



विश्व वन्यजन्तु कोष
नेपाल कार्यक्रम



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WWF Nepal Program Newsletter

Felicitations to WWF Nepal Program

WWF Nepal Program has been felicitated for its support to conserve natural and cultural wealth of Karnali zone. WWF Nepal Program is implementing Northern Mountain Conservation Project in Dolpa, which is one of the districts in Karnali zone. The Certificate of Appreciation was presented at the Royal Nepal Academy Hall, amidst the inauguration of the Karnali Festival-2060 by His Royal Highness Crown Prince, Paras Bir Bikram Shah Dev. On behalf of WWF Nepal Program, Program Officer Rudriksha Rai Parajuli received the Certificate of Appreciation.

Sagarmatha National Park Buffer Zone Management Plan

Sagarmatha National Park (SNP) Buffer Zone Management Plan and Initial Environment Examination (IEE) report have been approved by the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (MFSC). With the operation of the Plan, 30 to 50 percent of revenue generated by SNP will be allocated for the implementation of the Buffer Zone Program. The plan has proposed a total of 140 million rupees for Buffer Zone Program. This cost will be recovered by mobilizing national park revenue and partner organizations' financial resources.

The Buffer Zone Management Plan has been handed over to the Buffer Zone Management Committee (BZMC) amidst a function organized on 29 March at the SNP headquarter where more than 65 people participated.

Sagarmatha Community Agro-Forestry Project's role in the declaration of the Buffer Zone, institution building and management plan preparation was highlighted during the program. At the same time, the BZMC Chairperson inaugurated the joint SCAFP and BZMC office at SNP Headquarter at Namche.



news briefs



FOREST AND SPECIES

GEF approved WTLCP

Western Terai Landscape Complex Project (WTLCP) has been approved by Global Environmental Facility (GEF). It is now in the process of being approved by the Ministry of Finance (MoF) to initiate conservation activities in the western part of Nepal's Terai Arc Landscape under the leadership of HMG of Nepal/ Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (MFSC). WTLCP is a joint initiative of His Majesty's Government of Nepal (HMG/N), Global Environment Facility (GEF), UNDP, SNV, WWF Nepal Program, Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC), Local Initiatives for Biodiversity Research and Development (LI-BIRD) and International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI). These agencies are co-funding this project over 8 years with an amount of USD 12.8 millions. This partnership will bring synergy in landscape level biodiversity conservation in Nepal.

The formalization of the agreement among all partners will take sometime even after approval from GEF and MoF. In order to avoid further delay in field implementation, MFSC, SNV, UNDP and WWF took an initiative for the implementation of some of the activities of the project from 1 May 2004. This support will be the part of Dutch government's contribution

for WTLCP through existing Biodiversity Sector Support Programme (BSSP) agreement. The initial phase of the project is named as Western Terai Landscape Building (WTLB). A proposal, logframe and budget for WTLB was jointly prepared by MFSC, SNV, UNDP and WWF Nepal Program through several working sessions without losing focus on broader WTLCP proposal. This initial phase will be implemented under the existing implementation framework of Terai Arc Landscape (TAL) Program in the western part of Nepal's Terai Arc Landscape - namely Kanchanpur, Kailali and Bardia districts.

TAL Strategic Plan Core Team Meeting

The TAL Strategic Plan Core Team meeting was held on 11 March 2004 as the follow up meeting held on 1 March 2004 where the team members decided to reformulate the composition of the core team for the preparation of the TAL Implementation/Partnership plan. HMG/ MFSC decided to include three new members - Harihar Sigdel of BISEP – ST, Gopal Upadhayay of DNPWC and Anuj Sharma of DOF. The meeting discussed on the draft Implementation/Partnership Development process and its action plan. The meeting then approved the both draft with minor amendment. The meeting was attended by Dr. Mohan Prasad Wagley (MFSC), Huub Peters (SNV), Ms Subarna Rai (SNV), Mr Netra Sharma (USAID), Vijay Singh (UNDP), Harihar Sigdel (BISEP – ST), Anuj Sharma (DOF), Gopal Upadhayay (DNPWC) and Santosh Nepal (WWF NP). Mr Mingma Norbu Sherpa, WWF US, Dr Chandra Gurung, Mr Anil Manandhar and Mr Bharat Pokharel from WWF Nepal Program participated in the meeting as observers.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Workshop on MAPs/NTFPs in Nepal

On 27 and 28 Feb, Program Officer Rudriksha Parajuli participated in a two-day national workshop on "Local experience-based national strategy for sustainable production and management of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs) Non Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) in Nepal" organized jointly by Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, IDRC, Canada's MAPPA program and Canadian Cooperation Office (CCO). The workshop aimed at sharing NTFP related experience of various national and regional agencies and organizations regarding conservation, management and development of MAPs/NTFPs sub-sectors. A framework of a national strategy and an action-plan was developed for the management of MAPs/NTFPs.

Construction and Renovation of Anti Poaching Posts and Waterhole

The Royal Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve has recently completed the construction of one anti-poaching post at Arjuni and renovation of existing anti-poaching posts at Malumaila and Arjuni. Likewise, the reserve renovated a waterhole and carried out grassland management of 100 ha of grassland at Shuklaphanta, Baghmaraphanta and Haraiyaphanta. Phanta in local language means open grassland. In addition, the reserve completed the maintenance work of 10 km reserve boundary. These activities were carried out with support from TAL Program.

RAPPAM workshop

Program Officer DRM unit, Ms. Sushila Nepali visited Koshi Tappu from 7–10 March 2004 to conduct Rapid Assessment and Prioritisation of Protected Area Management Methodology (RAPPAM) workshop. The workshop was organised jointly by DNPWC and WWF Nepal Program. The objective of this workshop was to conduct RAPPAM and support its implementation in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve in Nepal. Warden, Rangers and other stakeholders attended the workshop

Project Management Committee Meeting of BDS - MAPs

Project Management Committee meeting of Business Development Service – Marketing, Production and Service (BDS - MAPs) project was held on March 15, 2004, at the BDS - MAPs Office. Mr Rajiv Pradhan, Deputy Team Leader of BDS-MAPs Project made a presentation on the project progress. During the meeting, Norms, Micro-budgeting, Operational Guideline and Reporting System were discussed. The meeting was attended by the representative of partner organizations i.e. IDE, Winrock, ANSAB, Lotus Opportunities and WWF Nepal Program.

The BDS – MAPs project focuses on facilitation of activities that will strengthen the supply of services and also create a demand for the services so that small farmer groups and enterprises (of NTFP and High Value Crop) can access those services and improve sales of their enterprises. Through fostering market linkages up and down the value chain, the project will assure that production and markets are well linked in terms of commodity selection and quality standards. The project has six field districts (Banke, Bardiya, Kailali, Surkhet, Dolpa, and Syangja), among which three are in Terai Arc Landscape. The project is being implemented in partnership with NGOs and private sectors which consists of IDE, Winrock International, ANSAB, Lotus Opportunities and WWF Nepal Program.

Concept Development of PAMEB

Program Officer DRM unit, Ms Sushila Nepali attended half-day concept development meeting of Participatory Assessment through Monitoring and Evaluation of Biodiversity (PAMEB) for biodiversity conservation linking livelihood for poverty reduction on 24 March 2004. This is a tool where local communities will be involved in conducting monitoring and evaluation of biodiversity. The aim of this meeting was to discuss the outline concept note and also to discuss potential project sites, project management/implementation arrangements and the project budget. The meeting was organized by BCN in close coordination with DFID's Civil Society

Challenge Fund who wants to continue PAMEB. The meeting was participated by the representatives from MFSC, DNPWC, DOE, LFP, IUCN, FECOFUN, DPR, BCN and RSPB.



CAPACITY BUILDING

Training on planning, monitoring and evaluation

Program Officer Sushila Nepali facilitated the training for grassroots level planning, monitoring and evaluation, which was organized for the buffer zone community members, local NGOs and partner organizations during her recent field visit to Dolpa. She oriented the participants about the necessity of organizational learning, root causes analysis and its importance in planning. She also underlined the importance of monitoring and evaluation. The participants were also trained on the method of information collection and putting it into planning.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Discussion on Climate Change Program

Climate Change Officer Sandeep Rai has developed draft targets and milestones for the Climate Change Program of WWF Nepal Program for the period of 2005-2009. These targets and milestones will be used in fulfilling the global climate change targets and milestones of WWF.

Regional Workshop on Climate Change

A Regional Workshop on "Climate Change Impact on Glaciers and Change in Freshwater Regime" was held from 10-12 March 2004 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The workshop concluded that climate change program of WWF India, WWF China and WWF Nepal will work jointly on Glacier issues at the regional scale. WWF Nepal Program will coordinate this project. There were 27 participants in the workshop, among which 13 International participants were from WWF Network from China, India, Philippines, The Netherlands, Pakistan and WWF International.





Tiger birth in captivity creates excitement in Kathmandu Zoo

The birth of four tiger cubs in the Central Zoo of Kathmandu came as a great excitement and joy for the zookeepers. It was a great day for the Zoo family when the tigress appeared outside her den with the newborn cubs. The keepers are maintaining a close watch on the mother and her babies. Her attendants have even raised the quota of meat for the lactating mother. After the birth of stillborn cub by an old tigress of the zoo three years ago, the zookeepers had lost their hope of tiger births in captivity. This is the first time that the 9-year old tigress has given birth to cubs though tigers in the wild are said to attain sexual maturity at about four years of age.

"The cubs appear healthy and we are hopeful about the survival of the cubs," says Mr. R.K. Shrestha, Director of the Zoo. He feels this as a good opportunity for *ex situ* conservation of the endangered big cat. "The birth in captivity indicates a positive trend. It also shows effective management," says Mr. Shyam Bajimaya, Ecologist, Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC). The zoo is presently under the management of the King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation.

The Central Zoo, the only zoo in Nepal, had actually begun as a private collection of few wild animals by the then Rana Prime Minister Juddha Shumsher Jung Bahadur Rana. Some of the powerful Ranas were great lovers of nature and wildlife and also indulged in sports hunting of big games. Following the collapse of the Rana regime in 1950, the management of the animals was taken over by the ensuing government and later developed into a zoo with a modest collection of wild animals.

"The tigress was captured and brought to the zoo five years ago after it became a trouble animal in Royal

Chitwan National Park," says Mr. Laxmi P Manandhar, who worked as the chief warden of the national park at that time. Mr. Manandhar, who presently works as the conservation education officer of DNPWC, had supervised the capture of the tigress. The 14-year old male tiger of the zoo that sired the cubs also does not have a very good reputation. It was also a problem animal before its capture ten years ago from the same national park. His keepers call him *Jangey* – the ferocious.

Royal Bengal tiger (*Panthera tigris tigris*) was once distributed widely throughout its range – Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar and Nepal. Fragmentation and loss of its natural habitat has made the big cat critically endangered. The rise in the price of tiger products also gave rise to tiger poaching. Today, these endangered cats are virtually restricted to protected areas and the adjoining forests. The total population of Bengal tigers throughout its range has been estimated to be around 3,176 – 4,556 individuals. The lowland protected areas of Nepal and the surrounding jungle are home to over 123 breeding tigers. This estimation is based on the camera-trapped tigers of the country's Royal Chitwan National Park, Royal Bardia National Park, Royal Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve, Parsa Wildlife Reserve and the surrounding forested areas.

His Majesty's Government of Nepal has prepared an action plan to preserve, recognize, restore, and increase the effective land base that supports tigers in Nepal, in order to maintain a viable tiger population. The action plan aims at identifying areas that are most important for maintaining the largest, least fragmented land base for tigers; and developing conservation strategies that include and benefit local communities.

As a flagship species, the conservation of tiger has always been a top priority for WWF ever since its involvement in Nepal's conservation endeavour in the late 1960s. And, the conservation of tiger includes the preservation of the whole array of species sharing the same habitat. Over the years, WWF's support for tiger conservation has included anti-poaching campaign and monitoring of individual tigers by camera-trapping them. The Terai Arc Landscape Area in Nepal encompasses Nepal's two national parks, two wildlife reserves and the surrounding forests that serve as the last refuge for the country's tiger populations.

- Basant Subba

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