

Santi & Munia: Conservation for their Reunion

- Kanchan Thapa*

Santi and *Munia*, biologically related pachyderm: sister rhino, aged around ...Oops.... Someone said it is not good to ask or reveal girl age!!! ... Then let's say adult female rhinos in more technical term. They were born may be around late mid 80's somewhere around Sukhibhar grassland in Chitwan National Park. *Santi* is eldest to *Munia* by around 3-4 years. Although both had left their mother; leading an independent life, but frequently they have reunion while foraging across huge grassland. During that time, both sister used to have a fight for their dominancy/ and or supremacy over right of lands but had that intimacy, unnatural among wild pachyderms. Case was still pending until that D-day came to their life. We have been hearing frequently that demons are forcefully taking our members away from us.

I was grazing in the small patch of grassland by the side of budhi rapti. *Munia* was grazing near tiger tops areas. It was chilly November morning... suddenly I heard *chir-chir...hasss-haasss...pyaata-pyaata...* and suddenly elephants enchanting and yet screaming growls... I believed these we were not my other pachyderms: wild elephants; It was kind of organized events I could perceive during that time... I tried to run away from the scene but to my no avail... I was surrounded by group of 15 domestic elephants with groups of demons on each of elephants... Suddenly I perceived a scorching pointed needle in my butt... I was so scared I fled away from that scene... but while running I was feeling so dizziness that after

some time I was dreaming... After sometimes I was feeling so awkward... I felt like I was in Jail... I could see flash lights from behind the bars...clitch...clitch.... groups of demons pulling my condon into the huge trucks. Lately I could feel that these demons tried to send me somewhere else from my hometown, Shukhibhar.

Hope I will have good friend and food and less human interaction in my new home town somewhere else. I missed my family members... in my utter surprise... I could see *munia* in vehicle next to mine... We greeted each other though our regular husky voice...huuuuh...huuuuh The huge gathering around us was going to be a state of perpetual anxiety for us...We were exhausted and scared as how our life will commence from now on... What will be our fate???... We had no clue about it...

We believed we drove a long way... In small cage to fit me... I don't know how *munia* might be feeling as I was having very difficult time... Few grasses and demon pouring water from above to keep me cool as I loose more water from my body...

We were released in the area very unfamiliar to me... setting looks similar but backdrop was completely dissimilar. I could see mountains on both-side of me. I could see my other friend around the corner... I was wondering a lot for few days of my release after my hectic painstaking drive from Chitwan. However, I could not see my *munia* around...

Munia might experience more pain than me... She was release in similar setting around 2 hrs drives from place where I was released. These demons call this place as Babai and *munia*'s place as Suklaphanta. *Munia* was pregnant at the time when she was release in Suklaphanta.

Four Rhinos were translocated to Dudhwa National Park from Chitwan National and population have now increased to more than 20: DNP as source population for Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve.

I was wondering a lot in the babai valley. This place was little bit more wilderness than Chitwan with good food and place to live in. But I was experiencing more trouble from

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few poachers around me. After ten days after my release I could reach the area downstream of Babai Valley. I was traveling erroneously and suddenly experience more demons in route to other side of the river across Karnali. Finally I could able to meet some of my earlier descendants from Chitwan. I was actually searching for my sister. Could I able to meet her... I was more concerned that getting worried about her... I was spending more time in

("Successful corridor restoration work had helped in dispersal of wildlife in between populations their by increasing heterogeneity among the population") Karnali floodplain. Habitat look good to me same as Chitwan where grassland are maintain regularly by floods in Karnali at least here we do not have so much problem with that mikania as it was in Chitwan...

Now I can move freely down to other park in the transboundary area... people are really making effort to safeguard us from getting wiped out. I had always negative feeling about people and that was reason why I mostly recall people as demon. They are really a savior except few

(Rhino Population has been established in four national parks in western terai arc landscape harbouring 62+ rhinos. Thanks to our effort which rhino recalls as DEMON)

deceptive people. That was the reason why they shifted us from Chitwan to increase our supremacy in other places rather than just in one place. They have built us corridor so that I could able to go between places and look for *munia*... In the recent times, few of us are regularly moving between protected areas. I am looking for my sister... Hope I could able to meet my sister *munia*...

Munia has now become mother of baby rhinos and had established herself in Suklaphanta. I hope great work carrying on humans will some day make my dream of meeting my sister and her sibling in Suklaphanta. Really I wish all the best for success in human conservation effort in contributing towards my reunion with my sister *munia*.

जैविक विविधता छ जहाँ, हाम्रो भविष्य त्यहाँ
संरक्षण गरौं मिलेर, रम्नेछन् भावी सन्तति यहाँ ।

विजया दशमी तथा शुभ-द्विपावली
२०६४ को शुभ उपलक्ष्यता सुख,
शान्ति र समृद्धि तथा उत्तरोत्तर
प्रगतिको हार्दिक मंगलमय
शुभ-कामना ॥



पश्चिम तटार्थ श्रु-पट्टि विकास आयोजना
(WTLCP)
घघटमहल, काठमाण्डौ

वन र वन्यजन्तुको संरक्षण गरौं
जनतालाई संरक्षणमा प्रत्यक्ष सहभागी गराऔं ।

विजया दशमी तथा शुभ-द्विपावली
२०६४ को शुभ उपलक्ष्यता समस्त
संरक्षण प्रेमी एवम् उपमीत्ता
महानुभावहरूमा
हार्दिक मंगलमय शुभ-कामना ॥



जगन्नाथ सिंह
संरक्षण अधिकृत एवम्
लाङ्गटाङ्ग टाष्ट्रिय निकुञ्ज पट्टिवाट
धुन्चे, टसुवा