

Preface

Turtles represent a magnificent group of vertebrates but remain obscure when their position in conservation and availability of ecological information are discussed. Distributed throughout the priority Terai, in varied habitat conditions, they are facing several threats related to habitat and populations due to anthropogenic activities. Turtles are neither included in the protected species list of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (NPWC) Act (1973) and successive amendments, nor are fully researched. The ambiguity in species occurrence, lack of threat assessments amidst the perceived risks of population declines under thriving exploitation and trade have created gap in species information.

This publication is based on the outcomes of the small grant project “Species Accounts, Distribution Status and Threat Assessment of Turtles in Lowlands of Nepal with Special Focus on Indian Eyed Turtle (*Morenia petersi* Anderson, 1879) funded by Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) and executed by EGH (Environmental Graduates in Himalaya), Resources Himalaya Foundation, Nepal. The objectives included the updating of species distributions and mapping. The fieldworks and published works on turtles of Nepal have contributed to vital information about the species features. This publication has been developed to acquaint the conservation organizations, researchers and community organizations about the turtle species and their current distributions in Nepal.

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