

# **WOMEN ATTITUDE TOWARD LEOPARD CONSERVATION IN GALLIAT**



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## Summary

Attitudinal surveys were designed and conducted in Galliat targeting 100 women. The questionnaires were specifically designed to know the social impacts of human leopard conflict on women and their possible response to it.

The survey indicated that half of the respondents of the questionnaire had seen leopards while collecting fuelwood /fodder or enroute to forests/ homes. Most of them had seen it more than once.

Although the women were not familiar to distinguish between different leopards, they had some idea about their numbers. Most were of view that there were more than two leopards around their villages.

Although majority of the respondents didn't believe that leopard is a useful animal, some did. Majority didn't want to see leopard around yet about 10 % felt no problem with their existence, if they stay in forest and do not come to the human settlements.

The survey also identified a need for training for women to protect themselves from leopard, while out in the forests, and found women receptive to getting such training.

## **Introduction:**

Although common leopard are not very common in Pakistan yet in some parts of NWFP, leopards occur in good number mainly due to good protection. Ayubia National Park is one of the protected areas of Pakistan, where common leopards are frequently seen.

According to the local community, leopards are found in Galliat since long. However, they posed no problem for human, except depredation on their livestock and poultry. Such losses, though great for a poor mountain community, were tolerated at large. This was, however, in June 2005, that a leopard became a man-eater and killed six women in 10 days. It injured quite a few also. This irritated the local community who turned against leopards, demanding for their total elimination.

In order to address such a tense situation of leopard-human conflict, WWF-Pakistan decided to undertake certain social and ecological studies. Since the women are the most affected group, being target of the leopard attack, it was essential to study their attitudes toward the entire problem and determine about the actions that would help them against injuries and loss of life. This report is focusing on this aspect.

## **Methods and Objectives:**

### **Survey Area**

Survey was conducted in nine villages of three union council of Galliat around Ayubia National Park, District Abbottabad.

### **Questionnaire**

A specific questionnaire was developed for the study that consisted of certain open and also close-ended questions. A total of 100 women nine villages around Ayubia National Park were interviewed and their responses recorded.

### **Objectives**

The main objectives of the survey were:

1. Determine the knowledge and attitude of women about common leopard and identify its linkages with the future of leopards in Galliat.
2. Based on the results, develop an awareness program for women that will help in their protection from leopard attack and make them sympathetic to leopards.
3. Assess the training needs of women regarding their safety from leopard.

## Results and discussions:

The results of questionnaire survey are as follows:

### 1. Leopard Sighting.

Category	Number of Respondents	Percentages
Yes	45	45%
No	55	55%

### 2. Number seen

Category	Number of Respondents	Percentages
Once	18	18%
Twice	8	8%
More than twice	19	19%

The results indicated that 45 % respondents have seen leopard while the remaining didn't see the leopard. In this 18 % women saw the leopard once, 8% women saw it twice and 19% women saw the leopard more than twice.

### 3. Population of leopard

Category	Number of Respondents	Percentages
One	Nil	
Two	4	4%
More than two	24	24%
I don't know	72	72%

When they were asked about the population of leopard around their villages, 72 % women reply we don't know about the population of leopard, while 24% women have the opinion that there are more than two leopards around their village and 4 % women said that there are not more than two leopards around their village.

4. Attitude
  - a. Usefulness

Category	Number of Respondents	Percentages
Useful	8	8%

Not useful	92	92%
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When they were asked about the usefulness of leopard, 92 % women answered, leopard is not a useful animal for human; it killed our livestock and danger for the human life.

While 8 % women thought that it is a useful animal because it can protect forest from cutting and its pelt can also be sold in the market.

b. Co-existence with human

Category	Number of Respondents	Percentages
May exist	10	10%
Should not exist	90	90%

Result indicated that 90% women want to eliminate the leopard from the forest, while 10% women have no objection on its existence in the forest if they don't come to the human settlements.

**Discussion:**

Attitudinal surveys were designed and conducted in Galliat targeting 100 women. The questionnaires were specifically designed to know the social impacts of human leopard conflict on women and their possible response to it.

The survey indicated that half of the respondents of the questionnaire had seen leopards while collecting fuelwood /fodder or enroute to forests/ homes. Most of them had seen it more than once.

Although the women were not familiar to distinguish between different leopards, they had some idea about their numbers. Most were of view that there were more than two leopards around their villages.

Although majority of the respondents didn't believe that leopard is a useful animal, some did. Majority didn't want to see leopard around yet about 10 % felt no problem with their existence, if they stay in forest and do not come to the human settlements.

The survey also identified a need for training for women to protect themselves from leopard, while out in the forests, and found women receptive to getting such training.

## **Recommendations:**

- The killing of leopards without any ecological considerations might have serious consequences for the local community also. Certain criteria have to be established and used before a leopard is killed/ trapped.
- The women need to be trained on how to protect themselves from leopard attacks.
- Awareness campaign has to be launched to reduce the hatred of women against leopards.

# Questionnaire

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Respondent \_\_\_\_\_

Name of village \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Education \_\_\_\_\_

1. Do leopards occur in this area?    Yes                      No                      I don't know
2. If yes, did you see leopard in your life time?                      Y/N
3. If yes, how many time?    A. once                      b. twice                      c. three time    d. more than three time
4. Where did u see the leopard? A. In the National Park.    B. in the guzara forest c. in reserve forest                      d. in your village                      e. other
5. When did u see the leopard last time? Day \_\_\_\_\_ month \_\_\_\_\_ year \_\_\_\_\_ time \_\_\_\_\_
6. Do you remember? What was the size of leopard? A. Medium size                      b. small size                      c. large size
7. Did you see it alone \_\_\_\_\_ or with cubs \_\_\_\_\_

8. How many leopards do you think occur in the Galliat?

Few	No number mention	1-10	10-20	20-30	30-40	More than 40

9. What part of village population practice poaching?
  - a. almost no one
  - b. a small part
  - c. many
  - d. almost every body
  - e. I don't know
10. Why do people kill leopard?
  - a. for money; to sell the skin or body parts
  - b. for fun and excitement
  - c. it is simply a habit to kill animal when they have a gun in their hands
  - d. to prevent that leopard kill livestock
  - e. I don't know
11. Are leopard specially hunted?

- a. leopard are specially hunted      b. leopard are mostly killed when any opportunity arises during a hunt for other animals      c. I don't know

12. If an opportunity to shoot a leopard occur, how many would use it/

- a. the majority      b. less than half      c. an insignificant part      d. difficult to say

13. What would villager think about killing a leopard to feed ones family?

Understand and approve	
In such cases people do not condemn it	
Neutral; not condemn not approve	
Most of all condemn	
Undoubtedly condemn	

14. Is it easy to find a buyer for leopard skin?

- a. very easy      b. fairly easy      c. difficult      d. not possible  
e. I don't know

15. Would you report a poaching case or illegal trade?

- a. I would report it      b. I will possibly report it      c. I will probably not report it  
d. I will not report it      e. difficult to say