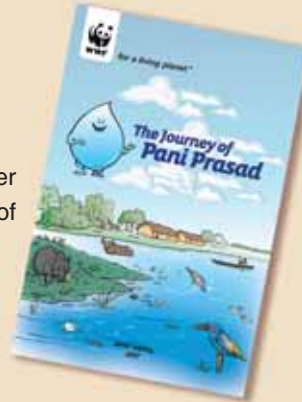


HOT OFF THE PRESS

The Journey of Pani Prasad

2007, pp 44

In the book, Pani Prasad, a fictitious character takes the students on a journey to the world of water. The book gives a vivid knowledge of water cycle and importance of water to the readers in a simple and interesting manner.



Gift Of The Himalayas

2007, pp 44

The resource booklet contains brief information on NTFPs found in the SHL, Nepal.



Hiu Chituwa

2007, pp 30

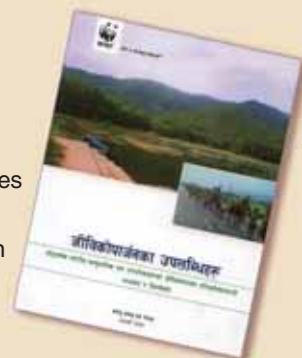
An anthology of poems on snow leopard written by Achamma Singh Rai.



Jeevikoparjanka Upalabdhihar

2007, pp 30

The study details the different aspects of community forestry users' livelihoods changes especially in their assets, capacity, governance practices, resources allocation and investments, institutional process, livelihoods issues, livelihoods strategy, policy implications.



WWF Staff Donate for Flood Victims



WWF Nepal staff donated a sum of NRs. 100,775 (around US\$ 1500) to assist the flood victims. Anil Manandhar, Country Representative of WWF Nepal handed over the cheque on behalf of WWF staff to Ganesh Agrawal, Managing Director of Kantipur Television on 6 September 2007. The amount was deposited in the Kantipur flood victim relief fund.

The floods in Terai districts in the month of August have left many people displaced and distressed. ■



TURN YOUR RADIO ON!

We are the World: Hamro Sansaar Hamrai Haathma

Thursday, 5-6PM on Hits FM 91.2

Bhuparidhi in the Terai on Kalika FM

Bharatpur (Saturday 7:15PM), Bageshwar FM (Sunday 7:45AM), Tinau FM (Sunday 8PM), and Radio Nepal RBS (Sunday 8:30PM)

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Vol 43 NO. 7 April-September- 2007

Newsletter

Message from the Country Representative

In their memory

23 September 2006 took away from us some of the finest names in conservation. The void created by the mishap is immeasurable but the immense courage and commitment shown by everyone at WWF has proved that the work left by them will be well taken care of.

Coming together of all conservation organizations to celebrate the life and achievements of the Conservation Heroes clearly denotes the commitment of the conservation community towards fulfilling the vision of the late leaders. Together we will follow the path paved by them and work towards conserving nature collectively.

We are confident that the scholarships and awards conferred in their honour will not only recognize the individuals and organizations dedicated towards conservation but will also prepare a young generation of future conservationists who will take up the challenges to ensure Nepal's rich biodiversity.

With heartfelt gratitude we would like to thank the family members, senior government officials, partner organizations and international delegates for being with us to celebrate the life and achievements of the Conservation Heroes.

Anil Manandhar
Country Representative

Remembering, Honouring and Celebrating the Life and Achievements of Conservation Heroes

WWF Nepal, The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, IUCN - The World Conservation Union, National Trust for Nature Conservation, Wildlife Conservation Nepal, The Mountain Institute and Wildlife Watch Group jointly celebrated Conservation Day in memory of the Conservation Heroes who lost their lives in the tragic helicopter accident on 23 September 2006 at Ghunsa, Kangchenjunga.

The celebrations brought back the vivid memories of the Conservation Heroes who had dedicated their lives to conservation. The programme started with lighting of lamps by the family members and ended with a strong commitment for conservation by eco club students.

On the occasion Abraham Conservation Awards, Matthew Preece and Yeshi Choden Lama Young Conservation Leader Awards and WWF Media in Conservation Awards were awarded to individuals and organizations that played key roles in conservation.

Nepal Conservation Memorial Scholarships, Mingma Sherpa Memorial Scholarships, Jillian Bowling Schlaepfer and Jennifer Headley Memorial Scholarships were awarded to four meritorious students on the occasion.

Honouring the importance of the day, Ramsar Convention Secretariat declared four high altitude wetlands in Nepal as Ramsar Sites.

Kangchenjunga Conservation Area Management Council (KCAMC) declared the crash site and surrounding area as Sacred Natural Site. Chairperson of KCAMC, Tseten Dandu Sherpa announced the declaration at the ceremony.

Tirtha Raj Sharma, Secretary at the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, Carter Roberts, the President and CEO of WWF-US, James Leape, the Director General of WWF International, and family members addressed the gathering, remembering and honouring the life and achievements of the Conservation Heroes. ■

Conservation Awards 2007 2



WWF-US President in Chitwan 3



Workshop on 'Tuberculosis in Elephants - Diagnosis and Treatment' 4



Conservation Awards 2007

WWF Nepal honoured nine individuals and organizations dedicated to conservation with Abraham Conservation Award, Matthew Preece and Yeshi Choden Lama Young Conservation Leaders Award and WWF Conservation in Media Award, in a ceremony to celebrate the life and achievements of the Conservation Heroes.

Tseten Dandu Sherpa - Chairperson of Kangchenjunga Conservation Area Management Council, Bijay Raj Shrestha from Kailali, Akhanda Upadhyay from Dolpa, Devendra Subedi - Superintendent of Police, Kathmandu Metropolitan Police Crime Division of Nepal Police, Samaj Kalyan User Group from Neulapur, and ECO-Nepal from Naxal received the Abraham Conservation Awards.

Abraham Conservation Award was established in 1995 through the generosity of Ms Nancy Abraham, a WWF US Board member, who was struck by the



dedication and passion for conservation displayed by a national park staff.

Matthew Preece and Yeshi Choden Lama Young Conservation Leader Awards were awarded to Karma Bhutia, Non-Timber Forest Products Officer from The Mountain Institute and Sadhana Thapa a student from Kaushaltar. Starting this year the award will recognize young individuals for their dedicated and outstanding contribution to conservation.

Similarly, Subodh Gautam, a senior reporter with national daily Kantipur received the WWF Media in Conservation Award. From this year onwards WWF will annually recognize the transformational role of media persons or organization in highlighting conservation issues in Nepal, through this award.

"Issues related to conservation transcend all boundaries and permeate all social sectors and thus the responsibility of safeguarding biodiversity extends to all members of society," said Anil Manandhar, Country Representative of WWF Nepal. "This includes local communities, NGOs, the private sector, and the international conservation organizations of which WWF is an integral part. It is our job to work together to conserve the rich biodiversity of Nepal."


The awardees are nominated by individuals and organizations and the final recipients are selected by an impartial, independent selection committee. The committee had renowned names representing different sectors of the society. ■


Recipient Profile

 **Tseten Dandu Sherpa** successfully led the Kangchenjunga Conservation Area Management Council and effectively implemented integrated biodiversity conservation and development projects in Kangchenjunga Conservation Area after the handover of KCA management to the local community. He also played a vital role in successfully implementing the Livestock Insurance Scheme, a novel way of conserving snow leopards in the Himalayas.


 **Bijay Raj Shrestha** is a conservationist from his heart and has played pivotal role in nature conservation in and around Thapapur Village Development Committee. He owns the "Shrestha Private Forest" that houses several birds and animals along with a "Dolphin Conservation Centre".

 **Akhanda Upadhyay**, president of the Eco Club at his school in Dunai, is a passionate young conservationist. Together with his friends, Akhanda has rescued several wildlife species. Despite lack of resources and hard physical terrain, Akhanda motivates the Eco Club to participate in many important activities that has succeeded in winning the participation of local communities.


 **Devendra Subedi** sped up actions against illegal traders of wildlife parts and formed a small team to look into the wildlife crimes in Kathmandu. Within a short span of time he has achieved good results of seizing tiger and leopard skins, shahtoosh shawls and musk pods and arrested eight persons involved in such illegal activities.

 **Samaj Kalyan Women User Group** is the most active user group among the 227 buffer zone user groups functioning in Bardia National Park and its buffer zone areas. The group members patrol on regular basis in the border of the national park. They played a vital role in controlling the illegal activities in and around BNP during the insurgency.

 **ECO-Nepal** primarily deals with the issues of environment protection, natural resources conservation, and spreading awareness on environment, sustainable development and disaster resilience. Through its monthly publication Paryawaran and Chetana - a radio programme, it raises awareness about these issues.

 **Karma Bhutia** has pioneered medicinal and aromatic plants (MAPs) cultivation in eastern

Nepal. By developing improved techniques he has motivated 2,500 farmers and herders to grow MAPs in private land that has reduced pressure on wild non timber forest products, reduced herd sizes reducing pressure on grazing areas and provided a sustainable income source to the farmers.

 **Sadhana Thapa** is a young leader dedicated to the conservation of Kenaf (locally called sunpat or patuwa in Terai). She has established Green Kenaf Clubs in several schools where students not only plant Kenaf but also learn the value of green environment and about the plants on the verge of vanishing. She has been organizing a series of community projects including health awareness campaigns, educational projects and plantation programmes through Rotaract Club of Kathmandu Mid-Town.

 **Subodh Gautam**, senior reporter with Kantipur daily has been reporting on the issues of environment and conservation for the past ten years. His reporting has been instrumental in raising awareness among the local people, user groups, and political parties. He is one of the key persons covering the issues on rhino poaching, early release of rhino poachers from jail, transborder wildlife trade, smuggling sandalwood among others extensively and continuously. ■

Conservation Scholarships 2007
Nepal Conservation Memorial Scholarships

To honour the 24 individuals lost in the tragic helicopter incident of 23 September 2006 and their commitment to preserving Nepal's rich natural heritage, WWF has established a memorial scholarship fund that will assist students who wish to pursue careers in conservation. Recognizing the tremendous loss of leadership in conservation, through this fund WWF will help build a new generation of conservation leaders to ensure the future of nature in Nepal.

To encourage bright and promising students from to pursue careers in nature conservation, each year WWF will award

a Nepal Conservation Memorial Scholarship to a student who would like to pursue a Technical Certificate Level (TCL) in Forestry at the Institute of Forestry (IOF), Hetauda Campus.

Chandra Shekhar Badu is the recipient of the Nepal Conservation Memorial Scholarship-2007. Chandra Shekhar passed his SLC exams from Shree Mahakali Secondary School in Shreepur, Belouri in the Kanchanpur district with first division marks. Chandra Shekhar will pursue his Certificate Levels Studies at the Institute of Forestry at the Hetauda Campus. ■

Jillian Bowling Schlaepfer and Jennifer Headley Memorial Scholarships

In honour of Jillian Bowling Schlaepfer and Jennifer Headley and their life-long commitment to conservation, WWF has established a memorial scholarship fund that will provide financial assistance to students from Nepal who are currently employed in or intend to pursue careers in nature conservation.

Each year WWF will award two scholarships, one each in the name of Jillian Bowling Schlaepfer and Jennifer Headley, to top students would like to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Forestry Program at the Institute of Forestry (IOF).

Maryada Shrestha is the recipient of the Jennifer Headley Memorial Scholarship-2007. She

has demonstrated excellent academic accomplishments by being the female topper at the Certificate Level studies at the Institute of Forestry in Pokhara. Maryada will pursue a four years Bachelors of Forestry studies at the Institute of Forestry in Pokhara.

Sher Bahadur Pariyar is the recipient of the Jillian Bowling Schlaepfer Memorial Scholarship-2007. Sher Bahadur has passed the Certificate Level studies from the Institute of Forestry in Pokhara with excellent scores. He belongs to the ethnic minority group of Nepal. Sher Bahadur will pursue a four years Bachelors of Forestry studies at the Institute of Forestry in Pokhara. ■

Mingma Sherpa Memorial Scholarships

To honour late Mingma Sherpa's life-long commitment to help Nepal's rural poor to improve their livelihoods while living in harmony with nature, WWF has established a memorial scholarship fund that will provide financial assistance to students from remote regions of Nepal who intend to pursue careers in nature conservation.

To encourage bright and promising students from Nepal's rural mountain areas to pursue careers in nature conservation, each year WWF will award a Mingma Sherpa Memorial Scholarship to a student to pursue TCL and Bachelors level study at the Institute of Forestry.

Bimala Lama is the recipient of the Mingma Sherpa Memorial Scholarship-2007. Bimala has passed the Certificate Level studies from the Institute of Forestry, Hetauda Campus with high scores. She hails from an ethnic indigenous group. She will pursue a four years Bachelors in Forestry at the Institute of Forestry, Hetauda Campus. ■





Four High Altitude Wetlands Declared Ramsar Sites

Four high altitude wetlands in Nepal - Gokyo and associated lakes, Gosaikunda and associated lakes, Phoksundo Lake and Rara Lake have been designated new wetlands of international importance by the Switzerland based Ramsar Bureau. The certificates of the four sites were handed over to the Director General, a.i. of Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Mr. Shyam Bajimaya by Assistant Advisor for Asia-Pacific, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in a ceremony to celebrate the life and

achievements of the Conservation Heroes who lost their lives in the tragic helicopter crash in Ghunsha, Kangchenjunga a year ago. "We would like to dedicate these high altitude Ramsar sites to our Conservation Heroes, which will always remind us of their dedication and selfless contribution to conserve biodiversity and natural resources for a living planet," said Mr. Anil Manandhar, Country Representative of WWF Nepal. "With this outstanding achievement, we expect conservation as well as sustainable development to move

forward in these areas." WWF had supported the Government of Nepal for the inventory preparation and Ramsar assessment of the high altitude wetlands in Nepal. "We had been working hard for this recognition and with the declaration, we have already initiated our work in Gokyo to address the climate change impacts," said Ms. Neera Shrestha Pradhan, Program Manager for WWF Nepal's Freshwater Program. With the declaration of four high altitude Ramsar sites, Nepal will have eight Ramsar sites, out of which four lie in the Terai (plain) region. ■

Website: <http://wetlandinventory.org.np>

Global Climate Change and Energy Strategy Meeting

Sandeep Chamling Rai, Program Manager - Climate Change and Energy Program, attended the Global Climate Change and Energy Strategy meeting that took place in Brussels from 6 to 8 August 2007. The meeting identified and discussed different areas/topics to be included in the Global New Deal NI and overall global climate change and energy strategy. In Global New

Deal NI, the role of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Development State (SIDS) were reflected through this meeting. The meeting also decided to develop separate Energy NI and put forward to the conservation committee. There was common understanding that the adaptation should be reflected in all the NI that network will endorse. ■

Workshop on 'Tuberculosis in Elephants - Diagnosis and Treatment'

CHITWAN, Nepal - A workshop on "Disease Diagnosis and Treatment of Elephants" was jointly organized by Tribhuvan University - Institute of Agriculture and Animal Sciences (IAAS), Department of National Park and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), WWF -Asian Rhino and Elephant Action Strategy (AREAS), National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC), Elephant Care International and Tufts University at the Biodiversity Conservation Centre, Chitwan on 28-29 July with an objective of developing a standard protocol for treatment of infectious diseases including tuberculosis in captive elephants in Nepal.

The workshop focused on the probability, incidence, diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis and other infectious diseases in elephants in and around Chitwan National Park and recommended urgent confirmatory "re-testing" of the suspected elephants. Some actions were proposed regarding health issues of the elephant handlers and local people. An intensive discussion emphasized the implications of tuberculosis spread in wild populations.

A total of 120 elephants have been tested for tuberculosis in Chitwan since 2006-2007. As of now, 6 'high risk' elephants out of 25 suspected with tuberculosis are being segregated from other elephants for observation. The workshop also recommended immediate and long term solutions to identify, treat and manage diseased elephants.

Dr. Susan Mikota-an expert on treating TB in elephants from Elephant Care International of USA says "If tuberculosis is diagnosed in time, there is hope that we can cure the elephant."

A working group with representatives from the government, scientists and stakeholders has been formed that will help implement the recommendations of the workshop. ■



© Elephant Management Information Centre

WWF-UK CEO Visits TAL

Mr. David Nussbaum, CEO, WWF-UK and Mr. Anil Manandhar, CR, WWF Nepal visited Terai Arc Landscape (TAL) from 9 June to 13 June 2007. On the last day of their trip, they paid a visit to Lamahi bottleneck in Dang. Earlier, the group observed the conservation related activities in and around Chitwan National Park and its buffer zone. Upon their arrival at Lamahi, Mr. Nussbaum and Mr. Manandhar were welcomed by Narti Community Forest Coordination Committee (CFCC) officials. Later they visited three community forest user groups where they received a warm welcome from the huge community gathering.

Members of community as well as the CFCC briefed about the different conservation and sustainable livelihoods related activities supported through the TAL program. Mr. Nussbaum observed the forest land restoration, private plantation, and community development activities carried out by the groups. He also inspected the biogas plants, village irrigation infrastructure, and a mentha distillation plant. He was particularly impressed by the level of participation of the young people and women in the conservation work. Addressing the community gathering, Mr. Nussbaum said, "The future of the young

Workshop on Building the Capacity of WWF Nepal on Policy Engagements

A two-day workshop was held on 29 - 30 July 2007 to analyze the conservation policies of Nepal and to build the capacity of WWF Nepal on policy engagements. The main objective of the workshop was to analyze the sectoral and cross-sectoral policies having an impact on conservation, identify the gaps therein, and to enhance the capacity of WWF Nepal staff for policy and advocacy-related engagements. All together

26 staff from WWF Nepal including the field staff participated in the training. Experts from Human Development Nepal Consultants Group (HDNCG) and Foundation for Human Development (FHD) interacted with WWF Nepal staff on the above mentioned issues and the recommendations from staff were taken into consideration for appropriate measures. ■

Terai Arc Landscape (TAL) Site Visit by USAID Staff

Hannah Fairbank and Netra Sharma of USAID together with Drew Crandall of WWF-US visited TAL site in the last week of July 2007.

Hannah congratulated WWF Nepal for the excellent integration with communities and local institutions and proven methods for working with the target populations/areas through local institutional structures (such as CFUGs, BZUGs, VDCs, CFCCs). She said that WWF seems to be able to navigate, leverage and build/support local governance structures effectively to achieve biodiversity conservation results along with improved governance and livelihood impacts during challenging security and political contexts. ■

people lies in the way natural resources are managed in the bottleneck." Mr. Ram Prasad Lamsal, Project Manger - TAL, Mr. Santosh Nepal, Director - WWF West Regional Office and Mr. Purna Kunwar, Sector Manager - TAL accompanied the visiting team and briefed on the achievements and challenges of the TAL program.

The team also visited WWF Western Regional Office at Nepalgunj before departing to Kathmandu. Mr. Santosh Nepal made a short presentation on the overall achievements of the TAL program over the period of the first phase. ■



Live Earth - the Concerts for Climate Crisis on Hits FM 91.2

LIVE EARTH - a 5-hour long world class worldwide event was broadcast on Hits FM 91.2. WWF Nepal is one of the sponsors of the broadcast of the recorded version of the concerts in Kathmandu. More than 100 artists got together for one cause - to save the living planet - and pressurize concerned organizations/governments while creating public awareness about global warming.

The event took place simultaneously in cities Tokyo, New York, London, Johannesburg, Rio De Janeiro, Sydney, Shanghai, Hamburg on 07.07.07. Live Earth reached the worldwide audience through an unprecedented global media architecture covering all media platforms - TV, radio, Internet and wireless channels. Hits FM 91.2 had received the rights from Radio Express, California, USA to broadcast the recorded version of the concerts in Kathmandu. ■



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LIVE EARTH
THE CONCERT FOR A CLIMATE IN CRISIS

Working Session on Koshi River Basin Management (KRBM)

Water and Energy Commission Secretariat (WECS) and WWF Nepal jointly organized a "working session on Koshi River Basin Management (KRBM)" for like-minded organizations actively functioning in the Koshi basin on 9 August 2007. The workshop was organized as a follow-up to the MoU signed between WECS

and WWF Nepal for piloting Nepal Water Plan 2005 in the area. The working session was held to form a working group and discuss on the possible thematic areas to be addressed by the KRBM. Another objective of the workshop was to discuss about the partners' interests and their integration in the initiative. ■



Only 31 Rhinos in Bardia National Park

The Rhino Count 2007 in Bardia National Park confirmed a sharp decline in the rhino population. Only 31 rhinos were counted during a 10-day survey from 17-27 May 2007 according to the national authority, the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation. Five rhinos are believed to have migrated to Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary in India from the national park through the Khata forest corridor.

Eighty three rhinos were translocated to Bardia National Park from Chitwan to create a new viable population. The last rhino census in

2000 found 37 rhinos in the Geruwa River floodplain and 30 in the Babai River floodplain. The acute situation of the conflict in the past few years greatly impacted conservation in the area when the 15 existing security posts were decreased to just six to cover an area of 968 km2. "The Babai River floodplain, the main habitat of rhinos, saw no national park officials and security persons for a period of three years and during this period, a huge number of wild animals were poached," stated a press release from the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation.

Several additional posts have been reinstated since the restoration of peace in April 2006.

The census was supported by WWF Nepal and National Trust for Nature Conservation. "The results of the Rhino Count 2007 in Bardia National Park will not discourage our conservation efforts," said Anil Manandhar, Country Representative of WWF Nepal. "If anything, we should all redouble our efforts to save this endangered species from the threats of illegal wildlife trade and loss of habitat." ■

296 Gaurs in Chitwan National Park

A census of gaurs (*Bos gaurus*), the largest and most powerful of all wild cattle, in Nepal's Chitwan National Park has put their number at 296, showing an increase of 98 from the last count a decade ago.

The count was conducted from 17-18 April by park staff with support from the Terai Arc Landscape Program. More than 20 elephants and 30 recorders participated in the count.

An adult gaur, also known as the Indian bison, weighs 650-1,000kg. They live in herds of 2-40 with only one mature bull. Other adult males may live singly or in bachelor groups. Gaurs prefer to eat green grass, but in its absence will eat coarse dry grass, forbs, and the leaves of some trees and creepers.

Gaurs are found in eastern India, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, southern China, and the Malay Peninsula. It inhabits evergreen and deciduous forest hills and grassy clearings up to 1,800m. ■

Gold Standard Biogas VERs Project

Climate Change and Energy Program organized a one-day stakeholder level consultation workshop on the implementation of Gold Standard Biogas VERs Project (GSBVP) on 20 August 2007 in Nepalgunj. The main objective of the workshop was to disseminate the information on the biogas project being implemented by WWF Nepal and get the local level comments and suggestions on developing the biogas project in Gold Standard Biogas VERs project for emission trading and to develop a common understanding on GSBVP in TAL working area. WWF has been implementing this project in partnership with Biogas Sector Partnership (BSP) Nepal, Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC) and community forest coordination committee (CFCC). BSP-Nepal will provide overall technical assistance to install the biogas plants, AEPC will monitor the project and ensure government subsidy as per the Rural Energy Policy 2063 and CFCCs will implement the plants in their respective community forest users' committees through community based micro-finance institutions. This project will install 7,500 biogas plants in TAL area. ■

Assessment of Radio Programme Bhuparidhi

Nepal Energy Journalists Group (NEJG) led by Raju Laudari has submitted the preliminary assessment report on Bhuparidhi radio programme. Bhuparidhi is WWF's radio programme broadcast in the TAL area through three local FM stations and a regional station of Radio Nepal, the government owned radio. WWF Nepal has been broadcasting the programme for the last four years.

The report has recommended to continue the programme and extend it to other local FMs as well. Other recommendations include the localization of the programme to include more of local activities. ■

Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing Workshop

WWF Nepal supported a consultation workshop on draft bill of Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing. The workshop was jointly organized by Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities (NEFIN) and Environmental Coalition of Indigenous Nationalities (NECIN) on 25 September 2007.

The major objectives of the workshop were to sensitize the Members of Parliament (MP) on issues of indigenous people's concerns on draft of Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing; to identify gaps, loopholes and shortcoming, and provide input for necessary amendments in the draft bill in order to address indigenous people's

concerns regarding their right and ownership on biological and genetic resources; and to facilitate dialogue between policy makers and stakeholders on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing.

This bill is the key legal instrument to implement provisions of CBD in Nepal. This bill has been drafted by Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (MFSC). It will be brought to the parliament for discussion and endorsement. Therefore, it was an important initiative to bring all stakeholders in discussion for providing input to MFSC for necessary amendments in the draft. ■

Rainwater Harvesting Plant Inaugural

Amidst the growing demand and crisis of drinking water supplies in the capital city, Freshwater Program at WWF Nepal has taken a step forward in installing a rainwater harvesting plant at a government school in Kathmandu. While the school faces much pressure in providing its kids with potable water, rainwater harvesting has become a boon for them. The plant was installed with the technical support from NGO forum, a coalition of non-governmental organizations working on water issues. Conservation Ambassador for WWF Nepal, Miss Nepal 2007, Sitashma Chand was the special guest of the ceremony. She also inaugurated the plant and released a book on water conservation for kids published by WWF Nepal. Sitashma gave a motivating speech to the youth on importance of utilizing nature's freely available resources. Various renowned names in the water sector including the Secretary, Ministry of Education, honoured the function with their presence and encouraged rainwater harvesting for water conservation. WWF Nepal was specially thanked for initiating this venture. ■



WWF Nepal honored by Government of Nepal



Dr. Ghana Shyam receives the award of honour from Hon. Mr. Ram Chandra Poudel

The Government of Nepal conferred an Environment and Development Honor 2007 on WWF Nepal in recognition to the contribution made in the conservation of natural resources and wildlife.

The award was presented to Dr. Ghana Shyam Gurung, Conservation Program Director of WWF Nepal, by the chief guest Hon. Mr. Ram Chandra Poudel, Minister for Peace and Reconstruction, at the inauguration of the World Environment Day 2007, amidst a gathering of dignitaries including the UNEP Regional Director, the Director General of ICIMOD, the Minister for Environment, Science and Technology, and other high-level government officials.

WWF was involved in several activities to mark the day. A student rally went around the Lalitpur Sub-Metropolitan City

(LSMC). Around 2,100 students from 30 schools participated in the rally jointly organized by WWF, IUCN, National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC) and LSMC.

WWF's climate change activities were exhibited in a stall at the exhibition organized by the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology. Similarly, a climate fair was organized by WWF and Clean Energy Nepal, with the help of students from different environment science colleges. The fair had activities to disseminate information on different issues of climate change including documentary shows, interaction programmes, games and other fun activities. Also, a series of radio programmes focused on this year's theme were aired on different FM radios on the occasion. ■

Symposium to Save the Tiger

The International Tiger Symposium (ITS) and the fourth General Assembly of Global Tiger Forum (GTF) was held in Kathmandu between 16 to 20 April 2007.

The ITS was inaugurated by the Honorable Speaker of the Legislative Parliament Mr Subash Nembang and the fourth General Assembly was opened by the Honorable Minister for Forests and Soil Conservation and Chairperson of Global Tiger Forum Mr. Matrika Prasad Yadav.

Attendees of the Global Tiger Forum International Tiger Symposium included delegates representing the governments of Bhutan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, China, Myanmar, Lao PDR, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand and the UK. Governments were asked to give updates on their wild tiger populations and poaching, as well as data on recent seizures of tigers and tiger parts in trade.

WWF and TRAFFIC urged delegates attending the symposium, sponsored by the Global Tiger Forum, to take a strong position on promoting improved regional law enforcement to protect the world's wild tigers and to oppose the re-opening of the tiger trade in China.

WWF signs Agreement with Nepal's Water Commission Secretariat

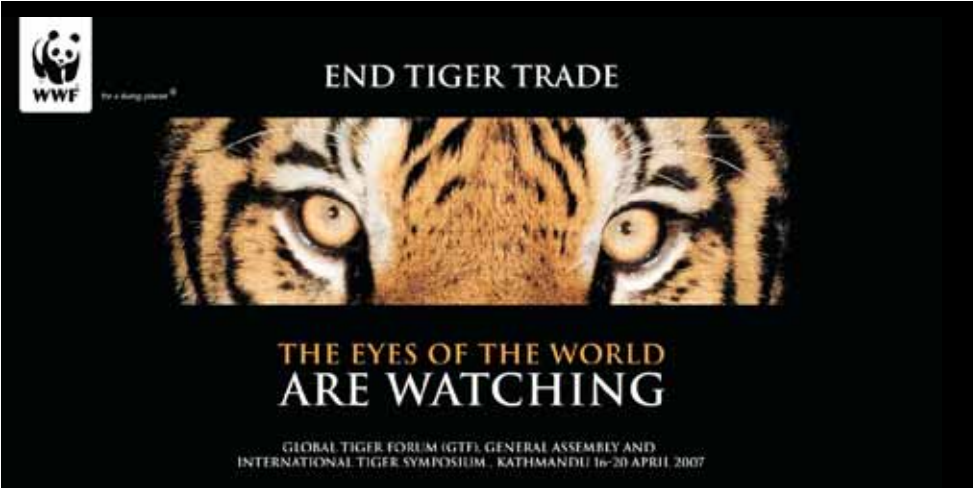
Recognizing the growing importance of freshwater resources, WWF Nepal has signed a five-year Memorandum of Understanding with the government's Water and Energy Commission Secretariat on 22 June 2007, to sustainably manage the Koshi River basin.

Under this new partnership, the two organizations will work together to optimize the basin's freshwater resources for socio-economic development while maintaining the ecological balance. The Koshi River Basin Management is the first initiative of its kind to realize recommendations tabled in the country's 2005 National Water Plan.

Management of the resources within a river basin is a complex

task that requires strong scientific knowledge, socio-economic understanding and managerial skills that balance development needs with sustainable use of natural resources. The participation of local communities in formulating and implementing conservation activities in and around the basin will be essential to the success of the initiative, and the long-term sustainability of the river.

The Koshi River originates in the mountains of Nepal and the Tibetan plateau and flows through northern India. It is a major tributary of the Ganges River, a priority river basin for WWF. Overall, Nepal's rivers contribute to more than 45 per cent of the total flow of the Ganges river basin and nearly 70 per cent of the Ganges flow in the dry-season. ■



Billboard design that was displayed at three strategic locations in the city and as a banner at the GTF

"A clear consensus emerged at the symposium that poaching of tigers in the wild must be combated urgently and that it requires immediate, coordinated efforts both by countries with tiger populations and countries driving the black market demand for tiger parts," said Dr Susan Lieberman, director of WWF's Global Species Programme and chair of the International Tiger Symposium.

"The world's remaining wild tigers can't wait. The need for protecting them has never been more urgent."

One issue that dominated much of the discussion was whether China would lift its successful 14-year ban on trade of tiger bone and allow domestic sales of tiger products. A petition to overturn the ban is pending before the government by wealthy tiger farm investors, who now have more than 4,000 semi-tame tigers in captivity and are hoping to profit from sales of tiger products.

"Such a move could be a death sentence for wild tigers, which will be poached even more relentlessly if there's a legal market for smugglers to 'launder' wild tiger products through," said Steven Broad, executive director of TRAFFIC International.

"We call on the Global Tiger Forum to send a clear message to China that the international community finds any reopening of tiger trade unacceptable."

Other recommendations from the symposium included: investigating ways to reduce human-tiger conflict across Asia and share lessons about methods to compensate communities for tiger depredation; convening a meeting of law enforcement experts to share advice and approaches to halting illegal tiger trade; and calling for the development of a global tiger conservation strategy that would follow an approach successfully used for African lion conservation. ■

Budgets and Programs Endorsed for FY08

The Project Executive Committee (PEC) meeting convened in Kathmandu on 26 July 2007. The major agenda was the presentation on programmatic and financial progress of FY07, endorsement of proposed programs and the budget for FY08 and endorsement of major decisions made by PCC. The PEC meeting was co-chaired by Dr Keshav Raj Kanel, Director General, Department of Forests and Mr Shyam Bajimaya, Director General, Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation.

Dr Ghana Shyam Gurung of WWF made a briefing on the outline of the presentations. The first part of the presentation focused on discussion on the progress of fiscal year 2007 and the second part on the activities and

budget proposed for next year. He added that the past year was an extraordinary year in the history of WWF, referring to the Kangchenjunga tragedy. On the programmatic side, the Kangchenjunga Conservation Area was handed over to the local community for management, the Sacred Himalayan Landscape Strategic Plan and the Terai Arc Landscape Strategic Plan and Implementation Plan were endorsed by the government.

The program and budget of NRs 187,216,485 was proposed for FY08. A grant amount of NRs 8,07,20,831 will be immediately provided to both the departments. Remaining budget will be provided gradually based on the availability of the fund at WWF.

In the closing remarks, Mr Anil Manandhar,

Country Representative of WWF Nepal, thanked the field staff and congratulated them on the conservation achievements that were accomplished in the duration of eight months. He added that the year was significant in terms of program performance and fundraising of US\$ 4 million. He also commented on WWF's diversified portfolio of partners within the government. Mr Shyam Bajimaya, Director General, spoke of jointly addressing the emerging threats to biodiversity conservation and stressed the importance of producing tangible results. Dr Keshav Kandel congratulated the field staff and thanked WWF, adding that the young and energetic staff were a good example for the department.■

WWF-UK Team in Kangchenjunga



WWF UK Team with Tara Gnyawali, members of mother group and chairperson of KCAMC

Mr Dominique White, Head of Program Development and Ms Kate Studd, Socioeconomic Advisor, WWF-UK together with Livelihoods Specialist Mr. Tara Prasad Gnyawali, visited Kangchenjunga from 30 March to 13 April 2007. The objective of the visit was to assess common understanding of people perceived benefits from KCAP project activities, conservation activities and opportunity that KCAP induced during the last project period. The trip was also organized to assess the capacity of different level Kangchenjunga Conservation Area Management Council (KCAMC) bodies for future visioning on co-management taking in consideration the outsider (district line agencies, partners) and insider (users, community groups and people benefiting from KCAP activities) perspectives.

The team met different district level partners at Taplejung and visited KCAMC at Lelep, KCAP office, CAUC at Lelep, MG at three sites in Lelep, Hellok and Tapethok, snow leopard conservation committee at Lelep and consulted with project staff at Lelep. ■

Interaction with Business and Industry Representatives

IUCN Nepal, Tara Management Pvt. Ltd., and WWF Nepal jointly organized an interaction session with the representatives of business and industry sector on 18 September 2007.

Prabhu Budhathoki from IUCN, Prashant Singh from WWF Nepal and Siddha Raj Pant from Tara Management Pvt. Ltd. elucidated the importance of the partnership

with B&I. Renowned businessmen Rajendra Khaitan and Hitesh Golchha, Bharat Thapa of Explore Nepal, Ang Tsering Sherpa of Nepal Mountaineering Association and representatives of other business houses interacted on the issues of working together with the trio of IUCN, WWF Nepal and Tara Management Pvt. Ltd. ■

Broadening our Horizons: MoEST

A Scope of Cooperation between WWF Nepal and the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology (MoEST) was endorsed by the Hon Minister Mahantha Thakur on Wednesday, 20 June 2007. This five-year partnership will enable WWF Nepal to implement climate change and energy projects in Nepal jointly with the ministry at key locations in the country. This marks a diversification in our partnership portfolio within the Government of Nepal. Since we lay great emphasis on the benefits of partnerships, the endorsement of the Scope of Cooperation is an important new direction for our climate change work. We are confident that this will bring about many positive advantages. ■

Lighting up the Mountains

A grant of more than USD 169,000 marks the first major funding received by the Kangchenjunga Conservation Area Management Council (KCAMC) from WWF Nepal, also funded by USAID Nepal. The "Micro-hydro Project for People and Biodiversity in KCA" grant was signed by Mr Tseten Dandu Sherpa, Chairperson of KCAMC and Mr Anil Manandhar, Country Representative of WWF Nepal, on Thursday, 21 June 2007.

The local community is contributing nearly USD 16,000 through mechanisms like labour and local transportation. The 35 kW project will light up 77 households in Ghunsa and Phale, the last permanent settled valley of the conservation area at 3,360m. The project started in July

2007 and will end in June 2008. The micro-hydro will promote renewable energy sources while enhancing the technical and managerial capacities of local institutions. The community will take ownership of the project to increase income generation from enterprises that benefit their livelihoods and conservation in the area. This project is critical in an area where many households are unable to afford expensive alternative energy technologies such as back-boilers and solar sets.

On 22 September 2006, the Government of Nepal made a landmark decision to hand over the Kangchenjunga Conservation Area for management by KCAMC. ■



Phuksundo Conservation Festival

The first conservation festival of its kind to celebrate communities and conservation in Shey Phoksundo National Park took place on the shores of Phuksundo Lake from 13-14 May 2007. While this was a community-led initiative, WWF Nepal played a very important role in supporting and organizing the festival. People came from all over Dolpa and that included officials from political parties and CARE Nepal as well as popular celebrities Bimal Dangi and Suman Buda. The success of the festival could be measured both in the high level of participation that was especially commendable under the difficult field situation. The WWF team consisted of Dirgha Gandhari and Trishna Gurung. They were accompanied by a documentary team from NEFEJ's Aakhijhyal, student researchers, and a consultant working on the cultural significance of the lake as a high altitude wetland. ■

USAID/Nepal Share Fair

At the USAID/Nepal Share Fair on 5 June 2007, WWF Nepal's section featured information on sustainable use of natural resources, alternative energy and conservation-based livelihoods initiatives. Various products made by local communities in our project sites were on display and a few, like organic soap, Seabuckthorn and Marmellous juice, were also on sale. A special section was set up to view conservation documentaries. US Ambassador Moriarty visited the WWF stall where he was presented with a special package consisting of a WWF t-shirt, a Save the Tiger mug, and a few recent publications. ■

Briefing to Phu Khieo Wildlife Sanctuary, Thailand Authorities

A team comprising of 25 participants from Phu Khieo Wildlife Sanctuary, Thailand, were briefed about TAL, Wildlife Monitoring in TAL, and the concept of Buffer Zone at Souraha on 11 May 2007 by Sector Manager, TAL (PABZ) and Secretary, Mirgakunj Buffer Zone User Committee.

The main objective of the team's visit was to get first hand information on the activities, modality, issues, threats, partnership, outcomes etc. at landscape level conservation. They also got acquainted with different aspects like research design/methodology, coordination among the partners of the same interests, output sharing mechanism, partnership with government for wildlife research and monitoring, concept of buffer zone, legal and livelihood issues and their link to the conservation in buffer zones. They visited Baghmara Community Forest and Chitwan National Park, protected areas, corridor and bottlenecks in TAL Nepal and Dudhwa National Park under TAL India. ■

Inauguration of Mahadev Line Extension Project



The Mahadev line extension project in Dolpa was inaugurated by Donald C Clark, Mission Director of USAID Nepal, on 20 June 2007. The project that brought electricity to villages in one of Nepal's least developed districts was funded by WWF and USAID. Local communities contributed through labour and transportation charges. Also in the team were Naren Chanmugam of USAID, Carla Bachechi of the US Embassy, Prashant Singh and Ugan Manandhar from WWF Nepal and Gautam Paudyal from the Northern Mountains Conservation Project. ■

Grant to Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC) for implementing Gold Standard Biogas CDM Project

Climate Change and Energy Program provided grant of USD 120,000 to Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC) to implement Gold Standard Biogas CDM Project. This Gold Standard Biogas CDM Project is the first gold standard CDM Project in Nepal. The grant provided to AEPC will be spent for the subsidy for the 1163 biogas plants being implemented in Terai Arc Landscape (TAL) in this fiscal year. WWF Nepal has target to install 7,500 biogas plants in four years and develop it as a Gold Standard Biogas CDM Project for carbon trading. ■

12th Wildlife Week Celebrated

The 12th Wildlife Week, celebrated during 14-20 April 2007 with a slogan "चोरी शिकारीको सामना, १२औँ बन्धजन्तु सप्ताहको शुभकामना" held various activities in and around Chitwan National Park. Ghailaghari street drama team from Jagatpur, Chitwan, conducted rhino conservation street drama shows at seven different strategic locations of Chitwan National Park and buffer zone (CNPBZ) and national forest areas shows to raise awareness. A conservation rally was organized at New Padampur on the occasion.

Sagarmatha National Park and buffer zone support project (SNPBZ SP) in coordination with Sagarmatha National Park (SNP) celebrated the 12th Wildlife Week from 14 April to 20 April 2007 with the slogan, "जलवायु परिवर्तन हाम्रो सरोकार, स्वच्छ जलसम्पदा जीवनको आधार" (literally - "Climate change is our concern, freshwater is the basis of life"). Screening of a documentary, a heritage tour, cleanliness programme, a wildlife conservation rally, a tree plantation programme and painting competition, and an oratory contest on the topic climate change and wildlife conservation were organized to mark the week. ■



Saving the Prehistoric Reptilian, Gharial

WWF Nepal, Wildlife Watch Group (WWG) and SOS Crocodile France jointly organized a discussion session for its partners and stakeholders on concept paper for Gharial Conservation in Nepal on 25 June 2007. Listed as Critically Endangered Species in the IUCN Red list, these beautiful creatures today exist in very small populations in the whole world.

Nepal is one of the last remaining homes to Gharial in the northern part of the Indian sub-continent and conservation efforts to save these reptilians from the brink of extinction could be a very challenging task. The proposed project aims at saving the last remaining gharial populations in partnership with local communities and partners involved in the sustainable management of freshwater ecosystems. Efforts to accomplish this project could realize and ensure the survival of this rare crocodile as envisioned by the renowned conservationist and gharial specialist of Nepal, Late Dr. Tirtha Man Maskey.■

Grassland Management Monitoring in Chitwan National Park

Grassland management is the key activity of species conservation. TAL has regularly supported the grassland management in all of its four protected areas. Regular monitoring of grassland during intervention is one of the key activities and scientific documentation of the intervened grasslands is another important prerequisite for future strategic decisions. Though the grassland management in protected areas has been continued since 2001, after the inception of TAL, the focus was concentrated only on the management of existing grasslands. Considering the loss and degradation of grassland in Chitwan National Park (CNP) which has shrunk down to 4.7% from the 20% in the 1970s, the grassland restoration initiatives have been initiated since 2005 in CNP. The management of existing and restored grasslands is also being continued. In this regard, GPS points of the restored and managed grasslands of CNP have been taken by TAL with the support of CNP and hired people. Area and location of those grasslands will be interpreted with the support of GIS unit at WWF Nepal, Kathmandu. ■