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नेपाल कार्यक्रम

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# EcoCircular

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WWF Nepal Program Newsletter



## Baby bliss

### Two calves were born to captive bred elephants in Chitwan

The birth of two calves at the Elephant Breeding Center of Royal Chitwan National Park came as a great joy for the *Hattisar* (camp for domesticated elephants and their handlers) staff. Devi Kali and Sashi Kali, two breeding cows at the center, gave birth to two healthy male calves in

September. Both were sired by a wild tusker dubbed Romeo by the staff.

The new calf was important especially for Devi Kali who had a stillborn delivery in March 2002. While this was her first, Sashi Kali is a third-time mother. Her first two calves, born in 1998 and 2000, have already been trained and now serve in Chitwan and Parsa Wildlife Reserve. Newborn calves are traditionally named after Hindu deities, members of the Royal Family or the country's major rivers. The new arrivals at the Breeding Center have to wait till their caretakers decide on an auspicious day and time.

The elephants are generally trained when they are about three years old and the regimen for males begins a little earlier because they are more energetic and difficult to control. Not that they are denied creature comforts! Veterinary Kamal Gaire assures, "Elephant calves breast-feed for at least two years."

As the true all terrain vehicle, trained elephant are an invaluable asset in the jungle. "They are used for anti-poaching operations, wildlife viewing, and to capture problem animals," says Dr Chandra P Gurung, Country Representative of WWF Nepal Program.

# news briefs



## FOREST AND SPECIES

### Promoting Private Forestry

As a part of a consultation meeting with different partners on their experience with private forestry, a meeting with James Bampton of LFP - Terai was held on 6 October. Various issues relating to hindrances in the promotion of private forestry were discussed. These sessions are being organized to develop a guideline for piloting private forestry in the districts where the Western Terai Landscape Building Program (WTLBP) has been launched. Shubash Lohani, Program Officer of WTLBP, conducted the meeting.

### Thematic Team Meeting

Following the formation of different thematic teams within WWF to organize the working mechanism and enhance the effectiveness of program, the first meeting of the Forest Thematic Group was held on 6 October at the Central Support Unit of WTLBP, Babarmahal in Kathmandu. The Forest Thematic Team consists of

Santosh Nepal, Coordinator - Terai and Shubash Lohani, Program Officer, WTLBP. The thematic team identified the need to work on the policies relating to the forestry sector and also drew some new avenues for fundraising based on the terms of reference. The team would prepare short concept notes on the identified avenues and present them in a meeting to set up a team for conceptualization, landscape and conservation planning.

### Monitoring Protocols

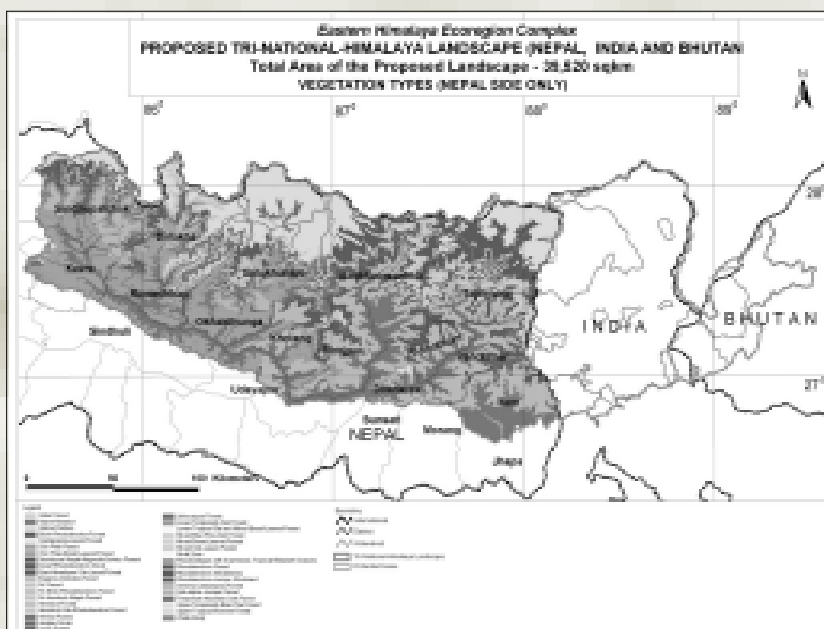
Research Officer Kanchan Thapa prepared a monitoring protocol for Rhino Monitoring in Royal Bardia National Park (RBNP). A monitoring team was set up in coordination with the chief warden of the national park. The officer was also involved in the preparation of a Tiger Monitoring Protocol for Royal Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve, which has been forwarded to Dr Sybille Klenzendorf to review.

### Familiarity for Better Participation

The Protected Area on Buffer Zone Program component of the TAL Program initiated a planning meeting with its user groups and committees of Buffer Zone in the first week of October. The objective of the meeting was to familiarize the local communities with participatory planning.

### Conceptualizing a Himalayan Landscape

A consultative meeting on landscape level conservation in the Himalaya was organized by ICIMOD, TMI and WWF on 12 October to present and discuss the Sacred Himalayan Landscape concept with a wider group of partners. Dr Mohan Wagle, Chief of Planning and Human Resources Division of the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (MFSC), and Dr Tirtha Man Maskey, Director General of the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), facilitated the meeting. Representatives of various organizations such as Eco Himal, IUCN, KMTNC and SNV shared their experiences and expressed their views on the concept. One of the follow-up actions outlined by the meeting was the formation of a core team of key partners that would plan and conduct wider consultations for the landscape under the guidance of MFSC.





## EDUCATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING

### MTV in Chitwan

A scouting team from MTV visited Royal Chitwan National Park for a reconnaissance trip for a program to be aired in the United States (see picture right). They visited park headquarters where they saw confiscated wildlife products. They also went to the Gharial Breeding Center and interacted with the members of the Radha Krishna Community Forest Group, Shrijana Sister's Group. They were given a warm welcome by the Eco Club at Saraswoti Secondary School where members welcomed them a traditional Tharu song and dance. The members shared their conservation activities and future plans with the team and organized a plantation program in the school premises.

### Learning More

In a knowledge building initiative, all WWF Nepal Program staff participated in a series of talks given by Prachanda Man Shrestha, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies, Ajay Dixit, an expert on Water Resources, and demography specialist Dr Yagya Bahadur Karki on 13 October. The Joint Secretary made a presentation on "WTO membership: Implication on Development and Environment" and emphasized Nepal's involvement with WTO. In his talk on "Fresh Water Challenges of Nepal: Some Issues and Concern", Dixit said that



WWF could work as the "social auditor" in this area. Dr Karki's talk on "Demography, Environment, and Sustainable Development" stressed the need to address social issues like population density, fertility, mortality, as well as migration while working in the field of development. He also recommended that WWF keep in mind the issues created by demographic factors while formulating programs because we already working to address social issues among local communities.



## SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

### TAL Supports New Padampur

Several activities were carried out for the implementation of activities relating to community services, ICS and income generation in New Padampur. A meeting with New Padampur Coordination Committee was held on 4 October and a decision was made to give the responsibility of constructing five new rooms in Shree Vimodaya Higher Secondary School to the existing School Management Committee. The TAL Program will provide technical support and an overseer was assigned to prepare a detailed design with costing. The committee also decided to form a Padampur

Women Income Generation Group, which will be represented by nine members from nine Wards. The TAL program will initiate income generating activities through this group.

### Money from Mentha

The Mentha produced in Thakurdwara and Suryapatuwa VDCs adjoining the Royal Bardia National Park were sold in the market. A total of 69 farmers from two VDCs earned almost Rs 350,000 from the sale.

# Learning her Letters

## Hansi Sarki's life changed for the better with NMCP's non formal education program

When Hansi Sarki's neighbors asked her to volunteer as a health worker in her village of Tripurakot, she was in a fix. Hansi was afraid to face the ridicule of other girls her age that could read and write because she was illiterate. After toying with the idea Hansi finally mustered up her courage and decided to take up the challenge.

At the health center, she was very nervous when the other girls read, wrote, and did their tasks with poise and confidence. Apart from being illiterate, Hansi's inferiority complex had a deep-rooted foundation in her family's poverty and Dalit background in this remote district of Dolpa in Nepal's northwest. When she was a child, Hansi remembered people treating her family differently, as if they were not good enough.

One day at work, a colleague told her about a non-formal education program conducted by the Northern Mountains Conservation Project (NMCP), jointly implemented by the

Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) and WWF Nepal Program. Hansi immediately joined the class conducted for local women, worked hard and soon learned to read and write.

Today, everyone comments on her transformation. Hansi brims with confidence. She spoke to Pabitra Thapa, a field staff at NMCP, and proudly said: "I can now write my name, read the calendar, register children who come to the health center and maintain a record of medicines. I can also keep an account of domestic expenditures and help children with their schoolwork."

Hansi is sad the informal education program in her village has ended. She wants to learn more. Like Hansi, many local men and women have benefited from NMCP's non-formal education program in Dolpa's isolated hamlets. With a project goal that aims to conserve biodiversity in Shey Phoksundo National Park by strengthening the capacities of the local communities, educating those like Hansi is a perfect way of not only helping people to help themselves but also to conserve nature.

- Basant Subba

## CLIMATE CHANGE

### Coalition of Vulnerable Countries

WWF-NP Climate Change Officer Sandeep Rai interacted frequently with the Asia Pacific Climate Change team from India, South Pacific, Philippines, Thailand, and Indonesia and with the director of TDP regarding the formation of a coalition of vulnerable countries. The draft of the objective and schedule has been finalized and further discussion will take place during COP 10 at Argentina in December.

### Briefing

Sandeep Rai, the Climate Change Officer who is also the Secretary of Climate Change Network Nepal (CCNN), met Dev Raj Regmi, the newly appointed Secretary for the Ministry of Population and Environment (MoPE) on 12

October to brief him on the activities of CCNN and different climate change issues such as the Kyoto Protocol Ratification, the National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA), Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), Initial National Communication, Coalition of Vulnerable Countries (CVC) and the preparation for COP 10. He also informed the secretary on the follow up status of the Kyoto Protocol Ratification by HMG/N and CCNN's preparatory work before the Climate Change COP 10 at Buenos Aires, Argentina.

## WWF NP NEWS

- Country Representative Dr Chandra P Gurung attended the South Asia Regional Team Meeting from 3-9 October in Islamabad.
- Dr Yury Darman, Director, was accompanied by Titova Svetlana, Public Relation Coordinator, from Far Eastern Branch, WWF Russia on a visit to WWF Nepal Program Office on 4 October. Yeshe Lama, Senior Program Officer - Mountain and Rajendra Gurung, Program Officer - Terai briefed the guests about their respective programs.
- Director-DRM unit, Dr. Sarala Khaling attended the CITES COP at Bangkok from October 1-18.

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