

# Major Conservation Issues

## Management:

- infrastructure and accessibility

## Biological:

- habitat loss (agriculture expansion, malaria eradication)
- wildlife depredation etc.

## Socio-economical and cultural:

- population growth
- poverty
- poaching

## Developmental:

- developmental projects
- corridor and transboundary conservation

## Political:

- maopists destroyed

# Conservation Challenges:

- **Overexploitation of forests**
  - 1.7% loss per year
  - mainly encroachment of cultivation into forest areas
  - partially collecting firewood
- **Loss and alteration of wetlands**
  - ~2/3 of the wetlands in the hills and mountains seriously affected by silting
  - invasive water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*)
  - industrial and domestic waste
- **Unsustainable livestock farming practices**
- **Environmental pollution**
  - increased use of pesticides
- **Wildlife poaching**
- **Unsustainable harvesting of non-timber forest products**



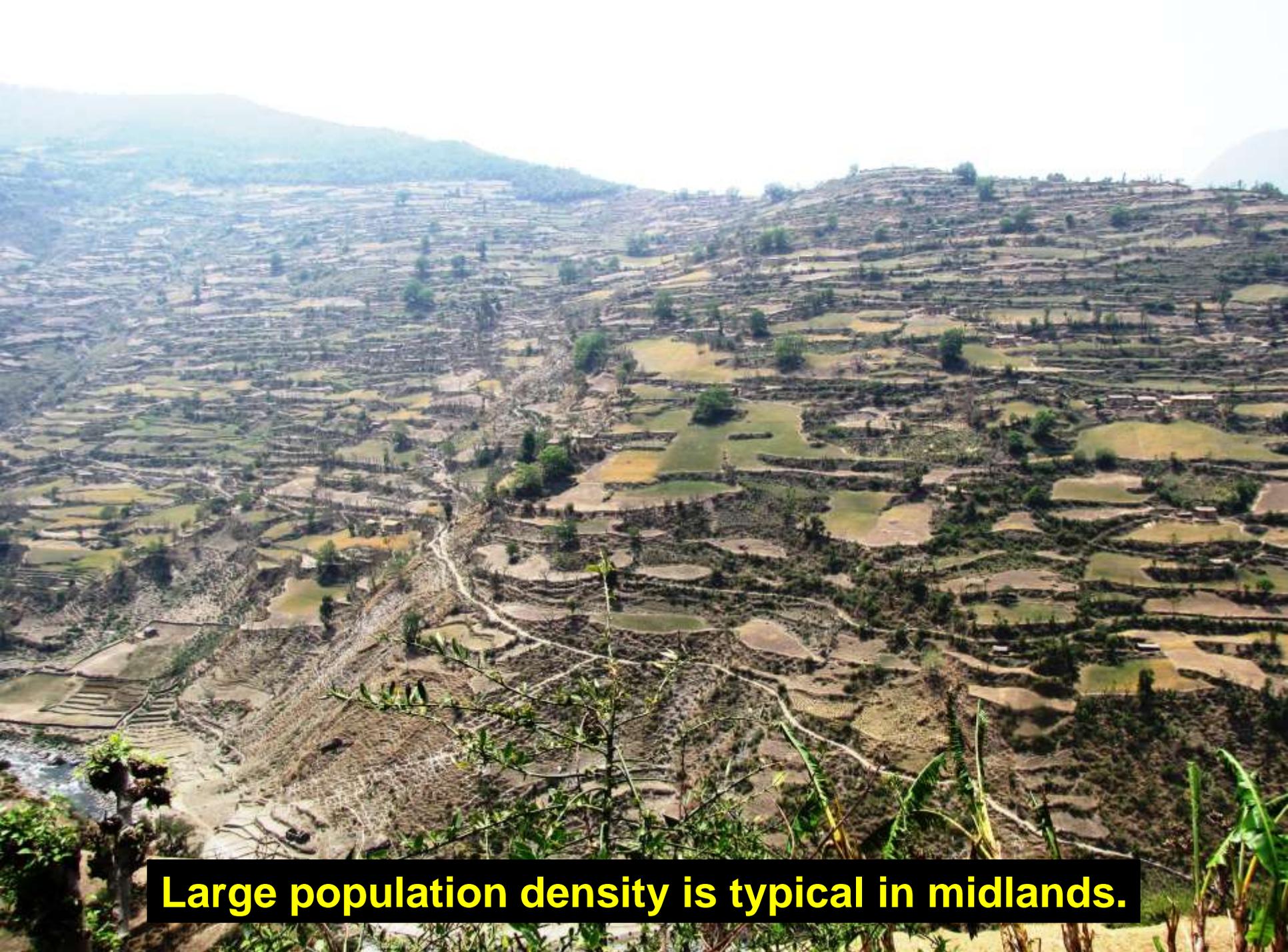
**Habitat restoration – a key to conservation.**



**Midhills have severely degraded forests.**



**Agriculture – typical terraced fields.**



**Large population density is typical in midlands.**



**Mountain ridge in midhills with dense vegetation cover: remnants of forest survive here – most of low-lying areas have already been converted to agriculture land.**



**Local people collecting grass from the national park:  
competition or coexistence?**



**Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) are used for both subsistence and trade as an alternative source of income for local communities. Collection of bark of *Persea* sp. in Surkhet.**



**Wildlife tourism: keeping balance between ecology and economy.**

**Small hydroelectric power station in the buffer zone of the Shey Phoksundo National Park: involving local people in conservation.**





**Road in the midhills: roads in the mountains have severe ecological impacts.**



**Road construction using heavy equipment in fragile landscape (Surkhet).**



**Cultivating potatoes in recently cleared forested areas. Shifting cultivation is present everywhere in the mid-hills. It causes loss of forest and biodiversity, soil erosion and landslides.**



**Bandarjhulla - deforestation in the Chitwan National Park.**



**Forest provides everything: constructing bamboo baskets.**



**Timber production in Dolpa.**



**Firewood is the main source of energy for heating and cooking. People stock firewood for rainy and winter seasons (Kaigau, Dolpa). However, the impact of firewood collection on mountain environment is more pronounced in Himalayan region, because the forests are less productive here.**



**Livestock grazing in the natural habitats of wildlife poses a problem for nature conservation in Nepal.**



**Forest fodder collection is vitally important for local people (Surkhet).**



***Cnitum spicatum* (Bikh-means poison), common in high altitude region, is widely used in the Ayurvedic medicine.**



***Micania micrantha* – an invasive species in the Terai region.**

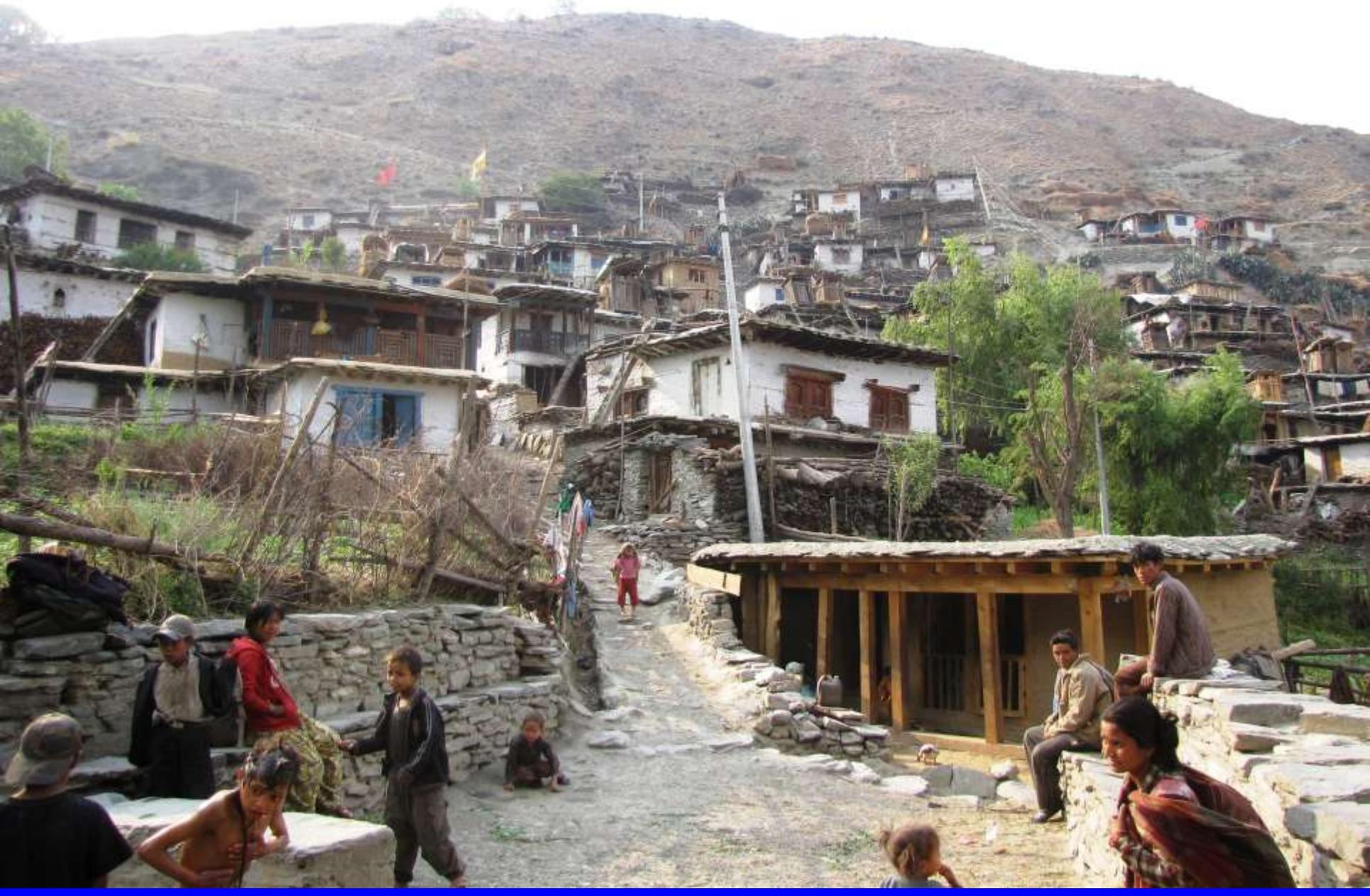


**Sand and stone collection and its impact on biodiversity has often been ignored.**



**A house of the ethnic Chepang people of the lowlands.**

# Village of Lower Dolpa – adapting in highlands.



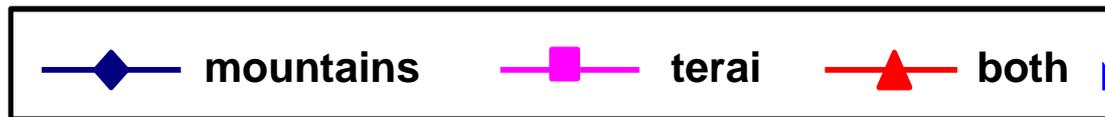
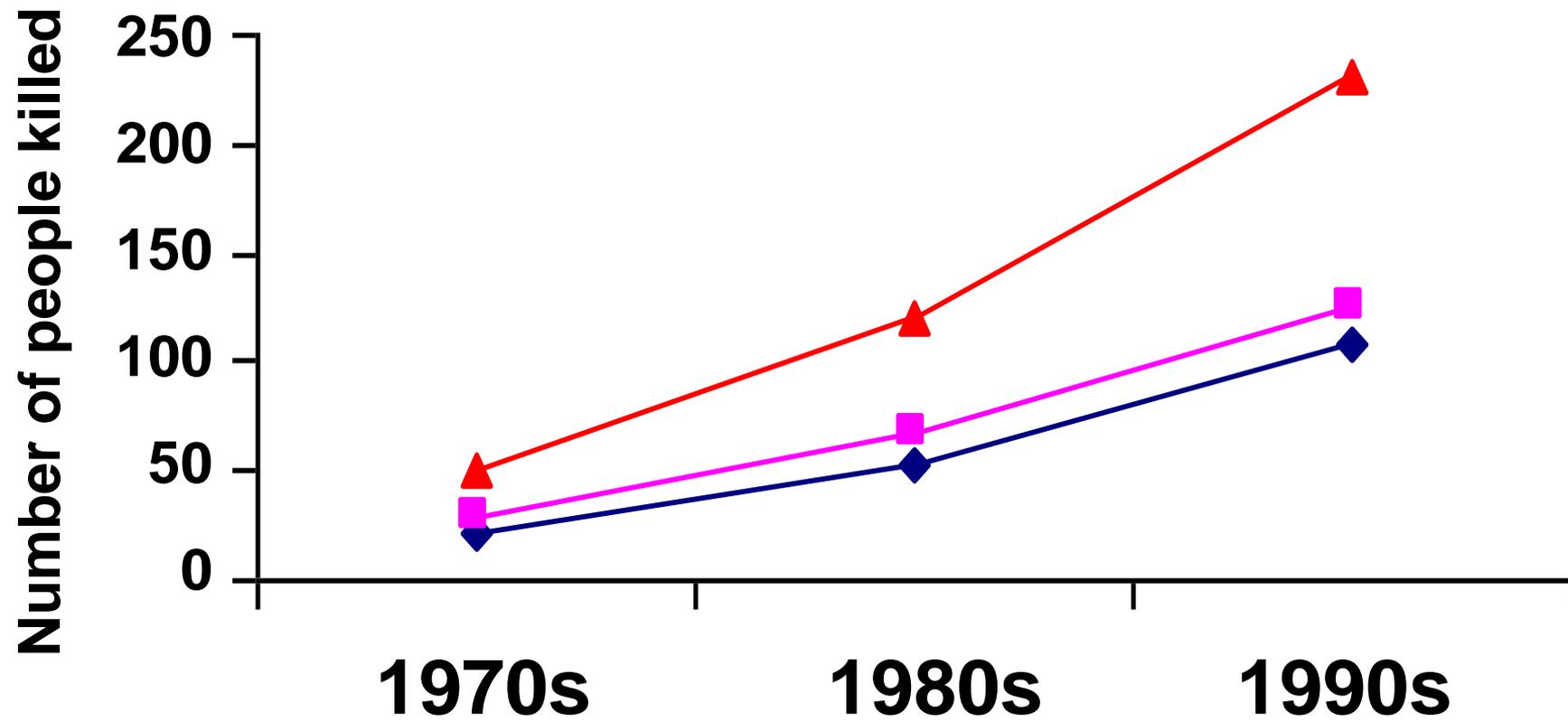


**People of the Midlands.**

# Wildlife attacks on humans and livestock

Wildlife species	Frequency (%)	
	Overall (Human)	Mountain parks (Livestock)
common leopard	63.8	37.5
tiger	16.2	-
snow leopard	-	23.9
Tibetan wolf	-	37.5
elephant	13.0	-
rhinoceros	1.0	-
wild boar	0.5	NA
other	5.5	1.1

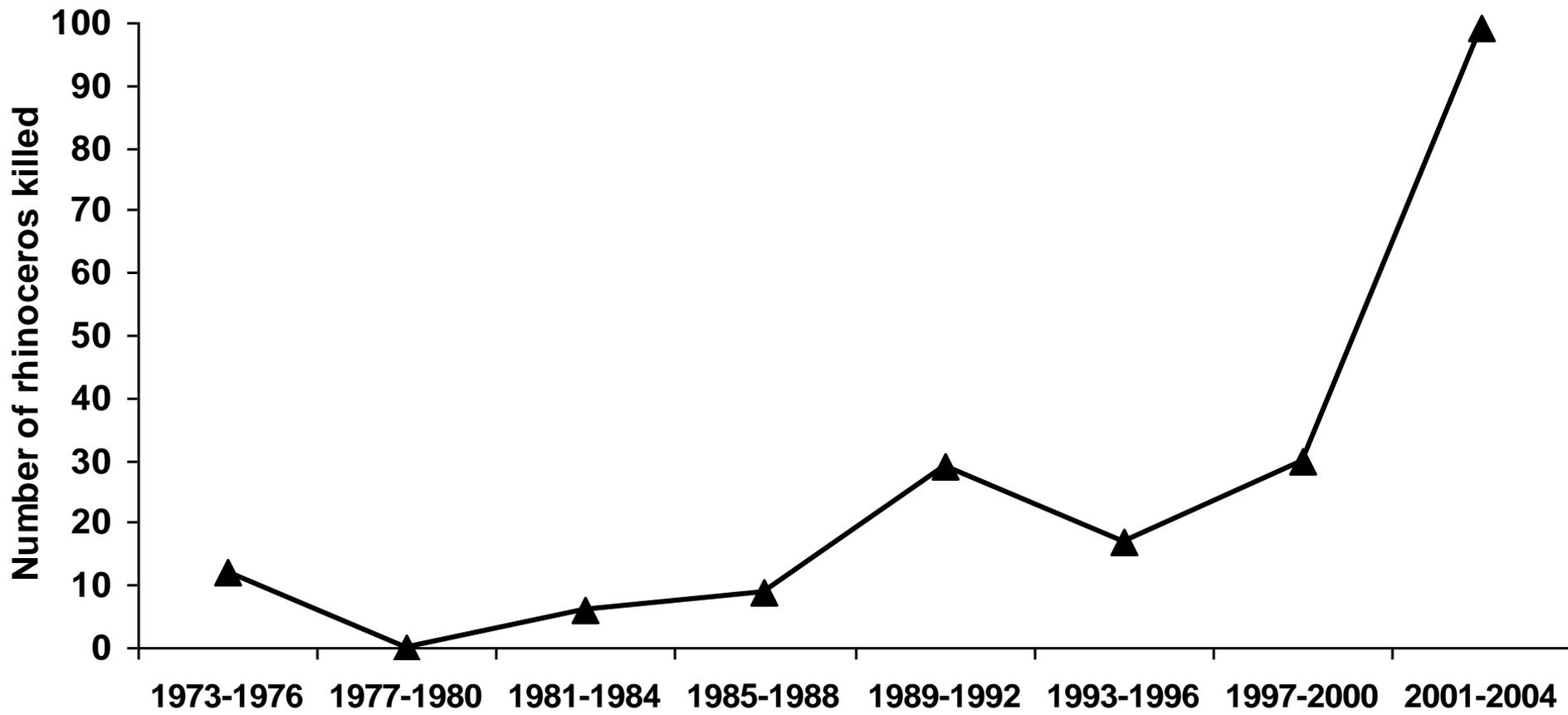




# Crop damage

Wildlife species	Frequency (%)	
	Tarai	Mountain
rhinoceros	12	-
elephant	9	-
spotted deer	19	-
swamp deer	4	-
blue bull	3	-
wild boar	14	21
bear	8	13
monkeys	10	15
himalayan tahr	-	11
blue sheep	-	11
musk deer	-	10
porcupine	-	10
other	13	9





**Incidence of rhinoceros poaching from 1973 to 2004**

