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EcoCircular

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NEWSLETTER - SUMMER

Winds of Change

There have been important changes in Nepal during the past few months. The will of the people rose to the challenge and succeeded in making history. The cessation of hostilities has given us a hope for a permanent peace. This peace will, we are sure, usher in long-term benefits for Nepal.

WWF has been in Nepal since the 1960s but this May WWF Nepal Programme Office celebrated the completion of 13 wonderful years. Through the good times and bad, we have been able to continue our work because of the tremendous support we received from the very grassroots up.

It has been an incredible journey for us—beginning with rhino and tiger conservation projects four decades ago to the present where we work closely with local communities, other partners, and the Government of Nepal in landscapes where biodiversity, together with culture and sustainable livelihoods go hand in hand.

As the winds of change blow through Nepal I would like to thank all our supporters. Your faith and goodwill keep us true to our goals. Together we will strive for a better Nepal and a living planet.

Chandra Gurung, PhD
Country Representative
WWF Nepal Program

Bardia's Rhinos and Tigers in Danger

This May, WWF Nepal sounded the alarm

KANCHAN THAPA, Research Officer

Alarming signs of the decline in rhino populations and possibly tiger numbers, indicating widespread poaching, were revealed in a sweeping operation led by Bardia National Park staff, supported by WWF Nepal, in the previously inaccessible Babai valley between 21-24 May 2006. The recent political changes in Nepal that led to the ceasefire allowed park staff to return to the area after a two-year gap.

A 40-member team on elephants led by Bardia National Park was accompanied by Dr Tirtha Man Maskey, Co-Chair of the Asian Rhino Specialist Group, and Kanchan Thapa, Research Officer at WWF Nepal. Evidence of only three rhinos was observed in the favourable rhino habitat in the southern part of the valley. Since 1986, 83 rhinos have been translocated to Bardia, of which 72 were released in the Babai floodplain.

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The team apprehended two persons, one each from two different groups of poachers who were armed with locally made muzzle guns. Four weapons and a large cache of ammunition was seized along with more than 300kgs of smoked Sambar, spotted deer, barking deer, and four-horned antelope meat—all important prey species of the tiger and other carnivores. This could have serious implications for the tiger population in Bardia National Park. In addition, all the guard posts inside the Babai valley were destroyed during the conflict.

During the 1998-2001 survey, 13 tigers were reported in the Babai Valley but the team observed signs of only 3 tigers during the operation. Furthermore, fewer than estimated tigers were confirmed in a preliminary camera trap survey in the Karnali floodplain of Bardia National Park. The camera trap survey, which began in January 2006, camera trapped only 3 in the national park and 2 in the Khata corridor out of a recorded tiger population of 18 in 2000-01.

The Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), supported by WWF, has already initiated a number of immediate steps: joint patrols by the park staff and protection unit have been planned focusing on areas not covered by the first sweeping operation and the buffer zone to verify the findings. The continuing community-based anti-poaching operations are being mobilized.

In areas where the conflict had less impact on conservation work, rhino and tiger populations are stable or growing. An August



Muzzle guns confiscated by the team.

© WWF NP / Kanchan THAPA

2005 survey found that the 11 rhinos released in 1986 in the Karnali River floodplain, also within Bardia National Park, had increased to more than 30. Tiger presence has been recorded in the Khata corridor. The population of rhinos in the nearby Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve is 7. None have been lost to poaching since the translocation in 2000 and there has been an increase of three. The ongoing tiger monitoring at Shuklaphanta estimates the population to be around 27 adult breeding tigers.

"The Babai case clearly shows the impact of conflict on conservation and WWF is ready to increase its support in the efforts to address this threat," says Dr Chandra Gurung, Country Representative of WWF Nepal. "We call upon all stakeholders to join hands at this critical juncture."

WWF Nepal strongly urges the enactment of an immediate short- and long-term plan for action on the ground. ■

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Sweeping operation
on elephants



© WWF NP / Kanchan THAPA

Lucky 13

Celebrating Team WWF on our anniversary

PRAJANA W PRADHAN, Asst. to Country Representative, WWF Nepal



Mighty Unicorns



Orange Piranhas

WWF Nepal completed 13 years of its existence as a Programme Office on 19 May 2006 and it was a special day for everyone! This year the theme was "TEAM WWF" with a focus on the importance and strength of working together and healthy competition.

Bandana Y Lepcha, Human Resources Officer, led the plans for the day with the support of a core group, of which I was privileged to be a member. We came up with the idea of having two teams with captains and vice-captains. It wasn't long before the two teams emerged—The Orange Piranhas led by Gokarna J Thapa with Ang Phuri Sherpa and The Mighty Unicorns led by Ritesh Shrestha and Shubash Lohani. Team competitions were sorted out ranging from games that we played as children to serious matches. To keep enthusiasm high, team t-shirts and caps were distributed to all staff.

The anniversary was organized at a hotel that had extensive sports facilities and began with a short speech from the Country Representative followed by a big breakfast. From a relatively easy start with the Sack Race, Spoon Race and Three Legged Race, we moved to Badminton and Table Tennis where Swadeepa, an intern, wowed us all. As the day progressed with events like the walkathon and swimming, fatigue crept in till dancing before lunch revived our spirits. A jet-lagged Anil Manandhar and Tara Gnyawali came straight from the UK to the event where the latter shared his experiences in a poem titled "*Pappu mobile wale London mein*" (Pappu of the mobile [phone] in London). The final competitions were bowling and tug-of-war that also highlighted the team spirit. Conservation Ambassador Ms Sugarika KC, Miss Nepal 2005, attended the final events and supported the staff.



Spoon Race



Three Legged Race



Best Team Player-2006, Bandana Yonzan Lepcha

Award	Winner	Designation
Never Say No	Gokarna Jung Thapa	GIS Officer
Go-Getter	Shubash Lohani	TAL Programme Officer
Know-it-all	Prashant Singh	Director, Finance & Admin.
Indispensable	Corona G Ranjit	Senior Admin. Assistant
Best Team Player	Bandana Y Lepcha	Human Resource Officer
Employee of the Year	Parag Bijukchhe	KCAP Field Project Officer
Walked the Extra Mile	Gautam Poudyal	NMCP Field Project Officer
	Parag Bijukchhe	KCP Field Project Officer



Pappu mobile wale
London mein

Gokarna Jung Thapa (right),
leader of the winning team

The day ended with the Staff Awards for 2006 and the announcement of the winning team. Two categories carried over from last year—Employee of the Year and Best Team Player—but other creative awards were given based on email peer voting (*see box for winners*). The Orange Piranhas tallied up the most points and took the overall team prize, winning by four points. The celebrations finally came to an end with tea and some inspirational remarks by Dr. Gurung. It was a day filled with fun, laughter, and games but more importantly it brought out the team spirit of our staff. It made us realize that even though we are busy in our own departments or out in the field, we all belong to one team—TEAM WWF!!!

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Banking for crocodiles

Inhabitants of an important Ramsar site get a helping hand

Ghodaghodi Lake, one of four Ramsar sites in Nepal, is rich in biodiversity. Various important wildlife species and people rely on the wetland resources. This lake used to be a good habitat for endangered species of crocodile and turtles, but because of heavy exploitation and poaching, the survival of these important species was in danger.

Recognizing the threat, the Terai Arc Landscape (TAL) Program, supported by the Government of Nepal and WWF Nepal, initiated a project to improve this wetland habitat and protect aquatic biodiversity by involving local people in conservation.

The marsh mugger crocodile (*crocodiles palustris*) is not among the most endearing species but they are an important part of wetland biodiversity. In order to improve their habitat around Ghodaghodi Lake, the TAL Program together with local communities built a suitable sand bank in early June for basking and nesting. Recently, a local monitoring team found a number of footprints at the site, proving that the sand bank is used by muggers frequently for basking and will probably be suitable also as a nesting site.



A sand bank improves crocodile habitat at Ghodaghodi

Working with the local communities has paid rich dividends in raising awareness on the importance and sustainable use of wetlands. For the first time, local youth formed a community-based anti-poaching operation (CBAPO) group to protect wetlands and its resources with support from the TAL Program. It is actively involved in preventing poaching and encroachment within and around Ghodaghodi. A turning point came during the World Wetlands Day 2005 celebrations when communities resolved to stop illegal activities and poaching at Ghodaghodi Lake and several local poachers voluntarily surrendered their weapons like spears and dugout canoes. The CBAPO has confiscated over 800 fish hooks, three boats, and nearly 200 gill nets, which has a tremendous positive impact on the biodiversity of the lake.

NOTES

Nepali Climate Witness goes international

Norbu Sherpa, the WWF's Climate Witness from Nepal, will be featured extensively in an important new documentary. The documentary is being produced by Television Trust for the Environment (TVE) for the news-channel Al Jazeera International. Tanya Peterson, Head of Television, WWF International, Nick Turner of Television Trust for the Environment and Aarati Gurung, Climate Change Programme went to Ghat to film Norbu from 21-26 May 2006. Scientific input was provided by Dr Arun B Shrestha from the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology. The show will be broadcast to a global audience in September 2006 and be a tool to raise the issues of climate change impacts.



To the mountains

Donald Clark, Mission Director, USAID visited the Northern Mountain Conservation Project (NMCP) to observe ongoing project work in Dolpa in May 2006. The NMCP staff provided valuable briefings and accompanied him. Yeshi Choden Lama, Senior Program Officer-Mountain, was deputized from Kathmandu.

River dolphins under threat

Six months of field research conducted by WWF along Nepal's longer river, the Karnali, shows that river dolphin populations are stagnant and remain more endangered than ever. River dolphins are some of the most endangered of all the world's cetaceans and at risk of extinction from habitat loss, hunting by humans, and naturally low numbers. Formerly quite abundant, the overall population of Ganges river dolphins (*Platanista gangetica*) is now probably fewer than 100 dolphins in Nepal, with the group of about 20 in the Karnali River. The WWF Nepal study *Status, distribution and conservation threats of Ganges River dolphins in the Karnali River, Nepal* is based on research conducted on river dolphins in the Karnali River system in the western lowland of Nepal from July 2005 to February 2006. The study was discussed at a two-day regional meeting on the conservation and management of river dolphins in Asia, held in Kathmandu from 26-27 May.



CBAPO orientation in SCAFP

A team of resource persons for CBAPO from the TAL Programme and participants from Kangchenjunga Conservation Area Project (KCA) traveled to Sagarmatha for an orientation and training in Lukla. The training was also attended by CBAPO members from Sagarmatha National Park.

Conservation Ambassador visits Chitwan for World Environment Day

On the occasion of World Environment Day 2006 on 5 June 2006, a team from WWF including Sugarika KC, Conservation Ambassador and Miss Nepal 2006, went to Chitwan National Park to promote an anti-poaching street theatre programme. The team was accompanied by a Kathmandu-based journalist and received coverage in the local and national media. It was the first field trip for the Conservation Ambassador who had the opportunity to not only observe our work on the ground but also meet local communities involved in conservation activities from 4-7 June 2006.

SHL Workshop in Taplejung

Sabita Thapa and Arati Shrestha from the mountain unit together with two consultants from National Environmental Coalition of Indigenous Nationalities (NECIN) visited Taplejung District from 31 May to 7 June 2006. The objective of the visit was to organize and participate in two workshops: 1) Sacred Himalayan Landscape Strategic Plan consultation workshop and 2) Awareness raising workshop on relationship between Indigenous Peoples (IPs) and Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).



The first workshop was held on 3 June and participated by more than 45 stakeholders including local NGOs, political leaders, journalists, and key individuals in the field of natural resources management. The SHL workshop was third on the line feeding into Sacred Himalayan Landscape Strategic Formulation process.

The workshop on IPs on 4 June was held jointly by WWF and NECIN with management support provided by a local NGO, Kirant

Yakthum Chumlung. More than 50 participants were present on the day. In addition to familiarizing the participants about CBD and its relevant clauses regarding the rights of indigenous nationalities, four groups of participants worked to strategize future steps for ensuring rights of indigenous peoples in natural resource management. On 5 June, the team participated in various programmes organized jointly by Kangchenjunga Conservation Area Project (KCAP), Tourism for Rural Poverty Alleviation Programme (TRPAP), and District Soil Conservation Office to celebrate the Environment Day.

Media Training

A half-day media training workshop featuring tips on how to handle the different forms of media and being a good communicator was organized by the Communications & Education Unit on 9 June 2006. Staff were briefed on the Rapid Response Kit and handed t-shirts with the WWF logo for field/interview usage. The workshop also included an on-camera presentation skills training by the Institute of Television Films and the Performing Arts.

WWF Nepal success stories in leading national daily

On World Environment Day, 5 June 2006, a full page special featuring conservation articles and success stories was published in *Kantipur*, Nepal's no. 1 vernacular daily. The articles covered climate change, success stories from the TAL and NMCP, an interview with Conservation ambassador Sugarika KC, Miss Nepal 2006, and news about the declining Gangetic dolphins in the Karnali.

Reaching out

As part of World Environment Day celebrations, WWF Nepal participated in a 3-day exhibition. Recent editions of the newsletter were



distributed along with handouts on WWF Nepal. Ritesh Shrestha, Database & Documentation Assistant, Jeny Shrestha, intern - Freshwater Programme, and Swadeepa Bohara, Communications Volunteer, carried out an informal survey of visitors to test their awareness on WWF and its work. Out of about 144 students surveyed, 89 had some idea about WWF and its work while 116 were familiar with the logo. Most visitors comprised college students followed by intermediate school students. Two thematic research briefs on the SHL, which draws on work in progress on the SHL Strategic Plan - Nepal were also released on the occasion.

Dolphin Awareness

A Dolphin Awareness Programme was conducted to share findings of the research carried out by WWF Nepal on river dolphins and raise awareness among locals between 12-16 June at Thakurdwara, Kothaighat, Khata and Bhajani of the lower Karnali River basin. Presentations on the research result were made, discussions were generated through local consultations and group work and awareness raising materials like informative posters, pamphlets, and booklets on river dolphin were distributed. The audience represented various stakeholders such as Bardia National Park, local NGOs, tourist guides from Bardia National Park, lodge managers, Eco Club students, CBAPOs, CFUGs, teachers, local fishermen, and community members. The key message of the awareness program was to save dolphins and conserve its habitat.



Asia Pacific Climate Change Team

WWF Nepal's Climate Change Team of Sandeep Chamling Rai and Aarati Gurung participated in the Asia Pacific Climate Change

Team Meeting from 5-10 June 2006 in Bali, Indonesia. The meeting was participated by 10 other CC teams across the Asia Pacific region. The major objectives were to brainstorm, analyze, and discuss the key components and Integrated Vision of the Asia Pacific Climate and Energy Program, to link the Integrated Vision with detailed input into the ongoing process of developing our 2007+ Energy related milestones, to review and evaluate progress on operational goals from the previous year, plans for FY07 and the operational requirements, to discuss management and leadership transition issues.

Targets and milestones based on Energy, Impacts & Adaptation and International Negotiation; management and leadership transition issues were finalized to forward to the Global Climate Change Programme. A regional United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) project that is being implemented by South Pacific, Indonesia and Nepal was also discussed.



Working with people

Indigenous peoples and their relationship to conservation was in focus during a two-day workshop organized by WWF Nepal and the National Federation of Indigenous Nationalities (NEFIN) on 29-30 June 2006. "Raising Indigenous Peoples' Awareness about Implementation of the CBD and Framing WWF Nepal's Working Areas and Approaches on IPs" was attended by representatives of indigenous communities and organizations from across the country, representative government agencies, I/NGOs, intellectuals and academicians, and individuals working in environment and natural resources management.

The objective of this workshop was to provide clarity on WWF Nepal's position and approach to working with indigenous and local communities to enhance biodiversity

conservation and local livelihoods. It also aimed to communicate some of the ongoing conservation approaches and gains made by WWF vis-à-vis indigenous and local communities and also to refine our working strategies.

During the workshop, '*Beyond Belief*', a report by WWF and ARC (Alliance of Religions and Conservation) was released. It explores how faiths - from the large mainstream faiths to small traditional faiths - interact with one of the main tools of conservation, protected areas. It also includes a survey of a hundred protected areas around the world which contain important values to one or more faiths and 14 detailed case studies, including Nepal. On the first day of the workshop, distinguished presenters from various organizations/institutions presented technical papers on the



main issues. On the second day, group work helped streamline various views and opinions regarding issues relevant to the indigenous people, including their rights and governance over the natural resource management.

With Different Eyes: Perceptions of well-being

TARA PRASAD GNYAWALI, *Sustainable Livelihoods Specialist*



Exploring the perception of well-being through visual illustrations

Across Nepal, ideas of well-being differ according to different parameters like cultural groups, ethnicities, and linguistics. The context also varies from that of developed countries.

A household may score on well-being even without a regular cash income source or property. It depends

largely on how people define themselves to their society and community. From a conservation perspective, a chairman or secretary of a council or coordination committee has more value than a subsistence economy status. Similarly, having a large private jungle may be a symbol of being well-being compared to being a college graduate without any static property. This makes it very difficult to define and generalize standard definitions to apply to different communities in diverse ecological zones in Nepal.

WWF Nepal has considerable experience in scaling-up and profiling different diverse households through the well-being ranking process tool. A

Sustainable Livelihoods Orientation training was organized for mid-level committee members that play key roles in planning, designing, allocating, and implementing conservation and livelihoods interventions. By targeting the benefits of a programme, we updated and defined the criteria with changing perspectives. The well-being ranking practices were one of the key tools for Social inclusion and Targeted Programmes for identification of deprived households, especially for incomes based on natural resource management.

Significant differences and similarities were found in well-being understanding in the two diverse ecoregions in the same Eastern Himalaya Ecoregion Complex, where local prestige and property are two interlinking entities. But at the same time people who are economically deprived but have representation in politics and other socio-cultural institution have social recognition were placed in the 'moderate well-being' section.

This leads us to conclude that we cannot generalize similar indicators from one ecological zone to another with regard to conservation interventions. Our exercises show us that differences occur not only in one landscape but even in a village if there are ethnic and cultural differences. ■

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Beauty with the Beasts

Sugarika KC, WWF Nepal Conservation Ambassador and Miss Nepal 2005, is not nervous about speaking to thousands of people or squeamish about holding a freshly caught fish.

HANIF MOHAMMED, Communications Intern

On the occasion of World Environment Day 2006, the Conservation Ambassador accompanied by a WWF Nepal team and a journalist traveled to Nepal's first protected area, Chitwan National Park between 4-7 June.

Sugarika visited the Gharial Breeding Centre and was briefed about WWF Nepal's various conservation activities inside the protected area by Purna Kunwar, Sector Manager - Terai Arc Landscape Programme. During the jungle drive to the Centre, two female rhinos were seen cooling off in the shallow waters of Kamal Tal. Some trails inside the park were closed as they were deemed treacherous following the monsoon rains.

WWF Nepal's Terai Arc Landscape Programme had organized a street theatre to raise community support against rhino poaching in the buffer zone area around the park. The drama was performed by famous Nepali TV personalities and drew enormous crowds on all 16 performances held at various villages in Nepal. The inaugural show was at the grounds of Bhimoday High School in New Padampur. The show attracted more than 2,000 people. Sugarika addressed the crowd, stressing on the importance of being vigilant against poaching and to maintain the rich biodiversity in the Terai. She met several children of the school's Eco Club as well as other youth who were delighted to meet a well known public figure.

WWF Nepal has made considerable investments in New Padampur. This community was relocated from inside Chitwan National Park and resettled at New Padampur. Sugarika met local women who proudly showed her toilet-attached biogas and improved cooking stoves.

"We don't rely on wood as much as before and our health has improved because there is less smoke inside the house," shared Kamala Bhattarai of the local women's group.

The group runs a micro-finance credit scheme and other activities that have improved incomes and the status of women. She also met a recently instituted anti-poaching youth awareness group who were successful in apprehending a group of timber smugglers on their first night patrol. For lunch, the Conservation Ambassador, along with the team, had the opportunity of sampling a traditional Tharu meal at New Padampur. Sugarika, a vegetarian, politely declined the culinary highlight-curry snails called "ghunghi".

This visit to Chitwan National Park was a first for the Conservation Ambassador who enjoyed birdwatching, an elephant safari, and a visit to the Elephant Breeding Centre.

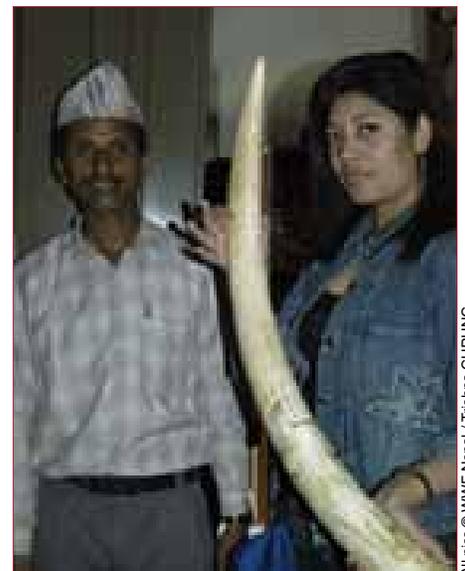
"My trip to Chitwan was adventurous, fun and most importantly, I learned a lot about conservation-things I could never get from a book," said Sugarika. ■



Planting a sapling with Eco Club students from Bhimoday High School



Sugarika, WWF-Nepal Conservation Ambassador gives biogas a helping hand



Sugarika holds up an elephant tusk, Armed Forest Guard Training Centre, Tikauli

Ali pics © WWF Nepal / Trishna GURUNG



Ground realities Summer 2006

A personal account by Purna Bahadur Kunwar,
Sector Manager, TAL Programme

Although it's a pleasure to live and work in the Terai, the hardest season to weather is summer. I have worked with the TAL Programme in Bardia and Chitwan for three years but before that I worked in the mountains.

In some ways, I think of myself as the public face for WWF Nepal and TAL in the field when I meet communities, eco clubs, CBOs, conservation partners, and government officials. My work covers a wide range of activities from monitoring of TAL-supported activities inside the protected areas and the buffer zone to community mobilization. The latter is very important to the success of our work—if we can't convince the local people to join us in biodiversity conservation then we are fighting a losing battle. In my opinion, the best part about working in Chitwan is the high conservation awareness and motivation among people.

Although I have a background in forestry, working in TAL allows me to grow in new directions. I am part of new conservation initiatives that are challenging and therefore, enjoyable. The downside of working in the field

is that I see very little of family. My wife, Eak Maya, and two beautiful children, Annapurna (13) and Anil (10), and the rest of my family live in Pokhara. I usually get to visit them once in two months and only for a weekend. Of course I miss them. Some of my friends say that I have committed a crime against my wife and do not do justice to my family.

This is a hard choice I had to make. Being a grassroots conservationist means working in the field and if the Terai is where I am needed, then that is where I must put my time and effort!

The park headquarters of Chitwan National Park is where I am based. My room on the top of the vet clinic in Kasara has a great view of trees and has the luxury of an attached bathroom too. While the room is pleasant in the cooler season, during summer we bake in the heat. It gets very hot as temperatures soar and humidity rises that we literally drip with sweat. We are lucky to have electricity and fans are a lifesaver. Evenings are the hardest because of mosquitoes that descend like a black cloud. Luckily, I never had malaria or been seriously ill.

Communications in Kasara is difficult. WWF Nepal invested in a new radio system for the

park but that is used exclusively for anti-poaching patrols. There are no telephones in the middle of the jungle and all of us have to rely on rather mobile services. The mobile signal is not always strong and at any given time, you can see at least one person wandering around with a mobile in hand looking to get a spot with a strong enough signal. We have to go to Bharatpur, district headquarters of Chitwan, for all other needs like email and photocopy. It takes one hour on rough roads to get from Kasara to Bharatpur. I take my chances on whatever transportation is headed in my direction from rickshaws and motorbikes to cars. The monsoon rains makes travel even more difficult because roads get very muddy and wash out.

Despite the Terai heat in the summer, I enjoy what I do because I believe that my work is bettering the lives of people while ensuring conservation success. I like working for WWF Nepal. On one hand, I have the flexibility to work independently and on the other, it is very encouraging to know that although I am the only one in Chitwan, I have the backing of an entire global organization to push forward our goals. ■

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Diary of an Intern



Arati Shrestha

Intern, Terai Arc Landscape and Sacred Himalayan Landscape

It has been a short and sweet journey for me at WWF as I leave with many fond memories, vast knowledge, and great inspiration. On my first day, I was appointed as an intern to the SHL and TAL programmes and Bandana at Human Resources set me up at the office and introduced me to my guide Dr. Sabita Thapa. During the next two days, I read up about the programmes and got to know the staff. I was placed at the Resource Centre with Ritesh Shrestha, Documentation and Database Assistant, Anil Poudel, Intern-TAL, and Swodeepa Bohara, Communications Volunteer.

My first challenge was to overcome my restlessness since this was my first experience at a 9-to-5 job. Although I was a little disappointed by my first task of documenting all the paperwork in the mountain unit, I felt a sense of accomplishment and also gained valuable knowledge about the activities. After this, I assisted in the publication of the first two issues of thematic research for SHL. It was great to be entrusted with this responsibility and I learned a lot about layout and design from Format Printing Press.

I also visited the Ministry of Forest and

Soil Conservation (MFSC) with Dr Thapa to get feedback on the strategic plans of the SHL and approval of the thematic briefs we were about to publish. It was a good opportunity to meet Dr Mohan P Wagle, Chief of Planning and Human Resources. I was struck by how few women work in the ministry and most other organizations. I am inspired by Sabitaji who is among the qualified, confident, and capable professional working women in Nepal.

I enjoyed the staff orientation on 16 May where I learnt a lot. It made me proud to belong to an organization that was so committed to conserving the natural resources of this planet as well as directly looking out for the interests of the people thus making the world a better place to live in. On 19 May, WWF celebrated its 13 anniversary in Nepal with a sports day. It was a wonderful day of games, fun, laughter, and excitement. It was great to see interns and seniors all interacting so freely. Such equality is rare these days in any organization. I believe that what I learnt at WWF Nepal will help me reach my higher goals in my life. ■

*Thank you WWF
Nepal for this
wonderful journey!*

Demographic Analysis Terai Arc Landscape - Nepal,

2006, 135 pp

This is a macro-level analysis of demographics in the most populated area of Nepal in the context of biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods. The analysis undertaken clearly shows the increasing impact of population pressure on natural resources that will increasingly threaten the survival of flora and fauna.



Status, Distribution and conservation threats of ganges River Dolphins in Karnali River, Nepal,

2006, 29pp

This report is an important milestone in WWF Nepal's commitment not only to conservation of flagship species but also to the needs of the people, who like river dolphins, are dependant on freshwater sources. This is the first research undertaken in the Karnali River for aquatic fauna by WWF Nepal.



Sacred Himalayan Landscape: Thematic Research Working Briefs 1&2,

2006, pp 16&16

These briefs draw on work in progress in the Sacred Himalayan Landscape Strategic Plan-Nepal to disseminate and exchange the research issues and ideas as they evolve. The first working brief "Nature, Culture & Conservation" includes a section on belief and faith systems as a tool for conservation, a case study and recommends priority actions.



Factsheets: Wetlands of Nepal

This collection of factsheets on the wetlands of Nepal provides a wealth of information on several lakes, reservoir, national parks and conservation areas. Wetland areas of Beeshazar, Ghodaghodi, Jagadishpur, Koshi Tappu, Phoksundo, Gosaikunda, Singjema and Gokyo are covered and include a general overview, its values, threats and different conservation measures.



Samrakshan Dohari Geet

A two-CD set of the songs recorded at the Dohari competition at the Save the Rhino Campaign 2006 in Chitwan was digitally remastered for distribution among conservation partners especially in the field.



Climate change postcards

The two winning entries for the poster competition in the school level climate change Awareness Programme 2006 were made into postcards that will be used to raise awareness. The first prize was awarded to Sabin Shrestha of Bal Sewa Secondary School, the second prize winner was Sunstar Shrestha, Ideal Model School, Lalitpur.



If you would like a copy of any of these please contact Ritesh Shrestha, Documentation and Database Assistant. ritesh.shrestha@wwfnepal.org



COMING UP

Asian Rhino Specialist Group Workshop at Kaziranga National Park for members of South Asia from 14-16 October 2006. The objectives are to encourage networking, share experiences, highlight successes and discuss effective strategies for transboundary rhino conservation. The workshop is jointly organized by AsRSG, WWF AREAS, IUCN Nepal, Kaziranga National Park and WWF Nepal.

International Conference on Conservation in Conflict in Kathmandu, Nepal from 5-7 September 2006. The objective of conference is to identify and raise awareness about the negative impacts of armed conflict on the environment, and to develop strategies to mitigate impacts during and after conflict. It is jointly organized by Wildlife Watch Group with Embassy of Finland, WWF Nepal and The Mountain Institute.

Landscape Coordinators Meeting for the Eastern Himalayan Ecoregion Complex in Kathmandu, Nepal from 8-10 September. The key objectives are a review FY06 outcomes, accomplishments, and progress against EHEC targets and milestones and to discuss key challenges and opportunities for landscape coordinators. There will special sessions for networking and media handling.

WWF ON YOUR RADIO!



We are the world: हाम्रो संसार हाम्रै हातमा is a one-hour show every Thursday from 5-6 PM on the Kathmandu-based Hits FM 91.2. If you'd like a free sticker (pic, right), write to us.

Bhuparidhi is a joint radio presentation of the Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation and WWF Nepal broadcast in the Terai through:

- Kalika FM, Bharatpur. Saturday 7:15 - 7:30 PM
- Bageshwori FM, Nepalganj. Sunday 7:45 - 8 AM (2nd and 4th weeks in Tharu)
- Tinau FM, Rupandehi. Sunday 8 - 8:15 PM
- Radio Nepal RBS, Surkhet. Sunday 8:30 - 8:45 PM

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