

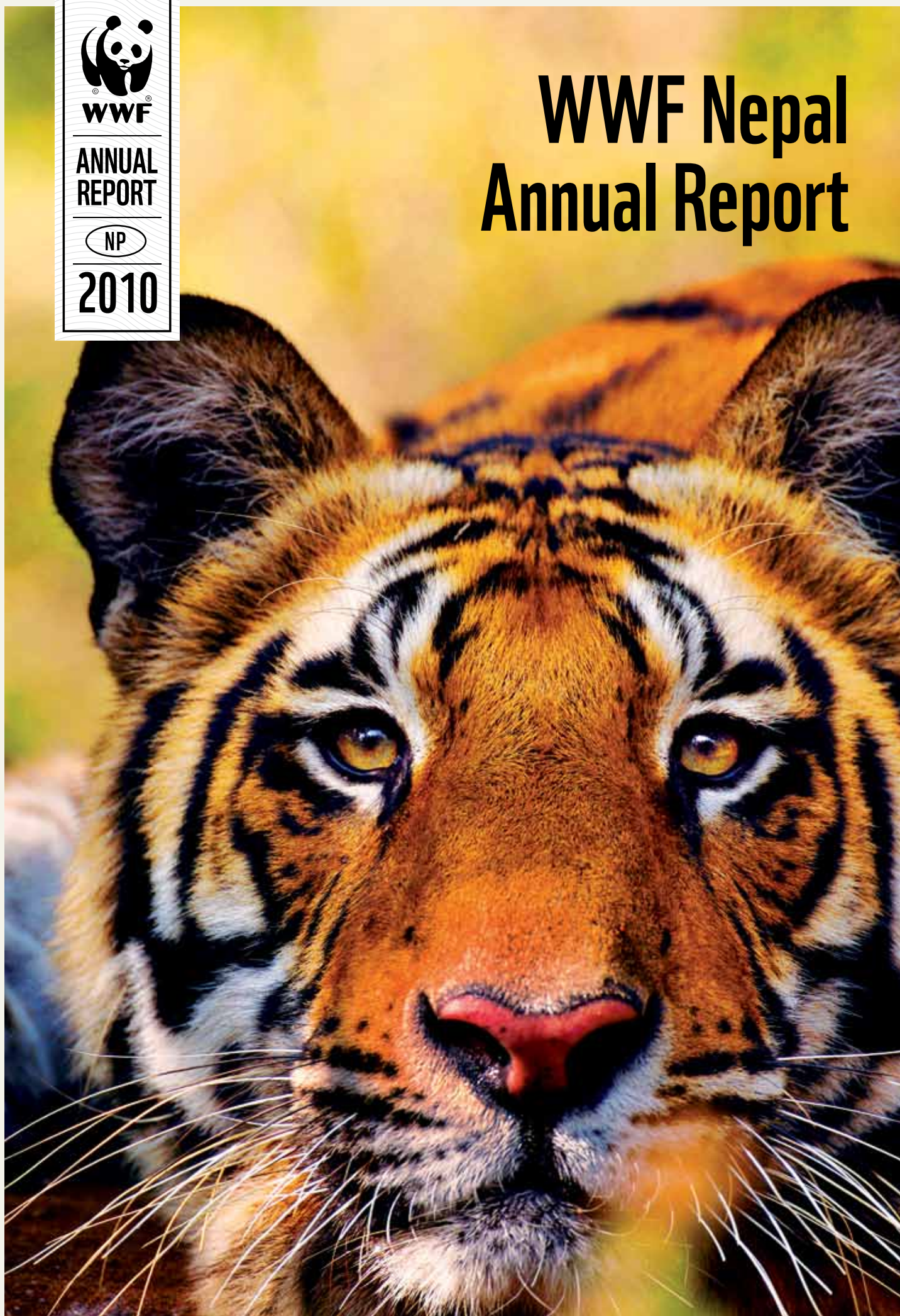


**ANNUAL
REPORT**

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2010

WWF Nepal Annual Report



Prepared by WWF Nepal

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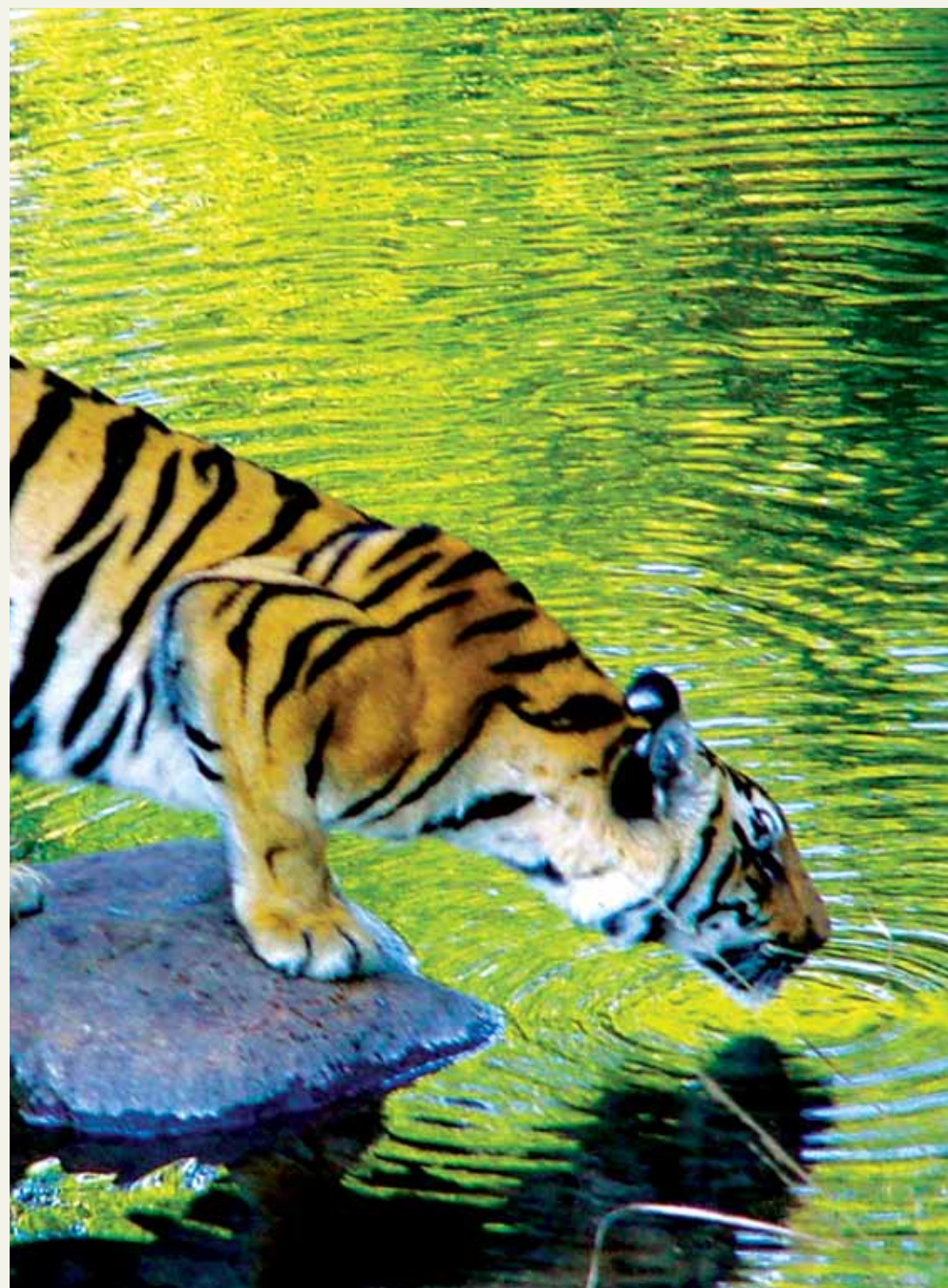
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The TX2 campaign was launched to mark Year of the Tiger with WWF Nepal joining its counterparts in 13 tiger range countries with a suite of campaign activities.

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE

For WWF Nepal, 2010 was a year of significant actions on the ground



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The TX2 campaign was launched to mark Year of the Tiger with WWF Nepal joining its counterparts in 13 tiger range countries with a suite of campaign activities – from grassroots awareness efforts to targeted political engagement. In the coming months and years, much effort will be spent by WWF Nepal in securing the goal of doubling the number of tigers by 2022.

The TAL Phase II Strategic document (2010-15) was endorsed by the Programme Steering Committee, Gaurishankar Conservation Area was formally declared by the government, and a historic MoU was signed between Government of Nepal and People's Republic of China on environment and biodiversity conservation. In an effort to conserve tiger habitats, an area of 55,000ha was declared by the government as Banke National Park.

The first ever carbon financing project in Nepal was verified in the voluntary market that will pave a way to accessing carbon financing at the grass root level through an appropriate benefit sharing mechanism. The final verification report concluded the emission reductions for 2007 and 2008 as 12,125 tons of CO2 equivalent (2,685 biogas plants).

At the landscape level, over 4,000km² of forest area (including the buffer zones) was under protected area management system while over 1,000km² corridor area was under improved management in the Terai Arc. 48 and 26 Community Based Anti-Poaching Operation (CBAPO) Units were functional in Terai Arc Landscape Sacred Himalayan Landscape respectively.

The 'Climate For Life' campaign was successfully completed. A petition from 0.2 million youth was handed over to His Excellency Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary General, and a memento from Everest was presented to the US President Obama by the Prime Minister of Nepal.

These laurels of the past will definitely serve as an important stimulus for renewed vigour, commitments and actions in conservation for Nepal. I take this opportunity to thank the Government of Nepal, particularly Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, Ministry of Environment, Water and Energy Commission Secretariat, Social Welfare Council, Department of Forests and Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation for their continued support. I also thank the bilateral and multilateral donor agencies, foundations, local NGOs and CBOs, and local communities for their commitment to sustain Nepal's conservation wins. In closing, I extend my sincere appreciation to the entire WWF Network for their unprecedented support to accomplish the many milestones of the past year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Anil Manandhar'.

Anil Manandhar

WWF IN NEPAL

WWF Nepal's Mission is to stop the degradation of Nepal's natural environment, and to build a future in which people live in harmony with nature

Since 1961, WWF has worked to conserve nature and ecological processes through a combination of actions on the ground, national and international advocacy work to establish appropriate policies, and international campaigns to highlight and demonstrate solutions to crucial environmental problems.

WWF started working in Nepal from 1967 when it launched a rhino conservation programme in Chitwan. To keep up with the evolving face of conservation and the environmental movement, WWF's focus evolved from its localized efforts in conservation of single species in the 1960s, integrated conservation and development approach in the 1990s, to a new horizon of landscape level conservation encompassing national, regional and global scales of complexity in the early 2000s.

WWF's work in Nepal is focussed in the Terai Arc Landscape (TAL) and Sacred Himalayan Landscape (SHL), including Koshi River Basin. WWF Nepal works to conserve flagship and priority key **species, forests, freshwater**, and to mitigate the pervasive threat of **climate change** to communities, species and their habitats. The effective delivery of conservation results under the above four thematic areas are supported by crosscutting programmes on policy and advocacy, sustainable livelihoods, communications, and education.

In Nepal, WWF works closely with Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation through the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) and Department of Forests (DoF), Ministry of Environment, Water and Energy Commission Secretariat (WECS) and National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC). Besides the national priority areas, WWF Nepal also works in conservation issues of regional and trans-boundary importance.

VISION

WWF Nepal envisions a prosperous Nepal with a society possessing an ethic of stewardship and responsibility towards nature.

By 2050 Nepal will have:

- Conserved biodiversity and the natural processes that sustain it in the Global 200 Ecoregions within Nepal.
- Established social and economic development patterns that assure the sustainable and equitable provision of natural goods and services, improving livelihoods and quality of life for current and future generations.
- Eliminated or mitigated critical threats to species, habitats, and ecological processes that derive from climate change, over exploitation of resources, unsustainable consumption, and pollution.

MISSION

WWF Nepal's Mission is to stop the degradation of Nepal's natural environment, and to build a future in which people live in harmony with nature by:

- Conserving biological diversity
- Ensuring the sustainable use of renewable natural resources
- Reducing pollution and wasteful consumption
- Securing sustainable livelihoods

GOAL

By 2015 WWF Nepal shall conserve at least 3 priority landscapes within the Global 200 Ecoregions by:

- Reducing threats to species, habitat and ecological processes
- Improving the livelihoods of local people

LEONARDO DICAPRIO AND ‘SAVE TIGERS NOW’

Hollywood heartthrob Leonardo DiCaprio visited Nepal after joining hands with WWF to launch an ambitious global campaign, Save Tigers Now, to double the world's tiger population. He visited Bardia National Park in western Nepal, one of the four tiger reserves in the country. In this photograph, Leonardo DiCaprio is seen fixing a camera trap with WWF Nepal staff, Pradeep Khanal, at Bardia National Park. Leonardo DiCaprio has combined forces with WWF to raise USD 20 million towards the aim of doubling the world tiger population in the wild.



TERAI ARC LANDSCAPE PROGRAM

The Terai Arc Landscape (TAL) programme is WWF Nepal's largest landscape level initiative supporting the government's TAL programme and involves a large number of partner organisations, donor agencies, stakeholders, community-based organisations and local people

TAL is the biggest and most ambitious conservation endeavour in Nepal. It covers approximately 23,199 sq. km. from Bagmati River in the east to Mahakali River in the west covering a vast network of protected areas, national forests and water bodies. The rich grasslands and forests provide critical habitat for rhinos, tigers, elephants and much more and is also home to more than 6.7 million people who depend on its resources for their livelihoods.

CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS

Managing forests

Forests covering 4,812ha in Banke, Bardia, Kailali, Bardia National Park Buffer Zone (BNPBZ) and Chitwan National Park Buffer Zone (CNPBZ) were handed over to the communities as community forests while 1,065ha of grassland were managed by local communities. With grassland management, the habitat has improved in Khata and Kamdi with frequent sightings of herbivores, rhinos and tigers. In an effort to conserve tiger habitats, an area of 55,000ha was declared as Banke National Park, and 34,000ha as its buffer zone, while 39,863ha area was extended in the buffer zone of Bardia National Park.

Reducing human pressure on forests

1,060 biogas plants (toilet attached) and 616 Improved Cooking Stoves were installed through community-managed micro-finance system, which contributed in saving over 100,000 metric tons of fuel wood annually. This is vital in reducing pressure on forests in corridors, bottlenecks and buffer zones. The revolving fund for biogas promotion amounted to over USD 40,000 which is managed and mobilized by the cooperatives for sustainability of the community biogas projects.

Restoring forests

Programme interventions in forest restoration focused on restoration of encroached forests through plantation, awareness building and encroachment control, engagement with communities and DFOs, and advocacy at the national level in order to safeguard and maintain integrity of corridors. About 500,000 seedlings are under production for plantation for the coming year. Churia conservation was also initiated during this period. Bahuni khola of Parsa Wildlife Reserve Buffer Zone was selected as the potential pilot site; capacity enhancement on soil conservation, integrated watershed management, alternative energy and skill-based income generation activities were conducted.

Conserving species

During this period, the status and distribution of tiger and their prey base, gharial and rhinoceros were updated. Tiger monitoring in Chitwan National Park including Churia and Barandabhar forest (corridor) was completed. An innovative approach of ID-based rhino monitoring is underway in Chitwan National Park, Bardia National Park and Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve, and individual ID profiles of 124 rhinos have been prepared so far. Two rhinos (1 male and 1 female) were GPS collared in order to help enhance knowledge on rhino ecology. Likewise, radio telemetry studies on gharial habitat utilization were undertaken in Chitwan National Park. An old-age home livestock management centre was established in Dang as an initiative towards vulture conservation; an endowment fund of over USD 600 was established for its sustainability.

Reducing human wildlife conflict

The TAL programme supported the construction of 48.5km of solar fence in Madi valley of CNPBZ while 150 households of Bardia National Park were supported through livestock insurance scheme. Solar fencing has reduced the vulnerability of over 1,000 households against crop damage, property loss and human casualties; an impact study showed that the communities saved 90% of the paddy from damage compared to just around 30% in the past. During this period, a human wildlife victim relief endowment fund was also established amounting to over USD 75,000. The endowment fund is a sustainable approach towards compensating local communities for any adversities arising out of human wildlife conflict. 15 staff from Chitwan National Park and community members including elephant riders (Maute) participated in the Kunkies training programme in Assam, India. The programme helped build greater understanding amongst elephant handlers and community people on human elephant conflict mitigation measures such as chilly fence, solar fence, trench and bio-fence.

Policy and advocacy

The TAL Phase II Strategic document (2010-15) was endorsed by the Programme Steering Committee to serve as an important guideline in future conservation efforts in TAL. Similarly, the Tiger Conservation Action Plan and Rhino Conservation Action Plan were endorsed by the government and are already being implemented.

PROTECTING THE 'GOD'S PET' 🐾

Snow Leopard Conservation Committee (SLCC) is an initiative of local communities and youths in conserving the snow leopard, a flagship species of the mountains. A total of four SLCCs have been formed so far at Langtang and Kangchenjunga regions across the Sacred Himalayan Landscape. SLCCs are actively involved in patrolling to curb poaching and retaliatory killings, raising awareness on snow leopard conservation, and supporting government authorities for snow leopard conservation and monitoring. WWF Nepal has been supporting SLCC for capacity development and strengthening as a strong community-based organization for conservation. An insurance mechanism for livestock has also been initiated through SLCC in order to reduce human-snow leopard conflict. WWF supported an endowment fund for the insurance mechanism across SHL.



SACRED HIMALAYAN LANDSCAPE

The Sacred Himalayan Landscape (SHL) is WWF Nepal’s mountain landscape initiative supporting the government’s landscape programme to protect mountain ecosystems and livelihoods

In Nepal, the Sacred Himalayan Landscape (SHL) covers an area of 28,680km² extending from Langtang National Park in central Nepal to the Kangchenjunga Conservation Area (that houses the world’s third-highest peak, Mt. Kangchenjunga) in the East including Sagarmatha National Park that houses the world’s highest peak, Mt. Everest. The SHL Nepal programme aims to conserve the rich biodiversity, build resilience of local communities towards climate change impacts, and enhance local livelihoods in the globally important Eastern Himalayan Eco-region. The landscape is home to more than 3.7 million people of which 60% live below the poverty line. This landscape is a habitat to the endangered and elusive snow leopards and red pandas while endemic varieties of plants are found in abundance in the region.

CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS

Managing forests to manage conservation

Gaurishanker Conservation Area (2,035km²) was formally declared by the government which lies in SHL connecting Langtang National Park and Sagarmatha National Park. 8,337ha of forest and 19,500ha of alpine pastureland were managed by local user groups. A total of 3,182ha of forests were handed over to 17 communities of Langtang National Park Buffer Zone (LNPBZ) and Kangchenjunga Conservation Area (KCA) as community forests.

Safeguarding species

26 CBAPO units and four Snow Leopard Conservation Committees (SLCC) were strengthened and mobilized for effectively curbing poaching throughout SHL. Over 1,000 snares for musk deer and birds were confiscated during this period. No reported cases of poaching in community managed areas (zero poaching reported in LNPBZ, SNPBZ and KCA) reflected effective monitoring by anti-poaching units.

Reducing human- wildlife conflict

Livestock Insurance Schemes to provide relief under human-wildlife conflict in KCA and LNPBZ were further supported this year benefitting 500 households and 49 households, respectively, through additional endowment funds. The total fund of USD 42,000 was established in SHL. Deterrent NTFPs such as *Chiraita* were also promoted as a preventive measure against human-wildlife conflict.

Species monitoring

Population of snow leopard all across the Himalayas of Nepal entailing SHL was estimated. The population status was estimated at 358 all across Nepal and 39 in SHL. The average density is 1.43 snow leopards per 100 km² in SHL.

Population status of musk deer was estimated at 29.3/km² in SHL-LNP and 18.2/km² in SHL-KCA. This year, also, distribution status of blue sheep and Himalayan Tahr was carried out. The highest density of blue sheep (13.5/km²) was found in SHL-KCA, the highest in Nepal, while Himalayan Tahr density was found to be 4.2 km² in Langtang valley.

The study on status and distribution of red panda estimated 1,854km² area as highly suitable habitat while the rest was predicted as moderately good habitat for red panda. The relative abundance of red panda was higher in the eastern districts while the average sign encounter rate was estimated at 0.87/km.

This year snow leopard habitat modeling in various climate change scenarios was conducted at the regional level, and population monitoring of snow leopards by non-invasive genomic study was piloted in Nepal.

Species conservation action plan

The Red Panda Conservation Action Plan for Langtang National Park and Buffer Zone was formally approved by the government to pave the way for the protection of this charismatic species.



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FIRST FOREST CARBON PROJECT IN TAL

WWF Nepal initiated the first forest carbon project in the TAL so as to establish the current forest carbon stock at a sub-national level. Preliminary and ground truthing works, and training of 120 local resource persons for conducting forest carbon inventory and 30 socio-economic enumerators to conduct the socio-economic study were completed. With prior approval from the Department of Forests and Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, the inventory was conducted in community forests, national forests and inside the national park areas. This initiation was a stepping stone to access forest carbon financing for forest conservation, sustainable management of forests and forest carbon stock enhancement which would help in conserving the important biodiversity. The learning from the ground work is assisting in policy formulation work as the Government of Nepal is preparing a National REDD Strategy supported by WWF Nepal.

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CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY

WWF focuses on increasing the understanding of impacts of climate change, assessing vulnerabilities, implementing adaptation measures, contributing to Nepal's position in international negotiations and raising awareness locally as well as internationally.

WWF Nepal has been introducing and piloting appropriate renewable energy technologies at project locations in the Terai as well as mountains while promoting low carbon development in Nepal. WWF Nepal is also working towards bringing the benefits of carbon financing to the communities.

CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS

Engagements with Global Deal Network Initiative

The Global Deal Network Initiative of WWF lobbies for international policy-related work on climate change under the UNFCCC. In this respect, WWF Nepal participated in the UNFCCC negotiations. The involvement helped WWF Nepal to support the Government of Nepal to draft a national strategy paper for the negotiations and enhance civil society knowledge in Nepal through the Pre and Post COP meetings and inter-session meetings.

Community-based climate adaptation in the Eastern Himalayas

WWF Nepal piloted the first community-based climate adaptation project that integrated both ecosystems and livelihood in the buffer zones of Langtang National Park. Climate change vulnerabilities of 1,492 HHs were reduced through the integrated climate adaptation approach in SHL. Ramche and Bhorle villages of Langtang were established as model sites for climate adaptation. Similarly, Sikhu and Pankhu of Dudh Koshi Sub Basin were established as model sites for water based adaptation. Koshi River Basin Management (KRBM) Programme for Indrawati Sub Basin, one of the sub basins of Koshi Basin, was initiated based on the learning from Dudh Koshi. The learning from both adaptations is very useful to envision SHL as a 'Climate Adaptation Landscape'.

Understanding climate change impacts on the freshwater ecosystems of the Himalayas

WWF Nepal partnered with the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM), Government of Nepal, to assess the current status of the Imja Glacial Lake. Vital information – that the lake is currently safe from the anticipated Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) – was assessed and the information disseminated. The partnership also conducted a study to find out impacts of climate change on the discharge at Koshi River Basin.

Gold Standard Voluntary Emissions Reduction (VER) Project

The first ever carbon financing project in Nepal was verified in the voluntary market that will pave a way to accessing carbon financing at the grass root level through an appropriate benefit sharing mechanism. A total of 7,500 biogas plants will be constructed by WWF Nepal under the Gold Standard Voluntary Emissions Reduction (VER) Project. The final verification report concluded that the emission reductions for 2007 and 2008 were 12,125 tons of CO₂ equivalent (2,685 biogas plants).

WATER SMART COMMUNITIES

Climate change has a direct impact on water resources in terms of availability and timing. To tackle this issue, “Water Smart Communities” is being promoted as a new approach by Dudhkoshi Sub Basin Project to build resilience of communities and nature to cope with water scarcity. From 2009 onwards, local water smart communities have started to construct conservation ponds and use scarce water wisely. Micro-irrigation system such as drip and sprinkler irrigation systems further support irrigation needs of the communities. Water Smart Communities have directly benefited over 300 households in Dudhkoshi Sub Basin. Vegetable farming through the conservation ponds has helped provide alternate sources of income for the people in Dudhkoshi Sub Basin.

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FRESH WATER

WWF Nepal's Freshwater Programme's vision is to conserve and sustainably manage the Himalayan water towers and freshwater habitats to benefit people and nature

The Freshwater Programme helped pilot the National Water Plan 2005 in Koshi River Basin. The programme's emphasis is on Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM) in Koshi River Basin, conservation and management of high altitude wetlands in SHL Nepal.

CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS

Launch of Indrawati Sub Basin Project

The Indrawati Sub Basin Project, under the KRBm programme, was formally launched with the project office established in Chautara. A project agreement was signed to implement KRBm jointly by Water and Energy Commission Secretariat (WECS), Government of Nepal, and WWF Nepal.

Policy and advocacy

The Five-year Conservation Action Plan of Ghodaghodi Lake (a Ramsar site) was endorsed by the Government of Nepal. The Strategic Plan of Koshi River Basin Management was prepared with the concept of 3-E pillars (economic efficiency, environmental sustainability and social equity) of IRBM. A position paper, ‘Nepal's Water Resources in the context of Climate Change’ was prepared by WECS, with the support of WWF Nepal.

Consultation workshop on Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Protocol (HSAP) was organized for the first time by WWF Nepal under the leadership of the Ministry of Energy and International Hydropower Association.

Management of Ramsar Sites

Selected priority activities were implemented in Gokyo and Gosaikunda (both Ramsar sites) with the local communities. These included waste management activities, awareness programmes, local monitoring to control over-exploitation of the wetland resources, conservation and wise-use of wetland resources. Supra-glacial lakes in Gokyo area were also monitored by the local communities. Waste management technologies such as incinerator, eco-san toilets and soak pit were demonstrated in Gokyo for the first time in a high-altitude area in Nepal.

Scientific studies

Hydrological and meteorological data have been generated in Siku and Pankhu catchments to understand the hydrological and climatic regime for the management of water resources.

Studies on vulnerability assessment and climate change adaptation in Sagarmatha National Park and Langtang National Park were conducted and the main findings of the studies were published and disseminated.

Awareness building

A Learning Centre was established in Dudh Koshi sub basin with the objective of providing practical knowledge to the local stakeholders. The Learning Centre will also help build awareness on the integrated climate adaptation approach and technologies used for better management of water, land and related resources.

COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP IN CURBING WILDLIFE TRADE 🐾

Community Based Anti-Poaching Operation (CBAPO) units play a crucial role in putting a cap on illegal wildlife trade. The CBAPO units helped in the arrest of poachers and traders, and seizure of wildlife parts and weapons used for poaching. A total of 36 poachers and traders were arrested with the intelligence information in Bardia National Park. Eight kilograms of tiger bone, one rhino horn and two leopard skins were seized during this period. Similarly, three locally made guns and six tiger traps were seized by the park authority. During this reporting period, no poaching of rhino and tiger was reported in Bardia National Park, an area which is most prone to such incidents.

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WILDLIFE TRADE

Through its global network and partners, WWF Nepal works to find and activate solutions to the problems created by illegal wildlife trade. WWF Nepal has been actively involved in controlling poaching and illegal wildlife trade. WWF Nepal's efforts in the fight against illegal wildlife trade include support to enforcement agencies and Community Based Anti-Poaching Operations (CBAPOs) to curb illegal trade of wildlife and its parts.

CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS

Trans-boundary and regional efforts in curbing illegal wildlife trade

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on biodiversity conservation and addressing illegal wildlife trade was signed between Government of Nepal and People's Republic of China. The MoU is a milestone for joint efforts between the two countries in the area of conservation along the trans-boundary region. The First Meeting of the South Asia Experts Group on Illegal Wildlife Trade was organized in Kathmandu. The meeting laid the foundation for South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN) as a coordinated regional response to combat illegal poaching and trafficking.

Enforcement support

WWF Nepal supported enforcement agencies in curbing wildlife crimes. A large number of poachers and traders were arrested in TAL area and other trade hubs. Tiger skins, tiger bones, rhino horns, leopard skins, traps, and arms and ammunition were also seized. During this period, zero incidences of poaching of rhinos and tiger were reported in Bardia National Park, Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve and Parsa Wildlife Reserve. WWF Nepal, in partnership with DNPWC and NTNC, started implementation of Management Information System Technology (MIST) in Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve and Chitwan National Park to help reduce poaching of wildlife especially mega species in the protected areas.

Community Based Anti-poaching Operations (CBAPOs)

Eight Wildlife Watch Groups were initiated in Basanta range post to keep vigilance on poachers and suspects, garner information on illicit activities, inform the concerned authorities and control wildlife crimes. 48 new CBAPO units were formed and Tiger Rhino Conservation Coordination Committee (TRCC) mobilized in TAL to lead on-the-ground efforts to curb crimes against biodiversity including poaching and illegal wildlife trade. Through their patrolling efforts, illegal timber was confiscated, prey species were rescued and illegal quarrying of sand and boulders was reduced significantly.

Formation of National Tiger Conservation Committee

The National Tiger Conservation Committee (NTCC) was formed under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister of Nepal in order to address wildlife issues at the higher political level. Ministers of Ministry of Home, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Law and Justice are the members of the committee. The Country Representative of WWF Nepal is also the member of the NTCC. Minister of Forests and Soil Conservation is the Member Secretary of the NTCC.

To strengthen cooperation and coordination among inter-government agencies for curbing wildlife crimes, mainly poaching and illegal wildlife trade in the country, the Government of Nepal has also formed Wildlife Crime Control Coordination Committee (WCCCC) and established Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB). WCCB cells will also be formed in 15 districts in the future.

COOPERATIVES AND SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

Community Forest Co-ordination Committee (CFCC) was established with the help of WWF in order for local communities to manage their forests sustainably. The CFCC's also run co-operatives allowing local people to take out loans, without the worry of high interest repayments. Cooperatives such as Khata CFCC have gone a long way in mainstreaming financial education and securing livelihoods of local communities. Loans provided by the cooperatives to its members are used in sustainable and economically viable solutions such as stall feeding, high breed livestock farming, hatchery, poultry, high value cash crops, micro enterprises and alternative energy. The cooperatives provide subsidised loan for income generation activities (at 12% interest) and for alternative energy (at 8% interest) which is significantly lower than private cooperatives (at 18%-22% interest rates) in urban and other areas.



SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

WWF Nepal works together with its partners to develop innovative approaches and interventions in conservation that provide local communities with sustainable livelihood alternatives and diversified options.

WWF Nepal's approach underscores the importance of addressing people's livelihood needs and responding to people's strengths and constraints in order to sustain conservation achievements given that both issues are intricately linked.

CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS

Micro credit and Cooperatives

Income generation activities were encouraged through micro credit schemes of cooperatives. During this period, community-managed micro-credit schemes financed income generation activities of 2,298 households to initiate small scale forest, agriculture and non-farm based enterprises. The cooperatives and CFCCs manage micro credit funds equivalent to over USD 200,000 for income generation activities (IGAs). Institutional support was provided to cooperatives through cooperative classes, trainings, workshops and exposure visits. So far, 14 cooperatives, with over 500 members, supported by TAL have been able to generate over USD 190,000 from their own savings and membership fees which is used to invest in IGAs.

Income generation

Over 2,000 households directly benefited from NTFP and farm-based IGAs which generated income of over USD 170,000. Similarly, a *Bel* (*Aegle marmelos*) juice enterprise, an elephant dung paper enterprise and two Mentha enterprises were supported by the TAL programme. Two distillation plants were also installed for processing Mentha, Chamomile, lemongrass, Citronella and other essential oil bearing herbs.

In Dudh Koshi, local communities were provided with the technical support for enterprise development on bio-briquette. Intervention activities on High Value Crops and NTFPs along with market linkages were conducted for livelihood-based adaptation benefiting over 275 households.

In SHL, crop depredation was reduced through the promotion of alternative farming practices such as chiraito (*Swertia chiraita*) cultivation and integrated cropping practices. Winter green essential oil plant was established in Laharepauwa in Langtang through the Langtang National Park Buffer Zone Support Project.

Population Health and Environment

The Population Health and Environment (PHE) project being implemented in three sites of TAL – Khata corridor, Basanta corridor and Gadawa (Lamahi bottleneck) – benefited more than 17,000 households by providing them access to health and family planning services and building awareness on population, health and environment. The

project also supported medical equipment in the project areas, and helped establish a community-managed health clinic in Khata corridor. The project coordinated with relevant organisations to run mobile health camps and awareness campaigns on PHE.

Livelihood and Good Governance Change Monitoring

The Livelihood and Good Governance Change Monitoring (LGCM) process was initiated in TAL-CBRP to monitor and assess the changes in people's lives and livelihoods in corridors, bottlenecks and buffer zone areas. LGCM is facilitated and guided by Government of Nepal CFUG Development Guideline 2008. Members from Community Forest Coordination Committees, Community Forest User Groups, FECOFUN, District Forest Office, local resource persons and project staff were trained on the LGCM system.

Building adaptive capacity of vulnerable community in mountains is another significant objective of livelihoods mainstreaming in conservation. The livelihoods issues were integrated significantly in Indrawati River Basin Management Programme and Langtang Adaptation Programme with appropriate interventions. During the period, field interaction, consultation and underlying livelihoods issues identification were key activities that integrated with broader themes results. NTFP-based entrepreneurship and social equity and governance issues in Kanchenjunga were some significant interventions at the community level.



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CLIMATE FOR MY LIFE

Climate for My Life was one of the major components of the Climate for Life Campaign organized by WWF. As a part of the campaign, 207,552 youth aged 13 to 21 years signed the petition against climate injustice and handed over to Honourable Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal, which was in turn handed over by the Prime Minister to His Excellency Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary General in New York. The objective of the petition campaign was to give a strong message to world leaders to take effective steps during the COP-15 meeting at Copenhagen in December 2009. School Environment Conservation Education Network, Nepal (SENSE-Nepal), the landscape level network of Eco Clubs, coordinated to collect more than 60,000 petitions from Eco Club members of TAL area.

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CONSERVATION EDUCATION

Conservation education is an integral part of all the projects and programmes at WWF Nepal. At local level, WWF Nepal together with various partners, has initiated and promoted awareness and capacity building programmes among local people to conserve Nepal's biological diversity in a way that is ecologically viable, economically beneficial, and socially equitable.

The conservation education programme is designed for school children, teachers, community members, and other target groups to enhance their decision-making capacities for conservation and sustainable development.

CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS

Rallying for Climate Change Awareness

Climate Change Awareness Campaign was organized in Kalikasthan of Rasuwa district and Lelep of Taplejung district. Students, teachers, and community members participated in the program. The program included climate rally, interactions on climate change, slide presentation, quiz, art and essay competitions, open expression and various informative games. The programme was highly effective in raising awareness on climate change and sustainable lifestyles among the local community.

Eco Club Formation in Indrawati

Indrawati Sub Basin Project was nationally launched on March 2010. Students of the area were organized in the form of Eco Clubs with three Eco clubs formed in Indrawati Sub Basin as an entry step. The Eco Clubs have been raising awareness on conservation throughout their community.

Conservation Awareness

137 Eco Clubs and their networks were involved and mobilized in conservation awareness activities. Issue-based interactions and campaigns were organized such as local level campaign for no-fishing zone in Karnali river where Dolphins are sighted, forest fire, rhino conservation awareness, climate change workshop for herders, forest guard education, school education, street dramas, biodiversity and conservation interaction in schools.

Scholarships

WWF Nepal has established a Memorial Scholarships Fund to honour the contribution of prominent conservation leaders who lost their lives in the tragic helicopter accident in Ghunsa, Taplejung in September 2007. This year WWF Nepal provided the scholarships to eight deserving students to pursue certificate level, bachelors level and masters level studies in various institutes in Nepal.

Conservation Education in School Curriculum

Conservation education was streamlined in the curriculum of primary schools in partnership with District Education Office and Federation of Community Forest Users Nepal (FECOFUN) of Kailali district. This is currently being taught in 160 schools in corridor and bottleneck areas while it was initiated in 80 schools of Basanta corridor.

Non-formal Education (NFE)

NFE classes were conducted for 5,000 persons (adults, herders and students) focusing on forests, landscape level conservation, wildlife conservation and anti-poaching issues in TAL.

Conservation Education Resources Book

Conservation Education Resources Book and Pani Prasad Part 3: Pani Prasad Ventures to Raise Climate Change Awareness were crucial publications targeting youth. Conservation Education Resources Book contains various information on biodiversity conservation, Eco Club formation, its sustainability and conservation games. Pani Prasad Part 3 is the story of the character - Pani Prasad - on climate change and climate adaptation.



CLIMATE FOR LIFE

Legendary mountaineer Apa Sherpa and fellow Everest summiteer Dawa Steven Sherpa embarked on what was their most important expedition – a trek through 10 European cities to raise awareness about the impacts of climate change in the Himalayas under the Climate For Life campaign of WWF. The two mountaineers began their European travels on 20 November 2009, travelling through Prague, Brno, Bratislava, London, Rome, Geneva, Chamonix, Vienna, Brussels and finally to Copenhagen in time for the climate change negotiations in December 2009. The journey which started with Apa Sherpa taking a Climate Change banner to the Everest Summit during his 19th Record ascent earlier this year culminated on the European continent, one of the highest per capita greenhouse gas emitting regions in the world. In their European journey, they met high-profile politicians, celebrities and the general public to deliver the message from the Himalayas, where small communities literally live at the frontiers of climate change impacts.



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COMMUNICATION

WWF Nepal aims to increase awareness and positively influence attitudes of people towards biodiversity conservation and sustainable development

Through its communications and marketing activities, WWF Nepal works towards bringing transformational changes in society. By highlighting field successes of project interventions WWF Nepal encourages replication of such activities by other like-minded agencies.

CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS

Earth Hour 2010

To mark Earth Hour 2010, a candlelight vigil was organised in Bouddhanath Stupa, one of the largest Stupas in the world as well as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Students, environmentalists, members of civil society and individuals lit candles to express their solidarity towards the fight against Climate Change. Famous spiritual singer Ani Choying Dolma sang a song of peace and started the lighting of butter lamps forming a giant Earth Hour symbol.

Young Conservation Ambassador at WWF Nepal

WWF Nepal appointed Zenisha Moktan, Miss Nepal – World 2009, as its Young Conservation Ambassador. Zenisha was involved in promoting conservation amongst the youth and raising awareness on tiger conservation as a part of WWF's Year of the Tiger Campaign, TX2.

Launch of TX2 Campaign

WWF Nepal launched its TX2 campaign with the slogan “Double or Nothing: Save the wild tigers and save so much more!” with a suite of campaign activities – from grassroots awareness efforts to targeted political engagement. Via public outreach and partnerships with a range of influencers and stakeholders, the campaign also aims to highlight and accelerate WWF's ambitions to stop poaching, protect tiger habitat at an unprecedented scale, and clamp down on the tiger trade. The campaign began with rallies being organized by eco club students in eight Terai districts of Nepal. Drawing and painting competitions on tiger conservation were also organized by the students in their schools.

2nd National Conservation Day

The second National Conservation Day was observed under the leadership of Government of Nepal remembering the Conservation Heroes who lost their lives in the tragic helicopter accident on 23 September 2006 at Ghunsa, Kangchenjunga. Different individuals and organisations were felicitated with Abraham Conservation Awards, Matthew Preece and Yeshi Lama Young Conservation Leaders Awards, WWF Media in Conservation Award, and Nepal Conservation Memorial Scholarships and Mingma Sherpa Memorial Scholarships. The biography of charismatic environmentalist Dr. Chandra Gurung, “A Boy from Siklis – The Life and Times of Chandra Gurung” penned by noted author Manjushree Thapa was also unveiled at the function.

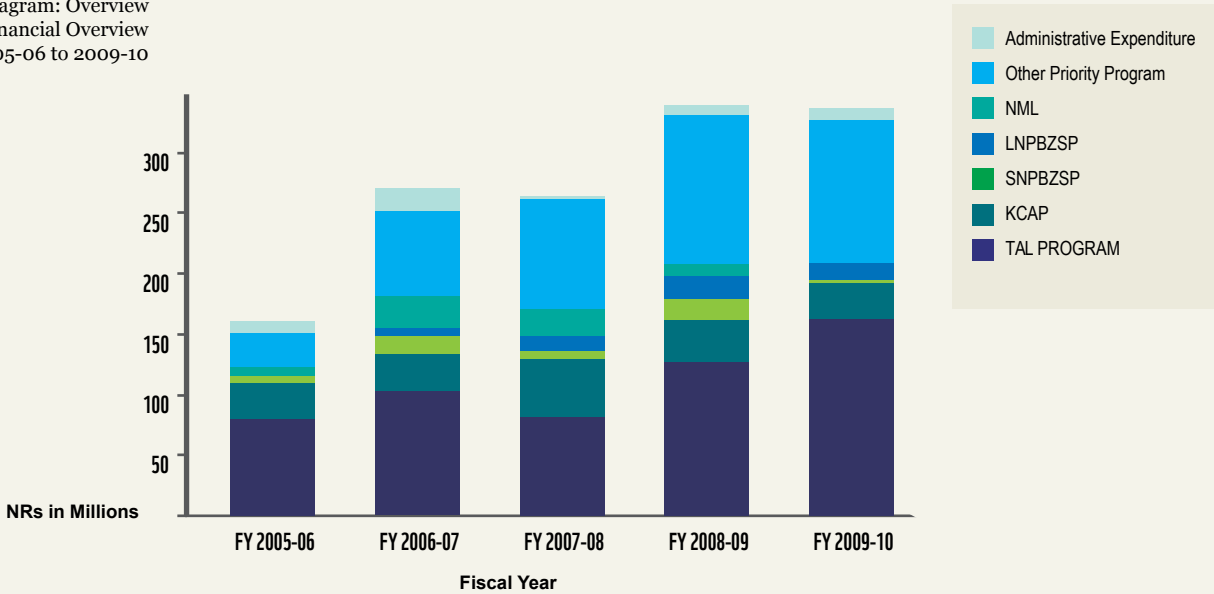
Media Engagement

Local print and electronic media were engaged in TAL to highlight conservation issues, efforts and achievements at national and international level. The forest encroachment in Basanta corridor, poaching and tiger-rhino conservation campaigns, and climate change issues were covered well at the national level. In addition to regular radio programmes, 10 local FM's were also supported to broadcast conservation messages in TAL area. Likewise, workshops on media in conservation were organized benefiting 94 journalists. 31 episodes of Radio-Bhuparidhi programme was aired through 5 local FM's. Weekly radio programmes were aired through Solu FM on water and environment issues in the Koshi basin.

WWF NEPAL FINANCIALS

WWF Nepal For Fiscal Year 2005-06 to 2009-10	Financial Year	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Excluding Head Quarter Expense WWF's Fiscal Year ends on 30th June	(1) Terai arc landscape program	80,095,870	103,915,144	82,577,019	127,741,435	163,835,343
	(2) Sacred himalayan landscape program (i+ii+iii)	35,768,187	51,093,390	66,331,101	71,091,329	45,507,929
	i) Kangchenjunga conservation area project	29,669,889	30,422,835	47,245,923	34,288,539	28,464,039
	ii) Sagarmatha national park and bufferzone support project	6,098,298	14,529,979	7,000,770	16,605,976	2,915,374
	iii) Langtang National Park and Bufferzone Support Project	-	6,140,576	12,084,408	20,196,814	14,128,516
	(3) Northern mountain landscape	7,127,246	27,132,605	21,863,255	9,920,795	-
	(4) Other priority program	27,780,443	70,631,330	92,385,983	123,257,952	118,141,612
	(5) Administrative expenditure	9,366,330	18,470,716	*-809388.84	8,262,798	9,756,793
	Total Expenditure (1+2+3+4+5)	160,138,076	271,243,186	262,347,968	340,274,309	337,241,677

Diagram: Overview
Audited Financial Overview
FY 2005-06 to 2009-10



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2009

Jul

- 27 300 – 400 snow leopards estimated to be found in Nepal
- 27 2008 population estimate confirms the presence of 121 adult tigers in Nepal

Sep

- 18 Climate change message from 207,552 Nepali youth and Sherpa community handed over to PM
- 23 Second National Conservation Day observed

Oct

- 30 The Kathmandu Global Tiger Workshop organized

Nov

- 20 Apa and Dawa begin European Expedition under the Climate for Life campaign
- 23 A two day teaching on the role of Buddhism in “wildlife and environment protection” and “world peace in the face of climate change”

Dec

- 2 Apa and Dawa Steven Sherpa receive WWF’s Leaders for a Living Planet Award

2010

Jan

29 1st Asia Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation

Feb

14 TX2 campaign launched in Nepal

Mar

19 WWF Nepal appoints Miss Nepal – World 2009 Young Conservation Ambassador

26 Candlelight Vigil at Bouddhanath Stupa to mark Earth Hour

29 WECS and WWF launch Indrawati Sub-basin Project

May

17 First ever “Sacred Natural Sites, Biodiversity Conservation & Climate Change in the Eastern Himalayas” workshop held in Bhutan

19 South Asia Forge Consensus On Wildlife Enforcement Network

22 Apa Sherpa on Everest for 20th time - fighting against climate change

28 WWF and DiCaprio today kicked off Save Tigers Now

Jun

03 MoU between Nepal and China

15 Indrawati Sub-Basin Project Office Inaugurated in Chautara

WWF'S INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL PROGRAMMES

Living Himalayas Network Initiative

WWF's work in Nepal is part of Living Himalayas – WWF's Global Initiative, which aims to bring the three governments of Bhutan, India and Nepal together to effectively manage and conserve the natural resources in the face of Climate Change for the sake of their unique people, their exceptional wildlife and their breath-taking environment. Combining connectivity and regional solutions, the initiative views the ecoregion as a single unit and not a series of fragmented landscapes in separate countries. Wildlife trade, landscape management and development issues will be treated regionally, bringing people, government and industry together in the three countries and developing plans that straddle borders and landscapes.

Vision

A harmonious mosaic of healthy, vibrant landscapes providing plentiful resources for people while giving wildlife space and securing the ecological and cultural treasures of the Himalayas.

Goals

By 2020:

- Ecosystem integrity and climate resilience of critical freshwater systems in the Eastern Himalayas are secured in the context of hydropower development.
- Ecosystem contiguity and ecological connectivity of the Living Himalayas secured in a mosaic of ~5 million hectares of high conservation value forests, grasslands and wetlands.
- Populations of iconic and threatened species thrive in the Eastern Himalayas.

Tiger Network Initiative

The tiger is iconic of Asia's natural heritage and ecological integrity, and has wide cultural esteem. Unfortunately, due to extensive habitat loss and intensive poaching for their body parts, tiger populations across the range have shrunk alarmingly over the past five decades. Today tigers occupy a mere 7% of their historic range. WWF, recognizing that a wider paradigm shift is required if Asia's top predator is to survive the next decade and beyond, is working to protect the tiger through its ambitious network-wide Tiger Initiative. The Tiger NI team proposes a bold plan to galvanize political will and take action to double the number of wild tigers by the year 2020, focusing on 13 tiger landscapes.

Vision

Tigers will thrive in viable wild populations in priority landscapes, and in restored, interconnected habitats, secure from threats to their survival and coexisting with local communities.

Goal

The wild tiger population increase to at least 6,000 by 2020, through conservation in 13 priority landscapes.

Action plan

WWF's Tiger NI is dedicated to developing and applying this shift by focusing on key, strategic areas - places and policy - to recover wild tiger populations over the next decade. The Tiger NI includes WWF offices in 11 tiger range countries; namely India, Nepal, Bhutan, China, Thailand, Malaysia, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia, and Russia.

Asian Rhino and Elephant Action Strategy

Asian elephants and all four Asian rhino species are amongst the most endangered large mammals in the world and their numbers are falling at some of the critical bio diversity sites. WWF is doing its best to halt this trend and initiated a suite of conservation activities for these important species under a comprehensive programme dubbed AREAS (Asian Rhino and Elephant Action Strategy) and based the regional HQ in WWF Nepal Programme since the year 2000. The overall objective is that the WWF AREAS programme is instrumental in achieving conservation results through interventions by WWF and interventions of partner organisations (Governments, NGOs, and other stakeholders) so that Asian elephant and rhino populations are viable in adequate habitats in 2020. It will do so by enhancing institutional capacity of WWF and partners through technical and policy support to contribute to the survival of viable populations of Asian Elephants, Greater One-horned, Sumatran and Javan Rhinos in the wild. The programme will also monitor at the regional level to measure the impact of WWF investments for the conservation of these four species of Asian pachyderms. In Nepal, the AREAS programme has been working closely with WWF and it's partner organisations in developing and implementing the conservation Action Plans for rhinos and elephants. In this reporting period the programme has provided support to initiate an ID based monitoring of rhinos, radio tracking of rhinos to look at the impact of invasive weeds in their habitat and to implement best practices for the treatment of tuberculosis in captive elephants used by the DNPWC and the tourist industry. In addition, the programme works closely with WWF Nepal staff on the issue of combating illegal trade in rhino and elephant parts.

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) is a global programme that provides grants to non-government organisations and other private sector partners to protect critical ecosystem all over the world. The fund is a joint programme of Conservation International, l'Agence Francaise de Developpement, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan, The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and the World Bank.

In the Eastern Himalayas, WWF leads the regional team responsible for facilitating, coordinating and monitoring grants for CEPF-supported projects in Nepal, Bhutan and northeast India.

In Nepal, WWF coordinates the CEPF Grants. This year, three NGOs received a total of USD 90,255 in large grants for projects in the Makalu Barun Area, Kangchenjunga-Singalila Complex and Terai Arc Landscape, for one and half year duration. Project that are supported by the grants aim at the conservation of red panda, promote red panda based community tourism and secure safe environment for critically endangered vultures.

The WWF Nepal Programme office hosts the CEPF regional team for the Eastern Himalayas. The team currently coordinates seven large grants in Bhutan that have received a total USD 634,000, six large grants in northeast India which have been awarded over USD 500,000 in total and twelve large grants in Nepal that have received a total USD 624,255. The team also coordinates over 55 small grants in Bhutan, India and Nepal.

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WWF in Numbers

+ 100

WWF is in over 100 countries,
on 5 continents

1961

WWF was founded in 1961



+ 5M

WWF has over 5 million
supporters

+ 5,000

WWF has over 5,000
staff worldwide



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.

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