

Workshop on Climate Change and Wildlife at Institute of Forestry, Pokhara, Nepal

On 28th February and 1st March, a workshop on “Climate Change and Wildlife” was organized by Bat Friends Pokhara and Nature Conservation and Development Network. The theme of the workshop was ‘Shaping Conservationists for better future’.



Setting up camera traps

Climate change has adverse effects on biodiversity and the ecosystem. At present context, many of wildlife are in a precarious situation due to various anthropogenic threats and unpredictable climatic patterns. Especially the countries dependent on natural resources are facing many problems all around

the globe due to global climate change. From the melting of glaciers in the Himalayas to an enormous increase in invasive species in Terai belt of Nepal; our wildlife is at high risk. We lack appropriate research on the impact of climate

change on wildlife and conservation intervention to drench its effects. In order to do so, we need young energetic minds to work dedicatedly on these issues.

Nepal is prone to various other natural disasters due to above issues. Hence, this workshop was organized with the objective to aware young students about climate change and wildlife conservation and motivates them to become a future conservationist.

The workshop was organized productively at Institute of Forestry (IoF), Pokhara. IoF premise



Setting up mist net



Participants observing bats

include an area of 15 hectare college complex with 31.85 hectare of forest named “Banpale forest”. Its altitude varies from 750m at Seti river bed to 915m. Forty participants were selected from 87 applicants from different colleges around Nepal. Field-based training was organized at Banpale Forest. The participants were trained by Bat Friends Pokhara and Nature Conservation and Development Network. Presentations on Climate change and related issues were given by various keynote speakers before the field visit.

Students were divided into 4 groups, 10 participants on each group led by

trainers. These groups were Mammals Group, Bat Group, Birds Group, and Butterfly Group. Every participant was assigned with a species name, 10 species from each group. Individual works were given on the assigned species to every participant to enhance their curiosity and knowledge. Each group was provided with a Camera trap, GPS device, binoculars, camera, Butterfly net; reference book ‘Bats of Nepal’, ‘Birds of Nepal’, ‘Butterflies of Nepal’ etc. Participants were taken to Banpale forest for camera trapping and mist netting. Mist netting and bat handling were demonstrated with the help of hand gloves, Vernier Callipers, bat bag, etc. Lepidoptera and bird

watching and identification were done.

Similarly, climate change issues on environment and forest management were taught to participants with main focus on its adaptation and mitigation measures. Various anthropogenic activities triggering global climate change and their tackling methods were also familiarized. Concept on Ecosystem based Adaptation (EbA) was educated through presentations and with the help of different examples and cases for building resilient communities and ecosystems so that they would be able to contribute on reducing communities vulnerability to climate change and improving their adaptive capacities.

During the field visit, twenty one (21) species of birds, 11 species of butterflies were recorded while no mammal was caught in camera trap. Three individuals of Greater Short-nosed Fruit Bat *Cynopterus sphinx*, were captured in a mist net; of which, 2 were male and 1

female. Identification keys of all recorded wildlife species were demonstrated in the field. With the aid of field visits, all participants learned to set up camera trap and mist net. They were also conscious about the consequences of climate change on wildlife, got motivated, and showed interests towards such issues.

At last, we would like to thank resource persons and volunteers hugely for

giving their precious time in making the programme effective and successful.

We are also grateful to IoF Dean Office and Annapurna Conservation Area Project, Head office for providing conference hall during our programs. And last but not least, we would like to thank every participant for their patience, discipline, and curiosity.

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Organisers with participants