



विश्व वन्यजन्तु कोष
नेपाल कार्यक्रम



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WWF Nepal Program Newsletter

Conservation Ambassador:

Miss Nepal-World 2004

WWF Nepal Program organized an interaction program for the Miss Nepal contestants at the office premises in Baluwatar on 28 July. There was a presentation by Country Representative Dr Chandra P Gurung, an introduction to climate change by Sandeep Chamling Rai, a talk on the importance of conserving plants for traditional medicines by Punam Lama, winner of an Abraham Conservation Award 2004, and a brief awareness-raising session on conservation and fashion led by former Miss Nepal Malvika Subba.

This year, WWF NP is proud to announce that Miss Nepal-World 2004 will be a Conservation Ambassador. WWF NP will sponsor her trip to either Manang or Sagarmatha National Park to witness the adverse effects of climate change. Her other duties will include visiting various Eco Clubs around the country, attending WWF NP functions, and sharing the message of conservation with a wide national and international audience.



Dr Gurung shares coffee and conservation tips with Miss Nepal contestants.

WWF NP GHANA SHYAM GURUNG

news briefs



FOREST AND SPECIES

Community forest handovers

Fourteen Community forests, seven each to the east and west of the Basanta Corridor in Kailali, were handed over to user groups at a ceremony and interaction program at Dhangadhi. Over 150 representatives from the Basanta Corridor participated in the ceremony. The total forest area covers 332.49 hectares. The number of households involved in the community forests are 1,460, comprising of 10,711 individual users.

Plantations

A bamboo plantation at Dumreni of the Shree Ramanagar User Committee (UC) at Royal Bardia National Park was completed. Three thousand five hundred bamboo seedlings were purchased locally and planted at 1m intervals along the park's boundary trench, stretching across 3,500m. This plantation will function primarily as a biofence to reduce the movement of wildlife from park to agricultural land and settlements, and reduce crop depredation by wild animals.

Meanwhile, 15 CFUGs are planting nearly 150,000 seedlings in degraded forest patches and fallow land in Mohana at Kanchanpur and Bhajari in the Basanta area of Kailali. Fourteen other CFUGs are planting more than 200,000 seedlings in the Basanta community forests.



SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

Micro-Hydro power for Lukla

SCAFP organized a stakeholders meeting to discuss the prospects of implementing a Micro-Hydro Project (MHP) in Lukla on 23 July at Kathmandu. Representatives from NGOs and DNPWC, community members, and the Sagarmatha Buffer Zone Council attended. The meeting was successful in developing a consensus and a resolve among participants to follow a list of action points for the effective and early implementation of a MHP in Lukla.

TAL team in the Terai

The TAL team visited program areas in Bardiya, Kailali, and Kanchanpur districts from 10-14 July. They visited the Khata Corridor, the proposed Mohana Corridor, core and buffer zone areas of RBNP and SPWR, and discussed various issues with user groups, especially the new WTLB program that began from this financial year. Field level activities in RBNP, RSWR, Buffer Zone areas, Khata (Bardiya), and Lamahi (Dang) were also monitored. Santosh Nepal, Coordinator of TAL, and Program Officer Bharat Pokharel were accompanied by Lokendra Dhakal, Program Coordinator WTLB, Subarna Rai, Senior Program Officer SNV Nepal, Shubash Lohani, Program Officer WTLB, and Tilak Dhakal, TAL DNPWC.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Using Hollywood

The Climate Change Network Nepal (CCNN) organized a special screening of the Hollywood blockbuster 'The Day After Tomorrow' followed by a discussion at Jai Nepal Cinema on 27 July. In the movie, global warming triggers a new ice age. Although the drama of this movie is fictional, the scale of the impact, if global warming goes unchecked, is real. Nine academic institutions, eight different government organizations, four international aid agencies, 11 environmental NGOs, and 31 journalists from different media attended the screening. Prior to the screening, a short survey form was distributed among the audience to examine their level of understanding on climate change issues. The responses are in the process of analysis. The event began a five-month awareness campaign on climate change leading up to the

10th Conference of Parties (COP10) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at Buenos Aires in December 2004.

Himalayan Glacier Project

WWF Netherlands approved the regional Himalayan Glacier Project proposal 'To identify the specific threats posed by rapidly retreating glaciers to specific vulnerable community/ecosystem/economics sector and initiate a community driven management response' for two years at €100,000 annually. This project involves Nepal, India, and China. WWF India will concentrate on the Dokriani, Gangtori, and Chhota Shigri glaciers, WWF Nepal Program on the Khumbu and Nguzumpa glaciers, and WWF China will focus on the Yangtze River basin.



Students filling survey forms on Climate Change.



Presentation and feedback

Dr Ram B Khadka, Dean of SchEMS, made a presentation on the Environmental Education Training Package developed by SchEMS for WWF Nepal Program. He summarized the development process and highlighted findings on the comprehension of the environment as a subject among school teachers, students, and community members in the field. The training package is designed to supplement the compulsory curriculum of Environment, Health and Population of HMGN.

PEC Meeting

The Project Executive Committee Meeting of the projects implemented under the grant agreements between WWF Nepal Program and Department of national Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) and Department of Forest (DoF) was held at the DNPWC office on 27 July. The chairpersons were Dr TM Maskey, and JK Tamrakar, director generals of DNPWC and DoF respectively. Presentations on the progress of FY 04 and program budget for FY 05 was made by TAL DNPWC, TAL DoF, NMCP, SCAFP, and KCAP, followed by a discussion and closing remarks from the chairpersons and Dr Chandra P Gurung. The achievements made in the field despite security risks was commended.

RAPPAM in Nepalganj

Rapid Assessment and Prioritization of Protected Areas Management (RAPPAM) was conducted for three protected areas of Nepal (Khatpad National Park, Shey Phoksundo National Park, and Rara National Park) between 25-27 July at Nepalganj. DNPWC representative Gopal P Upadhaya, wardens of SPNP and RNP, stakeholders from various national parks, and NGO/INGOs representatives attended the workshop (see pic, below). Sushila Nepali facilitated the meeting that was attended by WWF NP staff Rudriksha R Parajuli, Gautam Paudel and Suman Panta.



Wildlife in the Nepali Press

Forests free

Kaalpristha, 13 July 2004

NEPALGANJ – Local residents and the ranger post made over 300 squatters camped illegally near the Khata Wildlife Corridor adjoining Dhondari VDC in Bardia leave the area.

The Khata Corridor falls in the Terai Arc Landscape (TAL) Program, an initiative of His Majesty's Government of Nepal, and serves as an important pathway for several wildlife species. It links Nepal's Royal Bardia National Park with Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary in India. The TAL Program has transborder protected areas in Nepal and India with biological corridors. Various community forests and user groups have been launched in the area.

Guarding Kanchenjunga's riches

Nepal Samacharpatra, 26 July 2004

TAPLEJUNG – An eight-member team left Taplejung for remote parts of the Kangchenjunga Conservation Area adjoining the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) in China to stop poaching of endangered wildlife species and to monitor the illegal trade in medicinal plants. Dawa Norbu Sherpa, chairman of the Conservation Area Committee, said the team would monitor the critical areas for a two-month period. Sherpa said they want to prevent the illegal collection and smuggling of Kutki (Picrorhiza kurroa) and Panch aunlay (Orchis latifolia) by dealers who enter Nepal from across the Nepal-Tibet border and transport the valuable, contraband medicinal plants to Tibet. The monitoring team consists of three staff members of Kangchenjunga Conservation Area Project (KCAP) and five members of the conservation area committee.



Wildlife in the Nepali Press

Conservation by and for the people

Jhamak B Karki in *Spacetime*, 3 June 2004

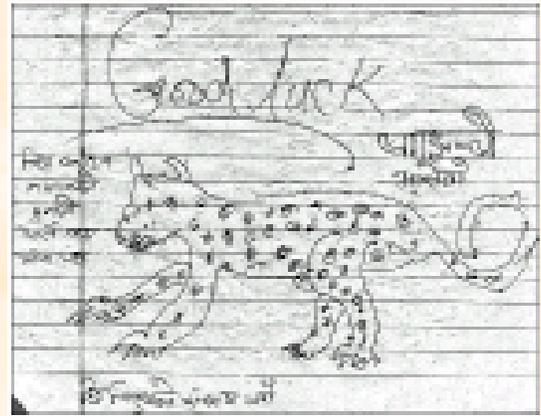
To promote the active participation of local communities in biodiversity conservation, HMGN recently provided a Letter of Intent to the Kangchenjunga Conservation Area Management Committee. This shift in policy conforms to the government's decision of handing management responsibility of protected areas over to NGOs, making 'conservation by the people and for the people' a reality.

The Management Council, made up of locals, is open to suggestions for the effective management of the protected area. Seeking national and regional input to maintain biological corridors in the Kangchenjunga Complex will be crucial to biodiversity conservation.

Kangchenjunga Conservation Area (KCA) is an important protected area. Spread over 6,000 sq km of protected areas in Nepal, India, and Bhutan, this Eastern Himalayan Ecoregion was identified as one of 10 major ecoregions in the world. Now it stands to play a lead role in the conservation of Eastern Himalayan biodiversity.

National and regional efforts are presently underway to translate this vision into reality. Unfortunately, 65 plant, 19 mammalian, and 11 bird species face extinction because of degradation and fragmentation of wildlife habitat, unregulated tourism, and wildlife poaching.

Since 1997, WWF NP, ICIMOD, and The Mountain Institute initiated national and regional consultations to address conservation issues of the Kangchenjunga Complex. An ICIMOD-supported study on the potential biological corridors covered the biological pathways to Singhlila National Park, Sanchel Wildlife Sanctuary, and Mahananada Wildlife Sanctuary of India, Neora Valley National Park and Toorsa Natural Reserve of Bhutan, as well as some parts of Nepal's Panchthar and Ilam districts that adjoin the Kangchenjunga Conservation Area.



Snow leopard drawing by Shyam Gurung, grade nine student in Manang.

Biological corridors linking Bhutan's Toorsa with Jigme Dorjee National Park has already been established. The proposed biological corridors between Nepal and India are in different degrees of completion. Just as there are initiatives to link biological corridors in the southern part of Nepal's Kangchenjunga Conservation Area, one must be initiated between India and China's TAR. It is also crucial to restore and develop a biological corridor between Kangchenjunga Conservation Area and Makalu Barun National Park through Jaljaley.

Representatives from the three countries met in Nepal recently, following the national level meetings of the stakeholders, and decided to develop a minimum common working policy focusing on the promotion of biodiversity conservation, livelihoods, and cooperation with institutions dealing with policy matters. They stressed the importance of exchanging information, sharing research findings, and experiences on successful approaches and experiments.

The Terai Arc Landscape (TAL) Program shows that active participation of local people is vital to restore biological corridors. Given the nature of this ambitious plan, the involvement of governmental and NGOs, local institutions and residents is imperative to consolidate efforts and enhance transboundary biodiversity conservation.

While this program will benefit wildlife in the Himalaya, it will surely also improve the lives of the local communities. ■

Jhamak B Karki is the Chief Warden of KCA.

HOT OFF THE PRESS



Rhinos online

The Rhino Movement Web page, accessible from the WWF Nepal Program homepage at www.wwfnepal.org, was finalized and uploaded by Kanchan Thapa, Field Research Officer for TAL DNPWC.



Between the pages

The Climate Change Program made a bookmark with practical tips on how to reduce global warming. It also designed and developed a mouse pad in the shape of the Climate Change logo as a promotional tool.

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