

**REPORT ON**

# **WILDLIFE RESEARCH TECHNIQUES TRAINING**

**Post Impact Assessment**  
**(2012-2021)**



**Friends of Nature (FON) Nepal**  
**Kathmandu, Nepal**  
**(February, 2023)**

## Background

Friends of Nature (FON) Nepal is a non-profitable, non-government organization working in the field of biodiversity and environment management to act within the educational, capacity building, research, advocacy and implementation of the management tool. It has been working since 2001, in various fields of environment and its management.

Since 2012, FON Nepal has been conducting Wildlife Research Techniques Training (WRTT) in Nepal annually. WRTT is a field-based learning opportunity for aspiring graduates and post-graduates about wildlife research and conservation. The training provides both theoretical and practical knowledge on wildlife research design, implementation, data management, and publication as well as conservation strategy. Mostly 19-days closed camp training is followed by six months long online internship wherein the successful trainees conduct small scale research and conservation projects in their locality, organize conservation camps, produce awareness materials like posters with technical support of FON Nepal.

Each year a call of application for WRTT is announced in FON Nepal Facebook page. Participants were finalized in three stages of evaluation process viz., document screening, online written examination, and online interview. Till 2021, 111 trainees were selected, out of which 105 successfully completed their internship.

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The Bernd Thies Foundation has been supporting this training since its inception, and the Zoological Society of London has provided partial support for four years (Nepal office). The training was supported for 1-2 years by Provin International, the Beatrice Nolte Stiftung, and the Russell Train Education for Nature Program.





## sTraining activities

After the trainees were selected, different theoretical and practical classes were delivered by various experts. This training aims to encourage the trainees to work in team and independently, and to develop cognitive and analytical skills. Therefore, different skill development training related to wildlife were provided at the field level, not limited to camera trapping, bird identification, herpetofauna identification, butterfly identification, wildlife sign survey etc. In addition to this, trainees were assigned daily with various task including individual and group presentation after reviewing scientific papers, identification characteristics with scientific names of birds, mammals, butterflies and herpetofauna, drama presentation and quiz competition.

Similarly, trainees prepared drama for conservation sensitization and showed it to audience. WRTT provides platform to all the trainees to get involved with FON, Nepal as an online intern after successful completion of the training. To be a successful intern, the trainees have to fulfill requirements viz. conduct one small scale research project, conduct one small scale conservation project, develop one high quality proposal, make conservation poster of species of their choice, a popular article either in Nepali or English language, and so forth.



## Post training assessment

The overall objective of post training assessment was to review the outcomes of the training conducted from 2012 to 2021; and assess the progress to capacity development of the trainee. Besides, the assessment provide recommendation to new training needs. To evaluate the impact of the training, post training impact assessment was conducted by online questionnaire survey with 105 trainees (annex). Nearly 83 % of the trainees participated in this assessment, from year 2012-2021.

Most of participants were working in the field of wildlife and forestry, and all of them recommended the continuation of such training in Nepal. More than 50% of the participants strongly agree that the training has provided positive impact in their professional and personal life, while nearly 80% of them believe that the training has been turning point in their profession life. After the participation in the training, most of the trainee has developed skills related to writing, networking, communication, and were able to produce knowledge products.

In addition, trainees were able to organize conservation camps and were able to attend different national and international workshop/symposium. More than 80% of participants recommend for additional training from FoN Nepal related to statistic and data analysis, wildlife related to photography, technology and equipment handling etc, GIS and writing skills on proposal, research design, scientific paper etc.



The details of evaluation result are as follows:

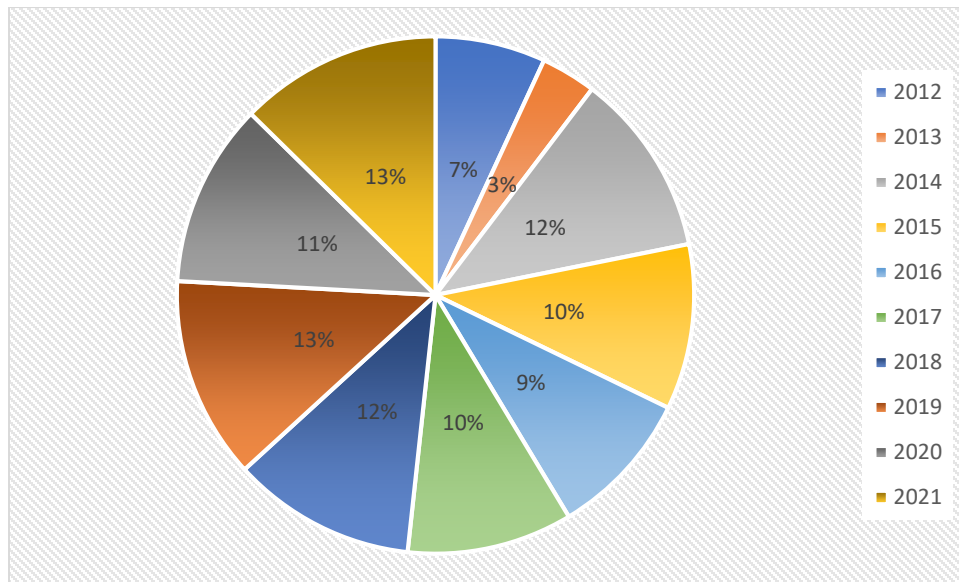


Figure1: Year-wise participants percentage in survey (N= 87)

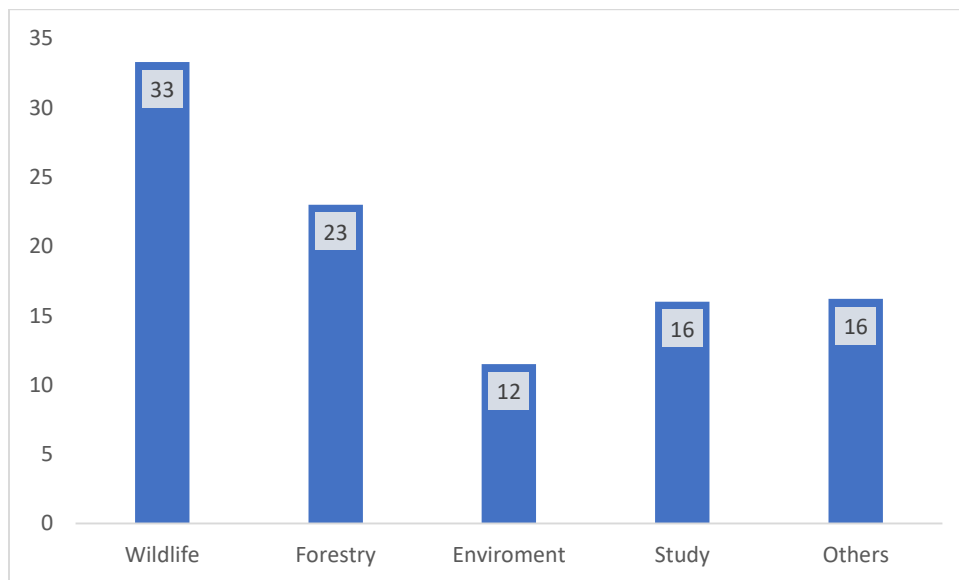


Figure 2: Current working field of participants in percentage (N=87)

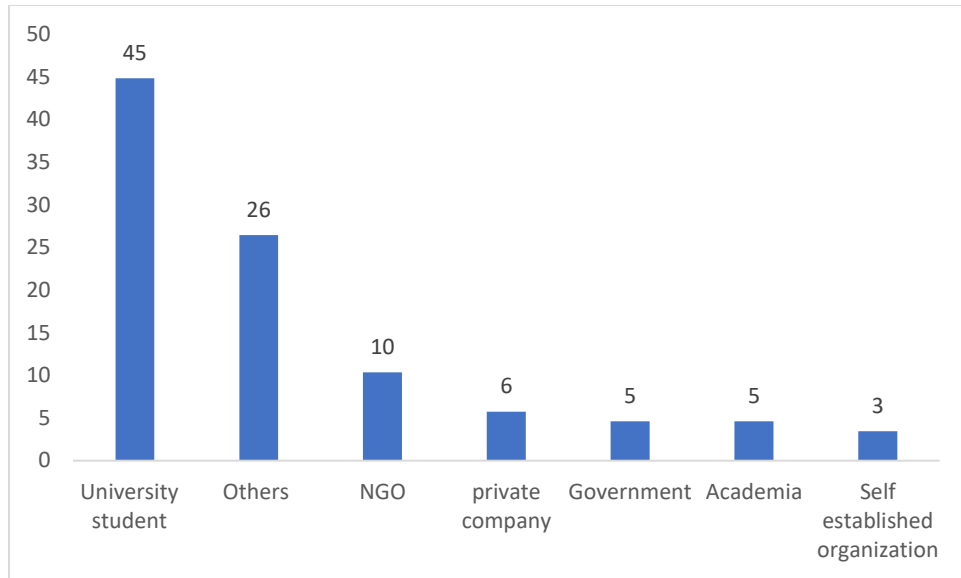


Figure 3: Working organization of participants in percentage (N=87)

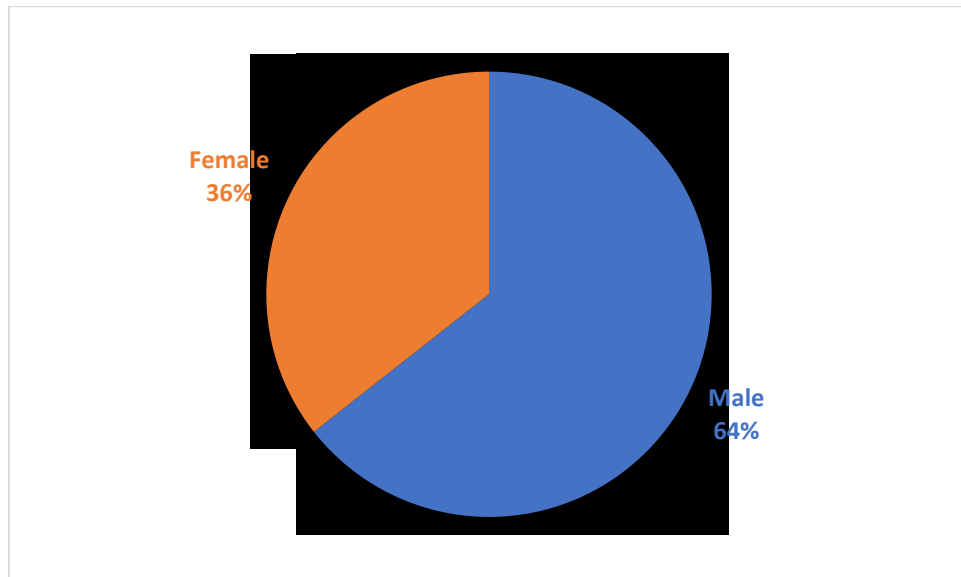


Figure 4: Gender of participants (N=87)

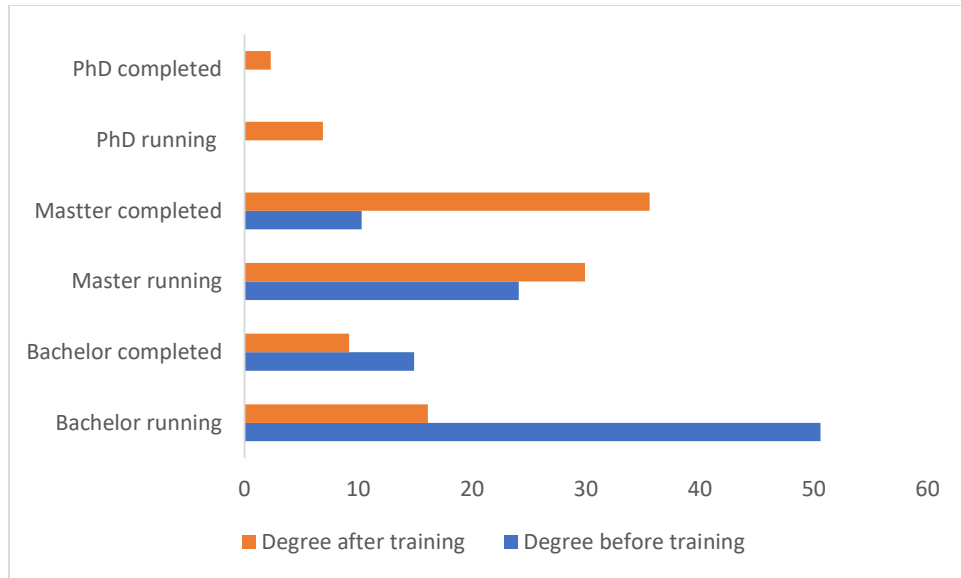


Figure 5: Highest degree of participants before and after training in percentage (N=87)

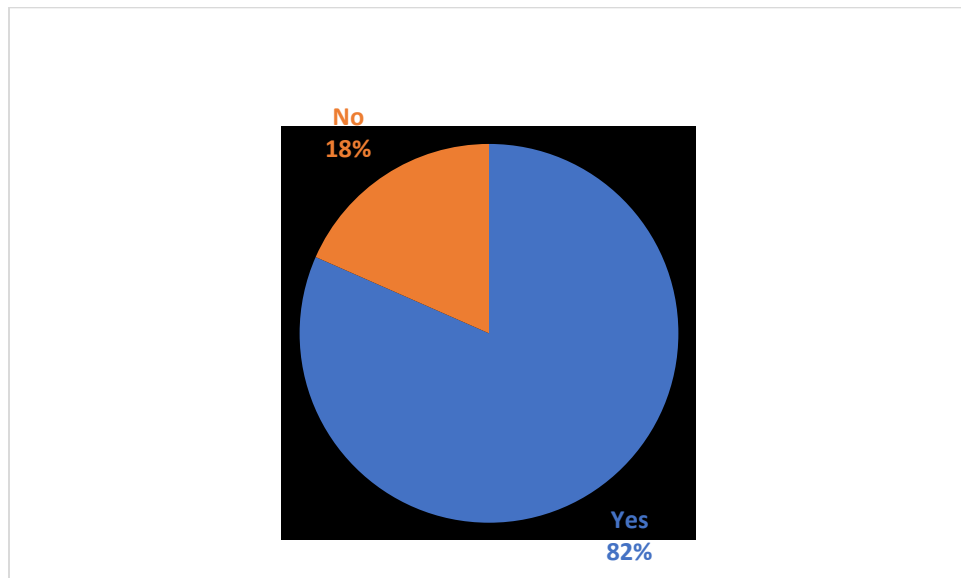


Figure 6: Participants completed thesis on wildlife or any nature related field (N=87)

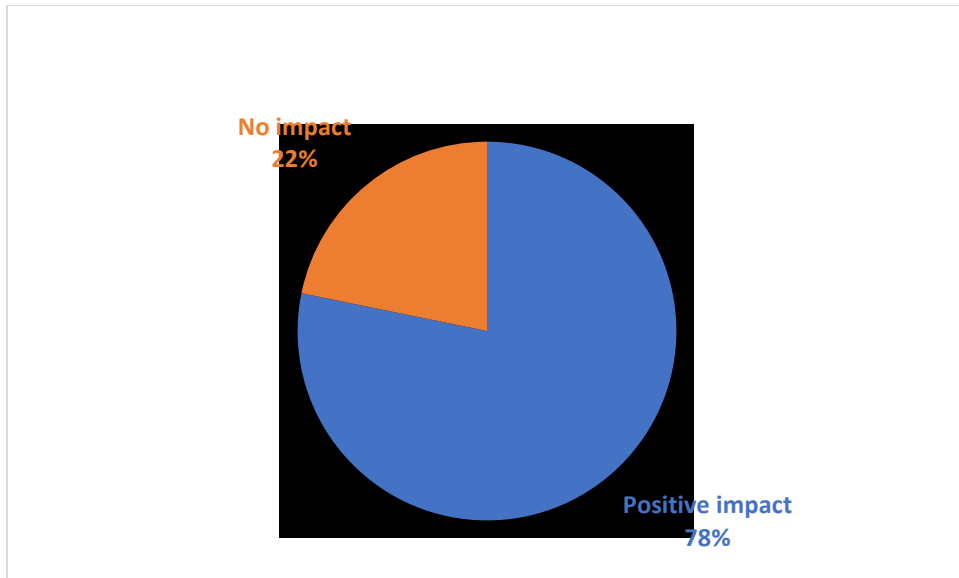


Figure 7: Impact of WRTT on the thesis completion (N=87)

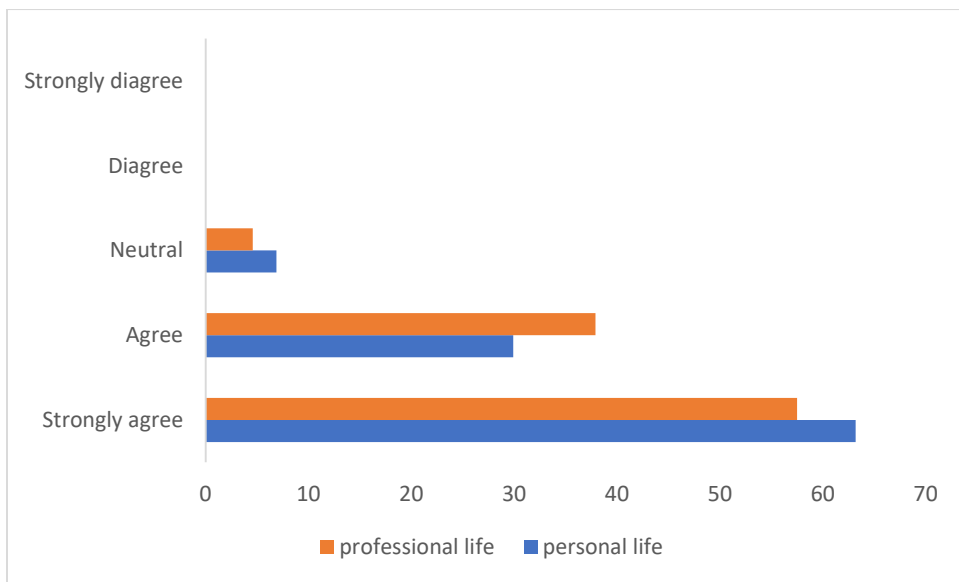


Figure 8: Impact of WRTT on professional and personal life in percentage (N=87)



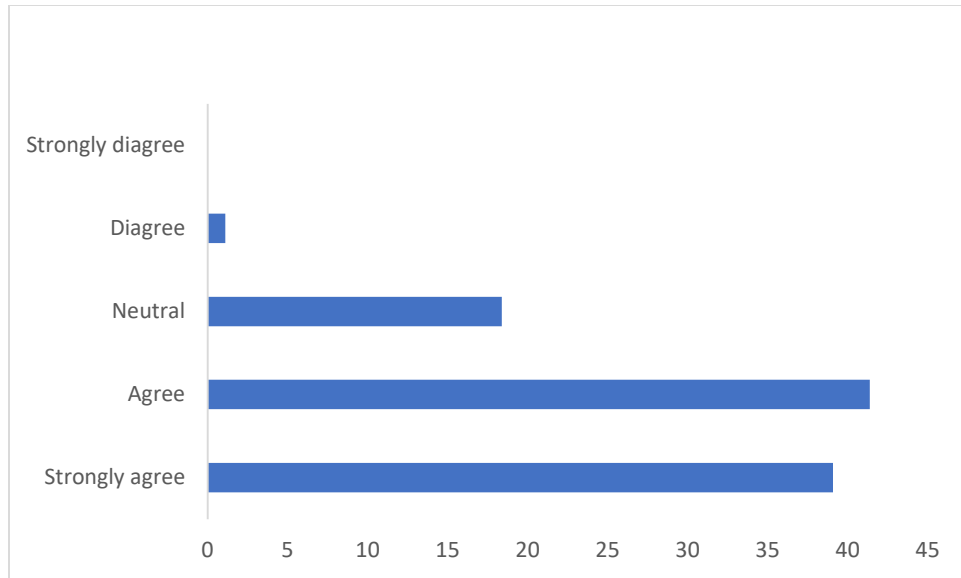


Figure 9: Participants' believe on training as turning point in their professional career in percentage (N=87)

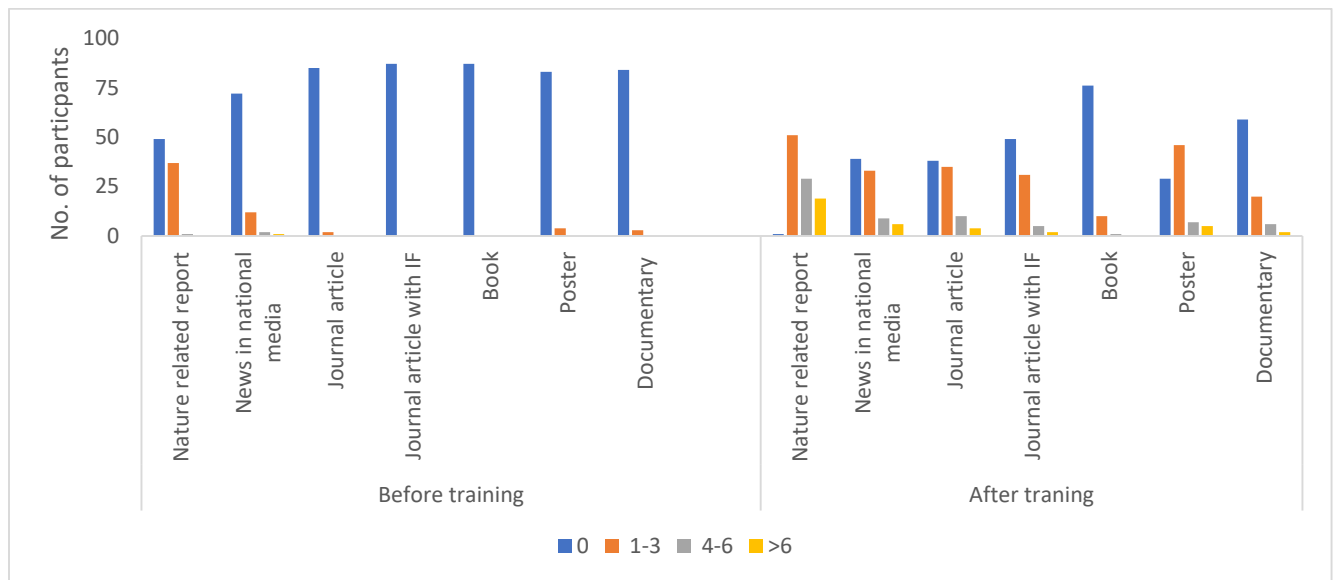


Figure 10: Number of knowledge products produced by number of participants before and after the training (N=87)

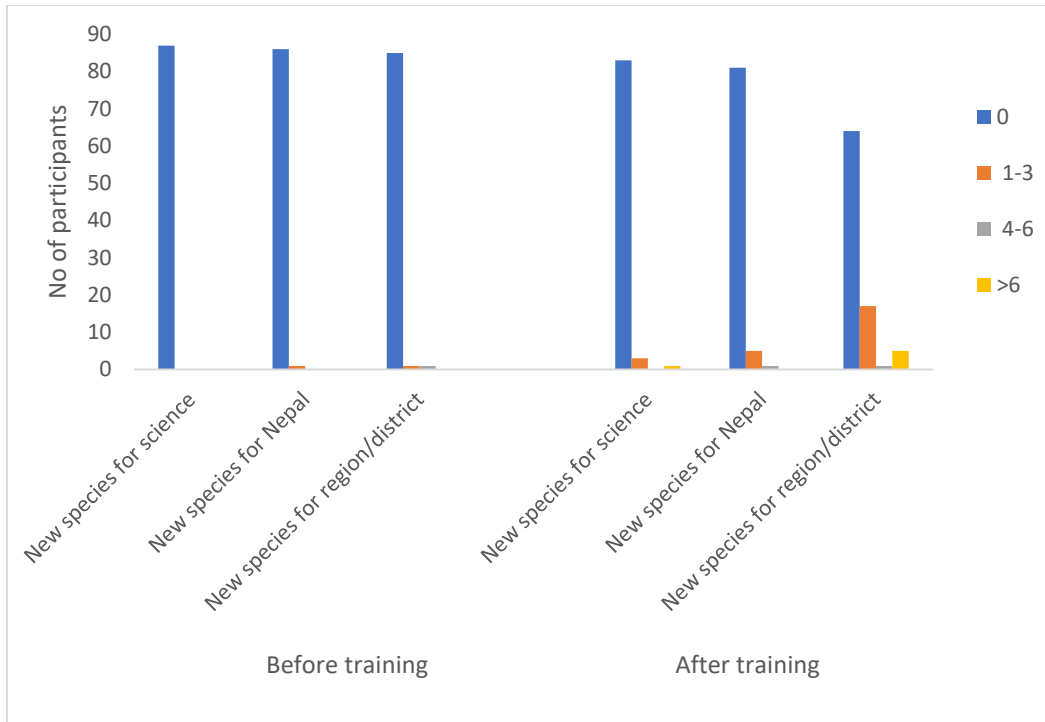


Figure 11: Number of discovered new species by number of participants before and after the training (N=87)

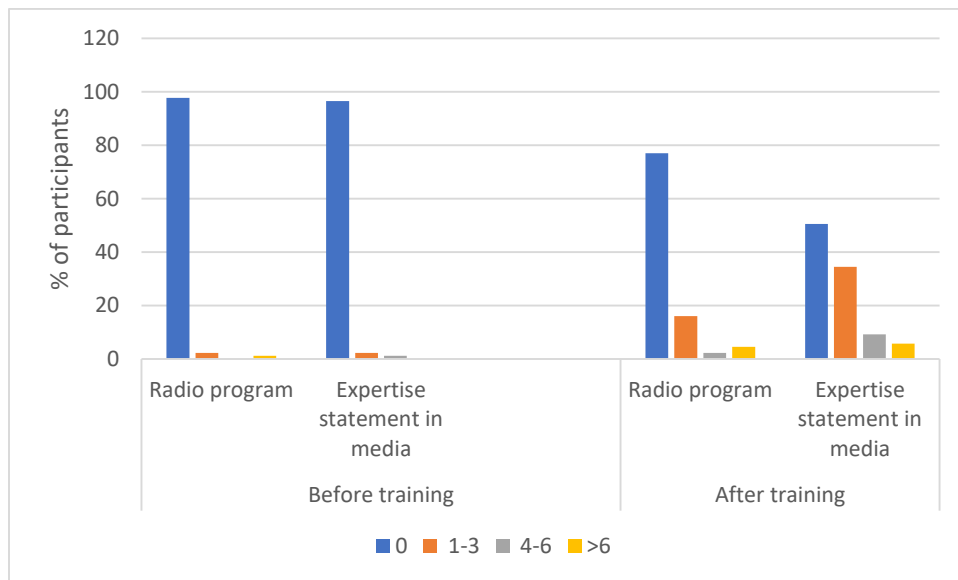


Figure 12: Participants involved in number of programs related to radio and other media (N=87)

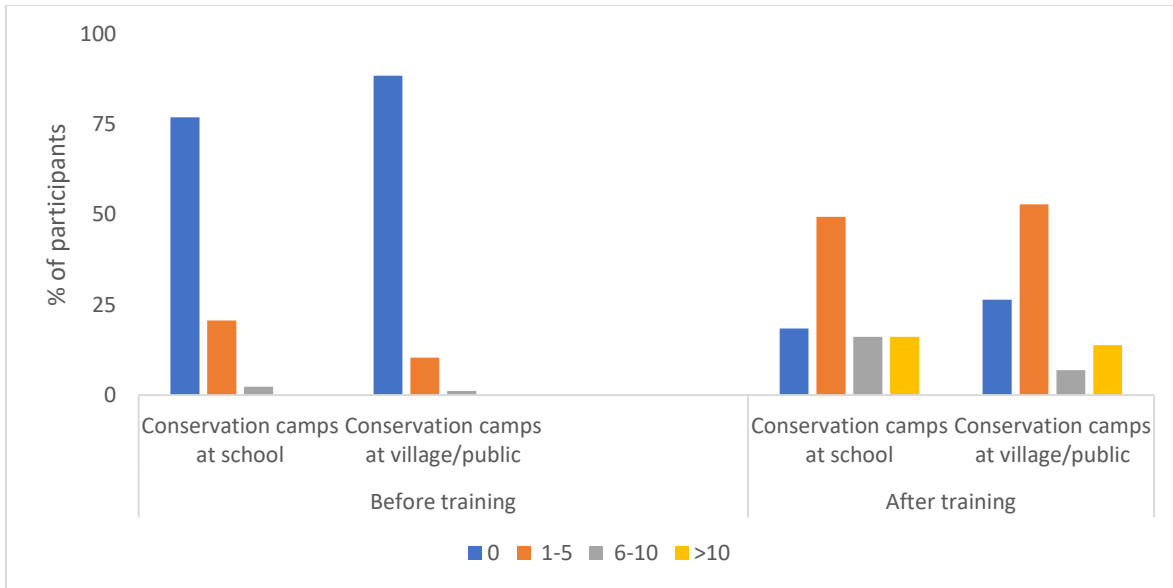


Figure 13: Number of conservation camps conducted by participants (N=87)

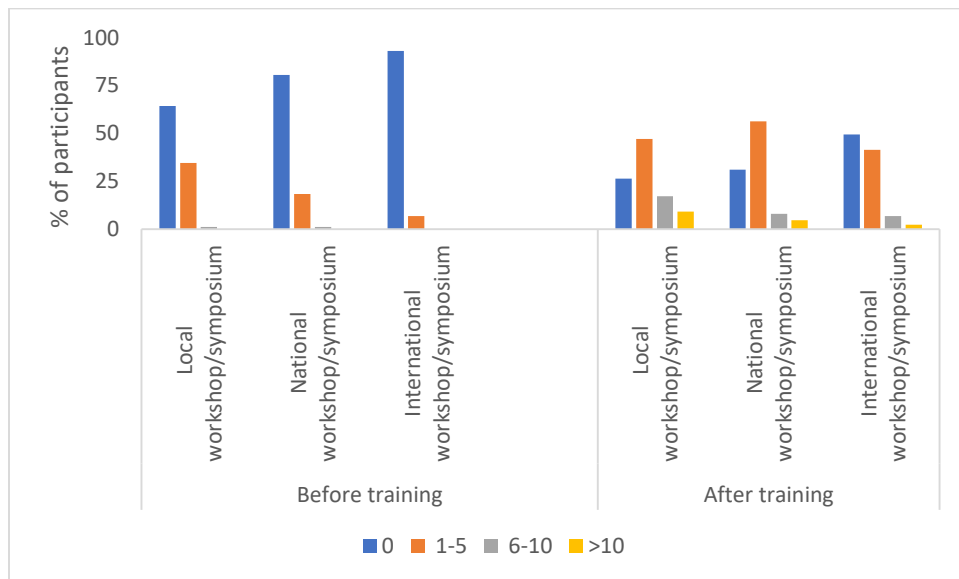


Figure 14: Participants involvement in different workshop/symposium/training (N=87)

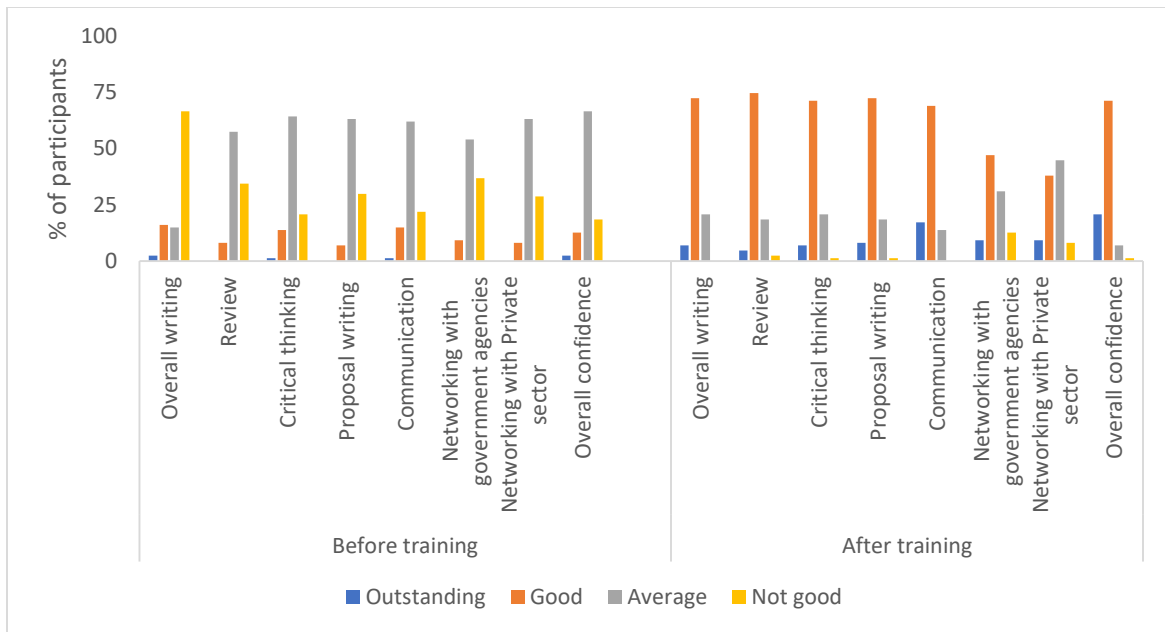


Figure 15: Participants development in skills before and after training (N=87)

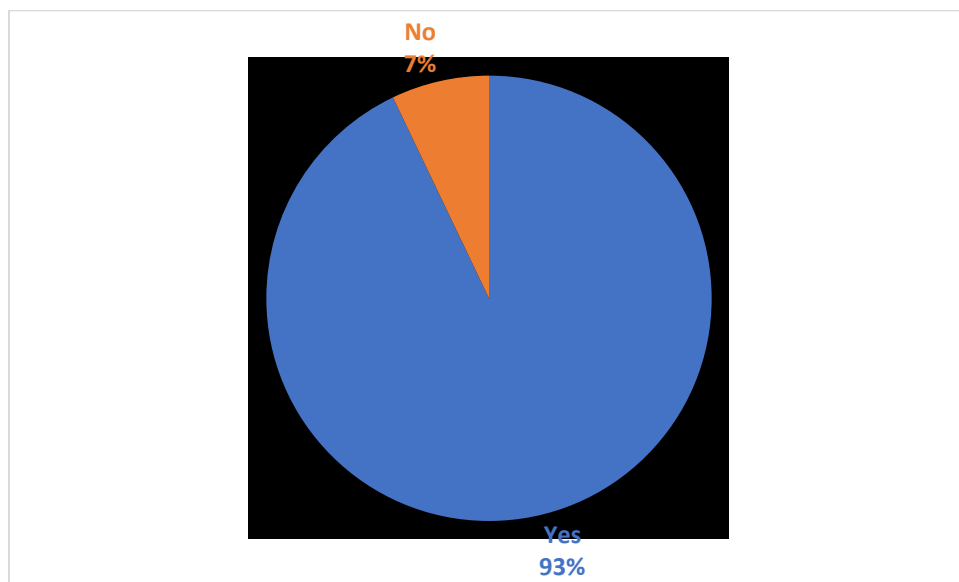


Figure 16: Beneficial of six-month online internship

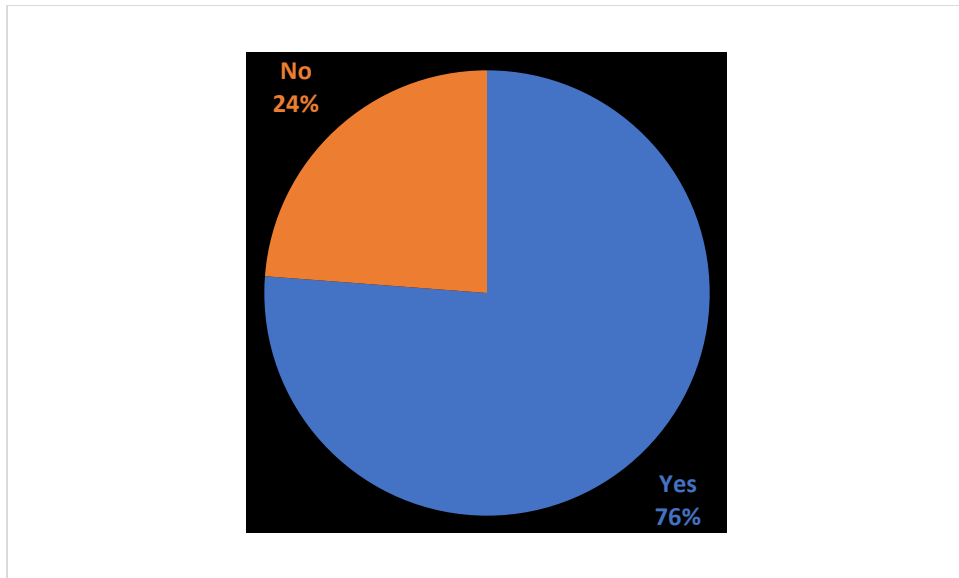


Figure 17: Percentage of participants able to get fund for the proposal prepared during internship

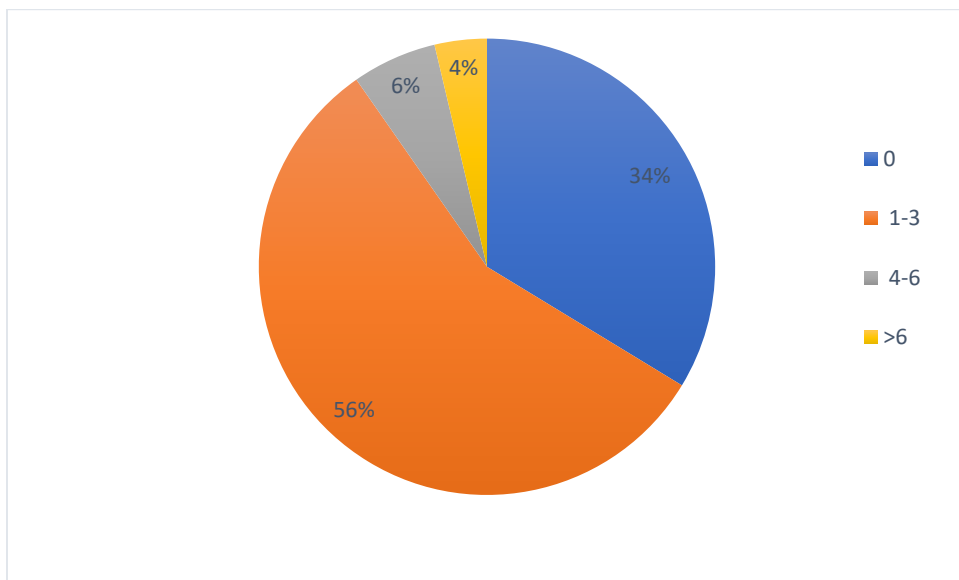


Figure18: Participants' number of proposal funded after the training.



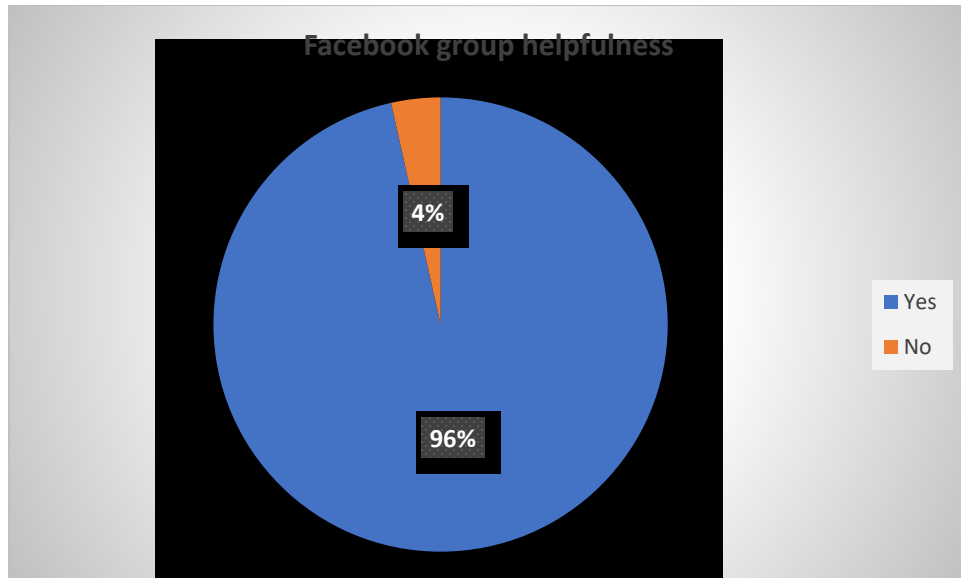


Figure 19: Participants response on the facebook (friends of wildlife) group helpfulness (N=87)

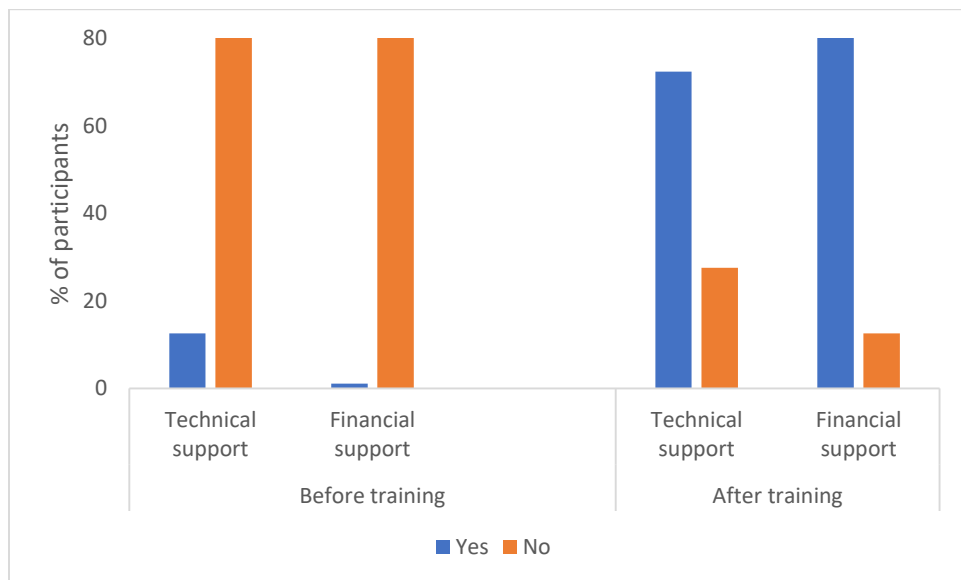


Figure 20: Participants getting technical and financial support from FoN.

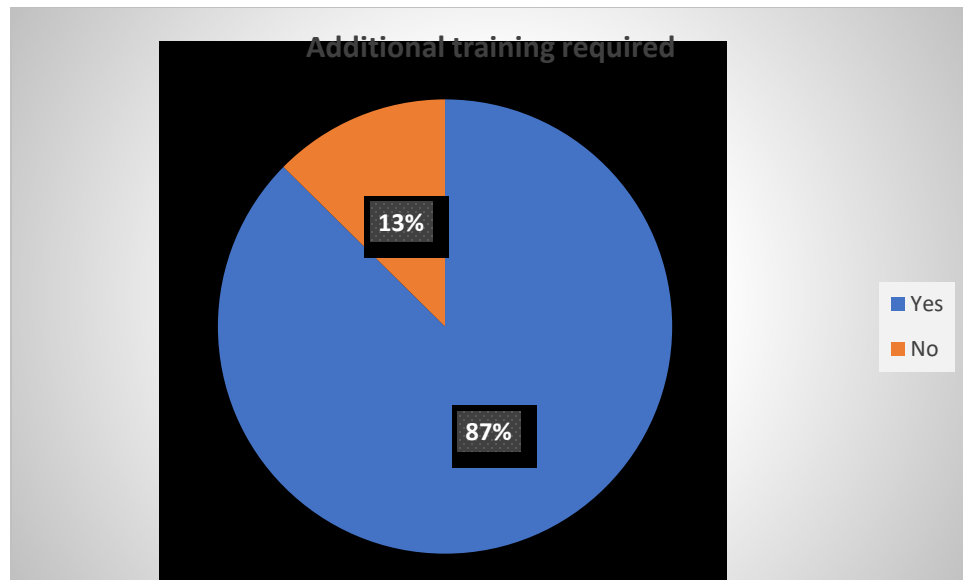


Figure 21: Additional training required in future for professional growth from FoN.



**COULD YOU PLEASE SPECIFY THE FURTHER TRAINING REQUIRED TO YOU? (SUBJECTIVE RESPONSE)**

<p>Boot camp</p> <p>A training on photography technique and use of modern tools like R-programming and coding languages for wildlife consecutive.</p> <p>Conservation workshop related trainings</p> <p>Being familiar with the lab-based wildlife research equipment</p> <p>Data Analysis, Science Communication and Technical Writing</p> <p>Research Design, Ecological data handling and statistical analysis</p> <p>Training on Data analysis Softwares such as R-software; DISTANCE Software and Capture.</p> <p>Habitat suitability mapping, trade routes mapping and many more.</p> <p>Geospatial based Forest and Wildlife Management</p> <p>Biostatistics in Wildlife sector.</p>	<p>Community conservation, Designing tools and materials for better community engagement; conservation evidence.</p> <p>Theoretical and practical knowledge regarding darting</p> <p>Application of technology on wildlife monitoring</p> <p>Communication, Project management, Leadership and Policy.</p> <p>Critical review of papers, writing report</p> <p>Environmental law and policy</p> <p>Applied science in conservation</p> <p>Wildlife rescue, study on important plant species</p> <p>Advanced modelling techniques.</p> <p>Extensive field survey</p> <p>GIS/R Analysis/ Data Analysis/ Scientific Writing</p>
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## ANY COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR TRAINING (SUBJECTIVE RESPONSE)?

I am glad to be the part of WRTT 2022. FON is one of the best wildlife organization of Nepal. I hope it will bring some new opportunity for us in upcoming days.

Thank you for such a wonderful contribution to students life through practical and useful training. However, I think it would be better to focus more on open source software. Secondly, if students are provided with hands on exercise to analyze data on site (data collected during the training to be analyzed during the field), it could be more beneficial.

I am forever grateful to FON for this amazing opportunity and continuing this training will be beneficial to the upcoming young wildlife enthusiasts as well.

Thank you so much for fruitful training batch 2021

I heartily like to express my warm gratitude to the organizing committee of FON for bestowing the young conservationist through this marvelous training. I wish this training to continue forever and ever. Selection process for the training is extremely fair for which I feel extravagantly grateful. I am again willing to participate in this training which I am expecting to be little advanced.

I appreciate the effort of FON, Nepal to train enthusiastic young undergraduate and graduates. I think FON should have some sessions online for the trainees during intern time to know about the progress and if they have any problem to carry out all the assigned works. Organizing some short fruitful sessions with the FON team along with the trainees who have already made remarkable change in Wildlife sector at times for all interested trainees may be fruitful. Huge respect to the team who endorsed me and guided me in the path of wildlife. I wish to get your continuous guidance and support.

Despite I couldn't complete the internship along with this training, the WRTT definitely encouraged and helped me to identify problems and seek solutions related in field of conservation. It was the excellent platform for learning. Thank you FoN team.

This training is really beneficial for students who are interested in wildlife, and it has been incredibly beneficial to me both personally and academically. I owe a huge debt of gratitude to every FON member for everything.


This training was a life changing experience for me. I am not saying it just to say it but I mean it as well. It was something I had worked very hard for, something I wanted, something I needed in my professional career. I am very much grateful to my trainers and the entire team of Friends of Nature for choosing me as a participant fairly and making me believe I was worth it. FON is doing a great job and the training should be continued.

In my knowledge, FON is one of the environmental conservation based-organization of Nepal who is constantly supporting young undergraduates as well as graduates to pursue their conservation and research career. FON is discipline and dedicated organization and my best wishes for them always !!

Thank you FoN Nepal for everything that you taught which made me impactful in the pragmatic world. Advanced training might help past trainees to excel in their knowledge, and also guide them in their professional growth.

FON Is doing really appreciable job ; the best training for undergraduates in Nepal. Moreover, the advance training for previous trainees related to pure data analysis and interpretation will be great if possible.

Although I am no longer working in the natural science field, I would support the activities of FON. I understand their impact and expertise in wildlife research and wish to see the organization flourish in the future.

Appreciative on the working mechanism and i wish for the all the very best in future! Friends of Nature 

The training is a great learning experience and its cover a lot. Maybe alternative would be to focus on few (e.g, more focused on study design, paper reading and finding research problems and survey and identification of only one class (e.g, Aves) for one training season ) and in more in-depth.

Training was great, it was very practical as well as theoretical. Keep it up.  
It's very impactful

A Google group should be made to share FON 's achievement as some trainees are not on social media.

The training was a lifetime experience. Being trained by veteran conservationists is a surreal experience. The training is well designed and as the name says well articulated too. From critically reviewing the papers, to presenting on different topics, conducting social survey, mammals, birds and butterflies identification, all of them were crucial in developing skills that are must for a true conservationist. Multiple of the fields covered by the training in such a limited time is amazing as it helps the young minds to explore where their interest lies in. Theoretical session together with on-hands experience in the field is the best part of the training as it confers the knowledge of how the field work of wildlife conservation looks like in real. The training is a holistic package of furnishing young brains of the conservation knowledge and developing skills in them



that will help them in further pursuit. Some sessions on proposal writing and how to critically review the paper would be very helpful in developing critical analysis skills.

Thank you for the survey

I think you should modify the training style. The training pattern is same since many years.

Thank you Friends of Nature team for providing in-depth training and your contribution in Nepal's Biodiversity conservation

This training was a turning point in my life, especially when we stayed locally and observed wildlife closely. It taught me practical approaches of research which I find to be using even today. Please keep up the good work in shaping young skilled professionals into researchers. Thank you Raju dai and team!

WRTT is one of the best thing happening to Nepalese Conservation aspirants. Good luck FON for other such trainings.

I am very much thankful to FON for all the learnings i gain from trainings. The wildlife training is package which has all kinds of knowledge in bits. I would like to suggest some points for further redesigning the training. As trainees are mostly students and going to conduct thesis in their final year, including experimental studies would be more relevant for them to conduct further research. Wildlife training provide enough field days, during those days current way of field teaching can be fit to some proper research which later with more data collection can be published as well during internship or can be done theses on same topics. So everyone can develop their research idea during training. Additionally, being aware that these trainings are expensive, following the wildlife training data analysis training in detail would be effective if somehow possible. Thank You!

The training is one of the best things that can happen to any conservation enthusiasts/ecologist.

Though it was a training of 19 days it acted as a foundation of my overall masters course of ecology. I feel extremely blessed to be a part of it and I hope every deserving enthusiast get a chance to be a part of such wonderful package. If I have to recommend one thing, that would be adding a bit more hours to the data analysis part.

FON's training is great for amateur students. Please continue the training in coming days!!!  
Keep motivating youths through trainings and any other supports

Very helpful to monitor individual growth trajectory after post wildlife training.  
WRTT was the best experience i have ever had. The skills and techniques learnt in the training is being useful and is making my career strong

This training has been an milestone for many wildlife enthusiast in Nepal. I wish for continuity of the training. Long Live WRTT and FON

The training's main purpose is to motivate people to work in the field of wildlife and it serves that purpose. I think the training can further expand in the areas of data analysis and Geospatial technology.

I would like to express my respectful gratitude to Friends of Nature for providing such training opportunities to the youth, the pillar of the nation. Such acts always inspire youths to do some essential acts by using their capacity and potential

Encouraging mentors!! Friends of Nature provided me opportunities to learn different skills to move successfully towards my academic career. The training changed my perspective on nature and wildlife. I become more open to explore , learn and embrace the nature and its uniqueness. Kudos to all the motivating mentors/ conservationists-Raju dai and Yadav dai. THANK YOU

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my opinions. I hope to see other training opportunities for professional as well in addition to this as it influenced me to further build my career in forestry. Thank you.

Thank you for organizing such impactful training  
It is a very fruitful training and made me learn a kind of discipline that is needed in wildlife sector.  
Thank you

Training was very good and looking forward for more in future.  
It was great experience to be a part of training. The training was really productive and resourceful. It should be conducted each year so that students are encouraged to do more research in flora and fauna species.

The training was great, I had never this kind of training in context of Nepal. It has given me clarity and vision to work for nature.