

Day 2024 Marked with Awareness Program at Siddhanath Science Campus

In celebration of World Elephant Day 2024, on August 12 the Human-Elephant Conflict (HEC) Mitigation and Awareness Project, supported by the Rufford Foundation, organized a special awareness event at Tribhuvan University's Siddhanath Science Campus (SNSC), Kanchanpur. The event brought together 90 participants, including faculty members, students, conservationists, and local media representatives, to discuss elephant conservation and human-elephant coexistence. The program was jointly organized by SNSC, Shuklaphanta National Park (ShNP), the National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC)/Suklaphanta Conservation Programme (SCP), and the Buffer Zone Management Committee (BZMC), with additional support from the Microbiology Students' Association (MISA), SNSC IT Club, and SNSC Eco Club.

Distinguished Guests and Key Presentations

The program was graced by several distinguished guests, including Dr. Gaj Ram Damai (Campus Chief, SNSC), Professor Dr. Chudamani Joshi, Professor Dr. Bhawani Joshi, Mr. Manoj Ayer (Conservation Officer, ShNP), Mr. Laxmi Raj Joshi (Senior Conservation Officer, NTNC/SCP), and Mr. Lav Bahadur Bisht (Chairperson, BZMC, ShNP).

The event featured three key presentations:

1. **"An Overview of Elephants"** – Dr. Balram Awasthi (Lecturer at SNSC and Rufford Grantee)
2. **"Elephant Conservation and its Importance"** – Mr. Laxmi Raj Joshi (Senior Conservation Officer, NTNC/SCP)
3. **"Human-Elephant Conflict Scenario in Far-West Nepal"** – Mr. Manoj Ayer (Conservation Officer, Shuklaphanta National Park)

These presentations provided valuable insights into elephant ecology, conservation challenges, and the human-elephant conflict (HEC) scenario in Far-West Nepal. Special focus was given to cross-border elephant movements from India into Kanchanpur and the complex local expectations regarding compensation for damages.

Closing Remarks and Community Engagement

The event concluded with closing remarks by Associate Professor Dr. Mahadev Bista (Head of the Department of Zoology, SNSC), who emphasized the importance of student involvement in HEC mitigation research. The participation of local media further extended

the reach of the discussion, helping to spread awareness about elephant conservation efforts and the challenges of human-elephant coexistence.

The successful organization of this event highlighted the growing commitment of academic institutions, conservation organizations, and local communities to protecting elephants and mitigating human-elephant conflicts in Nepal.



Presentations on World Elephant Day by Dr. Balram Awasthi (left) & Mr. Laxmi Raj Joshi (Right)with Chief Guest, guest and other participants.



Presentations on World Elephant Day by Mr. Manoj Ayer (Left) & Dr. Gaj Ram Damai, Campus chief (right) & with Chief Guest, guest, and other participants.



कञ्चनपुर । सिद्धनाथ बिज्ञान क्याम्पसले आज विश्व हात्ती दिवस मनाएको छ।विश्व हात्ती दिवस,हात्तीको महत्व, संरक्षण र रक्षा गर्ने उद्देश्यले क्याम्पसले फिल्म निर्माता प्याट्रिक सिम्स र एलिफेन्ट रिडिन्डक्सन फाउन्डेसनको

Photos: Dr. Mahadev Bista (Left) & Banner (right) and Local media coverage for World Elephant Day program (Right) Photo@Balram Awasthi & Suraj Joshi