



WWF

NEWSLETTER

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Inside the Himalayas

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WWF Nepal newsletter



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Message from the Country Rep

Throughout the Year of the Tiger 2010, WWF, will be working, in collaboration with our stakeholders and partners, with a suite of campaign activities – from grassroots awareness efforts to targeted political engagement.

We welcome the steps taken by the Nepal Government towards protecting tigers including fostering trans-boundary co-operation with China and India, declaration of Banke National Park to extend tiger habitat, and the establishment of a high-level National Tiger Conservation Committee. Moreover, we can see everyone from the youth to the private sector actively raising awareness on tiger conservation.

This gives us hope that protecting tigers is very much possible in Nepal. This issue of Inside the Himalayas is a tribute to this magnificent species.

Anil Manandhar
Country Representative

REMEMBERING OUR CONSERVATION HEROES

“To live, to love, to learn...
to leave a legacy...”

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In memory of Nepal's Conservation Heroes, the second National Conservation Day was celebrated with the theme “Save the Wild Tiger and save so much more” on 23 September 2010 amidst a function organized at Nepal Academy Hall in Kathmandu, Nepal. The Chief Guest of the event was Constituent Assembly Chairman, Rt. Hon'ble Subash Chandra Nemwang.

Speaking at the event, Nemwang stated that awareness amongst people was very essential for the conservation of forests and wildlife, which witnessed rapid decline in recent times. He said that the concerned authorities and the general people need to work hand in hand for the preservation of endangered species such as tigers, crocodiles and rhinos.

Mr. Harihar Sigdel, Director

of Department of Forest and Conservation, announced that Bharandabhar Panchase, Madani, Lal Jhadi, Basanta and Khata Forest Areas were now identified as important conservation forests according to the Forest Act.

Similarly, Mr. Shyam Bajimaya, a Conservation Expert, lauded the role of Government of Nepal for its commitment towards conservation by highlighting the trans-national cooperation with the governments of India and Nepal in conserving biodiversity and mitigating the tiger crisis.

Various awards were presented during the program to recognize and felicitate individuals and organizations for their contribution in conservation in Nepal. Mr. Birendra Bahadur Shah, the first in-charge of the wildlife section within the Department of

Forests, and Mr. Biswa Nath Upreti, the first Director General of the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, received Lifetime Achievement Awards. Mr. Jim Ottaway was felicitated with the International Friend of Conservation Honor. Ms. Renu Shah, Mr. Hirulal Dangaura, Mr. Rupak Maharjan, Mr. Bhakta B Raskoti, and Mr. Kishore C Gautam received the Abraham Conservation Awards in the Individual category while Jatayu Restaurant Management Committees of Nawalparasi and Rupandehi received the Abraham Conservation Awards in the Organisation category. Mr. Umid Baghchand from BBC, Dhangadhi, and Mr. Ramesh Prasad Bhusal from The Himalayan Times received the WWF Media in Conservation Awards while Mr. Anand Chaudhary received the Matthew Preece and Yeshe Choden Lama Young Conservation Leader Award.

Scholarship recipients for this year included Mr. Nabin Raja Budhathoki from Ramechaap who received Chandra Gurung Memorial Scholarship for pursuing Masters Degree in Environmental Management in Pokhara University; Ms. Dechen Dolma Ichang Gurung from Mustang who received Mingma Sherpa Memorial Scholarship to pursue a Technical Certificate Level (TCL) in Forestry at the Institute of Forestry (IOF), Pokhara Campus; Mr. Bijaya Praja from Mustang who received Nepal Conservation Memorial Scholarship, established by

WWF Nepal, to pursue a Technical Certificate Level (TCL) in Forestry at the Institute of Forestry (IOF), Hetauda Campus.

The program concluded with a play “Stripes of Wild: A Tiger's Call for Action” presented by Earth-Beat Nepali Theatre, in keeping with the theme of the day and the fact that the year 2010 is being celebrated internationally as the Year of the Tiger. There are as few as 3,200 tigers surviving in the world's forests; with tigers being the umbrella species and indicator of a healthy ecosystem, their conservation is of high significance today. In November 2010, heads of governments for 13 tiger range countries, including Nepal, will be attending the Tiger Summit in St. Petersburg, Russia. The summit is seen as crucial to garner necessary support and resources to save the wild tiger.

National Conservation Day is led by a Conservation Consortium comprising WWF Nepal, Bird Conservation Nepal, Environmental Camps for Conservation Awareness, The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, IUCN–The World Conservation Union, Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists, National Trust for Nature Conservation, Wildlife Conservation Nepal, and The Mountain Institute and Wildlife Watch Group under the leadership of the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, Government of Nepal.

WWF CONSERVATION AWARDS 2010

Abraham Conservation Awards: Individual

Renu Shah
Outgoing Chairperson
Bufferzone Management Committee
KTWR

Hirulal Dangaura
Agriculturist - Kailali

Rupak Maharjan
Park Ranger, Chitwan National Park

Bhakta B Raskoti
Researcher, Arghakhanchi

Kishore C Gautam
District Forest Officer, Dang

Abraham Conservation Awards: Organization

Jatayu Restaurant Management Committees, Nawalparasi

Jatayu Restaurant Management Committee, Rupandehi

WWF Media in Conservation Award

Umid Baghchand - BBC Nepali Sewa

Ramesh Prasad Bhusal - The Himalayan Times

Matthew Preece and Yeshe Choden Lama
Young Conservation Leader Award

Anand Chaudhary
Vulture Conservation Officer - BCN

A close-up photograph of a tiger's head and shoulders. The tiger is looking upwards and to the left, towards a tree trunk. The tiger has orange fur with black stripes. The background is blurred, showing more of the forest.

© David Lawson / WWF-UK

The tiger monitoring was conducted in a 1,261 square kilometer area, and was a combined effort of the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation of the Government of Nepal, WWF Nepal and the National Trust for Nature Conservation. WWF provided technical as well as financial support to complete the tiger population monitoring.

Kathmandu, Nepal – Rt. Hon'ble Madhav Kumar Nepal, Prime Minister of Nepal applied the First Day of Issue Cancellation to the Year of the Tiger Postal Stamp, officially launching the Stamp at a function on 14 September.

In Nepal, with the Government in the lead, several landmarks have been reached this year towards

of Rt. Hon'ble
Prime Minister of
Nepal.

“The issuing of the Tiger postal stamps follows unprecedented developments for tiger conservation in Nepal in the last

one and a half years with national-level institutional mechanisms set up for tiger conservation and trans-boundary co-operation with neighbouring countries intensifying. WWF lauds the efforts of the Government of Nepal in making these achievements possible," said Anil Manandhar, Country Representative, WWF Nepal.

in Kathmandu to raise awareness on tiger conservation.

**This program truly
reached out to the people
from all walks of life –
from Ministers to school
students to business**



personnel to home makers to people from various professions.

“You are my tigers,
each with a tiger heart
and you will play a
significant role in tiger
conservation in the days

to come”, were Honb'l Minister of Forests and Soil Conservation Mr. Deepak Bohara's words of encouragement to the participating Eco Club members during the inauguration of the mass

awareness program in NLIC City Centre, the newest and biggest mall in Kathmandu.

Starting from the Tiger Day 29 July 2010, WWF Nepal placed a booth in all the malls and Eco Club members enthusiastically participated in the mass awareness program for three consecutive days, distributing flyers and bookmarks with tiger conservation message to the people visiting the malls and department stores. The students not only answered the queries of the visitors but also asked for the visitors' opinion about tiger conservation. Experts from WWF Nepal and NTNC also participated to interact with and answer audiences' queries.

NEPAL-INDIA

trans-boundary efforts for tiger conservation intensifies

Kathmandu, Nepal – The Government of Nepal and The Government of India have signed a resolution to join hands to conserve biodiversity including tigers, and strengthen ecological security in the trans-boundary region.

The resolutions, signed at a function on 29 July 2010, stress on bilateral and regional co-operation including establishing a joint monitoring mechanism for interaction and intelligence sharing and exploring funding opportunities with special focus on the protected areas of the Terai Arc Landscape in both Nepal and India.

The resolutions were an outcome of the 4th Nepal-India Consultative Meeting on Trans-boundary

Biodiversity Conservation.

The Consultative Meeting is a key step towards the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on biodiversity conservation between Nepal and India. The Government of Nepal had signed a similar MoU with the Government of China in June 2010 creating a milestone for the co-operation between the two governments for conserving biodiversity especially control in the trade of illegal wildlife parts of endangered species such as the tiger.

WWF Nepal has played a pivotal role in fostering cooperation between the government of Nepal and its two neighboring countries.



© WWF Nepal

“India and Nepal have had an excellent working relation in the past. The formalizing of this relation is another milestone towards working together for biodiversity conservation including tigers. Besides having common boundary, we are facing similar challenges of tiger conservation. Such relation is extremely important for combating illegal wildlife trade and landscape level conservation for tigers and other wild animals,” said Mr. SP Yadav, DIG and Joint Director, National Tiger Conservation Authority of India on the occasion.

MoU between Lumbini Development Trust and WWF

Kathmandu, Nepal - A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between WWF Nepal and Lumbini Development Trust on 17 September 2010, to promote environmental, cultural and religious values in Lumbini. The project is part of WWF's global efforts to work with faith groups to further the cause of nature conservation. Lumbini, the birthplace of Lord Buddha, is an important destination for Buddhist followers as well as tourists in Nepal. This project aims to harness the energy of tourism, religion and culture to initiate innovative conservation programs in Lumbini.



© WWF Nepal

Over a five year project period, WWF Nepal and Lumbini Development Trust will establish and manage a Peace Garden in Lumbini; conserve Sarus Crane and other wildlife species and their habitats; and raise conservation awareness among visitors and local people in Lumbini using a variety of media, particularly in Nepal Tourism Year 2011.

Speaking at the event, Mr. Anil Manandhar, Country Representative at WWF Nepal, opined that while being a small step, the project was nevertheless a significant one in trying to set an example to integrate Buddhism into conservation. Acharya Karma Sangpo Sherpa, Vice Chairperson of Lumbini Development Trust, reiterated the Buddhist philosophy that if the motivation to do something is strong, everything that flows from it will be positive.

Mr. Mod Raj Dotel, Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Government of Nepal and Dr. Ghana Shyam Gurung, Conservation Program Director at WWF Nepal signed as witness to the MoU.

WWF joins hands with Land Reform Ministry to develop National Land Use Policy

Kathmandu, Nepal - WWF Nepal and the Ministry of Land Reform and Management (MoLRM) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 2 August 2010 to join hands for the development of a comprehensive land use policy and plan for the country.



© WWF Nepal

The MoU stresses on establishing a working relationship between the two organizations to undertake mutually beneficial activities like developing the capacity of the people engaged in formulating and implementing land use policy through trainings, visits and sharing of knowledge and also through implementing programs of mutual

importance.

The two organizations also agreed to review periodically, the joint intervention, to fit the strategic path being undertaken by the country considering state restructuring process.

“I believe this understanding will help both the organizations to learn a lot from each other which will

strengthen the relationship between us in the days to come,” said Hon. Dambar Shrestha, Minister for Land Reform and Management, Government of Nepal.

The agreement came just a day after the government's decision to implement the first ever land use policy that envisages different measures for scientific utilization of land.

WWF supports Nepal Government for biodiversity conservation

Kathmandu, Nepal – WWF Nepal signed a grant agreement with the Government of Nepal's Department of Forests (DoF) and Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) on 21 July 2010 to support biodiversity conservation and sustainable community development programmes.

These programmes will be implemented in the Terai Arc Landscape (TAL), Langtang National Park and Buffer Zone, Kangchenjunga Conservation Area and Sagarmatha National Park and Buffer Zone areas. The grant amounts to NRs. 8,08,12,339 (approx 80

million NRs).

“We are very pleased to continue our longstanding relationship with the Government of Nepal and will persist in our efforts to save the rich natural heritage of our country by working together to address new conservation challenges,” said Mr. Anil Manandhar, Country Representative, WWF Nepal on the occasion.

WWF Nepal has been working in the TAL, Kangchenjunga and Sagarmatha region for more than a decade and has been working in the Langtang area for the last three years.

Population monitoring of SNOW LEOPARDS in the NEPAL HIMALAYAS

Kathmandu, Nepal - WWF Nepal has recently undertaken extensive study on snow leopard population ecology using non-invasive molecular genetics. The pilot projects were launched in the Kangchenjunga Conservation Area and Shey-Phoksundo National Park of WWF's Sacred Himalayan Landscape programme.

Listed as an endangered species in the IUCN Red list, the snow leopard (*Panthera Uncia*) is distributed over 12 range countries in Asia including Nepal. However, there still exist some critical gaps regarding information on their ecology and conservation in the Nepal Himalayas. In-depth knowledge on status and distribution of this rare and keystone species in Nepal is urgently required to formulate science-based conservation strategies.

The technology used will yield robust population estimates, information on potential biological corridors, and other genetic information among the snow leopard populations. Eventually such information will be helpful in devising science-based conservation strategies to address the current and future threats to snow leopard populations of the Nepal Himalayas.



© naturepl.com/Andy Rouse / WWF

Purna Bahadur Kunwar
Project Co-Manager, TAL PABZ

For Narad Mani Poudel, 45-year-old farmer living in the Madi valley of Chitwan, life used to be in a constant state of terror. Recalling an incident three years ago, he says, "Wild Elephants ransacked my house and consumed almost all the sacks of rice which I had stored for the coming season. My family and I could do nothing but watch, thankful that we got away with our lives." But now the situation has changed drastically for Narad Mani, due to the establishment of solar fencing in Madi Valley. Now Narad Mani says he can sleep soundly all night without fear of his crops getting destroyed or his family being harmed.

Situated in the Southern part of Chitwan, the Madi valley has a unique location. It is surrounded on all the sides by protected areas except for the southern block where it is connected to India through the Balmiki Tiger Reserve. This geography however has led to human wildlife conflict resulting in severe crop damages and livestock depredation as well as property damage including human injuries and casualties. This in turn fostered negative

attitude of the already-impooverished community towards species conservation, disrupting the harmony between the park and people.

In this scenario, the installation of the 14 km solar fencing in the Ayodhyapuri VDC of the valley has proved to be a boon to the local communities. The villagers today experience a significant reduction in the crop and property damage as well as human injuries and casualties by wild elephants and rhinoceros.

An impact study of solar fence installation, carried out by WWF Nepal, right after a crop harvest in the area showed that the value of the crop production has increased by 300% and increase in rice production was 953 kg per HH. Moreover, farmers have now started to cultivate other crops during winter season. A farmer of Ayodhyapuri VDC expressed his satisfaction of having harvested lentil from his agricultural field after 29 years, when before he used to keep his field fallow during lentil cultivation time due to rampant depredation by wildlife. Solar fencing in Madi valley has been, thus, very effective in controlling the entry of wildlife, as a result, strengthening the harmony between the park and the community.

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Solar Fencing: BOON TO MADI VALLEY

© WWF Nepal

The Changing FACE OF LAMAHI

Conservation Success in Critical Areas of TAL

Identified as one of the critical bottlenecks for wildlife movement along the Terai Arc Landscape, Lamahi today stands as an exemplary accomplishment in conservation. Once largely a degraded land, today Lamahi has transferred into a critical habitat and route for wildlife. With the initiation of community forestry program in 2001 by WWF and active community participation in establishing nurseries and planting saplings, the forests have significantly re-generated within a span of 4-5 years. Moreover, new water sources have begun to sprout. The following pictures illustrate the changing face of Lamahi, with pictures taken before 2001 (Then) and pictures taken after 2005 (Now).



© Photos - TAL/WWF Nepal
Manoj Chaudhary

My Tribute to TIGERS

Niki Maskey Amatya
Programme Officer - SHL



My encounter with tigers inspired in me the drive to work for nature and conservation.

Tigers have been a great part of my career. They are actually my icons of conservation, their mystic beauty and elegance has been my inspiration, my drive to work for nature and conservation. My thoughts, therefore, are a tribute to these magnificent creatures that have made me what I am today.

As a fresh graduate right out of university, my first job was based in Sauraha as a conservation officer. Annoying as it was for my parents, I found this to be a once in a lifetime opportunity; to dwell in the wild and to be a part of their everyday life. As I look back today, I can only smile and be proud of the decision I took.

My first day at work and my first jungle ride - nothing could be a more thrilling combination. It was the 26th of December in 2000, my first visit to the wild to track tigers. I was aboard Mankalli, a young female elephant, and accompanied the wildlife technician who was all prepared to tag the radio-collared tigers and collect data for analysis. I was like a child, engrossed in his wonderful tales of tracking tigers and hardships of difficult terrains and dense forests. I held the machine and quickly checked if I would be lucky to get hold of a signal. But I knew I would have to be very, very lucky to get one.

As we moved on into the Rapti river, we were greeted by flocks of darters drying their wings on the big rocks in the river and the storks patiently waiting for fish in the river. Finally, there was the jungle. The damp smell of the fresh forest, the melodious cooing of the peacocks and the chirping of birds were all enchanting. As Mankalli moved on sluggishly and small animals scurried out of her way, my heart throbbed. I felt so close to nature. We suddenly sighted two rhinos in a swamp. They twitched their ears as we approached and looked at us indifferently as if to say "we are used to you humans". We were still in search of the tiger. Advancing through the tall elephant grass, the technician quickly rotated the antenna in anticipation of receiving a signal. All of a sudden, the antenna started giving a beep. As the wildlife technician ordered the mahut to maneuver the elephant towards the dense and

tall grasses, the signal got stronger. I was relentlessly trying to spot the stripes, but to no avail. I kept on moving my binoculars and there she was! A beautiful tigress with three cubs. I was startled as she leapt to attack Mankalli, but Mankalli was a confident girl. She did not lurch a bit. The angry tigress was so protective and possessive of her little ones. Maternal instinct, I reminded myself. As lucky as I could have been to witness all this, I felt unlucky. I cursed myself to have forgotten to carry my camera.

As we made a return from the jungle, I felt glory run over my face. This was my first day at work and I was face to face with one of the rarest sights in the world. I anticipated many of those precious moments to come in the days that followed. The tigress has left a lasting imprint in my heart. Her energy, her courage and her love for her young ones is what drives me to conserve nature. Today I am associated with the mountain program at WWF. Although I work for a different terrain and different species, I still feel inspired by the power of tigers. They have been my eternal motivators,

to make me feel responsible to protect this planet's resource, not just for humans, but also for little cubs like I saw that day.

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Hot off the Press

Year of the Tiger Bookmarks, Posters, Flyers

WWF On Your Radio

Kalika FM	Thu	7:25 PM to 7:55 PM
Phoolbari FM	Wed	8:30 PM to 9:00 PM
Shuklaphanta FM	Sun	7:15 PM to 7:45 PM
Bageshwori FM	Thu	6:30 PM to 7:00 PM
Madhyapashchim FM	Fri	7:30 PM to 8:00 PM
Samudayik Radio Solu FM	Fri	6:35 PM to 6:50 PM



Save the Wild Tiger and save so much more!

2010 year of the TIGER



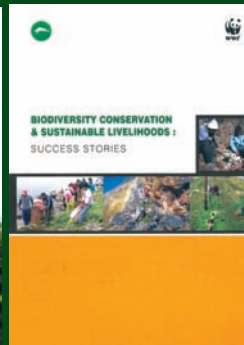
Red Panda Conservation Action Plan for Langtang National Park and Buffer Zone



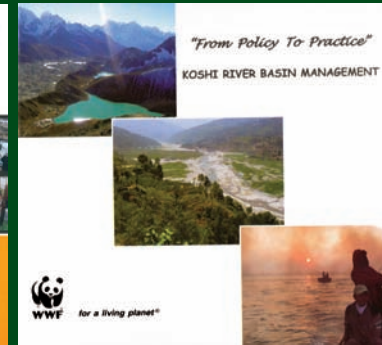
Shifting Cultivation in SHL: A case study in KCA



Forest Carbon Mapping Training Manual



Biodiversity Conservation & Sustainable Livelihoods: Success Stories



From Policy to Practice Koshi River Basin Management

STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

In the past months we welcomed new staff...

- Akash Shrestha**
Communications and Marketing Manager
- Bunu Vaidya**
Programme Officer - TAL
- Deepika Shrestha**
Database and Monitoring Assistant
- Erica Udas Adhikari**
Programme Officer - LHNI
- Madhav Khadka**
Program Officer - Wildlife Trade Monitoring
- Rabi Sharma**
Resource Centre Assistant

- Simrika Sharma Marasini**
Communications Officer

- Yogeshwor Rai**
Dudh Koshi KRBM Field Project Assistant

and we bid farewell to...

- Bhesh Raj Oli**
Programme Officer - TAL
- Kishore Khatri**
F&A Officer - KRBM
- Neera Shrestha Pradhan**
Program Manager-Fresh Water

Inside the Himalayas

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Trishna Thapa

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Eliza Sthapit
Bijan Gurung
Prajana Waiba Pradhan

On the Cover:
Bengal tiger, Panthera tigris tigris, male, Kanha National Park, Madhya Pradesh, India. Satpuda Maikal Landscape



Why we are here

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

For Living Himalayas

WWF's work in Nepal is part of WWF's Living Himalayas Initiative which aims to bring the three governments of Nepal, Bhutan and India together to effectively manage and conserve the Eastern Himalayan region for the sake of their exceptional wildlife, breathtaking environment and unique people.

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