

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The loss of several species and other global environmental problems has prompted various international agencies and national government to search for a rational approach in the conservation of natural ecosystems. The world conservation strategy proposed a rational model for the establishment of various representatives' coverage of the Earth's wild species and major ecosystems for preservation of genetic diversity and insurance of the sustainable utilization of species and ecosystems (Brekmueller and Manrope 1986). According to this scene, many protected areas were established in the developing countries in the second quarter of the twentieth century (Mishra 1971). Nepal has also established extensive network of protected areas to conserve biodiversity since 1960s.

Protected areas are essential for conservation of biological diversity and for meeting a range of community objectives. The commission on National Parks and Protected areas had defined National Park as natural area of land / or sea designated to (a) protect the ecological integrity of one or more ecosystems for present and future generations, (b) exclude exploitation or occupation inimical to the purposes of designation of the area, and (c) provide a foundation for spiritual, scientific, educational, recreational and visitor opportunities, all of which must be environmentally and culturally compatible (IUCN 1978).

Nepal did not have a long history of the national park system though it has grown substantially in the relatively short period of 35 years. The concept of the national parks and protected areas in the Nepal was primarily initiated for the protection of wildlife, especially endangered species. The establishment of Chitwan National Park in the year of 1973 materialized the nature and species conservation movement. Since then, Nepal has established an extensive network of protected areas, now covering a total area of 28,998.67 km² occupying 19.70 % of the country area. Currently, this included nine national parks, three wildlife reserves, three conservation areas and one wildlife reserve and hunting reserve (DNPWC 2008).

In developing countries like Nepal, the park related problems were complex since it was a network including local people, tourists and natural resources. Due to boosting of tourism industry, direct physical impacted on a limit resource by local people and tourist which were being open secrets. With more people less resources, managers were facing many difficulties in maintaining parks and reserves. Several different strategies were being developed for providing guideline for nature conservation but most of these had not clearly stated in the specific park management system in Nepal. National Parks and Conservation Acts 1973 was the main legislative, which emphasizes conservation and protection of natural resources rather than management (Thapa 2007). Due to lack of proper management strategies and knowledge among the local people, there occurred high level of conflict between park and people. There was also another conflict between the people and administration due to conservation rules and regulations.

Wildlife conservation had been quite successful to protect several threatened species (Mishra 1982). Active conservation of habitats had increased wildlife population within protected areas, which started causing damage outside the park. The relation between park and people was imbalanced when the park animals damaged outside and disturbed the adjacent settlements. Damage of agricultural crops, human harassment, injuries, death, and livestock depredation were the common causes of this imbalanced relationship (Jnawali 1989, Sharma 1996, Adhikari 2000). With the establishment of national park, people had been denied the right to use the resources inside the park and they had no right to claim the compensation for the damage to their crops by wildlife. Similarly, the responsibility for managing resources had been taken from people whose life in the vicinity and had instead been transferred to a government agency, which was based in the distance capital. The cost goes down access to use of resources falls on the rural people in the vicinity of the reserve (Adhikari 2000). By this, government realized that conservation of wildlife inside the protected areas was not productive in lack of local people's participation and the issues that were repeatedly rose who should benefit from conservation efforts, the local people or the wildlife. Through the fourth amendment in the DNPWC Act 1973, in 1992, the Government has allowed to create buffer zone surrounding national parks and reserves in order to provide the use of forest product to local people. The Act defines buffer zones as "the peripheral area of the national park or reserve under section 3A

for providing facilities to local inhabitants to utilize forest products regularly”. Now, a total area of 5079.67 km² has been declared as buffer zones around eleven protected areas of Nepal to implement a community- based management system aimed at reducing human-protected area interaction.

A thorough assessment is necessary to design an effective conflict management approach and make harmony between local people and protected area for sustainable management of biodiversity. Through this research causes and consequence generated by park were assessed at two sites of Shivapuri National Park (ShNP).

1.2 Objectives

The main objective of my study was to determine the causes and consequences generated by the conservation of wildlife in the southern part of the ShNP. Specific objectives were to;

- explore the occurrence of the wild mammals and their habitat in the ShNP forest adjoining to study area,
- investigate the land abandoned due to crops depredation by wildlife,
- assess the quantity of crops loss by wildlife,
- explore the attitude of local people towards wildlife conservation, and
- identify the indigenous methods used to control crops damage by wildlife and their effectiveness.

1.3 Justification and Limitation

Crops damage by wildlife was main conflict of human –wildlife relationship and major obstacle of management and conservation of protected areas to meet their objectives. Besides that, developmental activities and perception of local people towards biodiversity conservation and management had adversely affected on sustainability of any protected areas. Thus, studies on assessment of crops damage by wildlife, and recent issues of conflicts, and major gaps in conservation processes were equally important to generate actual data for minimizing the conflicts level. The study was done in two VDCs i.e. Kabresthali and Sangla of Kathmandu district as the representative of the adjoining VDCs to the ShNP.

2. STUDY AREA

2.1 Location and Physiographic

Shivapuri National Park is an excellent representative site of the middle hills ecosystems of Nepal. It is located on the northern fringes of the Kathmandu Valley between 27⁰45' and 27⁰57' Northern latitude and 85⁰15' and 85⁰30' East longitude. Covering an area of about 144km² adjoining to southern and western sides with Kathmandu (12), western and northern sides with Nuwakot (9), and eastern sides with Sindhupalchok (2) districts of Central Development Region; consisting 23 Village Development Committees (VDCs) of these districts. The park stretches about 20-24 km from east to west and about 8-10 km from north to south. The Park boundary is well demarcated with 111 kilometer (km) a long wall runs along/between the 23VDCs. Head- quarter of the park Panimuhan is located at about 12 km from the downtown Ratna Park of Kathmandu.

2.2 Physical components

The climate of the ShNP has sub-tropical to warm temperate, which is delimited in three climatic periods; a) pre- monsoon season (hot-dry season) extending from mid February to mid- June and is the hottest and dried season. b) Monsoon season occurring from June to September and c) post monsoon season (cold-dry season) occurring from October to mid-January.

Geologically, the park area lies in the inner Himalaya region. The dominant rocks are gneiss and magmatite with mica schist and pegmatic granite. The main soil types are loamy sand on northern sides to sandy loam on the southern sides. The entire area is characterised by its steep topography and more than 50% of the area has greater than 30% slopes. Because of the steep topography and nature of soil, soil erosion and landslides are common all over the ShNP. Elevation of the park ranges from high of 2732meter (m) above mean sea level (msl) at top of Shivapuri Peak to low of less than 1000m above msl at the northern park boarder. The area is comprises with several watersheds, drain by Bagmati, Bishnumati and number of smaller streams, which provides much of water vital to the inhabitants of the Kathmandu valley. Water yields

are heavily influenced by the monsoon rainfall pattern. Hence, much of the streams flow as well as peak discharges occur during rainy period.

2.3 Biological components

2.3.1 Vegetation

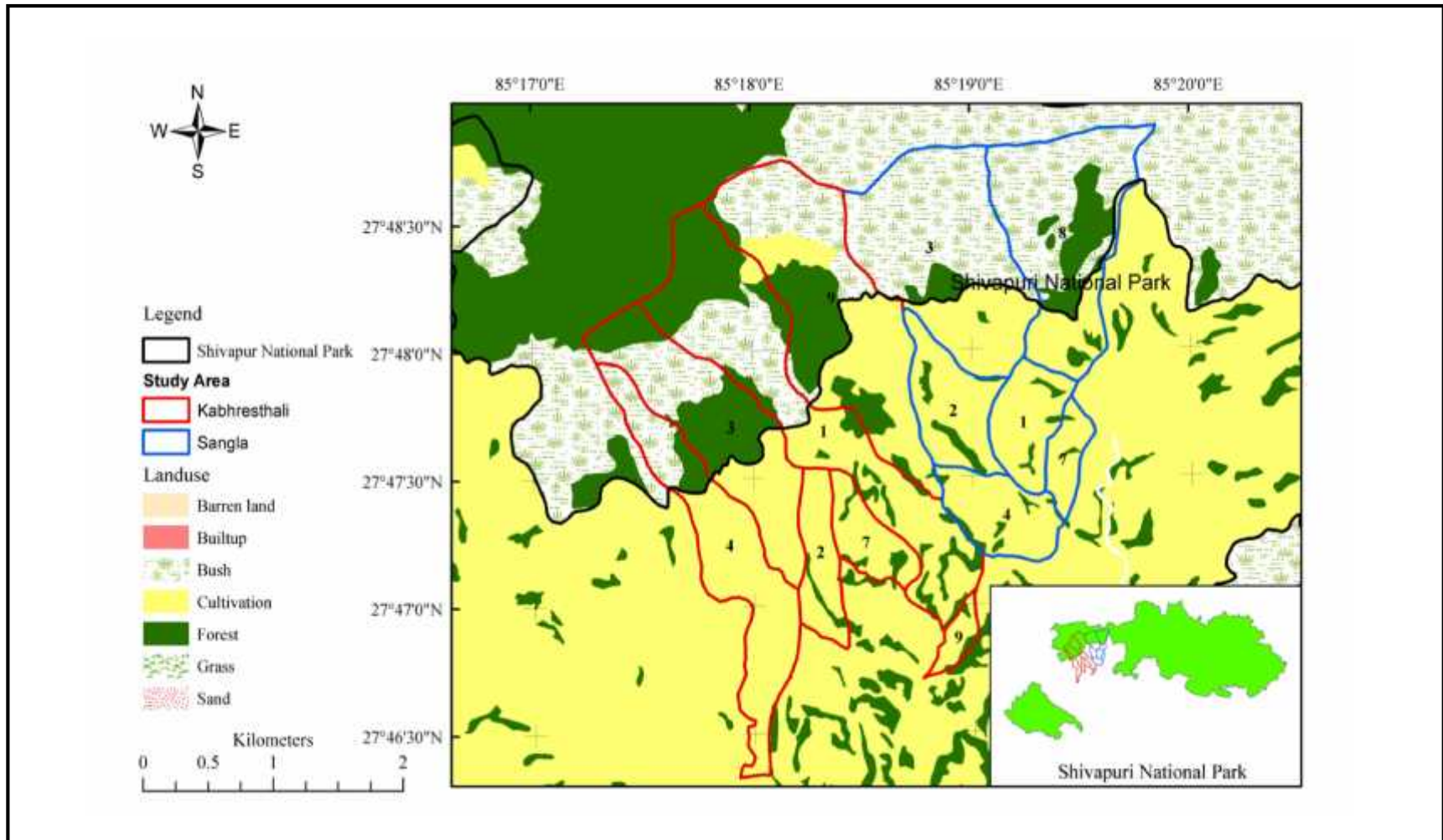
ShNP has floral diversity due to its location, altitudinal and climate variation, *Castanopsis*, Pines, oaks and Rhododendrons are the dominant vegetation in the park. It has four types of forests, which are distributed along the altitudinal gradient (Amatya 1993, Kattel 1993). They are

- a) Lower mixed hardwood (*Schima-Castanopsis*) forest at 1000-1500m
- b) Chir - Pine forest at 1000-1600m
- c) Upper mixed hardwood forest at 1500m-2300m
- d) Oak forest at 2300m-2700m

There are more than 2122 species flowering plants with 16 endemic plants (Shakya et al. 1997 and Shrestha and Joshi 1996). About 129 species of mushroom including *Lactanrius pleuritides* have been described from the ShNP (BPP 1995).

2.3.2 Fauna

ShNP supports numerous number of wildlife species. There are 21 species of mammals, out of which nine are threatened species (BPP 1995). The major mammals found in the park are Common leopard, Leopard cat, Clouded leopard, Wild boar, Porcupine, Barking deer, Squirrel, Common monkey, Indian hare, Indian crested porcupine, Himalayan goral, Himalayan black bear, Yellow-throated marten etc. It harbors 177 species of birds and 14 of them are threatened such as oriental Hobby (*Falco severus*). Grey sided laughing Thrush (*Garrulax caerulatus*) and Common tailorbird (*Orthoronus sutorius*) (BPP 1995). Only one species *Oligodon arnensis* of reptilian has been reported from ShNP (BPP 1995). There are more than 102 species of butterfly including a very rare and endangered and susceptible endemic species (Smith 1996), and the rare Himalayan Dragonfly (*Epiophlebia laidla*) are also reported from the park.



Map 2.2 Land use type in the study areas

2.4 Intensive Study Area

The study was focused on two VDCs of Kathmandu district namely Kabresthali and Sangla which have been included in the proposed buffer zone area of the ShNP by the ShNP Management Plan 2004 and Government. These two VDCs are lying side by side and located at 27⁰47' to 27⁰48' northern latitude and 85⁰17' to 85⁰19' eastern longitude. The border of these two VDCs connected with Dharmasthali and Phutun on south side, Jhor Mahakal on east side of Sangla, the ShNP on north side of both VDCs, and Jitpurphedi on West side of Kabresthali. Each VDC consists of nine wards but six wards of each VDC are included in the proposed buffer zone area of the ShNP. These 12 wards of two VDCs (1-4, 7, 9 wards of Kabresthali and 1-4, 7, 8 wards of Sangla) were the main focus of my study.

2.4.1 Climate

According to climatic data of 2002 -2006 collected from nearest station of these VDCs at Kakani (altitude 2064m) and Budhanilkantha (1350m), the mean monthly maximum temperature reaches around 27⁰C and 23⁰C during May to September at Budhanilkantha and Kakani respectively. Similarly, the mean monthly minimum temperature reaches around 18.8⁰C in Budhanilkantha and 15.9⁰C in Kakani during June to September (Figure 2.1a).

The mean monthly relatively humidity (morning) is slightly greater in Budhanilkantha station than Kakani station. The mean monthly relative humidity reaches maximum during July to September in both stations. The mean monthly relative humidity (evening) is greater in Kakani in comparison to Budhanilkantha station. The mean monthly evening relative humidity reaches maximum during month of July-September in both the stations (Figure 2.1b).

Rainfall of this region is more or less similar to Kathmandu valley in southern side of the ShNP. The mean annual precipitation recorded in two stations of Shivapuri National Park was highest during the month of July-August and lowest during November-December (Figure 2.1c).

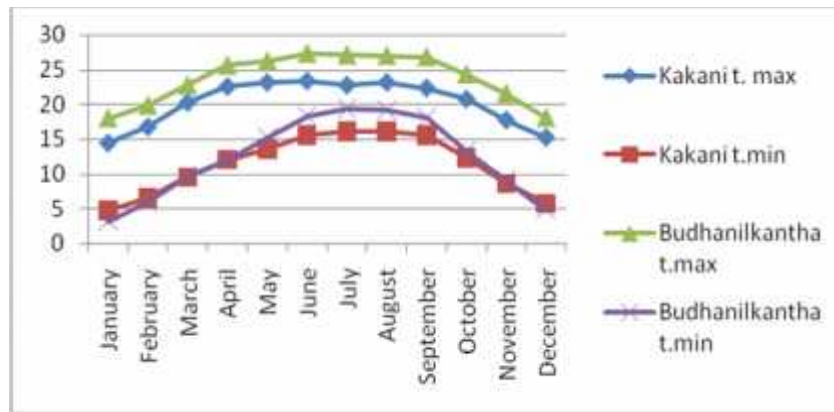


Figure 2.1a Average maximum and minimum temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$) at Kakani and Budhanilkantha (2002-2006)

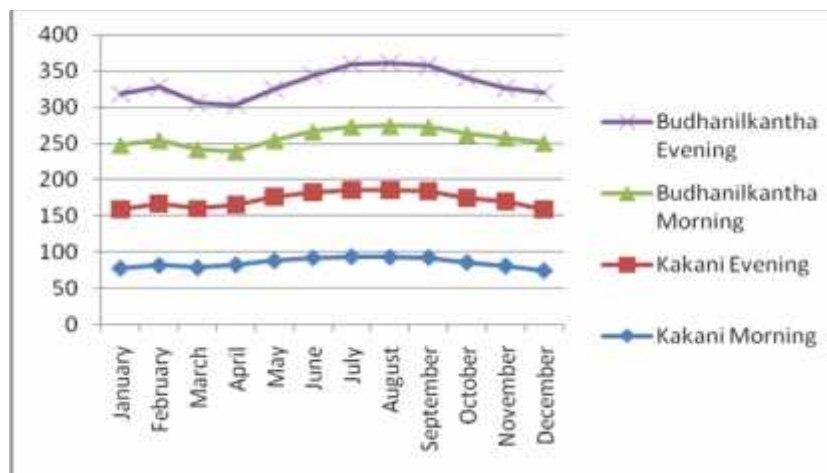


Figure 2.1b Average relative humidity of morning and evening (%) at Kakani and Budhanilkantha (2002-2006)

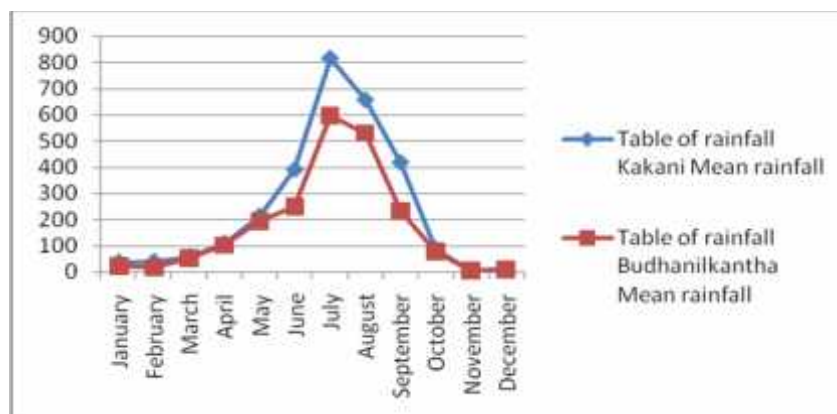


Figure 2.1c Average precipitations (mm) at Kakani and Budhanilkantha (2002-2006)

2.4.2 Socio-culture and economy

Social frameworks of two VDCs are more or less similar to each other. The total population living in Kabresthali and Sangla are about 3546 and 3226 with 679 and 617 households respectively. Among the total population 50.4% and 51.6% are male, and 46.6% and 48.4% are female respectively (CBS 2001). Ward numbers 1-4,7,9, of Kabresthali and ward numbers 1-4,7,8, of Sangla comprises about 64.0% and 64.6% of total population (Table 2.1a and 2.1b).

Table 2.1a Population of Kabresthali

Ward No.	Household according to CBS 2001	Total population	Male population	Female population	Household according to VDC record
1	80	427	201	226	74
2	85	421	225	196	73
3	52	319	154	165	53
4	66	357	180	177	57
7	59	300	152	175	66
9	87	446	208	238	73
Total	429	2270	1120	1150	396

Table 2.1b Population of Sangla

Ward No.	Household according to CBS 2001	Total population	Male population	Female population	Household according to VDC record
1	52	253	130	123	68
2	127	657	344	313	146
3	59	373	199	174	78
4	60	300	151	149	68
7	37	218	115	103	49
8	54	284	146	138	62
Total	389	2085	1085	1000	471

Major ethnic groups living in the both the study areas (Kabresthali and Sangla) are Brahman, Chhetri, and Tamang. Other ethnic groups are Newar, Sarki, Kami, Magar, Gurung, etc (CBS 2001). Most of these ethnic groups speak Nepali, followed by Tamang, and other languages. Family structure of the communities living in this two study areas (Kabresthali and Sangla) are commonly found nuclear type, besides some large joint families and an average of household size 6.5 and 5.7 persons respectively found.

There are two distinct types of landforms found in study areas i.e. sloppy upland (Bari) and lowland (Khet). These landforms have with or without facilities of irrigation. Paddy, wheat, maize, millet are major crops grown in these land. In addition to that, other crops like potato, common asparagus (ward number 7 of Sangla), hybrid species of pea (ward numbers 2-4 of Kabresthali), tomato (ward number 4), different of mustard ,cucumber, pumpkin etc were cultivated as cash crops in lowland areas. In the lowland areas paddy, wheat and maize, and while in upland areas maize and millet were cultivated. Intercropping of legumes with maize was common. Livestock rearing is another major activity taken as supplementary income source of the households and manure for crop fields.

3. LITERATURE REVIEW

3.1 Causes and consequences generated by establishment of National Park

Human survival depends on biological diversity. Together with ecosystems, this latter plays formations, climate and diseases regulation and water purification. It provides the genetic resource that are the basis of agricultural development and the source of many of medicines about 75% of which are derived from plants, animals and micro biotic organism (Engels 2008). For the conservation of biodiversity, certain areas are differentiated as protected area. According to the Act of 1973 of Nepal there are four type of protected areas, namely National Parks, Wildlife reserves, hunting reserves, and conservation areas which corresponds to the world conservation union (IUCN) international system of protected areas categories II, IV and VI respectively. Protections of biodiversity in protected area have many benefits for sustainable development of nature.

In the last few decades, the exponential increase in the human and livestock population and resultant imbalance in the land/people ratio, besides change in land use patterns and developmental activities have placed a tremendous pressure on the natural resources like the forests and the wildlife. The interface of wildlife habitats and human use dominated landscape has become grounds for a wide range of man-wildlife conflicts (Sinha et al. 2004). Wildlife-human conflict is one of the main threats to the continued survival many species in many parts of the world and is also significant threat to many local people wherever there, establishment of protected areas there is conflict with local people living in and around of wildlife habitat. Many of these conflicts are of natural as well as human's origin. They cause severe damage to park resources and jeopardize the accomplishment of set objectives to be made by Park administration and management (Neumann and Machlis 1989). The local people use the park resources to meet their needs from inside the park. There are illegal activities such as hunting, poaching and there are many cases of confrontation between park officials and local people. Moreover, the wild animals of national parks have caused losses by damaging the villager's agriculture crops and predated on livestock, which has a further, aggravated the problems. Thus, without symbiotic correlation between the requirements of conservation and needs of the neighboring

inhabitants can be developed, it is doubtful if any park or reserve will survive well beyond the few decades. Then, it will not be only the endangered species in any particular park or reserve that will be extinct but the whole ecosystem will be damaged (Mishra 1971). Cause of conflicts can be viewed in two aspects: i) Problem created due to park, and ii) Problem created due to local people. Main problem created by establishment of park or reserve in Nepal or all around the world are crop damage, livestock depredation, human harassment, land abandonment, wildlife distribution and abundance in crop field and near areas of residents.

3.2 Wild mammal's abundance and distribution

The biodiversity contained in the mid hills ecosystem is of international importance both in terms of the number of globally threatened wildlife and floral elements as well as diversity of ecosystems contained within the area. In the central mid hill and western mid hill of Nepal, 24 mammals and 30 mammals were being recorded. In Shivapuri National Park, about 16 species of mammals out of 24 mammals found in mid hill region and about 13 species of mammals out of 30 mammals found in the western mid hill of Nepal (BPP 1995). Kattle (1995) recorded 14 species of mammals in the ShNP. According to Shrestha, total of 22 mammalian species recorded in the ShNP belonging to seven orders and 17 families was found. Maximum number of mammalian species found at altitudinal range between 1500-2700m. Common leopard (*Panthera pardus* Linnaeus) was distributed from an altitudinal range of 1724-2600m in the ShNP but it was also found in the elevation range of 1790-1960m in Makalu-Barun National Park (Jackson 1990). Himalayan black bear (*Selenarctos thibetanus* G.Cuvier) was found at an altitude of 2157-3660m (Prater 1998, Shrestha 2005). Himalayan goral (*Nemorhaedus goral* Hardwicke) preferred the steep sloppy area with an abundant peak between 2200-3400m in south facing slopes (Gaston et al. 1982). Large civet (*Viverra zibetha* Linnaeus) and barking deer (*Muntiacus muntjak* Zimmermann) were found at elevation 1700-2700m. Barking deer were also reported to distribute in elevation ranging from 1500-3000m in lower temperate broad-leaved forest (Ale and Gurung 1995). Hunuman langur (*Presbytis entellus* Dufresne) is living on rocks and cliff altitude from 1000 up to 3660m and utilizing tall trees of Rhododendron species, Quercus species and Prunus species. Similarly, Rhesus monkeys (*Macaca mulatta* Zimmermann) are present near agricultural land up to

range between 2400-3000m. The habitat preference of Golden jackal (*Canis aureus* Linnaeus) is dense scrubs and thickets close to agricultural fields and village (Sharma 1998). It is distributed at an altitudinal range of 1220-2135m in the hill and up to 3676m in the Himalayas (Prater 1998). It regularly visited the out skirt dumping sites for carcass of livestock, inspect and larvae. Wild boar (*Sus scrofa* Linnaeus) is distributed from 1700-2700m in the ShNP. It is present abundantly in range between 1700-2100, and there was a regular distribution between 2000-2100m and its presence decreases with increasing altitude after 2100m (Gurung 2002 and Shrestha 2005). Himalayan squirrel (*Dremomys lokriah* Hodgson) was distributed at Nepal at 1900-2700m altitude (Shrestha 2005) and at 1525-2745m altitude at India (Prater 1998). Jungle cat (*Felis chaus* Guildenstaedt) found at 1719-2155 altitudinal area (Shrestha 1997). Similarly, leopard cat (*Felis bengalensis* Kerr) at 2000-3000m altitude and porcupine (*Hystrix indica* Kerr) was found below 2000m altitude.

3.3 Crop loss by wildlife

Crop loss by wildlife is common thing in the adjoining villages of parks and reserves and it is the main reason of park-people conflict. As the limited grass land areas within park boundaries and highly nutritious supplement food in the crop grown in adjacent agricultural areas and it become probable that the wild animals may be forced to expand their dependence of on agricultural land periphery to the park (Sukumar 1990). Thus, animals feeding such items do not have to expand as the much energy searching instead; they can satisfy their hunger quickly and efficiently. Not all the individual of particular species raid the agricultural fields. Only those animals with home range that encompass croplands can do so (Jackson 1990). From time to time wild animals not only eat but also trample the crops that are not interested in eating during journey through their territory. Crop damage by wild animals has adversely affected the economy of the local people and has increased poverty in the regions (WMI/IUCN Nepal 1994).

ShNP is the only protected area that represent the mid hill ecosystem of Nepal. This national park also suffers from the human-wildlife conflict. In this protected area, major crop raider or depredator wild animals are wild boar, monkey, porcupines, deer, bear and birds. Among them, wild boar is main crop depredator that massively raided on maize, wheat, millet and paddy and also prefer rooted plant sweet potato. In year

1995 about 0.46 tons of paddy, 35.54 tons of maize, 41.92 tons of millet and 15.37 tons of wheat was lost in Sundarijal VDC adjoining to the ShNP causing an average of Rs. 3132 lost in each affected household annually due to crop damage by wildlife (Poudyal 1995). Similarly, in Kakani adjacent VDC of ShNP was found that wild animals respectively lost 999.88, 55.57, 23.65 and 23.06 quintal of maize, millet, wheat, and paddy mainly by wild boar. An increasing of crop raid by wild boar was due to distance from park and local forest that provide shelter for wild boar outside the park (Soti 1995). The studied carried out in Sunkhani VDC of Nuwakot district adjoining to ShNP has found a total of Rs. 554989.31 was a lost due to crop damage by wild animal and most affected crops were maize (33.24%) and followed by paddy (19.59%), wheat (17.35%), millet (10.14%) and potato (16.26%) (Gurung 2002). Bajracharya (2005) conduct study in three adjacent VDCs (Kakani, Sundarijal and Bajrayogini) of the ShNP, estimated the total loss of crops about Rs. 4, 92,988.84 per annum and Rs. 18500 per household. According to her studied, maximum loss was for potato loss, followed by maize, millet, arum, sweet potato, paddy and wheat. In Jitpurphedi, Chapalibhadrakali and Baluwa about 1303.24 quintal of crops loss due to wildlife and highest amount of paddy and wheat were lost at 0-1 km and at 0-500m high amount of maize and millet were lost (Paneru 2004).

For search of the food, wild animals used to travel long distance from the park. Especially wild boar travelled from 1-5 km from park boundary (Kattel 1993, Soti 1995, FAO/HMG 1996, Bajracharya 2005) for the search of food that due to their acute sense of smell and nocturnal feeding habitat. In addition, monkey was used to travel about 500m from the forest boundary (Bajracharya 2005).

In Chitwan National Park, Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis* Linnaeus), wild boar and chital are found to be main crop depredators shown by different studied. Among this crop depredator, rhinoceros was found to be most destructive and cause 50-100% crop damage. During, the wheat season, chital caused greater damage, and during maize and potato season, wild boar cause greatest troublesome to the villagers (Milton and Binney 1980). These crop depredator mainly damage crops like paddy, wheat, millet, maize, pulses, mustard and potato (Nepal 1988, Jnawali 1989, Shrestha 1994, Adhikari 2005). In Sauraha, adjoining to the RCNP caused the economic loss of Rs. 17200 within a distance of 500m and highest economic damage occurred on paddy

about 27.6% (Jnawali 1989). Most of the damage within 1750m of edge of the forest occupied by rhinos and beyond 1500m from the forest edge was negligibly damage (Laurie 1978). One study found the highest damage by wild animals in adjoining VDCs of the CNP occurred to maize followed by paddy and mustard (Shrestha 1994). Similarly, study carried by Adhikari (2005) found that most affected crop was paddy (50.45%) followed by maize (17.96%), wheat(13.34%), millet (6.63%) and more than 11% lost was found on potato, pulses and mustard etc. Rhinoceros damage especially on maize and paddy of all stages. Rhinoceros, wild boar and chital are responsible for 60%, 27% and 12.9% of total crop damage respectively (Nepal and Weber 1993). Recently it was found that 70.7% of damage by rhinoceros and 0.2% by bark deer (Bhattarai and Basnet 2004).

In Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve, wild buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis* Linnaeus) is the main crop raider and wild boar is second position (Sharma 1996, Limbu 1998, Adhikari 2000). Wild buffalo mainly damage the paddy wheat and potato. About 88.45% of economic loss solely caused by wild buffalo by crop damage and followed by wild boar causing 10.23% lost and other animal caused more than 1% loss (Adhikari 2000). Similarly, in the Bardia National Park wild elephant (*Elephas maximus* Linnaeus), wild boar, chital (*Axis axis* Erxleben), hog deer (*Axis porcinus* Zimmermann), monkey, nilgai (*Boselaphus tragocamelus* Pallas), rhinoceros caused damage on paddy, potato, maize, wheat, musuro, lentils, yam etc. (Khatri 1995, Baral 1999 and Jnawali 2002). In Lumbini area, nilgai caused damage to crop like paddy, wheat, and mustard. In year 2001/2002 about 1.42 quintals of paddy, 2.13 quintals of wheat and 0.42 quintal of mustard were lost (Bagale 2003).

Crop depredation by wildlife has also been reported from many protected areas of world. Major cause of conflict between park and local people is crop damage in developing countries. In India major crop depredator mammals are elephant, gaur (*Bos gaurus* Smith), black buck (*Antelope cervicapra* Linnaeus), chinkova (*Gazella bennetti* Sykes), wild boar, hanuman langur, porcupine, red-breasted parakeet (*Psittacula alexandri* Linnaeus) etc. depredated the crops (Chandra 1997, Das 1998, Changani et al. 2004).

Wild boar, black bear, monkey, pheasant of Quomolanma nature reserve Tibet were involved in crop damage in and around forested area (Jackson 1991). Banana and

maize were the main crop raided at Kibale Forest National Park, Uganda and crop raiding occurred throughout the year with peaks in dry seasons when crop availability was high (Chiyo et al. 2005). Crop damage due to elephants in the Caprivi region of Namibia fluctuated monthly, seasonally and annually depending on elephant movements, rainfall patterns and crop quality and it has main reason of conflict between human and wild animals (O'connell et al. 2000).

Schely (2000) studied on the agricultural crop damage by badger (*Meles meles*) and wild boar found that wild boars and badgers caused damage to maize in autumn, but wild boar also damage maize during spring leading upto 40% loss of productivity.

3.4 Conflict with local people

The people who were enjoying free access to areas have forth covered by park and were able to meet their needs from inside reserve, now no longer have legal access and they have no rights to claim the compensation for the damage to their crops by wildlife. However, the park has become a very good source for villagers to fulfill their resource needs through veneering into illegal poaching, logging and hunting, all of which are directly conflicting with the park objectives (Mishra 1971, Milton and Binney 1980).

In Gir National Park area, wild herbivores share the same niche as the cattle in Gir forest and foraging competition is quite heavy in many places, especially near the border area. Due to heavy grazing by cattle, the wild herbivores move into the peripheral region to raid crop and also infestate the weed in this area. In addition to that, over exploitation of ground water, availability of water within forest areas had been lessened that forced the wild herbivores come out from the forest and entering the peripheral agricultural fields in search of water and fodder (Sinha et al. 2004).

Habitat fragmentation, land cover change and biodiversity loss are often associated with village communities in protected areas. About 3-10%, impacts caused this disturbance in protected areas (Karanth et al. 2006). This disturbance factors were trail used by park staffs, tourists, villagers and vehicles, fodder collection, fire, wood collection, village or settlements, livestock, grazing, agricultural land and feral livestock as anthropogenic whereas landslides as natural caused threat to wild

mammals (Shrestha 2005). The man-animal conflict is mainly due to the conservation of forest into large-scale monoculture, plantations, shifting cultivation, over grazing, forest cutting and encroachment in the home ranges, which reduce the availability of natural food to wild animals.

3.5 Preventive methods used to control the crop damage

Farmers used many methods to protect their fields from wild animals. These include patrolling the fields, guarding over night, watchdog, fencing, guns, potash bomb, firing, using noise, making tools, shouting, curretting, pit construction, scarecrow, trenches, poison, etc. Prevention method like patrolling the fields, pit construction, guarding over night, using watchdog to chase the wild animals away and making the noise during guarding were common and most frequently used method to prevent crop from wild boar. Similarly, some farmer used destructive method like potash bombs, shot guns, high voltage electric current and poison which usually killed or seriously injured the wild animals. Fencing the farmland by thorny twigs and branches of *Prosopsis juliflora*, *Accacia nilotica* and *Euphorbia* Species and by barbed wire etc. for chasing out the animals from field (Changan et al. 2004, Bajracharya 2005, Paneru 2004, Adhikari 2005). The effectiveness of all these protection measures ranges from partial to effective.

4. MATERIALS AND METHODS

4.1 Literature review

Literature review was done throughout research period to collect the secondary data. For this purpose, both published and unpublished literatures were reviewed such as books, reports, thesis, scientific papers, journals etc from different libraries, websites and offices with focusing on the literature related to conflicts generated by conservation of biodiversity, relationship between human and natural resource, sustainable conservation of biodiversity in mountainous regions. The information about human impacts on wildlife and vice versa, as well as recent management activities and gap and weakness both local people and national park office obtained from DNPWC annual report and headquarter of the ShNP office. The ward-wise distribution of households and population of two VDCs were obtained from CBS office and VDCs offices. Metrological data were obtained from Meteorological Department.

4.2 Reconnaissance survey

Preliminary survey was done in the month of December 2007 and selected two VDCs i.e. Kabresthali and Sangla adjoining to the ShNP where wildlife greatly affected and caused high level of conflict between local people and wildlife due to annual seasonal crop loss and other conservation generated problems. The actual fieldwork was initiated from the month of January to August.

Each VDC (Kabresthali and Sangla) consists of nine wards among them six wards of each VDC included in propose buffer zone area, which were core area of my study. These ward numbers were 1- 4, 7, and 9 of Kabresthali and ward numbers 1 - 4, 7, and 8 of Sangla. The study of crop depredation was mostly base on household questionnaire survey that supported by field survey. The sample size for study was based on total number of households in the study area that was determined from VDC office and CBS record and assumed that there has been no significant changed in the distribution of number of households and population in the study area. Quadrat method was used for study of Wild mammals and Vegetation characteristic in each study area forest of the ShNP.

4.3 Quadrat method

Quadrat method was used for floral and faunal sampling. In this process, one transect line in each study area forest of the ShNP was laid which was started from the Park boundary to Park Forest ran in different direction followed the trails in the rugged and dense forest for sampling of 20mx20m quadrat. At the origin point of transect line first quadrat was laid and transect line was considered as mid line of quadrat. By using the GPS meter approximately every 100m rise in altitudinal gradient another quadrat was laid and each transect line consist of five quadrats. Besides the survey of fixed quadrats random search was carried out to record the occurrence of mammals. For the study of vegetation characteristic of forest, plant species having diameter at breast height (1.4m) over bark was greater than 10cm and height higher than 4m were measured and counted within the 20mX20m quadrats (Annex I).

For surveying the occurrence of mammals, direct observation and indirect methods were applied. Indirect methods included collection of signs as data forms and these data contained signs types (pellet, dropping, scratch, pugmark etc.), habitat types, aspect, GPS reading, etc. For identification and confirmation, collected feces sign types (feces) were tallied with feces of mammals of the Central Zoo and through literature reviews. People were interviewed to know the species distribution in their area as well as near forest (Annexes II and III).

4.4. Questionnaire survey

For the study, I prepared two sets of questionnaire one set (Annex IV) for park officials (park staffs) of different posts and other set (Annex V) for individual household owners. Questionnaires survey was conducted during the month of June, July and August 2008. The households were selected randomly that represent all population of VDCs. Before taking interview, people were briefed about the study and tried to interview the head of household. In the absence of head of household, the person next to head was interviewed and to reduce any bias door to door visit of respondent was done.

Altogether 85 households were selected from total number of households i.e. 44 households in Kabresthali and 41 in Sangla VDCs. The questionnaires that were

designed to receive information from wildlife affected households and contained most abundance pest species in the study area, amount of crop damaged, most preferred crops by pest species, land abandonment due wildlife, etc. and distance range from 0-3 km, assuming park boundary was an origin point of distance to crop field. Crop loss was estimated in the local scale (e.g. muri, pathi) which was converted into kilogram (kg) by weighting 'a pathi' of different crops for three times and concurrent weight were considered as the standard value (Annex VI). Price of different crops were obtained from local people, local market of Kabresthali and Sangla (Annex VI). The average value was considered for estimation of the economic loss and land measured in ropani (1 ropani = 508.74 m²).

Questionnaire method collected information about local people attitude towards the wildlife conservation, park authorities and their rules and regulation, and indigenous methods that used in study areas to reduce the crop loss by wild animals and their effectiveness and recommendation to minimize the conflict level especially crop loss. Present study was mainly focused in four main crops like paddy (*Oryza sativa*), wheat (*Triticum aestivum*), maize (*Zea mays*), and millet (*Eleusine coracana*) rather than other crops like; potato, pea, and cash crops that grown there.

4.5 Data analysis Technique

4.5.1 Vegetation analysis

The different characteristic of vegetation like; the numerical strength of a species in relation to a definite unit space and the proportion of density of a species to that of stand as a whole; for that density and relative density was calculated. Similarly, to find the distribution pattern of individual species in terms of percentage occurrence, frequency of species in area was calculated and dispersion of species in relation to that of all the species, relative frequency was calculated. To know the coverage and ecological importance of a species in community, relative dominance and important value index of the species were calculated. To explore the species diversity of forest and level of disturbance, Shannon's Index was calculated.

$$\text{Density of sp per hectare (D/h)} = \frac{\text{Total no. of a sp in all samples plot}}{\text{Total no. of sample plots studies} \times \text{area of sample plot}} \times 1000$$

$$\text{Relative density (R.D)} = \frac{\text{Total no. of individual of a species}}{\text{Total no. of individuals of all species}} \times 100$$

$$\text{Frequency (F)} = \frac{\text{Total no. of quadrats in which the species occur}}{\text{Total no. of quadrats studied}}$$

$$\text{Relative frequency (R.F)} = \frac{\text{Frequency of one species}}{\text{Sum of frequency of all species}} \times 100$$

$$\text{Relative dominance (R.Dom)} = \frac{\text{Total basal area of a species}}{\text{Total basal area of all the species}} \times 100$$

Basal area is the cross section area of a tree measure at breast height (1.4m) above the ground.

Importance value index (IVI) = Relative density + Relative frequency + Relative dominance

4.5.2 Distribution map preparations

The Global positioning System (GPS) point of every sampling place of vegetation and scats were recorded with “etrex GARMIN GPS” device. The points were in Degree minute second (DMS) units in World Geodetic system (WGS) 84 projection systems. These points were converted to degree decimal (DD). The GPS points were plotted in Arcview GIS 9.2 software to prepare the sample distribution maps.

4.5.3 Crop loss

After conducting questionnaire survey, data were quantitatively analyzed by using various statistical tools. For calculated total crop loss (paddy, wheat, maize and millet), following formula has been used i.e.

Total crop loss (kg) = Expected yield before crop loss – Actual yield after crop loss

$$\text{Crop loss per household (kg)} = \frac{\text{Total crop loss (kg)}}{\text{Total no. of household cultivated that crop}}$$

Total economic loss (Rs) = Price of crop (Rs) × Total crop loss (kg)

Correlation analysis was used to explore the relationship between the distance traveled (km) by pest species from the boundary wall to crop field and crop loss in weight (kg). For the analysis, null hypothesis: there was no significant relationship

between distance and crop loss was tested. Correlation analysis was also used to find the effect of crop loss on conservation attitude of people and for that null hypothesis: there was no effect of crop loss on conservation attitude of local people, was test. Correlation analysis was done by using SSPS 15 version program. Similarly, Z- test was carried out to compare the crop loss weight in two study areas. For that purpose, null hypothesis: there was no significant difference between crops loss in two VDCs, was tested.



a. View of Kabresthali VDC



b. View of Sangla VDC



c. Questionnaire survey



d. Vegetation sampling



e. Dropping of Barking deer



f. Scat of Jungle cat



g. Rhesus Monkey



h. Condition of the ShNP boundary wall

Plate 4.1 View of study areas and methods used for collection of data

5. RESULTS

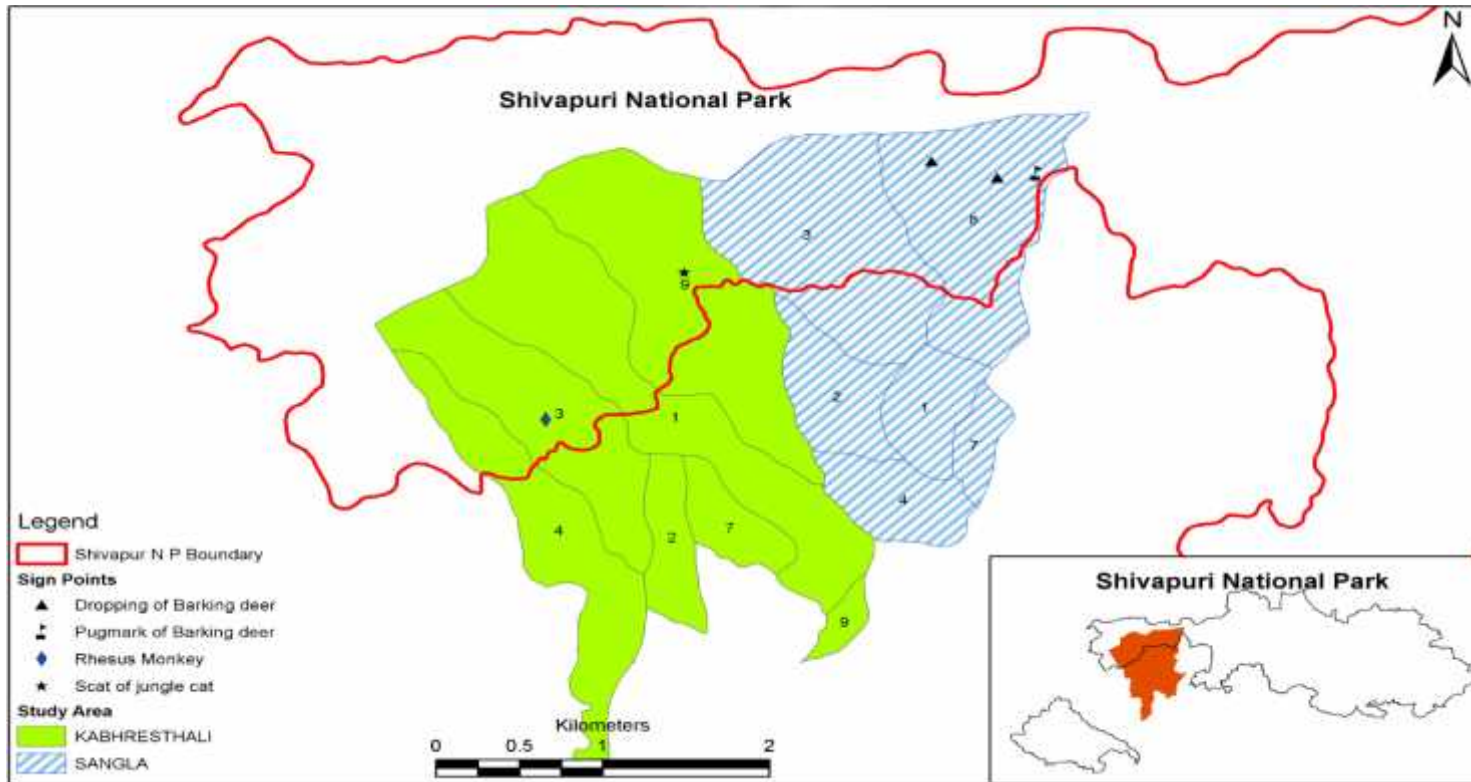
5.1 Wildlife occurrence and their habitat

Six signs of three mammalian species were recorded during the study period. Among them two mammalian species signs were found (Barking deer and Monkeys) within the quadrats and one mammalian species (Jungle cat) during the random searching in the ShNP. Barking deer signs (three droppings and one pug mark) were found in *Lyonia*, *Myrica* and *Castanopsis* species of trees dominated forest in south western aspect at altitude range of 1700-1910m. Similarly, Jungle cat scat (1924m) and monkey sign (visual observation at 1612m) were found in *Pinus* and *Schima* dominated forest in south eastern and south northern aspect respectively (Map5.1). These all sign found in human disturbance area for firewood and fodder collection, trail uses.

141 numbers of the trees of 17 species belonging to 13 families were recorded during the quadrat sampling at altitudinal ranges between 1600m to nearly 2000m at south-western and south-eastern sides of the ShNP. At that aspect of the park, *Schima*, *Myrica*, *Pinus* species of trees were frequency found and covered high density and the species diversity of study was found 1.023 by using Shannon's index (Table 5.1).

Table 5.1 Vegetation analysis

Name of species	No.	F %	RF %	D/h	RD %	Basal area	R. Dom	IVI
<i>Pinus roxburghii</i>	25	40	9.5	6.3	17.7	2.118	38.8	66.0
<i>Schima wallichii</i>	32	80	19.1	8	22.7	0.689	12.6	54.4
<i>Alnus nepalensis</i>	12	20	4.8	3	8.5	1.18	21.6	34.9
<i>Myrica esculenta</i>	30	70	16.7	7.5	21.3	0.4	7.3	45.3
<i>Castanopsis tribuloides</i>	11	40	9.5	2.8	7.8	0.259	1.2	18.5
<i>Castanopsis indica</i>	3	20	4.8	0.8	2.1	0.106	4.7	11.6
<i>Lyonia ovalifolia</i>	3	20	4.8	0.8	2.1	0.05	1.9	8.8
<i>Prunus cerasoides</i>	2	10	2.4	0.5	1.4	0.063	4.9	8.7
<i>Pyrus pashia</i>	2	10	2.4	0.5	1.4	0.031	0.7	4.5
<i>Madhuca longifolia</i>	2	10	2.4	0.5	1.4	0.27	0.6	4.4
<i>Myrsine capitellata</i>	2	20	4.8	0.5	1.4	0.041	0.8	6.9
<i>Homalium napaulense</i>	2	20	4.8	0.5	1.4	0.029	0.5	6.7
<i>Symplocos paniculata</i>	3	10	2.4	0.8	2.1	0.04	1.9	6.5
<i>Quercus lanata</i>	3	20	4.8	0.8	2.1	0.049	0.9	7.8
<i>Rhododendron axboreum</i>	7	10	2.4	1.8	5	0.106	0.9	8.2
<i>Gaultheria fragrantissima</i>	1	10	2.4	0.3	0.7	0.019	0.4	3.4
<i>Semecarpus anacardium</i>	1	10	2.4	0.3	0.7	0.012	0.2	3.3



Map 5.1 Distribution of mammals in intensive study area in the Shivapuri National Park

5.2 Land abandonment

Among the total land in Kabresthali about 20% and in Sangla 6.3% of land were abandoned due to various conservation generated reasons. Almost 15% and 5% of a total lands were abandoned because of crops depredation by wildlife, and around 2% of a total land was abandoned as artificial meadow and due to the natural hazard (landslide, erosion, and siltation) respectively in both the VDCs. In addition to that lack of work force's caused around 3% of land abandonment among the total land in Kabresthali VDC (Table 5.2).

Table 5.2 Land abandoned (ropani) in Kabresthali and Sangla VDCs

Reasons for land abandoned	Land abandoned (ropani) in Kabresthali VDC, ward no.						Total	Land abandoned (ropani) in Sangla VDC, ward no.						Total
	1	2	3	4	7	9		1	2	3	4	7	8	
Wildlife	8	10	15	7.5	9	17	66.5	-	10	2	-	-	1	13
Artificial meadow	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
Lack of work force's	3	-	-	10	-	-	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other reasons like: landslide, erosion, siltation	2	-	-	-	-	6.5	8.5	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
Total	14	10	15	17.5	9	23.5	89	-	10	6	-	-	1	17

5.3 Major mammalian pest species and stages of crop damage

Wild boar damaged 10 (24.4%) and 17 (50%) respondents crops field alone. Similarly, wild boar and rhesus monkeys, and wild boar, monkeys and porcupine depredated the 20 (49%) and 11 (26.8%) respondents crops field respectively in Kabresthali VDC. While in Sangla VDC, wild boar, porcupines, monkeys and barking deer gave trouble to 11 (32.3%) respondents and 6 (17.7%) respondents had wild boar and porcupines problems in their field.

Maize field of almost 44% respondents were depredated by wild boar, monkeys, porcupines and barking deer and followed by 31.4% respondents' maize and millet field by wild boar, monkeys and porcupines, and 25% respondents' maize, millet,

paddy and wheat field by wild boar (Table5.3.1). Maximum amount of damaged caused by these animals during maturing stage of all crops (Table5.3.2)

Table 5.3 Wild pest in different crops

Species of wildlife	Preferred crops	Time of raiding	Frequency of visit in village	
			Kabresthali	Sangla
Wild boar	Maize, millet, wheat, paddy and potato	Night	Very frequent	Very frequent
Monkey	Maize, millet, pear, plum etc	Day	Frequent	Frequent
Porcupine	Maize, millet, hyacinth bean	Night	Frequent	Very frequent
Barking deer	Maize, hyacinth bean and pumpkin plants	Day and night	-	Frequent

(Note: Very frequent=everyday and night during crop season, Frequent= Twice a week or once/twice a month)

Table5.4 Stages of crops damage and season of attack

S.N.	Name of wild pest	Name of Crop	Stage of damaging	Season of attack
1.	Wild boar	Paddy	During sprout head of paddy to mature stage	August to September
	Porcupine		-	-
	Monkeys		-	-.
2.	Wild boar	Wheat	During maturing stage	April to May
	Porcupine	-	-	-
	Monkeys		During maturing stage	April to May
3.	Wild boar	Maize	Premature to ripening stage	July to September
	Porcupine		Premature to mature stage	July to August
	Monkeys		Mature to ripening stage	August to September
4.	Wild boar	Millet	Mature stage	October to December
	Porcupine		Mature stage	October to December
	Monkeys		Mature to ripening stage	December

5.4 Crops loss

Paddy was planted in 209 ropanis (N=42) and 112.5 ropanis (N=34) of the land. Most of loss was concentrated in ward number 9 of Kabresthali and ward number 2 of Sangla VDCs (Table 5.5). Wheat was cultivated in 117 ropanis (N=30) and 72.5 ropanis (N=29) of land in Kabresthali and Sangla VDCs respectively. There was not cultivation of the wheat in ward number 7 of Sangla (Table 5.6).

Table 5.5 Loss of paddy (Kg) in Kabresthali and Sangla VDCs

Kabresthali					Sangla				
Ward no.	Land cover by paddy (ropani)	Expected yield (Kg)	Actual yield (Kg)	Loss (Kg)	Ward no.	Land cover by paddy (ropani)	Expected yield (Kg)	Actual yield (Kg)	Loss (Kg)
1	21	-	-	-	1	12.5	-	-	-
2	64	15600	15360	240	2	50.5	5805	5250	555
3	34	8760	8610	150	3	9.5	840	660	180
4	32	-	-	-	4	22.5	-	-	-
7	21	-	-	-	7	7	-	-	-
9	37	5640	3990	1650	8	10.5	810	630	180
Total	209	30000	27960	2040		112.5	7455	6540	915

Table 5.6 Loss of wheat (Kg) in Kabresthali and Sangla VDCs

Kabresthali					Sangla				
Ward no.	Land cover by wheat (ropani)	Expected yield (Kg)	Actual yield (Kg)	Loss (Kg)	Ward no.	Land cover by wheat (ropani)	Expected yield (Kg)	Actual yield (Kg)	Loss (Kg)
1	19	1330	840	490	1	9.5	-	-	-
2	40	2800	2320.5	479.5	2	22.5	1540	1284.5	255.5
3	18	1260	857.5	402.5	3	9.5	595	525	70
4	4	147	80.5	66.5	4	21	1260	875	385
7	7	490	420	70	7	-	-	-	-
9	29	1225	672	553	8	10	665	577.5	87.5
Total	117	7252	5190.5	2061.5		72.5	4060	3262	798

In Kabresthali and Sangla VDCs, maize was sowed in 150.5 ropanis (N=41) and 140 ropanis (N=41) of land. The highest amount of maize loss was found in ward number 4, 9 of Kabresthali and ward number 2, 3 of Sangla (Table 5.7). Millet was harvested from the 76 ropanis (N=25) and 95 ropanis (N=31) of land respectively. Millet loss was high in ward number 9 of Kabresthali and ward number 2 of Sangla (Table 5.8).

Table 5.7 Loss of maize (Kg) in Kabresthali and Sangla VDCs

Kabresthali					Sangla				
Ward no.	Land cover by maize (ropani)	Expected yield (Kg)	Actual yield (Kg)	Loss (Kg)	Ward no.	Land cover by maize (ropani)	Expected yield (Kg)	Actual yield (Kg)	Loss (Kg)
1	14	980	672	308	1	11.5	682.5	595	87.5
2	18.5	1120	770	350	2	61.5	4410	2292.5	2117.5
3	19	1330	857.5	472.5	3	21.5	1505	640.5	864.5
4	36	2520	1102.5	1417.5	4	17	1207.5	1137.5	70
7	27	1890	1085	805	7	17	1260	910	350
9	36	2520	875	1645	8	11.5	735	294	441
Total	150.5	10360	5362	4998		140	9800	5869.5	3930.5

Table 5.8 Loss of millet (Kg) in Kabresthali and Sangla VDCs

Kabresthali					Sangla				
Ward no.	Land cover by millet (ropani)	Expected yield (Kg)	Actual yield (Kg)	Loss (Kg)	Ward no.	Land cover by millet (ropani)	Expected yield (Kg)	Actual yield (Kg)	Loss (Kg)
1	9	270	192	78	1	1.5	-	-	-
2	12	360	255	105	2	49.5	1500	1110	390
3	14	420	225	195	3	21.5	660	465	195
4	5	150	105	45	4	2	-	-	-
7	12	360	315	45	7	10	-	-	-
9	24	720	327	393	8	10.5	330	255	75
Total	76	2280	1449	831		95	2490	1830	660

5.4.5 Economic loss and its distribution

The gross crops loss per household (H/H) and total economic loss was much higher in Kabresthali than in Sangla VDCs (Table 5.9).

Table 5.9 Economic loss and its distribution in Kabresthali and Sangla VDCs

S.N	Name of crops	Kabresthali			Sangla		
		Loss per H/H (Kg)	Loss per H/H (Rs)	Total loss (Rs)	Loss per H/H (Kg)	Loss per H/H (Rs)	Total loss (Rs)
1	Paddy	48.6	1215	51000	26.9	672.5	22875
2	Wheat	67.2	1209.6	37107	27.5	495	14364
3	Maize	121.9	2194.2	89964	95.9	1726.2	70749
4	Millet	26.8	469	14542.5	27.5	481.3	11550
5	Total	264.5	5087.8	192613.5	177.8	3375	119538

There was negative correlation between distance and crops loss for crops like paddy, maize and millet in both VDCs. However, Sangla there was positive correlation ($r = 0.363$) between distance and crop loss (Table 5.10)

Table 5.10 Correlation between distance and loss of crop

Name of crops	Kabresthali		Sangla	
	Correlation coefficient (r)	Remark	Correlation coefficient (r)	Remark
Paddy	-0.662	Medium	-0.437	Low degree
Wheat	-0.153	Low degree	0.363	Low degree
Maize	-0.540	Medium degree	-0.526	Medium degree
Millet	-0.133	Low degree	-0.372	Low degree

Z-test showed that paddy, maize and millet were equally damaged in both VDCs except in case of wheat loss which had significant difference between two VDCs (Table 5.11).

Table 5.11 Z-Test for comparison of crops loss in Kabresthali and Sangla VDCs

Name of crops	Z-value	Tabulated Z-value	Remark
Paddy	1.564	<1.96	Insignificant
Wheat	1.961	=1.96	Significant
Maize	0.798	<1.96	Insignificant
Millet	0.112	<1.96	Insignificant

5.5 Conflict with local people

5.5.1 Livelihood options

Local people depended partially upon agriculture for their livelihood but 27% respondents of Kabresthali and 26% respondents of Sangla were depended totally on agriculture. Others were engaged in different professions such as services, business, went to foreign countries, liquor production, and others (plumber, electrician, poultry farming, carpenters, farm labor, construction labor, driver, etc) for extra income generation (Figure 5.1a, b).

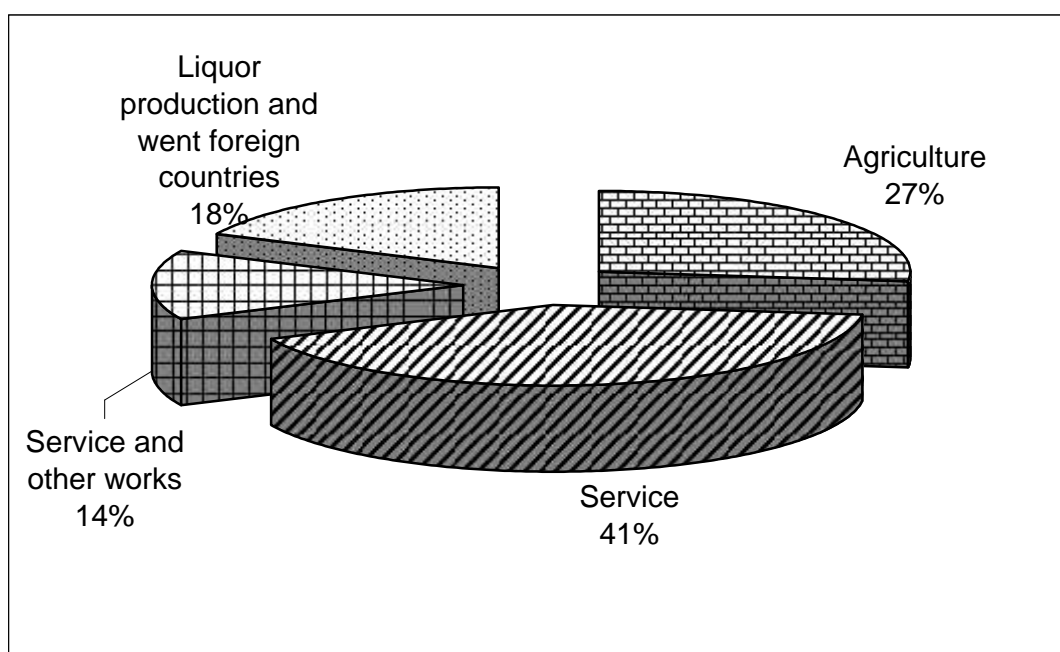


Figure 5.1a Percentage of respondents involved in different occupations in Kabresthali VDC

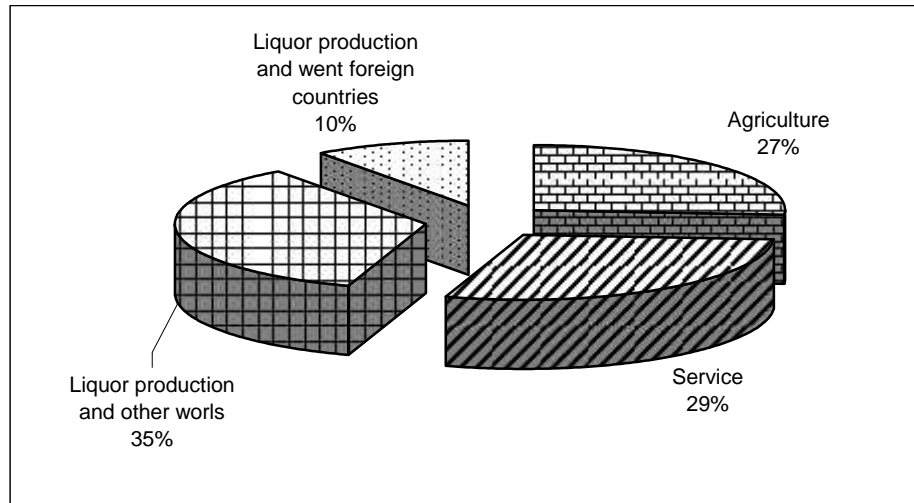


Figure 5.1b Percentage of respondents involved in different occupations in Sangla VDC

5.5.2 Dependency upon the ShNP

Hunting and poaching of wildlife for any purpose (private or commercial purposes) was not recorded in the study area either from field observation or questionnaire survey. About 88.6% (N=39) respondents of Kabresthali and 78% (N=32) respondents of Sangla were directly depended on the ShNP either for firewood or fodder collection, grazed the livestock. However, higher percentage of respondents collected freshly cut trees for firewood, fodder and fallen leaves for bedding from the Park Forest (Figure 5.2).

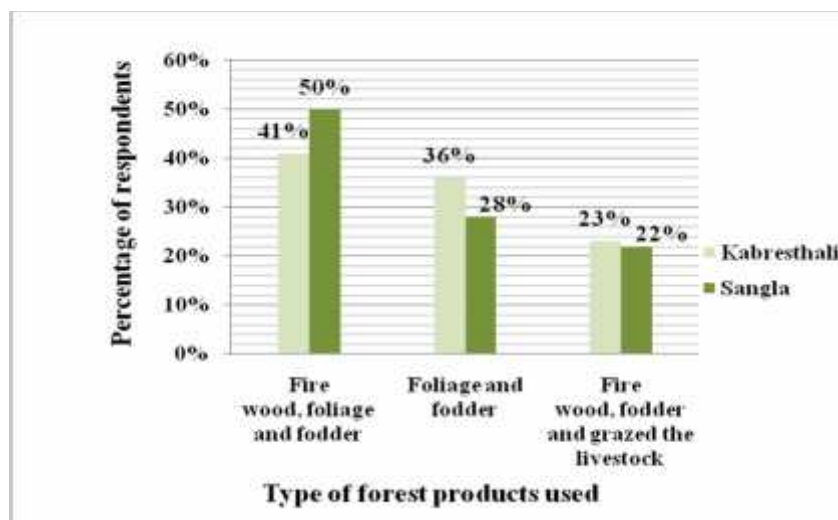


Figure 5.2 Percentage of respondents dependent on the ShNP

5.6 Attitude of people towards wildlife conservation

More than 50% of respondents of Kabresthali area had positive attitude towards the wildlife conservation while in Sangla area, nearly equal percentage of respondents had positive as well as negative attitude and almost all respondents of study area had negative perception towards the ShNP management.

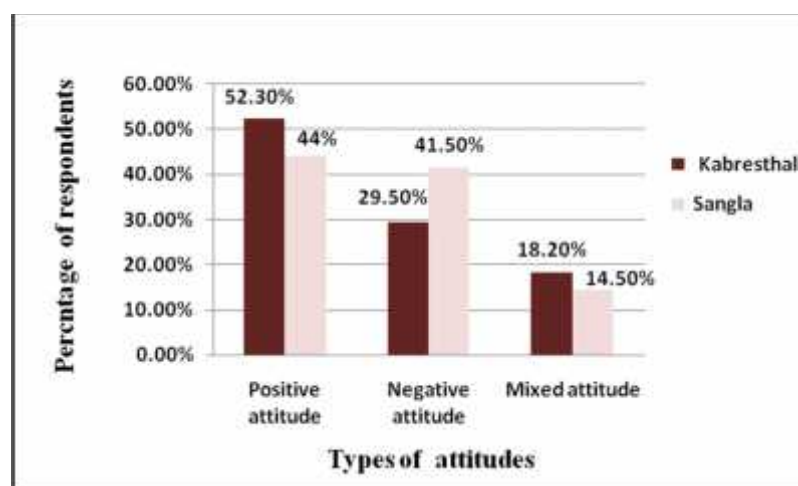


Figure 5.3 Attitude of local people towards wildlife conservation

Correlation analysis between crops loss and attitude of local people in Kabresthali had positive relation while in case of Sangla, there was negative relation between them (Table 5.12).

Table 5.12 Correlation between crops loss and attitude of people

Name of VDC	Correlation coefficient (r)	Remark
Kabresthali	0.251	Low degree
Sangla	-0.408	Low degree

5.7 Preventive methods and their effectiveness

Local people of study area usually practicing different types of indigenous methods such as overnight guarding, drumming, shouting including blowing of molluscan shell, lighting and pit construction methods for the purposed of crops prevention from the depredator animals. They mostly used two or more than two methods correspondingly to get good result (Table 5.13). For guarding purposed, some

respondents made huts (chhapro or tadi) in mounted area of the field which enable the guarding person to notify the wildlife invade in the field while most of others operated this method directly from their resident site. When they noticed wildlife invade in their field or near by area, they shouted or made loud noise by drumming device and showing the light to scare and chase away the invaders. For drumming purpose, people used any materials that made loud sound by hitting like empty tins, brass or steel plate. Preventive methods were frequently used especially during maize maturing season to stop the wild boar intrude and used mostly by upland living people (Tamang ethnic group). They did not get total effectiveness of methods due to nocturnal behavior of wild boar and attack crops field during midnight or second quarter of night.

Table 5.13 Preventive methods used by local people

Preventive methods used in two VDCs	Nos. of H/H using the methods in Kabresthali	Nos. of H/H using the methods in Sangla	Name of crops	Target animals	Effectiveness of the methods	
					Effective	Partial
Shouting and drumming	5	3	Maize, millet, wheat and paddy	Monkey, wild boar, birds	3	5
Guarding and drumming	13	12	Maize	Wild boar	3	22
Drumming, lighting and guarding	2	1	Maize	Wild boar	-	3
Lighting and pit construction	1	-	Paddy	Wild boar	-	1
Pit construction and drumming	-	1	Maize	Wild boar	1	
Total	21	17			7	31



a. Abandoned land in Sangla VDC



b. Maize damaged by wild boar



c. Maize damaged by porcupine



d. Stock of firewood collected



e. Women cutting foliage from park



f. Deforestation for road making in Sangla



g. Alcohol making



h. Hut for guarding of maize field

Plate 5.1: Land abandonment, crop damage, human disturbance and preventive methods used

6. DISCUSSION

6.1 Wildlife occurrence and their habitat

Barking deer was most frequently distributed wild mammals in the study area (Map 5.1). Local people usually encountered wild boar and porcupines at altitudinal ranges of 1530-1940m and Golden jackals were infrequently visited the settlement area laid at altitude of 1400-1900m but Himalayan black bear was not seen in the area for more than 10 years (Annex III). According to Shrestha (2005), maximum numbers of mammalian species were found in 1700-2400m altitude in the Lower mixed hard wood forest and upper mixed hard wood forest habitat. But, I recorded only three species which may be due to short period of study, covering small altitudinal variation and samples were collected in medium to high human disturbance areas. In study area, wildlife habitat had medium species diversity and dominated by those species of trees which were frequently used as fodder for livestock such as *Schima wallichii*, *Myrica esculenta*, *Alnus nepalensis* *Castanopsis tribuloides* etc and firewood.

6.2 Land abandonment

Land abandonment due to crops damage by wildlife was one of the consequences generated after establishment of the ShNP. A total of 106 ropanis of maize and millet cultivating private land in upland area lied at 0-10 m distance from boundary wall of the ShNP were abandoned (Table 5.2). The initial caused of land abandonment was due to high amount of crops damaged by wild boar which was even boosted by lack of legal provision to compensate loss crops, poor condition of boundary wall of the ShNP that made easier for wildlife to escape from the park and raid crops. This reason caused 11% of land abandonment among the total land. In spite of that, continuous loss of money and labour investment due to crop depredation, and closeness of cultivated land towards the barren lands and at the same time lack of manpower, natural hazard forced farmers to leave as fallow land or left totally abandoned. Some respondents which abandoned lands were lies near to resident site were used as meadow. Comparatively, Kabresthali had more abandonment problem than Sangla. That may be due to switching off their total dependency on agriculture as well as effect of urbanization. However, all these reasons caused greater amount of abandonment which directly or indirectly affect livelihood of local people and act as

indicator for development of negative attitude towards wildlife conservation and Park management. According to Nepal Government 1996 report and different studies in the ShNP mention that land abandonment was severe problem in this area which caused huge amount of cultivatable private lands abandoned partially or fully.

6.3 Crops loss

Wild boar was principal crop raider and followed by monkey, porcupine, barking deer in the study area (Table 5.3). They mostly damaged on maize during the premature to mature stage but maximum during mature growing stage (Table 5.4). During study period, a total 16234 kg of crops were lost (Tables 5.5, 5.6, 5.7, 5.8) which market value was about Rs 312151 (Table 5.9). Study carried out by Paneru (2004) and Bajracharya (2005) in different adjoining VDCs of the ShNP found, a total of 1303.24 quintal and 32662.5 kg of crops were lost due to crop depredation which was much higher than mine due to inclusion of extra crops along with four major crops. Crops depredation was found high in those ward numbers of study area which lies closer to forest boundary (Table 5.10) and quantity of crop loss were more or similar in both VDCs (Table 5.11). Area lies 0-1 km distance from park were most vulnerable area for crop shown by different study carried different protected areas.

6.4 Conflict created by local people

Urbanization of near by areas generated new scope of works such as alcohol making, livestock rearing for commercial purpose etc which help to uplift the economic condition and life style of people (Figure 5.1a, b). In spite of that, for biomass energy people were directly dependent on the agricultural residue and fire wood. These all activities were totally relied on the forest products which come from the ShNP (Figure 5.2). However, the extent and intensity of such works on protected area and wildlife were not assessed either from authorities of the ShNP or local people themselves. The main caused of wild mammals straying in the human settlement and agriculture field, was the habitat fragmentation, land cover change and biodiversity loss which were often associated with village communities in protected areas and directly impacted 8-10% in it (Karanth et al. 2006). The damage to crop fields was a signal about the scarcity of food sources and heavy interference of human in their wild habitat.

6.5 Attitude of local people toward the wildlife conservation

People showed their willingness to conserve the natural resources and known the necessities of conservation of biodiversity (Figure 5.3). That may be because of their livelihood dependent on it. Many factors affected conservation attitude of people living in and around the protected areas such as wildlife imposed constraints, socio-demographic factors and participation in the community base project (Jafari et al. 2007). In the Kabresthali study area wildlife imposed constraints especially crops loss did not affected conservation attitude but reverse happened in the case of Sangla (Table 5.12).

6.6 Indigenous methods of controlling depredation and its effectiveness

Local people were practicing five indigenous means of controlling methods to stop the wild boar intrusion in maize field during mature growing stage (Table 5.13). Different notorious means of preventive methods such as electric wire fence, poison, traps, guns etc were used in adjacent villages of the ShNP explored by different study. But, I did not record such harmful means in my study area during study period. According to respondents, practicing of such methods during different crop seasons were decreasing day after day due to migration of young and energetic people to foreign countries and near urban area, partial effectiveness as well as labor intensive and time consuming.

7. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This study was conducted in two VDCs Kabresthali and Sangla that lied in the southern part of the ShNP. Barking deer, rhesus monkey and jungle cat were occurred in the *Schima*, *Myrica* and *Pinus* species of trees dominated habitat in high level of human disturbance areas (Shannon's Index value=1.023). Habitat of these mammal's consist of 17 species of trees belonging to 13 families and maximum numbers of these were used as firewood, fodder and even the forest floor was used as grazing place for livestock which degraded wilderness of area.

After establishment of the park, a total 106 ropanis of private maize and millet cultivating farm land were abandoned lie at marginal and sub marginal areas of the ShNP forest. Intensive crop damaged by wild animals caused almost 11% of land abandonment among the total land and other reasons such as artificial meadow, natural hazard caused 2% and lack of work force caused 1.8% of land abandonment. Wild boar was the principal crop raider and followed by porcupine, monkey, barking deer etc in study area. They raided crops during premature to mature stage but excessive during mature growing stage and a total of 16234 kg of crops were lost. Maize loss (4998 kg and 3930.5 kg) was high and followed by wheat (2061.5 kg), paddy (2040 kg), millet (831 kg) in Kabresthali and paddy (915 kg), wheat (798 kg), millet (660 kg) in Sangla study area. Due to crop depredation, each household deprived of using 264.5 kg and 177.8 kg of crops per annum in Kabresthali and Sangla respectively. Crops loss were concentrated near to boundary wall rather than farther distance except wheat loss in Sangla which had direct relation with distance ($r=0.36$). Quantity of crops loss in two study areas had no significant different except wheat loss ($Z=1.96$). That may be due to both study areas were lying side by side as well as at same altitudinal gradient and similar topography of places. Despite this, local people also created disturbance in wildlife habitat by relying on for extra income generation (18% in Kabresthali and 45% in Sangla) and domestic used of forest products (89% in Kabresthali and 78% in Sangla). Around 50% of local people had positive attitude towards the wildlife conservation in both study areas and conservation attitude of people were not affected by wildlife imposed constraint like crop loss in Kabresthali ($r=0.25$) but in Sangla, wildlife imposed constraint had affected in certain level ($r=-0.41$). Different controlling means were used to stop the

wildlife invade in field such as shouting, guarding, drumming, lighting and pit construction. These all methods were found to use for stoppage of wild boar intrusion during maize season only and for other crops; preventive methods were not used frequently. These means had partial effectiveness and were consuming many man hours and labour.

Based on my study, I derived the following recommendations

1. Extensive research on population status of crop depredate animals and the carrying capacity of the ShNP in terms of food and space availability should be urgently required.
2. Increasing effectiveness of patrols by developing a more systematic process whereby guards record, monitor and determine high level activity of 'concern area' both by location and seasons. They should also establish extensive patrol routes in all areas of park that would be patrolled regularly.
3. Crops which were disliked or least damaged by depredate animals should be introduced in damage afflicted areas to minimize the level of conflict created due to crop loss. Before introducing such crops to local farmers, their market demand and profit level should be study which help to uplift the economic condition of people and generation of positive attitude towards wildlife conservation.
4. Unless poverty alleviation, conservation of biodiversity were impossible. So, community development programmes should be lunch such as herbal farming, development of ecotourism, encouraging the development of cottage industries by using local raw materials etc.
5. Local people of adjoining villages of ShNP should be allowed to collect fire fodder, fallen leaves, dry branches etc in yearly basis or once in six month or according to condition of ShNP. .
6. Aware the people by lunching different programmes from government side as well as from NGO or INGO about importance and necessities of conservation of biodiversity and protected areas for their own selves and what effect and trouble would get by destruction of common properties and local people should be taken as helping hands not as opponents.

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9. ANNEXS

I. ANALYTICAL SAMPLE SURVEY DATA SHEET

(Bajracharya, S., 2007/2008 study)

Serial no..... Date

Location Plot code Topography.....

Aspect..... Inclination..... Canopy coverage (%)

Altitude Latitude Longitude

Vegetation type Management type

Distribution gradient Disturbance factors

Table 1: Tree (DBH >10 cm)

S.N	Name of species	DBH cm	Height	Stem	Stand	Remarks
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						
11						
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						
17						
18						
19						
20						
21						
22						
23						
24						
25						
26						
27						
28						
29						
30						
31						
32						
33						
34						
35						
36						

Code: Stem: B = Branch, U = Unbranch

Stand: L = Living, D = Death, C = Cut

III. INDIVIDUAL QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY FOR WILD MAMMALS

(Bajracharya, S., 2007/2008 study)

Serial no.

Date

Name

Sex

Age

VDC

Ward no.

Education

Occupation

Family size

What wild mammals have you seen in south eastern and south northern part of Shivapuri National Park?

SN	Name of mammalian species	Abundance	Frequency of encounter	Location	Date of last sighting	Time	Remark
1	Barking deer						
2	Wild boar						
3	Common leopard						
4	Clouded leopard						
5	Jungle cat						
6	Leopard cat						
7	Large civet						
8	Himalayan black bear						
9	Hanuman langur						
10	Rhesus monkey						
11	Himalayan goral						
12	Brown toothed shrew						
13	Chinese pangolin						
14	Fawen colored mouse						
15	Golden jackal						
16	Himalayan squirrel						
17	House rat						
18	Indian hare						
19	Porcupine						
20	Royal's pica						
21	Small indian mongoose						
22	Yellow throated marten						
23							
24							
25							
26							

Code

Abundance: L = Low, M = Medium, H = High

Frequency: R = Rare, S = Sometime F = Frequency

IV. QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SHNP AUTHORITY

(Brajacharya, S., 2007/2008 study)

What is the condition of Shivapuri National Park (ShNP)? What types of improvement have been done since its establishment?

What types of problems faced by ShNP for the process of conservation and management of biodiversity from the local people as well as from government sectors?

What are the main causes to create conflict between the Park authorities and local people?

Have you get any complains of crops damage by wild animals from surrounding villages?

Why do animals come out of the Park and do the damage?

Does the Park make any compensation for the crops loss?

What kind of illegal activities are carried out by people? What and which types of action do you taken?

Are the development activities carried out in surrounding/within the ShNP area caused the problems toward the conservation process?

Have you taken any suggestion from local people and used them in planning and management programs of conservation biodiversity?

For healthy relationship between Park and local people, what types of programs are proceed in present and in near future ?

V. QUESTIONNAIRE FOR HOUSEHOLDS SURVEY

(Bajracharya, S., 2007/2008 study)

S. No.

Name:

VDC:

Ward no:

Education:

Occupation:

Sex:

Age:

How many members are there in your family?

What kind of work are the all the members engaged?

How much and what type of lands do you have?

a. Khet.....ropani b. Bari.....ropani

What kinds of crops do you grow in your field?

a. Rice b. Maize c. Wheat d. Millet

Do you practice mix cropping system?

a. Yes b. No

If yes, which crops do you plant together?

What is the total production of these crops?

Muri

Pathi

a) Paddy

b) Wheat

c) Maize

d) Millet

How much crop do you get from your one ropani land?

a. Muri b. Pathi c. Mana

Do you get full production from your land? Yes/No

If not, why?

a. Manure b. Wild animal c. Irrigation d. other

Are you collected fire wood, foliage and fodder from the park?

How far your land from the park boundary?

0-1km

1-2km

2-3km

a) Khet

b) Bari

Do you have any problem from park animals? Yes/No

What kinds of problem do you have from park animals?

a. Crop damage b. Harassments c. Others

If crop damage, which animals damage mostly and in which crops?

Rice

Wheat

Millet

Maize

a) Wild boar

b) Monkeys

c) Porcupines

d) Other

Which animals visit and what stage of the crops is the most affected by these animals?

Wild bores Monkeys porcupines Others

- a) Juvenile stage
- b) Flowering stage
- c) Mature stage
- d) Ripening time
- e) All stage

How frequently do those animals visit during that crop season?

- a. Every day/night
- b. Once a week
- c. Twice a week
- d. Every month

If there was not such damage, what is the total production of these crops?

- a) Paddy
- b) Wheat
- c) Maize
- d) Millet

Is there any crop, which you don't cultivate because of these wild animals?

What protection measures do you apply to stop the damage?

- a. Shouting
- b. Drumming
- c. Guarding overnight
- d. Pit construction
- e. Lighting
- f. Watchdog
- g. Trap

Are these methods effective?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Partially

Do you abandon land? Yes/No. If yes, why?

How much land do you abandon?

- a. Ropani
- b. Ana

Does agriculture support your livelihood? Yes /No

Do you think the damage problem is growing every year after the establishment of the park? Yes /No

What you recommend to manage wildlife and crop raiding problem?

Are you satisfied with the park management?

- a. Yes
- b. No

Have you ever received any information on the importance of the wildlife and National Park from government sector? Yes/ No

What do you think about wildlife and conservation of park is it necessary?

VI. CONVERSION OF UNITS USED IN THE TEXT

1 muri = 20 pathi

Paddy = 1 pathi = 3 kg

Wheat = 1 pathi = 3.5 kg

Maize = 1 pathi = 3.5 kg

Millet = 1 pathi = 3 kg

LOCAL RATE OF DIFFERENT CROPS

Crops = Market rate Rs/kg

Paddy = Rs 25

Wheat = Rs 18

Maize = Rs 18

Millet = Rs 17.50