

Himalayan Black Bear–Human Conflict (A Case Study from Guthichaur Rural Municipality, Jumla, Nepal)

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Abstract

Human–wildlife conflict (HWC) threatens the existence of precious wildlife in nature. This study assesses human–black–bear conflicts in Guthichaur Rural Municipality of Jumla district, Nepal. A household questionnaire survey (n=84), key informants survey (n=5), and focus group discussion (n=8) were conducted to collect the wildlife–conflict information during the period 2009–2019. Results reveal that 85% of the respondents suffered from crop damage in the year 2019. Five people were attacked, and livestock depredation was observed to be 55% during the decade, 2009–2019. The black bear was responsible for livestock depredation, with the most frequently depredated livestock being the cow and ox (70.12%). The depredation was high from April to August due to the transhumance grazing system. Of the total number of attacks on livestock, 94% was found to occur in forest and rangeland; moreover, these attacks occurred at night, constituting about 47% of the total number of events. Local people were supportive of black–bear conservation. This study is aimed at those aware, local communities that support the ecological value of black bears in the environment.

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