Acknowledgements

At the outset, I thank University Grant Commission (UGC), Nepal for funding me full scholarship and providing an excellent opportunity for undertaking this research. I would also like to thank Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation (MoFSC) and Department of National Park and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) for allowing research permission as well as extending all possible logistic support during entire course of research period. I am also indebted many individuals and institutions for their kind support and cooperation; without which such a colossal work would not have been possible otherwise.

I am very much indebted to my supervisor Dr. Sushant Chowdhury, Senior Professor, for introducing me as a Ph.D. candidate and supervising me till the date with his profound knowledge on mega-herbivores. The frequent discussions with him on project organization, presentation and compilation of this thesis have been most enlightening and useful in developing the skills for such an activity. Without his active co-operation and help it might not have been possible to complete this research work. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to him for the inspiration, generous academic guidance and meticulous editing of errors. I will be ever indebted to him for all his help in shaping my thesis and so the professional career.

I would also like to extend my sincere gratitude to Shri. P.R. Sinha (Ex-Director, WII), Dr. V.B. Mathur (Director, WII), Dr. P.K Mathur (Dean FWS, WII), Dr. K. Shankar (Research Coordinator, WII), Dr. Qmar Quereshi and Dr.
S. A. Hussain, Dr. B.S. Adhikari, Dr. Bitapi Sinha for their valuable support and cooperation. I thank Mr. Rajesh Thapa, Mr. V. Sukumar, Dr. Manoj Kumar Agrawal, Mr. Panna Lal, Gyanesh Chibber, Lekh Nath Sharma, Birendra Sharma for their assistance in data entry and taking several required outputs related to the study. My appreciations are also to several WII staffs from DTP, GIS, and Library sections for their assistance in data outputs and library reference facilitations. My thanks are also to the staffs of WII administration and accounts sections who helped me in numerous ways during my research period.

I express my sincere gratitude to Dr. Eric Dinerstein (WWF, US) for encouraging me for this research work. I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Director General of DNPWC, Tika Ram Adhikari, the then Chief Warden of Chitwan National Park, Megh Bahadur Pandey for allowing me to carry out this research project and providing all the support in their capacity. My sincere thanks are also to Director of National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC) Dr. Shanta Raj Gnavali, Associate Prof. Dr. Tej Bahadur Thapa, Former Chief Wardens Dr. Narendra Man Babu Pradhan, Dr. Jhamak Bahadur Karki, Dr. Naresh Subedi, Maheswor Dhakal and Khem Prasai for encouraging me consistently by providing moral as well as logistic support from the very beginning of this research work. I am also thankful to Ram Chandra Nepal, Chiranjibi Pokhrel and Babu Ram Lamichehne affiliated with the NTNC (Sauraha) for their logistic and technical support in the field.
My sincere thanks are due to Prof. Hari Prasad Thapaliya, Mr. Madan Kushwaha, Mrs. Prabha Chitrakar, Mr. Rakesh Kumar Bhagat, without their active support, encouragement and fruitful discussions it would not have been possible to see this study accomplished ever. I am also thankful to Mr. Mohan Niraula for his valuable help, support and guidance provided on the technical aspect of the study.

I am thankful to several employees of Chitwan National Park (CNP) and the National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC) who always helped me wholeheartedly during my unbreakable field time. Particularly, I would like to thank Dr. Kamal Gaire, Ram Kumar Aryal, Bishnu Lama, Harka Man Lama, Rameshwor Chaudhary, Ashok Bhandari, Lal Bdr. Bhandari, Buddhi Raj Pathak, Ramesh Yadav, Dhungana, Shanta Bdr. Mahar, Nandu Ram Acharya, Gambar Sing Gurung, Janga Bahadur Shrestha, Dil Bdr. Gurung, and all elephant staffs did an excellent job in assisting the field data collection. I extend my sincere thanks to Mr. Mriganka Sarkar, Mr. Nabanitan Kuti and Mr. Indronil Mondal for their assistance in operating advanced GIS and ERDAS IMAGINE programs.

Several government organizations and administrators help me to provide valuable information and data which were relevant for this research work. I express my special thanks to them for their support in sharing information much needed for this study.
Bal Bahadur Lama helped me keenly, energetically and fearlessly as field assistants for whole of the study period. He was always with me in moments of happiness and sorrows deserve my heartiest gratitude for his invaluable help and support for this study. In fact, without his enthusiastic help, this research would not have been possible at all.

My friends and colleagues who were my well wishers need special mentioning and acknowledgments for their kind help in numerous ways. Particularly among them are; Hari Prasad Sharma, Tika Giri, Nakul, Narayan and Subedar Thapa.

I extend my thanks to my driver Binod, field assistant Janga Bahadur for providing me all possible help during in all odd hours. Their smiling faces and never say no to any work facilitated my work without falling behind. My thanks are to all of them for their kind helps.

Last but not least, I extend my deep and immense sense of gratitude to my parents for teaching me the values of education that brought me to this stage of my academic career. Finally, I would like to thank my beloved wife Lila, daughter Suprabha and son Saurav for their patience, sacrifice and support all through my long and lonely hours of research and write-up. They were incredible source of inspiration and encouragement for all the time of my research endeavor.

Khagendra Adhikari