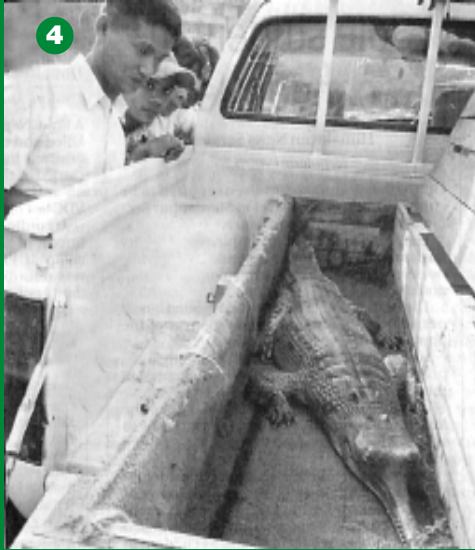




विश्व वन्यजन्तु कोष
नेपाल कार्यक्रम



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EcoCircular

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WWF Nepal Program Newsletter

South Asia Wildlife Trade Diagnostic and Law Enforcement Workshops

The workshops on South Asia Wildlife Trade Diagnostic and Law Enforcement began on 26 April 2004 in Kathmandu. The main objective of the five-day workshop being jointly organized by the TRAFFIC International, His Majesty's Government of Nepal, US Embassy in Nepal, the CITES Secretariat, WWF Nepal Program and IUCN Nepal is to promote regional cooperation in South Asia to eliminate illegal trafficking of wildlife. It also aims to address priority problems of illegal trade and develop a comprehensive strategy and a joint action plan for the immediate and long-term deterrence of illegal trade in wildlife and their body parts.

Nepal became a State Party to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 1975. The Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation serves as the management authority of CITES for fauna in the country, while the Department of Forests works as the management authority for flora.

Despite a stiff penalty of up to 15 years in jail or a fine of Rs. 1,00,000 or both for killing endangered wildlife species or dealing in their body parts, the existing laws and regulations often prove inadequate in dealing with wildlife related illegal activities in the country. So, the Department has prepared a CITES Bill with the support of WWF Nepal Program, which is presently being reviewed by the government and is awaiting approval.

Celebrating Biodiversity Day



Addressing the loss of biodiversity is one of the great challenges we face at the dawn of the 21st Century. Every indicator of biodiversity loss reflects the worsening situation where an urgent attention should be made to focus on new ways to stem and halt it. Although biodiversity loss is considered to be a global problem, the irony is that its actual occurrence is still a highly localized phenomenon.

Hence, conservation of biodiversity needs to be an undertaking that occurs simultaneously at a variety of levels. But much more is needed to increase public awareness on the importance of biological diversity with the ultimate goal of developing the ever-increasing loss. The International Day for Biological Diversity (22 May) is an opportunity to strengthen people's commitment and actions for the conservation of the world's biological diversity. Celebrating Biodiversity Day in Nepal is an opportunity to draw attention to the importance of protecting the wide variety of life on the planet and make the general public aware on the issues and consequences relating to the biodiversity loss.

– Dr Chandra P Gurung
Country Representative

news briefs



FORESTS AND SPECIES

TAL Strategic Plan Core Team Meeting Held

WWF Nepal Program Office organised a TAL Strategic Plan Core Team Meeting on 26 April 2004 in Kathmandu. Santosh Nepal, Coordinator - Terai Program, briefed on the progress of TAL Implementation Plan. The meeting discussed and finalized the process for logical framework workshop. Likewise, Prashant Singh, Director of Finance and Administration briefed on the status of business plan and the process that will be undertaken to collect information on the financial perspective of the projects being run by partners in TAL.

TAL Strategic Plan Logical Framework Workshop

A two-day workshop was organized on 27 and 28 April 2004 in Kathmandu in order to prepare a logical framework for the development of TAL Implementation

Plan. The workshop was inaugurated by Dr. Mohan Prasad Wagley, Chief, Planning and Human Resources Development Division, MFSC and Team Leader of the Strategic Plan Development core team. Dr. Chandra P. Gurung, Country Representative, WWF Nepal Program welcomed the participants while Dr. Bharat Pokherel, logframe specialist, facilitated the workshop. The workshop was participated in by wide range of stakeholders representing different government agencies and partner organizations working in TAL. During the working sessions, participants prepared draft logframes at output and output indicator level for the 7 Program Areas, presented and as identified in the TAL strategic plan. The draft output and indicators were further discussed in plenary session for refinement.

Meeting on Terai Forest Cover Change

A meeting on Terai forest cover change was held in the Department of Forest on 16 April 2004. The Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation has decided (Secretary level decision of 7 April 2004) to make a task force to undertake the work of forest cover change in Terai region after 1991. Santosh Nepal, Coordinator-Terai, has been nominated as a member of the task force. The meeting decided to develop Terms of Reference for the task force and the methodology to determine the forest cover change in Terai.

According to assistant GIS officer-Gokarna J Thapa who also participated in the meeting, the main agenda



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Meeting on Western Terai Landscape Building

A meeting was held at Foreign Aid Coordination Division of Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (MFSC) on 15 April 2004 to finalize narrative of the proposal with a clear guideline for field implementation of this frontloading project - Western Terai Landscape Building (WTLB). The meeting was attended by Dr. Damodar P. Parajuli and Lokendra Purush Dhakal of MFSC, Dr. Chandra P. Gurung, Prashant Singh, Santosh Nepal and Bharat Pokharel of WWF Nepal Program, Huub Peters of SNV and Vijaya Singh of UNDP.

Payment for Environmental Services (PES) Workshop

Bharat Pokharel, Program Officer - Terai attended a week-long workshop on Payment of Environmental Services (PES), which was held at Bogor, Indonesia from April 19-23, 2004. The workshop was jointly organized

by WWF and CARE. Participants from WWF and CARE in Asia and Africa who are already involved or are planning to involve on PES projects in future attended the workshop. The participants shared lessons learnt during the planning, implementation and monitoring of PES projects to address issues related to payments for environmental services from pro-poor perspectives in Asia and Africa regions. The workshop was organized with the objectives of better understanding of PES concepts and potential payment mechanisms, identifying opportunities for PES mechanism and their implementation, exploring the possibilities of developing pro-poor PES projects, integrating ongoing biodiversity conservation project into PES initiatives and defining roles of WWF and CARE for promoting PES in Asia and Africa. A planning meeting was also held on last day of the workshop to share the progress on developing PES initiatives in the region's country including Nepal. WWF Nepal Program and

CARE Nepal has prepared and submitted a proposal to European Union on PES focusing on Banganga Watershed within Terai Arc Landscape Nepal. Dr. Maksha Ram Maharjan represented CARE Nepal in the workshop.

Meeting with BISEP-ST

A meeting on development of eco-tourism plans for the Parsa Wildlife Reserve (PWR) was held at the Central Support Unit (CSU) of Biodiversity Sector Program for Siwalik and Terai (BISEP-ST) at the Department of Forests on 2 April 2004. The meeting proposed that the tourism plan should be built based on the existing report and a wider consultation in the field with the active involvement of Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC). The meeting was attended by Coordinator-Terai Santosh Nepal, Program officer-TAL Bharat Pokharel from WWF NP and Mr. Harihar Sigdel and Mr. Keshav Khanal from BISEP-ST.

of the meeting was to discuss about the methodology for imagery classification. WWF-NP and Department of Forest Research and Survey are jointly going to analyze remotely sensed data to see the changes in forest coverage of entire Terai and Inner Terai Districts.

news briefs

Monitoring of Ungulate in Khata Biological Corridor

The monitoring of Ungulate in Khata Corridor started on 26 April 2004. The monitoring is based on pellet count survey across the Transect line. Transect lines cover 46 percent of the Khata Corridor area. A team of four individuals has been appointed to carry out the task. This team was trained prior to the actual fieldwork. All the team members have been selected from local community and they will carry out the task in close coordination with TAL-DOF.

Study on Bengal Florican

During the month-long monitoring of Bengal Florican, 2 male and a female florican were sighted in the grassland of RBNP. Past experience shows that Bengal florican is more likely to be seen in the coming days. Hence, the study has been extended till next month. The study had been carried out by RBNP in coordination with TAL-DNPWC.



EDUCATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING

CITES Training-cum Workshop

DNPWC's CITES unit organized a three-day training-cum workshop from 31 March-2 April 2004. The objective of this training was to provide information on CITES and anti-poaching operations to law enforcement officers. On the occasion, DRM Coordinator, Dr. Sarala Khaling, briefed on WWF's efforts in anti-poaching and CITES implementation. The training was participated in by the representatives from Nepal Police, Postal Department, Customs Office, Shivpuri National Park, DOF, Department of Plant Resources, RNA, DNPWC, MFSC and Natural History Museum as well as 3 District Forest Offices of Kathmandu Valley.

and local level communities. Altogether 10 participants from three bottleneck sites of TAL- Nepal were present at the training and received theoretical and practical knowledge on GPS. During the course of the training the participants on prepared maps based on the field data.

Wildlife Week Celebration

WWF-NP initiated the telecast of a week-long TV spot on "Species Conservation" on NTV with the objective of disseminating conservation message to the general public on the occasion of Wildlife week (13-19 April, 2004).

Interaction Program at NEFEJ on "Status of Wildlife Conservation in Nepal and significance of Wildlife Week in Conservation".

Assistant Education Officer Neelima Shrestha made a presentation on the forest and species conservation programs of WWF Nepal Program and role of Conservation Education and Communication in the successes of conservation endeavors in an interaction program held at Nepal Forum for Environment Journalists (NEFEJ). She highlighted the importance of these kinds of celebrations to revitalize people's consciousness towards environment and win their support and commitment in conservation.

GIS training for Rangers and Members of Local Community

Assistant GIS Officer-Gokarna J Thapa conducted a two-day intensive training on Global Positioning System (GPS) and Geographical Information System (GIS) from 18-19 April 2004 in Butwal to Rangers

CLIMATE CHANGE

Asia Pacific and Global Team Meeting on Climate Change

The Climate Change Team Meeting of WWF was held in Krabi, Thailand from 14 to 22 April 2004. During the Asia Pacific Team meeting which was held from 14-17 April, each national office updated their national programs and the future activities. Climate Change officer of WWF Nepal Program gave presentation on "Himalayan Glacier Project", focal project of Climate Change Target Driven Program (TDP). WWF Nepal Program is coordinating this project which includes three countries - Nepal, China and India in Eastern Himalayan Ecoregion, one of the top priority ecoregion of Climate Change TDP of WWF. Climate Justice concept was also discussed with Asia Pacific team meeting.

Likewise, the Global team meeting was held from 19-22 April, where the climate witness project for WWF Nepal Program was discussed with the global team. More than twenty WWF Communicators joined the team to discuss on the Power Switch! campaign to develop key messages, communication plans and strategies for the launching of the campaign in November 2005. Climate Change Officer Sandeep Chamling Rai and Communication Officer Sangita Shrestha Singh from WWF Nepal Program participated in the Climate Change Meeting.

Nepal-Bhutan Cooperation to Boost Biodiversity Conservation in

Eastern Himalayan Ecoregion

One captive-bred gharial crocodile from the Gharial Breeding Center of Royal Chitwan National Park of Nepal was handed over by the Secretary of the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation Mr Chandi Prasad Shrestha to the Honorable Dasho Sangay Thinlay, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture of the Royal Government of Bhutan amid a function held on 26 April 2004 in Kathmandu. The Bhutanese Secretary thanked His Majesty's Government for the present and said, "The cooperation and sharing of ideas between our two countries would certainly enhance biodiversity conservation in the region." Likewise, Secretary Shrestha remarked, "Biodiversity transcends political boundary and shares the common problems of a larger region. The exchange visits of concerned government officials

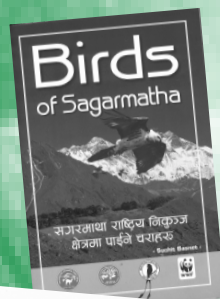


of our two countries will consolidate our efforts for ecoregion conservation."

This type of cooperation for the conservation of endangered species of wildlife is the first of its kind in between these two countries. As both Nepal and Bhutan fall in the Eastern Himalayan Ecoregion, both countries have adopted similar approaches to biodiversity conservation including the landscape level conservation. The freshwater reptile bound for the Bhutan was bred and reared at Kashara Gharial Breeding Center. Gharial breeding program is indeed one of the successful conservation stories in Nepal. The Gharial Conservation Center in Bhutan has only 4 female gharials. The gharials from Nepal would be used for breeding purposes.

For the last two years, WWF Bhutan and WWF Nepal are working together for the exchange visits for high-ranking government officials and conservationist of the two countries to promote ecoregion conservation. This has materialized the synergy between the two countries, which is expected to heighten further in biodiversity conservation. "The exchange of gharials is a gesture of good friendship between the two countries", says Dr Chandra P Gurung, Country Representative of WWF Nepal Program.

HOT OFF THE PRESS



- **Birds of Sagarmatha**

This booklet is a checklist of birds found in Sagarmatha. Mr Suchit Basnet of the Bird Conservation Nepal recorded altogether 194 bird species that includes residents and migrant.

Published by: WWF NP and Bird Conservation Nepal



- **Terai Arc Landscape-Nepal, Strategic Plan**
(Summary Report)

This brochure summarizes the Strategic Plan for Terai Arc Landscape (TAL)-Nepal which has been prepared for a period of ten years from 2004 to 2014. This Strategic Plan is a guiding document that lays out critical strategies to ensure biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods in order to achieve the vision of TAL. This brochure can also be downloaded from WWF NP website.

Printed with the financial support from WWF NP.



- **WWF Nepal Program Brochure**
(in Nepali)

- **WWF Nepal Program Annual Report** (in Nepali)

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