



विश्व वन्यजन्तु कोष
नेपाल कार्यक्रम



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EcoCircular

Vol 23 No. 5 May 2004

WWF Nepal Program Newsletter

CR of WWF NP

Awarded "Knight, First Class, the Order of the Lion of Finland"

Dr. Chandra P. Gurung, CR WWF NP has been decorated with "Knight, First Class, the Order of the Lion of Finland" by the President of the Republic of Finland, Ms Tarja Halonen, who is the Grand Master of the Order of the Lion of Finland. The decoration was handed over to him on 17 May 2004 by HE Mr. Glen Lind Holm, Ambassador of Finland to Nepal at the Finnish Charge' d' Affaires a.i. Mr Pauli Mustonen's residence.

The other recipient of the Award is Dr. Mohan Man Sainju, Vice-chairperson of Poverty Alleviation Fund who is also an Advisor of WWF NP.

The decorations are in appreciation of their outstanding contribution to Biodiversity Conservation in Nepal and successfully facilitating the outcome of the Environmental Support Fund (ESF) project in the development cooperation between His Majesty's Government of Nepal and the Republic of Finland



news briefs



EDUCATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING

International Biodiversity Day Celebration

On the occasion of International Biodiversity Day-2004, WWF NP participated in the exhibition held at Birendra International Convention Centre from 22-24 May 2004. The theme of the biodiversity day was "Biodiversity : Food, Water and Health for all". Inaugurating the fair Mr Chandi P Shrestha, Secretary, MFSC highlighted the importance of natural resource since it contributes towards the maintenance of biological diversity.

Several national and international organizations displayed their conservation activities. Apart from displaying the exhibits WWF NP also set up some game stalls. These game stalls were very popular among the students and many students won prizes.



Mr. Chandi P. Shrestha (center), Secretary MFSC observing WWF NP stall.



Participants of Biodiversity Conservation Education Workshop

Biodiversity Conservation Education Workshop

WWF NP and DNPWC jointly organized Biodiversity Conservation Education Workshop for Eco Club Teachers on 22 May 2004. 30 Eco Club teachers from 22 schools attended the workshop. Dr. T B Shrestha briefed the participants about Nepal's Biological Diversity and its significance while Dr. Sarala Khaling-Coordinator DRM, WWF Nepal Program and Mr. Jhamak Karki from DNPWC briefed about WWF NP's and DNPWC's conservation endeavors respectively. The workshop was facilitated by Neelima Shrestha, Assistant Officer - Education, WWF Nepal Program.

Regional Technical Experts Consultative Workshop

A Regional Technical Experts Consultative Workshop on "Developing a Transboundary Conservation Landscape in the Kangchenjunga Complex" organized by ICIMOD was held in Kathmandu from 25-27 May 2004. Representative from Nepal, India and Bhutan made presentations on the Outcome of National Consultation of their respective countries and the outcomes were further discussed among the participants.



FORESTS AND SPECIES

Working Arrangement Signed

A working arrangement was signed between Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation / His Majesty's Government of Nepal, The Netherlands Development Organization (SNV/Nepal) and World Wildlife Fund Nepal Program for the implementation of Western Terai Landscape Building Program on 27 May 2004. The arrangement was signed by Dr. Mohan Prasad Wagley for MFSC, Mr. Anil Manandhar for WWF Nepal Program and Mr. Jan de Witte for SNV/ Nepal. The working arrangement was signed to undertake some of the activities of Western Terai Landscape Complex Project (WTLCP) approved by the GEF.

In order to avoid further delay in field implementation of activities under WTLCP, MFSC, SNV, UNDP and WWF took an initiative for the implementation of some of the activities of the project from 1 May 2004 as Dutch government frontloading of the WTLCP through existing Biodiversity Sector Support Program (BSSP) agreement. The frontloading of the project is named as Western Terai Landscape Building (WTLB). This frontloading 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.

Likewise, discussions on various topics like, Challenges and Opportunities for Transboundary Biodiversity Management, Corridor Planning for Promotion of Biodiversity Conservation and Livelihood Enhancement and Common Strategies on Development of Biological Corridors were also held out among the participants.

Representatives from various government and non-government organizations participated in the workshop. Dr Sarala Khaling-DRM coordinator and Program officers-Mountain, Yeshe Lama and Neera Pradhan from WWF NP participated in the workshop

Consultative Workshop for Conservation Education Strategy Development

A Consultative Workshop was organized on 20 May 2004 at WWF Nepal Program Office to analyze the vision of WWF Nepal Program in Conservation Education. The senior staff and program staff of WWF Nepal Program actively participated in the workshop to assess the past and on-going conservation education activities and to identify strategic direction for Conservation Education in WWF Nepal Program. The workshop is part of Environment/Conservation Education Strategy Development process for WWF Nepal Program.

During the workshop Dr. Chandra Gurung, Country Representative shared his experience on conservation education in ACAP and also shared his vision of conservation education for WWF Nepal Program. Neelima Shrestha, Assistant Officer - Education gave a presentation on the on-going programs of WWF NP and the workshop concluded with remarks from Anil Manandhar, Conservation Program Director saying that we need to be ambitious and at the same time practical while developing the strategy. The consultant, Hum Gurung, facilitated the workshop.

Observation Tour

Observation tour was organized for the 16 members of Buffer Zone User Committee member of Royal Shukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve Buffer Zone (RSWR BZ) from 3-5 May 2004. Members from Sundevi User Committee, Jhalari (11) and Betkot User Committee, Daijee (5) participated in the tour.

The main objective of the program was to expose, share and learn about Buffer Zone User Committee (BZUC) and User Group (UG), management of Buffer Zone Community Forests (BZCF), share experiences on income generation activities, management of private and Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) nurseries, BZ User group interaction and experiences sharing on alternative crop cultivation, Mentha Concept, objectives, organizational structure,

working modality, working area, activities, role of BZUC and UGs were highlighted at the time of TAL Office visit at Thakurdwara, Bardia.

The team also visited crocodile farm and visitor center of RBNP. Private nursery of Guleria, Bardia and NTFP Nursery of Mahadevpuri, Banke was also visited where Community Ranger of TAL was fully involved to conduct the program.

Conservation Leadership Follow up Workshop

Bharat Pokharel, Program Officer - TAL attended a follow-up workshop on 'Conservation Leadership' held in Bangkok from 23 - 30 May 2004. He participated in the eighteen-month long conservation leadership program of WWF which aims to improve WWF's impact on nature conservation around the world by recognizing, training and coaching leadership talents within the organization. The conservation leadership program is designed and developed to integrate the knowledge and skills into our daily conservation action in the field through sharing experiences and developing competencies that help to achieve our common goal of conservation and sustainable livelihoods development.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Witness Proposal Approved

The climate witness proposal entitled "Assessment of perception of local community towards adverse impact of climate change in Eastern Himalayan Region" submitted by Climate Change Program to Climate Witness Program of WWF International had been approved and it will start from July 2004. This project will help to bring the reality of climate change closer to people to the supporters and the decision makers. Through this project, WWF will work with local communities to collect and to document stories of how climate change is affecting the lives of Nepalese people. The project aims to demonstrate how climate change is a matter of concern for everyone, regardless of where in the world they live. The focus areas of this project are Sagarmatha National Park (SNP) and Kangchenjunga Conservation Area (KCA).

WWF NP NEWS

New Staff

Mr. Tara P. Gnyawali has been appointed as Livelihood Specialist for WWF NP.

"TAL" Program on Air

Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists (NEFEJ) prepared a video report on TAL, which was telecast by Nepal Television on 18 May 2004 through "Aankhijhyal" Program.

Kangchenjunga Conservation Area:

A Repository of Flora and Fauna

Not long after the sighting five snow leopards at Langyok Hok Kharka in Nepal's Kangchenjunga Conservation area, another wildlife monitoring team recently recorded large herds of Blue sheep, locally known as *Naur*. The monitoring teams have recorded altogether 1,745 blue sheep in the region. As snow leopards prey on *Naur*s, blue sheep means the presence of snow leopard. This is good news for conservationists. Nepal is believed to have 300-500 snow leopards with the largest populations concentrated in Dolpo, Humla, Mugu, Manag, Mustang and Myagdi Districts.



The snow leopard is a charismatic species, promoting mountain biodiversity conservation. This endangered wildlife is also called an environmental ambassador and serves as an indicator of a healthy mountain ecosystem.

The Kangchenjunga massif straddles the Tibet Autonomous Region of China to the north, India to the east, and Nepal to the south and west. Established in July 1997 and situated in northeast Nepal, the Kangchenjunga Conservation Area is spread over 2035 sq.km. of Taplejung District and is a repository of plants and wild animals. In addition to sheltering the red panda, musk deer, and Himalayan black bear, the region harbors 10 out of Nepal's indigenous 20 gymnosperms, 15 out of 28 endemic flowering plants, 24 out of 30 rhododendron species, and 69 of the 250 species of orchids found in the country. The region also boasts of a wealth of ethnic diversity and their rich cultural heritage. Because of its rich natural characteristics, His Majesty's Government of Nepal declared the conservation area *A Gift to the Earth* on April 29, 1997 in support of WWF initiated Living Planet Campaign. The Campaign is an appeal to governments and people everywhere to take positive action to help the natural world and build a world in which humans live in harmony with nature.



The Kangchenjunga Conservation Area falls in the Eastern Himalayan Ecoregion. As biodiversity knows no political boundary, the ecoregion-based conservation entails a shift from dealing with problems and issues on a country by country basis, to broader approach that considers spatial patterns of biodiversity characteristics and threats in the ecoregion. Since that the conservation area lies adjacent to Tibet's Qomololangma Nature Preserve and Sikkim's Khangchendzonga National Park, the Kangchenjunga complex has great potential to promote biodiversity conservation at the ecoregion level.

With the objective of conserving the natural resources of the Kangchenjunga region and promote sustainable development, the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation and WWF Nepal Program initiated the Kangchenjunga Conservation Area Project (KCAP) in March 1998. The highly motivated local leaders and user groups of the conservation area are playing a dynamic role for nature conservation and community development. The community groups of the conservation area have not only initiated periodic monitoring of snow leopard but have

also done exemplary works by reforming wildlife poachers. For the local community's commitment and dedication, His Majesty's Government of Nepal has made a decision to hand over the management responsibilities of the conservation area to the Kangchenjunga Conservation Area Council. This measure is in conformity with the provision in the government's new policy of handing over the management responsibility to local communities, concerned INGOs and NGOs.

For the biological richness and its potentiality for ecoregion-based conservation, the conservationist of Nepal, India and China have envisioned the Kangchenjunga Complex as a Tri-national Peace Park. In October 1997, ICIMOD and WWF Nepal Program organized a regional consultation in Kathmandu on conservation of the Kangchenjunga Mountain Ecosystem. The participating representatives of official agencies and conservationists of Nepal, TAR-China and India recommended the respective governments for policy, institutional, and management framework for their respective areas to make the Kangchenjunga Mountain Ecosystem a functional Protected Area.

As a follow-up to the meeting, UNDP joined hands with WWF and ICIMOD and organized an international meeting in February 1998 in Kathmandu to promote cooperation and address common concerns regarding biodiversity conservation in the Himalayan ecoregion. Experts say the region faces serious conservation problems stemming from poverty, rapidly growing population and the consequence of rapid development.

The "Regional Technical Experts Consultative Workshop on Developing a Trans-boundary Conservation in the Kangchenjunga Complex" organized by ICIMOD in Kathmandu from 25-27 May 2004 centered its discussion on the issues, challenges and the opportunities of Trans-boundary conservation in the Complex. The participants from Bhutan, India and Nepal as well as the representatives of TMI, IUCN, WWF Nepal Program and local NGOs stressed on the need for review of government policies on biodiversity conservation, coordination for information sharing, addressing the issues of local livelihoods, and joint patrolling to deter wildlife crimes. They also underlined the need for access to information, benefit sharing by local communities and development of forums at the local and central level for regular meeting between the stakeholders.

Since the countries of the region currently have varied degrees of protection and legal categories of land-use systems, the strengths and weaknesses on each side calls for an concerted effort to fill in the prevalent gaps for the long-term conservation of the fragile mountain ecosystem of the region.

Basant Subba

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