

# Report on

## Second Seminar on Small Mammals Conservation Issues

Small Mammals Conservation and Research Foundation



National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC) Hall

May 18, 2011



Cover Photo: Group photo of the participants in the seminar

**In Collaboration with:**

National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC)

Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC)

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Friends of Nature

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**All photographs by Rameshwar Ghimire and Sagar Dahal**

## Acknowledgements

**S**mall Mammals Conservation and Research Foundation (SMCRF) is pleased to come up with the report on Second Seminar on Small Mammals Conservation Issues with another successful seminar addressing conservation issues and scientific researches regarding small mammals. The organization would like to acknowledge everyone who has supported to achieve the set goals and made this event a vital one. Heartfelt gratitude is due to advisors, peer reviewers, supporting organizations, volunteers, presenters, participants, conservation community and partners in the Seminar.

## Introduction

Small Mammals Conservation and Research Foundation, SMCRF, New Baneshwor, Kathmandu, Nepal, registered charity 903/065/066 with Government of Nepal, is a pioneer organization in Nepal working in the sector of conservation and researches on small mammals within its priority area and other potential sites through Nepal. It is a not-for profit , member based organization with an objective of organizing trainings, workshops, seminars, conferences in small mammal issues among several others. Although small mammals comprises of 60 percent of total mammalian species in Nepal, it is still among the least concerned taxa. The research on small mammals is rare and so SMCRF has taken up the conservation initiative in its own small way.

Small Mammals Conservation and Research Foundation (SMCRF) has planned to organize a seminar on Small Mammals Issues every year on May 15. In line with this, SMCRF organized a Second seminar on Small Mammals Conservation Issues on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2011 at National Trust for Nature Conservation Hall with the collaboration of Department of National Park and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC) in support of World Wildlife Fund (WWF), National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST), Himalayan Nature (HN) and Friends of Nature (FoN). The program was previously scheduled to be held on 15<sup>th</sup> May but due to the sudden call of strike it was postponed to 18<sup>th</sup> May.

United Nations has declared to celebrate 2011 as International Year of Forest and the UNEP Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats (EUROBATS) have joined together to celebrate 2011/2012 as Year of the Bat. The theme of this year's seminar was 'Conserve Small Mammals for Sustainable Forest' and this seminar was to show solidarity to both of these events.

## Objectives

- Gathering the researchers and conservationist as well as organizations working on field of Small Mammals in one ground,
- Disseminating the achievements, opportunities and challenges in conservation and research activities on small mammals,
- Updating the resource data on small mammals,
- Highlighting the International Year of Forests through participation of media, stakeholders, government officers working in the sectors of Environment and biodiversity.
- Celebrating the International Year of Forests 2011 and Year of the bat 2011-2012.

## Rationale

Small Mammals make up the major constituents of biodiversity globally. Among 207 species of mammals reported from Nepal, Small Mammals account 158 species that is more than 75%. Small Mammals are the prey species for various level of carnivore in eco system and has important role in food chain. Their importance cannot be ignored for the healthy ecosystem. Still the Small Mammals are least concerned taxa. Where have the research and conservation activities concerning Small Mammals reached? What should be done now and in near future? It has become necessary to induce the interested researchers and conservationist to devote them in the field of small mammals' issues.

## Theme

The theme of the seminar is **“Conserve Small Mammals for Sustainable Forest”**. Small Mammals play major role in seed dispersal and pollination for the sustainable management of forests through their numerous ecosystem services and ecological activities.

## The Program

The program was divided into two parts: formal session and technical session. After the registration of all participants and guests, the program opened with the formal session at 9:30 in the morning. The formal session was emceed by Sagar Dahal.

### 1. Formal Session:

Fanindra Kharel, the acting director general of DNPWC graced the event as the chief guest. Dr. Nanda Bahadur Singh, assistant professor of Central Department of Zoology, Professor Khadga Basnet from Central Department of Zoology, Dr. Narendra Man Babu Pradhan of WWF, Dr. Rinjan Shrestha of WWF, Dr. Sarala Khaling, Professor Karan Bahadur Sah from Natural History Museum, Jhamak Karki of DNPWC were the distinguished guest present to attend the seminar. At the beginning, the guests including the Chairperson of SMCRF, Ms. Anita Shrestha and the Chief Guest were formally chaired.

#### 1.1 Inauguration

The chief guest inaugurated the program by watering a flower pot, symbolic to importance of plants in earth, in line with the International Year of Forest. He set the tone for the event with his inaugural address in which he emphasized the role of small mammals in eco- system and necessitated researches on small mammals.

#### 1.2 Welcome speech

Welcome Speech was given by the Founder President of SMCRF Mr. Arjun Thapa. He welcomed all the guests, participants, and



**Photo 1: Fanindra Kharel, Acting DG, DNPWC**

**inaugurating the program**

volunteers and then provided a petite organization profile of SMCRF. He also briefed on how SMCRF was conceived.

### 1.3 SMCRF Conservation Award 2011

The first SMCRF Conservation Award 2011 was awarded to Ms. Geeta Shrestha of NATURE for the initiation of conservation of bats through bat club formation in schools. She also coordinated the workshop on Field Handling Techniques of volant and non volant small mammals in 2007, which became the foundation for the establishment of SMCRF later in 2009.



**Photo 2: Mrs. Geeta Shrestha  
receiving the award**

### 1.4 Announcement of SMCRF Research Grant 2011

The first SMCRF Research Grant 2011 of NRs. 10,000 was awarded to Narayan Lamichhane of Central Department of Environmental Science, Tribhuvan University, for his dissertation work on “Initiation of Bat study, status, distribution and conservation initiation on Salyan district”. He is the first grantee of SMCRF. This partial grant is provided every year to a university student for his/her dissertation work relating on small mammals.

### 1.5 Key note Speech

After a short refreshment break with Hi-tea, Professor Karan Bahadur Sah from Natural History Museum delivered the Key note speech of the program. On the keynote “Conserve Small Mammals for Sustainable Forest”, he stated the ecological significance of small mammals for sustainable forest. He highlighted that large variety of flora and fauna found in Nepal and many parts of Nepal outside protected areas still need to be studied. He said some small mammals are unique for their natural beauty. He emphasized them as one of the principle elements for ecosystem balance and pointed out their religious significance through illustrations drawn from Hindu mythology. He highlighted their importance in assisting the productivity and promotion of

green sectors. Carnivorous Small mammals play important role to check the number of herbivorous small mammals. There is also a relation between small mammals and plant, seed dispersals, high quality coffee production, etc. Conservation of small mammals is important for the fulfillment of human basic needs. Any schemes for the protection of large mammals are not complete if it didn't consider the small mammals into account. He concluded his speech as assets of small mammals of country must be increased and conserved for the next generation.



**Photo 3: Prof. Karan Bahadur Shah delivering the Keynote Speech**

## 2. Technical Session

The technical session consisted of five papers that were divided into two parts: three papers presented before lunch and two after lunch. Dr. Sarala Khaling and Mr. Jhamak Karki separately chaired the technical session. Hari Neupane and Prakash Sigdel were the rapporteurs of the seminar.

### 2.1 Participants and presenters

Thirty one participants in total gathered from Central Department of Zoology and Central Department of Environment Science, T.U., Golden Gate International College, Khowpa College, Small Mammals Conservation and Research Foundation, Zoological Society of London and NYARC in the seminar. Five presenters from Red

#### List of Papers Presented

Habitat status and distribution of Red Panda (*Ailurus fulgens*) in Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve, Nepal – Tulsiram Subedi

Presence/Absence and Status of Squirrels (*Sciuridae*) in Makalu-Barun National Park – Vicky Koirala

Distribution of some small cats in Chitwan National Park- Jhamak B. Karki (Guest Paper)

A Review on Occurrence of Bats Species in Protected Areas and their Buffer Zones of Nepal- Sanjan Thapa

Small Mammals Survey in and around Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve, Nepal- Prativa Kaspal



Panda Network, Friends of Nature, Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, Small Mammals Conservation and Research Foundation and Himalayan Nature presented the papers on the issues of Red Panda, Squirrels, Small cats, Bats and small mammals as whole. Five posters were presented on urban mammals conflict, endo and ecto parasites of rodents, *Nectogale elegans* and two posters were on bats conservation and research.

The list of participants, presenters, guests is documented in the annex.

## 2.2 Presentations

There were five presenters in the seminar. Among them four were selected presenters and one presentation on small cats from Jhamak Karki was invited.

### **i. Habitat status and distribution of Red Panda (*Ailurus fulgens*) in Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve, Nepal**

Presenter: Tulsi Ram Subedi

Organization: Red Panda Network

Tulsi Ram Subedi provided the following information in his paper.

- Red Panda is a herbivora member of order Carnivore and only member of family Ailuridae family. Its habitat includes temperate broad leaved and conifer forest. There must be the occurrence of bamboo for its presence. The research work was conducted in Nov2008 to Sept 2009.
- Methods applied during his study were altitudinal line intercept survey (plot less method), scat measurement, community outreach and school education through poster presentations, drawing, art and essay competition.
- Following results were obtained after surveying the 21.043 km transect.
  - Abundance 3000 – 3100 : 0/km, 3100 – 3200 : 0/km., 3200 – 3300 : 4.4/km., 3300 – 3400 : 10.1/km., 3400 – 3500: 7.3/km., 3500 – 3600: 6.6/km.
  - Index of Dominance was found to be



0.019

- Chi-square test for sites  $\chi^2 = 152.6$ ,  $df = 8$ ,  $P \ll 0.05$   
Altitude  $\chi^2 = 148.9$ ,  $df = 5$ ,  $P \ll 0.05$
- Conservation education was provided to 186 community peoples, 6 schools for more than 300 students.
  - Recommendations of the study was intensive research on conservation and habitat management

Few questions were raised after the completion of the presentations and the answers to them were that it's very difficult to identify the population of Red Panda via scat and hunting was not the major issues on the impact on Red Panda.

## **ii. Presence/Absence and Status of Squirrels (*Sciuridae*) in Makalu-Barun National Park.**

Presenter: Vicky Koirala

Organization: Friends of Nature

Vicky Koirala presented the paper on behalf of Yadav Ghimire. His paper consisted of following information in his paper.

Squirrels belong to family *Sciuridae* and Nepal has 11 species of them. He mentioned that this research was not solely on squirrels but it is the enlistment of species that were encountered during the survey of clouded leopard in the study area.

The objective of the study was to document the presence/absence of squirrels in the study area, and to assess the status

Makalu-Barun National park was the study area. He said that squirrels range between 600 - 3400 meters in Nepal. The study had taken place below 3000 m of MBNP. Three sample blocks of 52, 73 and 47 sq. km were selected

Field methods of the study include reconnaissance Survey (direct observation), intensive Survey (Transect walk), threat identification and documentation (semi structured questionnaire surveys). Following results were obtained during the survey of 84 km. walking on transects. Squirrels observed on seven occasions. Black giant squirrel and Red giant flying squirrel relatively more

threatened. Orange bellied Himalayan squirrel and Himalayan striped squirrel were common. Recommendations of the study were ecology of squirrels should be carried out, threat assessment should be conducted.

Few questions suggestions were discussed during the discussions session. Prof. Sah highlighted the importance to collect the local names. If a species is not present at that time, it does not mean that species is not there was what Dr Rinjan Shrestha said as suggestions. Presenter answered one question as buffer zone areas.

### **iii. Distribution of some small cats in Chitwan National Park**

Presenter: Jhamak Karki

Organization: DNPWC

This was an invited paper. In the introduction he said that Chitwan National Park is dominant of Sal Forest. The main objective of the study was to estimate the status of tigers in CNP and this report was the by product of the study. Methodology used in the survey was camera trapping method. 310 camera stations, 3582 man days, 170 elephant days, 4793 camera trap nights. In the study Ratel, Crab eating mongoose, Small Indian mongoose etc. were observed.

During the discussions there was need to demarcate the category of small mammals and Prof. Karan Bahadur Sah asked SMCRF to work on this sector. Participants asked the question about the camera trap methods study in wild life especially Tiger and the answers were given by Jhamak Karki and Dr. Rinjan Shrestha. There were also the questions about the human conflict with small mammals in CNP which was answered as negligible by Dr. Narendra Babu Pradhan.

Lunch Break:

The program took a break after the presentation by Jhamak Karki for lunch for one and half hour. After the lunch break, the technical session resumed under the technical chair of Jhamak Karki.

#### **iv. A Review on Occurrence of Bats Species in Protected Areas and their Buffer Zones of Nepal**

Presenter: Sanjan Thapa

Organization: SMCRF

In the introduction, Sanjan Thapa, presented the following facts about bats in Nepal. In Nepal a total of 53 bat species has been recorded from the elevations of 64m a.s.l to 4154m a.s.l. Fry reported *Rhinolophus sinicus* from SNNP, Sherpa in 1994 listed 12 bat species from Kanchanjunga Conservation Area (KCA). Suwal *et al* in 1995 observed 23 bat species inside the six protected areas where as Csorba *et al* in 1999 surveyed in ACA and recorded 15 species. Recently, Thapa and his team has done great work in the different parts of the country including first record of *Scotozous dormeri*. Results of the study were, number of bat species occurring in protected areas is 41 from 32 and distributed at an elevation range from 70m a.s.l to 3600m a.s.l. Recommendations of the presentation was detailed survey should be carried out in other parts of the country and monitoring to be carried out to prepare the up to date chiropteran database. In the discussions section the importance of bats were described as pollinator, insect controller, production of fertilizers and detergents, and various use in medical science.

#### **v. Small Mammals Survey in and around Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve, Nepal**

Presenter: Prativa Kaspal

Organization: Himalayan Nature

The above paper was presented by of on the behalf of Pravha Pandey. Introduction of the study site was given as Terai wetlands of Nepal where the presence of floodplain and large forest is. 31 mammalian species in KTWR like Asian Elephant, Spotted Deer and Hog Deer are found in KTWR. Only last remaining habitat of Asian Wild Water Buffalo in Nepal is at KTWR. Small mammals provide a prey base for carnivores. Need - survey the status and trends of terrestrial biodiversity. The objectives of the study were to enlist the small mammalian diversity, to know their distribution in the area and to raise awareness in local people. Methods used in the study were camera trapping in four blocks. Six cameras deployed in a block. Cameras were mounted at 30–50 cm above ground. In the questionnaire survey semi-structured questionnaires to acquire information from local and emphasis was given to informal discussions

Results of the preliminary phase of research study were: 5 species of small mammals belonging to 4 families and 4 genera were found during the study period. In the past, the area was covered with dense riverine forest and tall grasses. Illegal hunting and clearing of forest in its surroundings also decreased the number of species.

### 2.3 Closing speech

The speech on closing session was conducted by technical session chairs Dr. Sarala Khaling and Mr. Jhamak Karki. They both expressed the importance of Small mammals and appreciate the works focusing on small mammals. Jhamak Karki suggested participating more students in this kind of seminars would be a good learning approach.

### 2.4 Token of Love and Valedictory Session

The program moved on to the end of the formal session with Token of Love bestowed upon Chief Guest and distinguished guests. Anita Shrestha, chairperson of SMCRF presented the Token of love to both the Technical session chairs and key note speaker. She thanked all the participants, presenters, guests, collaborators and supporters of the seminar, media persons, rapporters, service providers both catering and sound system. She also thanked the staffs of NTNC for providing the necessary logistics help during the program.



**Photo 4: Token of Love presented to Technical session chair Dr. Sarala Khaling**

## Media Coverage

The leading National FM radio, Kantipur Fm broadcasted the news of Seminar twice at the bulletin of 11am and 12am in the morning of 18<sup>th</sup> May 2011. Television news channel News 24 made an extensive coverage of the event in their program. In print media, Annapurna Post published the news.

## Outcomes

- Information and updates on small mammals researches and conservation within Nepal
- Interest inducement to the young researchers and conservationists on small mammals issues in Nepal
- Highlight the theme of International Year of Forests and 2011-Year of Bats
- Network formation within the researchers, free lancers, government bodies, academicians, students and enthusiasts working on small mammal conservation and research



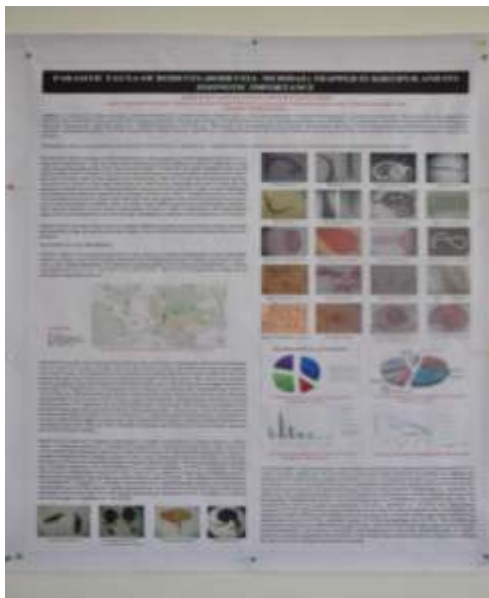
**Annex I: Glimpses from the seminar**



**Photo 5. Poster by Sagar Dahal and Team**



**Photo 6. Poster by Rameshwor Ghimire and Prashant Chaudhary**



**Photo 7. Poster by Robin Rana**



**Photo 8. Poster by Bishwo Ram Tamang**

# CAVE INVENTORY AND STUDY OF BATS FAUNA IN SOUTHERN PART OF LALITPUR DISTRICT

## Abstract

The present study was conducted in the month of January 2011. Roost Survey, Mist-netting and direct hand catching of hibernating bats were methods applied for study. Altogether (80+11+5) individual of bats was observed and 3 were captured by Hand and 4 were (Mist-netted) and released, from the study sites. Three species *Rhinolophus lactus*, *Hippodamia arniger* and *Myotis schreibersi* were observed and identified from external morphometric measurements.

## Introduction

Chiroptera ranks most speciose among the orders of mammals in Nepal. We have current documentation of 1118 species of bat worldwide, with more been being described in the annual basis (Simmons, 2000). Those 1118 bat species represent about one fifth (20%) of the 5,418, known mammal species. There is an estimation of 51 species of bats from Nepal (Hutson et. al. 2001), that is 45% of total bat species of South Asia and 4.8% of world. Thirty eight species are known to live and breed in Nepal (Verheugt et. al. 1995). Fifty three species have been recently compiled (Baral and Shah 2008).

Most of the bats studies have been centered to Kathmandu Valley since, 19th Century. Numerous bats habitats and roosting sites have been reported from Kathmandu Valley. Lalitpur district is the 1st study district among the three districts of Kathmandu Valley. Up to date, 25 species of bats; (Bates and Harrison, 1937) and 24 species of bats in Kathmandu valley have been updated (Baral and Shah, 2008).

## Objectives of study

- To document the new roosting caves in study area
- To discover bat diversity from unexplored sites of the study area
- To estimate the bats population in their roosting sites.
- To monitor the previously explored sites in the study
- To aware local people and school children's through conducting workshop/interaction program in communities and bat conservation lectures in schools class rooms.



**-Rameshwar Ghimire and Narayan Lamichhane**

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## Materials and Methods

**Study Area:** Lalitpur district is the one of the three district of Kathmandu valley. Its district headquarter is Patan. The Lalitpur district covers an area of 385 square kilometer, from elevation from 457m to 2831 m. Area aside for the study is from city area to remote sites, such as Tika Bhatrade, Lale VDC (27.87478N, 085.31339E at altitude 1461m), Majkhanda, Nag Gufa, Baguwa, Puytar VDC(27.48009N, 085.28268E), Dhungana Bari Cafa, Gimdi VDC, Ward No.6(27.43280N, 085.35886E at altitude 792m) Gimdi-6, Sahumara Gufa, Gimdi-8(27.48788°N, 085.35897°E at altitude of 579m)

**Roost survey:** Roosting colonies in Cave, Old houses, hole of bamboo etc. were searched during 2th-4th Jan 2011. The population in roosting colony of tree was also counted.

**Specimen Collections:** A live specimen of *Myotis schreibersi* was collected from Sahumara Gufa, Gimdi-8, Lalitpur.

**Mist Netting:** Mist-netting was done randomly in Bridge of Lale khola at Jan-1, and Entrance mouth of Dhunganabari Gufa and Sahumara Gufa. at 5th and 6th Jan 2011.

## Result

Three new caves Nag Gufa, Dhunganabari Gufa and Sahumara Gufa were explored from the southern part of Lalitpur District. Three species *Rhinolophus lactus*, *Hippodamia arniger* and *Myotis schreibersi* were recorded from this study. However, more than 80 individual bats were observed from Nag Gufa, about 11-12 individuals were observed from Sahumara Gufa and 3-5 individual bats were observed from Dhunganabari Gufa during the field study. Most of bats were in hibernating condition. A single individual of *Rhinolophus lactus* was in torpor stage in Nag Gufa and two individuals of *Rhinolophus lactus* in Torpor Stage in Sahumara Gufa Gimdi-8.

## Conclusion

This study of bats from Lalitpur district outlines the Shrawan bat Roosting Caves from Southern part of Lalitpur and three species *Rhinolophus lactus*, *Hippodamia arniger* and *Myotis schreibersi* were recorded. This study was able to bring rapid assessment of Cave inventory and new. But the study was limited to resource and short period of time. Thus from this first seasons data we could not tell about the population trend, seasonal variation of population, and distribution of species in this region.

Photo 9. Poster by Rameshwar Ghimire and Narayan Lamichhane







## Annex II: List of Participants

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### List of Presenters of the Seminar

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5	Vicky Koirala	Friends of Nature	N. Baneshwor	9841710604	vckr1111@gmail.com

### List of Posters Presenters

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4.	Sagar Dahal	SMCRF	Balkhu	9841508494	sagardahalinktm@gmail.com

## List of Guests

S.N	Guest
1	Dr. Sarala Khaling
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3	Juddha Gurung, NTNC
4	Prof. Khadga Basnet, CDZ
5	Dr. Nanda B. Singh, CDZ
6	Dr. Narendra B. Pradhan, WWF
7	Geeta Shrestha, NATURE
8	Prof. Karan B. Shah, NHM
9	Dr. Rinjan Shrestha, WWF
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