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WWF Nepal Program Newsletter

Stakeholders' Consultation on Sacred Himalayan Landscape

WWF Nepal joined hands with the MFSC, HMG/Nepal, ICIMOD and TMI and organized a one-day stakeholders' consultation meeting on 7 April 2005 in Lalitpur, Nepal.

The five presentations made at the meeting covered aspects such as HMG/Nepal's vision and approach in landscape level conservation; the concept, vision and significance of the Sacred Himalayan Landscape (SHL); Trans-boundary conservation landscapes in the East Himalaya, and conservation, livelihoods and culture in East



Member of the NPC Hon. Dr Hari Krishna Upadhyaya speaking at the inaugural session of the workshop.

Himalaya. After holding extensive discussion on the religious and cultural values of the indigenous people of the region and the problems and issues pertaining to local people's livelihoods and biodiversity conservation, the participants identified several areas that need prioritization for future course of action.

news briefs



FOREST AND SPECIES

Trans-boundary Meetings

Terai Arc Landscape Program has been facilitating trans-boundary cooperation between local level government officials particularly forest offices and protected areas of Nepal and India. The initiative in enhancing the trans-boundary cooperation has also extended to the local community level. The recently held meeting at Gauriphanta, India among the representatives of Laljhadi and Mohana corridors of Nepal and western sector of Dudhawa national park of India was attended by 66 participants from India and Nepal. Likewise, the other meeting held at Kadiya, Khiri, India among the representatives of Basanta corridor of Nepal and Khiri of India was attended by 80 participants from India and Nepal.

Celebrating Wildlife Week

WWF Nepal joined hands with the DNPWC and other partner organizations and celebrated the 10th Wildlife Week. The Week that began on the first day of the Nepali New Year of *Bikram Sambat* 2062 (14 April 2005) concluded on 21 April after celebrating the

occasion with week-long activities aimed at promoting conservation awareness. The Wildlife Week concluded with the distribution of prizes and letters of appreciation to the winners in various competitions by the Secretary of MFSC Mr Ananta Raj Pandey. The Week was also celebrated in different parts of the country with awareness activities, particularly in areas that are adjacent to the protected areas.

Tiger Monitoring at RSWR

The tiger monitoring program in Royal Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve which began in December 2005 has been successful in detecting *Malu*, the adopted tigress of the Terai Arc Landscape. *Malu* was monitored regularly during this season with the help of self triggering camera traps by reserve staffs. *Malu*'s photographs show her to be on her own and she is extensively covering her territory. Her two cubs might have become big enough to fend for themselves and are not with her. This year also she has been traced in the same territory as in the previous years which mean that she is healthy and has a good area as her home which she is defending.



About 450 students from different schools of Kathmandu valley participated in a rally on the 6th day of the Wildlife Week.



Malu pothi



SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

MOU to install 10,000 Biogas Plants in Terai Arc Landscape, Nepal

On 22 April 2005, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between WWF Nepal Program and Biogas Sector Partnership - Nepal (BSP N) for the period of five years to promote and install 10,000 Toilet-Attached Biogas Plants covering 30% of the total households in critical areas in Terai Arc Landscape-Nepal (TAL- Nepal) including Western Terai Landscape Building Program (WTLBP) districts.

"The critical areas in Terai Arc Landscape are biologically significant to maintain ecological integrity through maintaining functional link between protected areas in terms of dispersal or migration path of wildlife and gene flow. Thus, environmental benefits of bio gas plants will be instrumental to restore the degraded forests in critical areas through reducing pressure on the forests for fuel wood", said Dr Chandra Gurung, Country Representative of WWF Nepal Program.

"With the MOU signed, joint effort will be made to improve rural livelihood through biogas plants that has potential impacts such as creation of physical assets, time saving and reduction in health hazards among the beneficiaries", said Mr Sundar Bajgain, Executive Director of BSP-Nepal. Netherlands Development Organization (SNV Nepal) will provide advisory services to BSP-Nepal and capacity building support to the organizations involved in the implementation of the MOU.

With the installation of biogas, it is expected that pressure on the forest of critical areas in Terai Arc Landscape would be reduced significantly through saving 45,000 MT of fuel wood annually. Likewise, biogas plants would be instrumental to reduce Acute Respiratory Infections related health hazards especially for women of 10,000 households. At the same time, the Toilet - Attached Biogas Plants would be instrumental for improving sanitation and thereby reducing chronic diarrhoeal diseases among 60,000 people. In addition, household chores of women would be reduced, as time for fuel wood fetching would be



Executive Director of BSP-Nepal Mr Sundar Bajgain (left) and CR of WWF NP Dr Chandra Gurung signing the MOU.



Local woman using biogas.

saved. Extra benefit of biogas to the households will be home light and quality manure from biogas slurry

Biogas technology has become much popular these days in Nepal. This technology, being a simple, reliable, accessible and risk free, is able to provide various direct and indirect benefits to Nepalese people. It is also appropriate technology in terms of social, economical and geographical condition of Nepal.



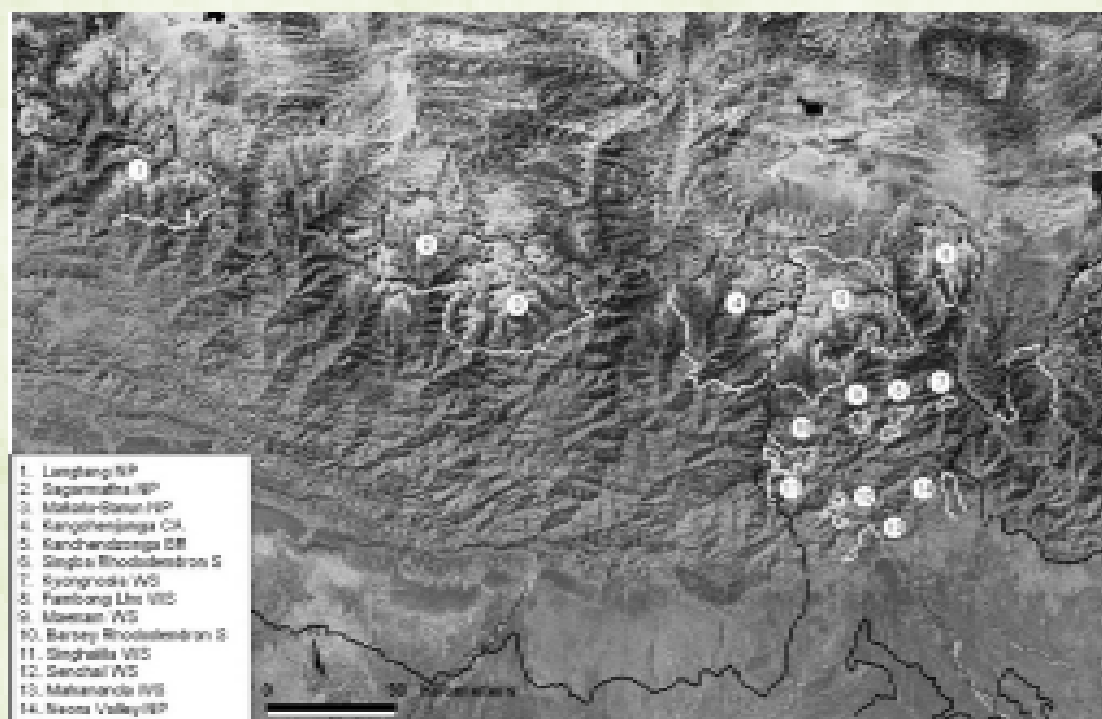
EDUCATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Study Tour

A team of 8 including park rangers of protected areas of TAL and community representatives visited protected areas of India (which lies in TAL India) from 19-28 April 2005. The study tour was aimed at learning and experience sharing among park personnel and community members about protected areas management and landscape level conservation initiatives.

Local journalists in TAL sites

A team of journalists from Bardia, Kailali and Kanchanpur district led by Umid Bagchand BBC reporter visited Royal Bardia National Park and Buffer Zone, Royal Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve Buffer Zone, Khata corridor and project sites in Kailali districts. The journalists observed TAL program in the sites and conducted case studies on the impact of the program.



The proposed Sacred Himalayan Landscape.

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Stakeholders' on
Consultation.....

In the inaugural session, chief guest, Honorable member of the National Planning Commission of Nepal Dr Hari Krishna Upadhyaya emphasized on prioritizing the needs and aspirations of the indigenous people living in the region. The Director General of ICIMOD Dr Gabriel Campbell stressed in the need to adopt a humanistic understanding of the landscape. Likewise, Country Representative of WWF Nepal Program Dr Chandra Gurung underlined the

importance of addressing the issues of livelihoods of local people living in the region.

The Secretary of the MFSC Mr Ananta Raj Pandey, who chaired the inaugural session, emphasized on the need to use the rich cultural and religious heritage of the local people for the sustainable management of natural resources of the region.

The consultation was participated by representatives of indigenous and ethnic groups living in the mountain areas, high ranking government officials, planners, representatives of NGOs and INGOs working in the areas of mountain development and biodiversity conservation, and media persons.

The proposed conservation landscape extends from Langtang National Park in central Nepal through the Kangchenjunga region in Sikkim and Darjeeling in India to Toorsa Strict Nature Reserve in western Bhutan. The vision statement of the Sacred Himalayan Landscape states that it is "A Himalayan landscape where the biological and cultural treasures of the world's highest sacred mountains and deepest valleys are safeguarded while traditional rights over sustainable resources are ensured and livelihoods of mountain people are enhanced."

MOU with University of ZURICH

A MOU was signed between WWF Nepal Program and Development Study Group of the Department of Geography, University of ZURICH, Switzerland. It aims to use the resources of both organizations efficiently and effectively to promote strengthened cooperation in the field of people oriented conservation programs, with focus on joint research, funding and publications specially to establish a working relationship between the two organizations to undertake mutually desirable activities, specially for TAL and KCA in Nepal.

Logical Framework Workshop

A workshop on Policy Analysis, Development and Monitoring of Livelihoods/Social Development indicators and Finalization of TAL and KCAP Log Frames was held from 15-19 April 2005. The major objective of the meeting was to see the links between conservation and livelihood aspect. This workshop was facilitated by staff members of WWF UK - Ms Jennifer Headley and Ms Julie Thomas and external expert Ms Cathay Butcher.

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