Asia, and the Indian subcontinent expanding up to Nepal. These magnificent animals are playing an important role for maintaining forest and grassland ecosystem (Mills & Hofer 1998; AbiSaid & AbiSaid 2007). Historically, Striped Hyaenas were distributed in Sudan, Eritrea, Somalia, Qatar, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates (Mills & Hofer 1998; Cunningham 2004).

Striped Hyaena is one of the least known large carnivore species (Hofer & Mills 1998; Jnawali et al. 2011; Sharma et al. 2011). The large carnivore preferring rocky and open landscapes (Hofer 1998) within arid to semi-arid ecosystems in the tropical region (Leakey et al. 1999; Mendelssohn & Yom-Tov 1999; Wagner 2006). The species has a restricted distribution and are limited to protected areas of lowlands of Nepal. The threats to species includes depleting prey populations, persecution especially poisoning, retaliatory killings, and habitat fragmentation (Baral & Shah 2008; Jnawali et al. 2011).

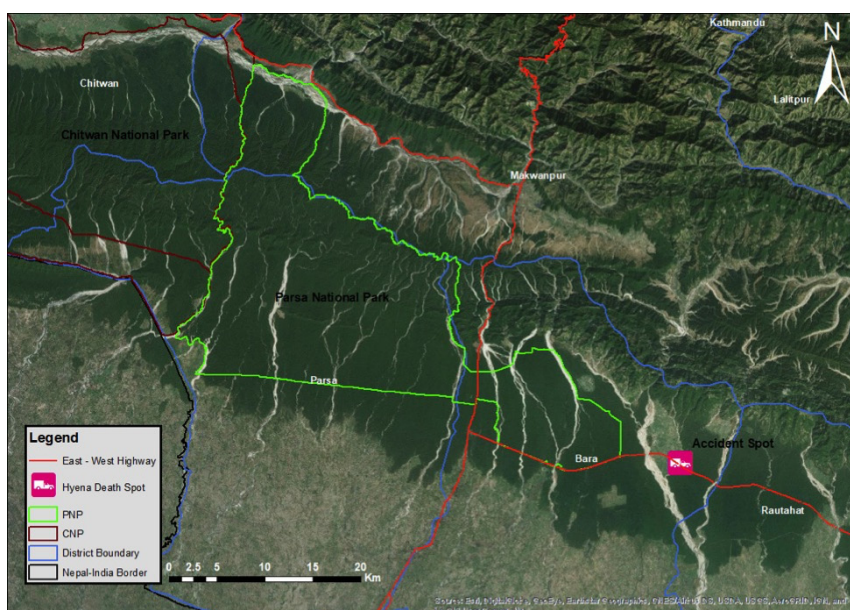
Global Distribution :

Afghanistan, Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Georgia, India, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Western Sahara, Yemen (AbiSaid & Dloniak, 2015)

Striped Hyaena has been classified as 'Near Threatened' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and in Nepal it has been nationally assessed as 'Endangered' with estimated population of lesser than 100 individuals only (Jnawali et al. 2011). It has been classified under protected species by Government of Nepal "National Park and Wildlife Conservation Act (NPWCA)" (1973)

In context to Nepal, only single species; Striped Hyaena is a member of hyaenidae. Few studies have been carried out on this carnivore and is recorded from the altitude below 1,000m (Baral & Shah 2008) in Nepal. It has nocturnal habit with solitary behaviour. The abundance, distribution and population structure of the Striped Hyaena in Indian subcontinent are stable and populations are considered to be declining (Singh et al. 2010; Akay et al. 2011; Jnawali et al. 2011; Sharma et al. 2011). Few researches conducted has

confirmed out the presence record of Striped Hyaena from Sarlahi and Rautahat (Bhandari et al. 2015) in Central Terai and from Dang district (Khanal et al. 2017) in Western Terai. However, little is known about its past and present occurrence in Nepal (Mills & Hofer 1998). Furthermore, its distribution pattern is less known.



Location site of incident in Bara

We report here the recent record of road kill of Striped Hyaena from Central Terai, Nijh gadh, Bara District, after an event of record of dead Striped Hyaena in Udaypur District in August 2003 (Jnawali et al. 2003). At 05:00hr on 05 May 2017, a matured male was found dead in Bhamara Bridge near Nijh gadh (Pathlaiya-Chandranigahapur) section of East West Highway which is around 1km east from Nijh gadh; a small town of Province 2 of Nepal. The event of road kill was obtained from the officials of Nijh gadh Sector Office, under Bara District Forest Office. It seems the animal was crossing the road and was killed by vehicle on the mid highway. At the meantime, it was uncared as it was quite early morning and later after an hour, local people around the accidental area found it to be Striped Hyaena and reported to forest officials.

Detail morphometric measurements of the road kill Hyaena

Recorded at the accidental site at 11:00hr, i.e., nearly after 5–6 hours of road accident.

Head-tail length: 121cm, head body length (without tail): 101cm

Head length: 121cm, tail length: 22cm, shoulder height: 68.5cm

Neck girth: 49cm, upper canine teeth (l): 2.6cm, lower canine teeth (l): 2.2cm

Details of fore limb: pad length: 5cm, pad width: 5cm, total length: 8.5cm, total width: 6cm

Details of hind limb: pad length: 4cm, pad width: 3.6cm, total length: 7.4cm, total width: 5cm

Some recommendations are put forward to reduce the road kill of hyaena in Central Terai:

- Imparting awareness to the vehicle staff particularly drivers and passengers about existence of this locally rare species.
- Arrangement of under pass system for the animal to cross the road.
- Placing highway hoarding boards with conservation messages to sensitize the public.

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