

Cameras donated



WWF Nepal donated five analog cameras and a lens for wildlife photography to National Forum of Photo Journalists (NFPJ) on 21 December 2007. The cameras will be used by the photo journalists for training and covering the conservation issues. Dr. Ghanashyam Gurung, Acting Country Representative of WWF Nepal handed over the equipment to Mr. Bikas Rauniar, President, Mr. Narayan Shrestha, Vice-President and Mr. Ravi Manandhar the General Secretary of NFPJ.

The photo journalists will provide conservation and wildlife photographs to WWF Nepal taken by them. ■

Ramsar certificate handover by DNPWC

Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) handed over the certificates awarded by Ramsar Bureau to the respective national park wardens in a ceremony on 8 November 2007. Four high altitude wetlands (HAW) in Nepal, namely Gokyo and associated lakes, Gosaikunda and associated lakes, Phoksundo Lake and Rara Lake were designated new Wetlands of International Importance by the Switzerland based Ramsar Bureau on 23 September 2007. The certificates were handed over to wardens and representatives of

Sagarmatha National Park, Langtang National Park, Shey Phoksundo National Park and Rara National Park respectively by Mr. Shyam Bajimaya, Director General, DNPWC.

WWF had supported the Government of Nepal for the inventory preparation and Ramsar Assessment of the high altitude wetlands in Nepal. 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. ■

Facing Climate Change in Mountain Area

International Mountain Day was celebrated jointly by WWF Nepal, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA), Trekking Agents Association of Nepal (TAAN) with the slogan "Facing climate change in mountain area" on 11 December 2007. The programme was coordinated by Gorkha Tourism.

To sensitize the journalists on the issues of climate change and make people aware of these issues through news, articles, documentaries, photos etc., an interaction programme was organized at Lakuri Bhanjyang, Lalitpur. ■



HOT OFF THE PRESS



Sustainable Livelihoods Series 2007, PP 28

A booklet on livestock insurance scheme in the upper Himalayan region has been published in continuation to the series Sustainable Livelihoods.



Snow Leopard Manual in Nepali 2007, pp 56

The snow leopard still remains a little studied animal throughout its range states. Nepal has an estimated number of 350-500 snow leopards in the wild. The Snow Leopard Manual in Nepali will be of immense value to field practitioners and students alike for censusing snow leopard and its prey species.

EcoCircular

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Newsletter

Message from the Country Representative

Team WWF is back!

WWF completed its 15th year in Nepal on 19 May 2008. To celebrate the special day, the Mighty Unicorns and Orange Piranhas, the two teams at WWF Nepal battled their brains and brawns - eventually to come back stronger as TEAM WWF!

In the following pages you will read about the turnaround in Ani's life brought about by the Ghatte Khola Micro Hydro Project. You will also get to know how the local community has benefited from the solar electrification in upper Dolpa and how it has reduced the use of 'Diyalos' - burning the barks of trees. There are many more stories like these to be told.

In our pursuit to save the future of nature, WWF and IUCN supported by Nokia have launched a new online community where young people can have their say on environment by uploading videos, pictures and comments. Visit the site www.connect2earth.org, create contents, connect and team up with like-minded people, and change the world with a click!

Anil Manandhar
Country Representative

Ani's new kitchen

UGAN MANANDHAR
Alternative Energy Officer

Ani and her family migrated from Solu, a village to the south of the Everest region, to Phakding village at Chaurikharka Village Development Committee-5, a village en-route to the Mount Everest, in search of better livelihood opportunities. No buffer zone had been declared around Sagarmatha National Park when she migrated with her husband and three children at Phakding.



The enormous energy needs

The inflow of tourists was very high and to meet energy demands for lighting, cooking and heating purposes, the locals heavily relied on kerosene and the forests in an unsustainable manner - some 6,473 tons of fuel wood was annually consumed by 465 households around the Chaurikharka area. On migrating, Ani bought a restaurant and lodge - "Beer Garden". She too relied on the forests and kerosene to meet the cooking, heating and lighting demands of her newly bought lodge and restaurant. Her consumption of fuel wood was about 20 tons per year paying Nepali Rupees 60,000.00 (around US\$ 950). More expenses incurred on energy usages as she used about 2,880 litres of kerosene paying Nepali Rupees 100/ litre. She recalls there were no rules and regulations regarding the use of natural resources and the greenery was getting thinner and thinner.

Switching from fuel wood to hydro power



It was under this project that a number of micro hydro electrification surveys were done around the buffer zone areas so that the locals could benefit from alternative energy and reduce the pressure on the forests and using expensive kerosene. Using biomass was not feasible due to cold climatic conditions, thus the only solution was bringing

in micro hydro projects to have an energy switch from fuel wood to hydro power.

Among the surveyed micro hydro projects, the 70 kW Ghatte Micro hydro Project was finally implemented in March 2006 and completed in June 2007, benefiting 108 households from 6 villages namely Tok-Tok,

Tourism at a high price

People around the world definitely got the opportunity to see the highest peak of the world, but at an environmental price. To add to this, global warming was also contributing to the fast retreating of the glaciers which are the water towers of Asia and sources of fresh water.

With high tourism value of the area, in the late 1980s over increasing waste problem in Mt. Everest region also became a national and international concern. A local NGO- Sagarmatha Pollution Control Committee was finally established in 1991 with the support of WWF Nepal. In 1996 with the areas around the Sagarmatha National Park declared as a buffer zone, DNPWC and WWF Nepal initiated Sagarmatha Community Agro-Forestry Project (SCAFP) with the goal to achieve sustainable management of their natural resources by strengthening capacity of the local communities in Sagarmatha National Park and Buffer Zone. The project showed positive impacts with initiation of agro forestry projects and teaching people the importance of conserving natural resources and using them sustainability and ultimately the greenery started to re-grow.

Turnaround in Ani's lifestyle

Ani too subscribed to the electricity in addition to having a 2kW rated peltric set which was used for lighting the restaurant and lodge but insufficient to use electrical appliances. Post subscribing the electricity generated from the Ghatte Micro hydro Project which was implemented by WWF Nepal under the Climate Change and Energy Program with the financial and technical support of the Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Association- BGN, Sagarmatha National Park and Buffer Zone Management Committee, WWF - UK, WWF Nepal and active local participation, there has been a substantial change in Ani's kitchen. She has stopped using her locally made fuel wood stove and switched to using hot plates, micro wave, mixers, rice cookers, refrigerator and electric room heaters. She occasionally uses a small stove which uses wood scraps and



a "Bayu-pankhi" (a hand propelled fan) to enhance the flames and use the wood scrap efficiently and without smoke. With an approximate 1.5 to 2 tons of fuel wood consumed annually, Ani claims that over the past three months from July to September 2007, consumption of fuel wood scraps has reduced to maximum of 0.1 tons a month and now she does not have to buy a lot of expensive kerosene. Her monthly electricity bill fetches upto NRs 3,500.00 per month. She claims that the micro hydro project has significantly reduced her expenses on energy and will pay her bills on time to ensure the sustainability of the micro hydro scheme which has been handed over to the Ghatte Khola Micro Hydro Management Committee for further management.

Source of inspiration

Likewise, Ani has not only made the energy switch. Other lodges and restaurants in the villages electrified by the Ghatte Micro Hydro Project too have made similar switch. Households too have started using small cooking heaters. This initiative by WWF Nepal in developing the micro hydro project will definitely be instrumental in reducing the pressure in one of the buffer zone VDC's (Chaurikharka -5) of the Everest region. ■

Biogas fuelling health and sanitation revolution in Tilkanipur

Tilkanipur is a small village with 88 HH, in Pahalmanpur-5, lying adjacent to the Basanta Corridor. The village elders, with support from two NGOs, are leading a health and sanitation revolution. The villagers have declared their area as a sanitary zone with fine of 100 rupees for anyone using the outdoors for toilet purpose. The villagers are also practising other sanitation measures such as use of clean drinking water, proper drying of cooking utensils etc.



As a part of the sanitation revolution, villagers are in a frenzy to build toilets.

Upon learning that TAL/Pahalmanpur CFCC provides a subsidy of 2,000 rupees if a toilet is attached to a biogas plant constructed through loan from the CFCC, they realized the multiple benefits. They made a special request to CFCC Pahalmanpur for biogas plants. The CFCC decided to act upon their request and allocate all possible biogas quotas to the Tilkanipur Village. So far, 36 biogas plants are under construction in the village through the CFCC loan in addition to the seven constructed last year. The Pahalmanpur CFCC has committed to providing loan for construction of additional biogas plants in the community upon availability of funds. To reduce costs, the villagers have formed a construction committee that takes on responsibility of managing all constructions, procurement of cement and other materials. ■

100 per cent solar electrification in upper Dolpa

WWF Nepal and various partner organizations have been successful in fully lighting the buffer zone areas of the Shey Phoksundo National Park of upper Dolpa through solar electrification. With the current distribution of 251 solar sets supported by the Kadoorie Charitable Foundation, WWF Nepal in total has supported 692 households out of 859 households for solar electrification in the high altitude regions of upper Dolpa. To enhance the lighting and create a smokeless indoor environment, the solar program has also been supported by the distribution of smokeless stoves.

The local communities of Dolpa earlier used "Diyalos"- burning barks of trees and expensive kerosene-lit lamps to meet the lighting needs. However, with the intervention of WWF Nepal's energy program and support from partners like the Kadoorie Charitable Foundation, the use of "Diyalos" has been put to an end, bringing about a visible change in health and education of the people of upper Dolpa.

Like wise, WWF Nepal with support from USAID Nepal commissioned a 35kW Chaalgadh Micro Hydro Scheme and a 29kW Mahadev Line Extension Scheme in the buffer zone areas of lower Dolpa benefiting 181 and 149 households respectively in the year 2007.■



WWF supports Sagarmatha National Park Buffer Zone Management Committee

WWF Nepal signed a grant agreement with Sagarmatha National Park Buffer Zone Management Committee (SNPBZ MC) on 15 April 2008 to support community based biodiversity conservation and sustainable development initiatives. Out of the total grant of NRs. 12.5 million, NRs. 11.9 million will support towards constructing 35 kW Chhuserma micro hydro scheme directly benefiting 58 households. It is being jointly financed by WWF Nepal, Kadoorie Agricultural Aid

Association, SNPBZ MC and the local communities.

This initiative is intended to further strengthen local capacities for the better management of natural resources with active and meaningful participation of local communities under the leadership of Sagarmatha National Park and Buffer Zone Management Committee (SNPBZ MC) in the Sagarmatha region.■

Gaur count in Parsa Wildlife Reserve

A recent census has confirmed the presence of 37 gaurs (*Bos gaurus*) in the Parsa Wildlife Reserve (PWR). The census was conducted from 24-27 May 2008 by the PWR in coordination with the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, WWF Nepal - Terai Arc Landscape Program, Nepal Army and Buffer Zone Management Committee. Nine elephants and twelve recorders participated in the count.

The Chitwan National Park has 296 gaurs as per the census in 2007, showing an increase of 98 individual animals from the last count a decade ago. Although not confirmed, gaurs are believed to be found in Triyuga of Udaipur district in eastern Nepal.

The gaur, also known as the Indian bison, is the largest wild cattle species in the world, measuring up to 2 metres at the shoulders and weighing up to 900 kg. In Nepal, the gaur is listed as protected animal, as vulnerable in IUCN Red Data Book, and is listed in Appendix I of CITES. Their numbers are declining due to over-hunting, habitat destruction and exposure to diseases of domestic cattle such as rinderpest, foot-and-mouth disease and anthrax.

Gaurs are found in eastern India, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, southern China, and the Malay Peninsula. They inhabit evergreen and deciduous forest hills and grassy clearings up to 2,500m.■



WWF Nepal celebrates its 15th anniversary



On 18 and 19 May 2008, Mighty Unicorns and Orange Piranhas - the two teams at WWF Nepal battled their wits and muscles to celebrate the 15th Anniversary of WWF Nepal.

The two teams played volleyball, table tennis, badminton, swimming, mini-cricket, arm wrestling, tug of war and fun games like sack race, dress-up competition and matka fod on the first day. On the second day, quiz competition, drama competition and talent contest was held.

Mighty Unicorns emerged as the overall champions in the event sweeping away most of the games and Orange Piranhas were winners in the quiz contest, table tennis and ladies badminton events.

Jon Miceler, MD - Eastern Himalayas joined the Mighty Unicorns meanwhile John Lalumiere, VP-HR, WWF-US participated in the games as Orange Piranhas. ■

Minister for Forest and Soil Conservation in Bardia

Minister for Forest and Soil Conservation, Mr. Matrika Yadav and Director General of Department of Forests, Mr. Keshav Raj Kanel visited Dhangadhi, Kailali on 5 - 6 May 2008. The meeting focused on encroachment in Basanta corridor and issues of clashes between encroachers and officials from District Forest Office (DFO), Kailali.■

Poachers arrested

Anti Poaching Operation Network of Bardia National Park arrested four suspected rhino poachers with an automatic gun, eight SLR bullets, a rhino horn and about 10 kg tiger bone in Bardia on 10 May 2008. Out of the four suspected wildlife criminals, one is a soldier of Nepal Army deployed at Nepalgunj and two are ex-army personnel. All arrested are under investigation.■

CITES training for enforcement officials

WWF Nepal and Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation jointly organized a training on CITES for enforcement officials including officials from Nepal Police, law sector, district forest offices, and forensic laboratory on 22-23 May 2008. During the two days' training more than 60 participants mainly from Nepal Police benefited. Similar training was held last year as well.

Similarly, a three day long legal procedure training was organized at Sauraha for the staff of Chitwan National Park on 23-25 May 2008. The CITES sensitization workshop was also organized for the staff of CNP on 26 May 2008.■

Two Eco Clubs formed at PWRBZ

Aiming to raise biodiversity conservation awareness among the school children and their parents through the mobilization of eco club members, two eco clubs have been formed at Makari Higher Secondary School at Handikhola Makawanpur and Gyan Batika Higher Secondary School at Subarnapur Parsa. These two are the 121st and 122nd eco clubs formed and active under TAL- PABZ.■

WWF-US team in Langtang

A team comprising of Tom Dillon, Senior-Vice President, Programs, WWF-US, John Lalumiere, Vice-President, Human Resources, WWF-US, Jon Miceler, Eastern Himalayan Managing Director, WWF-US, Anil Manandhar, CR, WWF Nepal and Indu Bikal Sapkota, SHL Program Manager, WWF Nepal visited Langtang National Park and Buffer Zone Support Project (LNPBZSP) from 8-10 May 2008. The team had interaction meetings with members of eco-clubs, mother groups, anti-poaching units, and buffer zone management committees.■

Red Panda Workshop

A regional level workshop on "Developing Red Panda Action Plan for Langtang" organized by WWF in collaboration with DNPWC was held in Dhunche, Rasuwa. More than 100 stakeholders (government officials, local communities, buffer zone committee members, journalists, entrepreneurs, and NGOs) from Rasuwa, Nuwakot, and Sindhupalchock districts took part in the workshop. The workshop was successful in identifying specific activities for red panda conservation, role of various stakeholders, required resources, and linking conservation with local livelihoods.■

Police unravels a personal museum of wildlife parts and artifacts

The Metropolitan Police Crime Division, Hanuman Dhoka seized the wildlife parts including tiger skins, leopard skins, chests with animal skins mounted on it, sofa cushion with animal skins, bear claws, tiger claws, jackal horn (as mentioned by police), snow leopard skin, red panda skin, python skin, skulls and many more wildlife parts including artifacts like statues, temple buttress, thangkas and many other items from rented house of a US citizen Ian Baker on 18 May 2008.

From the investigation the police has found that Ian had been living in Nepal for the last 24 years and had collected all these items illegally in Rajesh Maharjan's house. ■



Appeal to save rhinos and tigers

An appeal was broadcast through FM stations, Nepal Television and national and local dailies to make people aware of the poachers who are generally active during times when the country goes through transition (holding of Constituent Assembly elections this time). Direct telephone numbers were provided to inform the agencies mentioned of such occurrences. The appeal was published jointly by WWF Nepal, Department of Forests, Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, and National Trust for Nature Conservation. ■

Interaction Program by NEFEJ

On 27 May 2008, the Nepal Forum for Environmental Journalists (NEFEJ) organized a talk program cum press meet titled 'Ian Baker's illegal museum - Hobby or Crime?', to highlight the seizure of illegal wildlife parts/derivatives from the residence of Ian Baker. Mr. Diwakar Chapagain, Wildlife Trade Manager, WWF Nepal did a presentation on the prevailing wildlife laws in Nepal and provisions for trial and punishments for wildlife related crimes. ■

US Ambassador Visits Khata Corridor



On 27 March 2008, the US Ambassador to Nepal Her Excellency Ms. Nancy Powell paid visit to Khata corridor to observe field level activities run by Community Forest Coordination Committee (CFCC) Khata. WWF Nepal's Country Representative, Mr. Anil Manandhar, Santosh Nepal and Dhan Rai accompanied the team. She interacted with the CFCC members and CBAPO team to know about wildlife poaching and illegal trade of endangered wild animals, like tiger, rhino and others. She observed the proposed grassland, mentha and chamomile processing and distillation plants, bel juice and rattan industries supported by TAL programme. She appreciated the interventions by TAL programme. ■

Appreciation letter to Metropolitan Police

A letter of appreciation was handed over to Mr. Devendra Subedi, SP, Metropolitan Police Crime Division by Mr. Jon Miceler, Managing Director - Eastern Himalayas, WWF-US for the division's continued efforts and actions in controlling the trade in illegal wildlife parts and artifacts - including the recent confiscations. ■

Sall Measures Workshop

A three day Sall Measures Workshop was organized in Kathmandu from 4-6 February 2008 with the objectives to validate/verify the indicators and their measurements; rank/rate the indicators for biological, conservation management, threat and social targets; clarify questions on socio-economic data, and streamline the template (final draft); and integrate the use of Miradi. ■

Celebrating the 13th Wildlife Week

WWF Nepal is celebrating the 13th Wildlife Week jointly with the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation and other partners from 13-19 April 2008. Different programmes like essay contest, quiz contest, art competition, wildlife game, bird-watching, plant identification, radio shows and television shows were organized on the occasion. WWF broadcasted two public service announcements (PSAs) in Nepal Television to aware people of the illegal wildlife trade issues and urging them to save the endangered animals. ■

WWF's 10 years in Kangchenjunga Conservation Area



While poets from Taplejung cited poems, students in Kathmandu participated in a rally to raise awareness on conserving snow leopard as a part of celebrating WWF's ten years in Kangchenjunga Conservation Area.

The celebrations began with the organizing of an on-the-spot essay competition on the theme 'Community Managed Kangchenjunga Conservation Area - Challenges and Possibilities' on 19 February. One hundred and forty students from 30 colleges in the Kathmandu valley conducting mass communication courses participated in the event.

On 22 March, students from five schools - Ambition Academy, Boudha Secondary English School, Gyanodaya Balbatika Higher Secondary School, Peace Nepal Academy, and Nexus International Academy joined hands with WWF Nepal and Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation

(DNPWC) staff to raise awareness on conserving the endangered snow leopard. The students carrying banners and placards with messages to save the snow leopard toured the Tundikhel, the parade ground at the centre of Kathmandu. A conservation song on the 10th year of WWF in Kangchenjunga Conservation Area and importance of saving the snow leopard and the band of men playing Dhime Baja (traditional musical instrument) were the major attractions of the rally.

A one day district level review workshop and a poetry competition were organized in Taplejung. Government officials, representatives from NGOs, civil society organizations, political parties and journalists discussed and provided feedback on the future priorities of Kangchenjunga Conservation Area Project and Kangchenjunga Conservation Area Management Council. Fifteen poets presented their poems on the occasion. In Lelep, the representatives of mother groups, user groups, and community forest user groups discussed on the achievements and progress made during the ten years. ■

Piloting ISSC-MAP in Kangchenjunga and Langtang

Indu Bikal Sapkota, Manager - Sacred Himalayan Landscape, took part in a regional expert workshop (23-26 November 2007) on "International Standard for Sustainable Wild Collection of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (ISSC-MAP) pilot implementation" organized by WWF Germany and TRAFFIC held at Isle of Vilm. The initiative will be piloted in various countries in the world including Nepal. WWF Nepal will be implementing this in Kangchenjunga Conservation Area and buffer zone of Langtang National Park.

An estimated 50,000 - 70,000 plant species are used in traditional and modern medicine throughout the world, and in Nepal nearly 700 species are reported to be used for these purposes. Unfortunately, available information suggests that up to 15,000 MAP species could be under threat, many as a direct result of unsustainable collection practices. ISSC-MAP provides clear principles, criteria, indicators and verifiers that will enable industry, resource managers, collectors and other stakeholders to assess and monitor the sustainability of wild resources and collection practices. ■

Regional High Altitude Wetlands Workshop

A three day regional high altitude wetlands (HAW) workshop was organized by WWF Nepal on 29-31 January 2008. The participants from Bhutan, China, India, Pakistan and Nepal along with Biksham Gujja, WWF International and Esther Bloom, WWF Netherlands discussed on different issues related to high altitude wetlands. The main objective of the workshop was to launch the second phase project and to conduct series of discussions on different issues related to HAW project.■



World Water Day celebrated with Pani Prasad

WWF Nepal together with Clean Energy Nepal (CEN) celebrated World Water day on 22 March with the objective to present and share the activities carried out by WWF Nepal and CEN on dissemination of "Journey of Pani Prasad". The guide book published by WWF Nepal "The Journey of Pani Prasad" was disseminated to 25 different schools and the students had conducted different follow up activities and survey in their respective schools. About 100 students from these schools participated in the programme accompanied by representative teachers.■

Talk Programs

Talk Programs featuring the upcoming Constituent Assembly Elections were organized on March 18 and 19 to orient and make staff understand the perceived changes as an individual and an organization so that we could strategize the way we work, think and conceptualize conservation. Two renowned speakers were invited to WWF for lectures.

Mr. C. K. Lal renowned columnist and a socio-political analyst of Nepal gave a talk on the topic, "Visualizing Federal Structure post CA Election in the Terai," whereas Mr. Bhimarjun Acharya, a well know constitution expert's talk focused more on the modus operandi of CA election, the development process of new constitution etc.■

New Staff Orientation

A structured formal orientation was held on March 19 and 20 for a group of new staff where there were various sessions on WWF-The Organization globally, WWF Nepal legal status and working modalities and WWF Nepal conservation programmes.

Staff were also briefed on Core Values, Institutional Policies and procedures. A "Benefits Briefing" session for all staff was also organized in order to refresh staff on WWF benefits including insurance and other facilities.■

Celebrating World Wetlands Day 2008

This year's World Wetlands Day was celebrated with the theme "Healthy Wetlands, Healthy People" and WWF Nepal together with its partner organizations focused in raising awareness in the community regarding the wise use and sustainable management of wetlands and their resources. Along with its conservation partners, Freshwater Program supported the Bird Festival at Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve starting from 2 February 2008 and the Taudaha Jamboree at Taudaha. WWF Nepal supported DNPWC in raising community awareness regarding the wise use and Ramsar convention at the recently declared four high altitude Ramsar sites. A hoarding board displaying Ramsar's message translated in Nepali language and fact-sheet produced by DNPWC and WWF Nepal were also released on the occasion.

As a part of its outreach, WWF Nepal supported a seminar organized by Hindu Kush Himalayan Benthological Society (HKH- Benso) at Nagarkot on 1 February 2008. The seminar aimed at sharing knowledge and experiences and generate public awareness on wetlands and their issues. The Langtang National Park and Buffer Zone Support Project also celebrated the day with other non governmental organizations, governmental line agencies, community based organizations, cultural groups and locals.■

Primary Level Curriculum Development Workshop

Western Regional Office (WRO), Nepalgunj conducted a three day workshop to identify the key conservation agenda for developing primary level curriculum as a pilot project in three resource centres under the District Education Office (DEO), Kailali. The workshop developed the draft curriculum that will be finalized soon. The curriculum will be implemented in total of 120 schools in Kailali at the start of the piloting.■

Elephant Training through Positive Learning Method

Elephant training through positive learning method was organized at Khorsor on 14 December 2007. Twenty one elephant staff of Chitwan National Park (CNP), Bardia National Park (BNP), Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (KTWR), National Trust for Nature Conservation, Temple Tiger Hotel and three veterinary staff of CNP. A similar training was organized for the elephant staff of CNP in March 2006 with the support of WWF Finland and World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA). Besides this, a two-day workshop on health and management of elephants was also organized at Khorsor, Chitwan. Forty elephant staff including veterinary staff of BNP, CNP, Parsa Wildlife Reserve and KTWR participated in the workshop.

The training was carried out under the guidance of Dr. Andrew McLean from Australia, who is an internationally highly recognized expert in the science of animal training, Tuikka Kaimio from Finland, who also conducted the previous year's workshop, and scientist Marc Pierard from Belgium, who led the foreign team. During this workshop, three young elephants from Khorsor received some basic training, and all three proceeded quickly in their learning.■



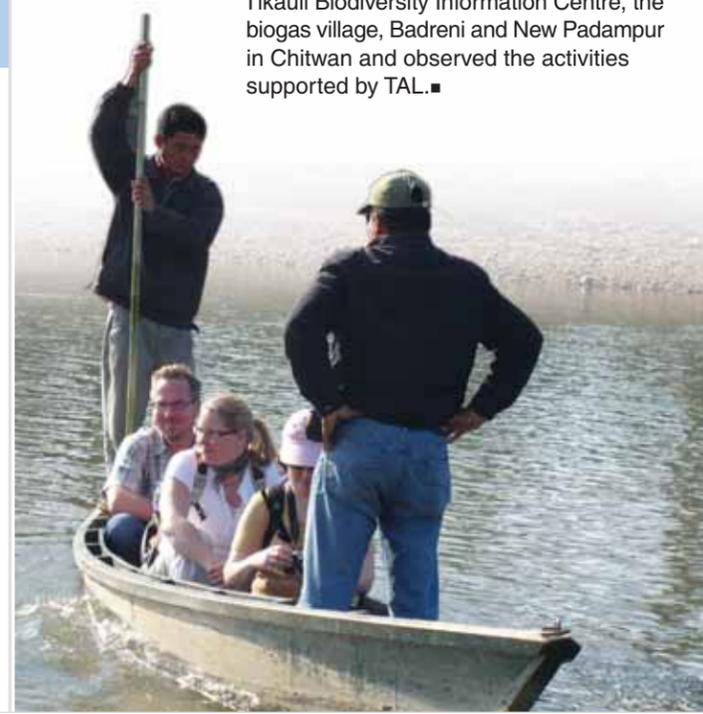
Finnish Charge de Affaires visits Chitwan

Pirko Lisa Kyotilla, Her Excellency, Embassy of Finland and the Country Representative of WWF Nepal visited Chitwan National Park and its buffer zone on 24-27 February 2008. The activities conducted inside Chitwan National Park and in its buffer zone were observed. They also visited the Biogas Village, Badreni and Elephant Breeding Centre, Khorsor.■

WWF Finland's Head of Conservation in Chitwan

Jari Luukkonen, Head of Conservation, WWF Finland visited Chitwan National Park (CNP), its Buffer Zone and New Padampur on 16-17 December 2007. He observed the activities supported by TAL in CNP along with the elephant health and management workshop at Khorsor.

He visited the park headquarters, Kasara, Tikauli Biodiversity Information Centre, the biogas village, Badreni and New Padampur in Chitwan and observed the activities supported by TAL.■



Tiger Conservation with Endemol TV's support

Endemol, a popular TV Channel in the United Kingdom, produced a TV show on conservation of selected endangered species across the continent. Issues and initiatives in tiger conservation in the Terai Arc Landscape, Nepal had been selected as one of the themes for the TV show. Ms. Pauline Collins, one of the popular celebrity actresses of UK, participated in the TV show on behalf of tiger conservation issues and initiatives in Nepal. WWF-UK and WWF Nepal coordinated the shooting of the show in Nepal.

Tiger conservation issues and initiatives in Nepal won the Extinct TV show series in Endemol Channel as per viewers' vote. As a winner, Endemol TV provided funding supports for tiger conservation activities in the Terai Arc Landscape, Nepal. The fund has been channelled through WWF-UK and WWF Nepal towards implementation of tiger conservation activities. Terai Arc Landscape Program of WWF Nepal has been implementing the planned activities for tiger conservation with this funding support from the Endemol TV. Establishment of Radio Communication System in Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve (SWR) is one of the priority activities funded by Endemol. The installation of radio communication system has been completed and it is fully operational covering the whole area (305 km²) of the reserve. The major objectives of the radio system establishment are to strengthen the anti-poaching operations and to enhance the management of the wildlife reserve.■



Workshop on Indigenous People's Rights over Environment and Natural Resources

WWF Nepal supported NEFDIN, NEFIN and other Indigenous Peoples' (IP) organizations to organize an awareness workshop on indigenous peoples' rights over environment and natural resources on 14-15 February 2008. In the context of the Constituent assembly, the workshop was intended to identify the issues and challenges relevant to IP's rights over resources (in relation to WWF's position on IP issues, United Nations Declaration, CBD and ILO 169) and affirm acknowledgement and commitment from the representatives of political parties to include those issues in their parties' manifesto so that these IP issues are addressed in the new constitution. More than 35 participants from various indigenous groups ranging from high mountains to Terai region participated in the program.■

Book Exhibition at Central Zoo

To celebrate the 12th anniversary of Central Zoo under the leadership of National Trust for Nature Conservation, a book fair was organized within the zoo premises on 29 and 30 December 2007. WWF Nepal participated in the fair displaying its publications on nature and wildlife conservation, livelihoods, climate change and freshwater. The fair had stalls on books on conservation and literature for children. Thousands of children and their parents visited WWF stall enquiring about WWF's activities in Nepal.■

Photography Training

Communications Unit organized a half-day photography training in coordination with National Forum of Photo Journalists (NFPJ). Mr. Bikas Rauniar, President of NFPJ facilitated the training and WWF staff participated in the session enthusiastically. The training was useful and equipped the staff with better photography skills.■

Milestone partnership to incorporate conservation in curriculum

WWF Nepal signed a MoU with Curriculum Development Centre, Ministry of Education and Sports (MOES), Government of Nepal (GoN) today to incorporate issues of conservation starting with climate change issues in the national curriculum of grade one to ten.

Considering the need to expose students to conservation issues from early school level, WWF Nepal and Curriculum Development Centre (CDC)/ MOES, GoN has agreed to work in partnership for producing well informed young students on issues related to conservation starting with climate change. Mr. Hari Bol Khanal, Executive Director of CDC and Mr. Anil Manandhar, Country Representative of WWF Nepal signed the MoU on the behalf of their respective organizations on 8 January 2008. As per the MoU, CDC and WWF Nepal will work together to incorporate conservation issues starting with climate change in the curriculum of grade one to ten.■

South Asian Nations Pledge Cooperation on Rampant Wildlife Trade



All eight South Asian nations have agreed to step up cooperation in addressing wildlife trade problems in the area. The region, home to such rare and prized species as tigers, Asiatic lions, snow leopards, Asian elephants and one-horned rhinoceroses, is recognized as one of the prime targets of international organized wildlife crime networks.

Wildlife trade officials from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka met in Kathmandu on 31 January - 1 February and defined a series of joint actions under the new South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative (SAWTI).

SAWTI is charged with developing a South Asia Regional Strategic Plan on Wildlife Trade for the period 2008-2013. The Kathmandu workshop - organised by the Nepal's Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology, SACEP, WWF Nepal and TRAFFIC - also agreed on the establishment of a South Asia Experts Group on Wildlife Trade. The group will examine cooperation and coordination between countries and agencies, effective legislation, policies and law enforcement, the sustainability of the legal trade and livelihood security for those engaged in it, and improving intelligence networks and early warning systems.■



Ghodaghodi Festival

A three-day long Ghodaghodi festival was organized at the premises of Ghodaghodi Lake, a Ramsar site, with the objective of spreading awareness on Ghodaghodi Lake conservation. The event was jointly organized by Ghodaghodi and Culture Conservation Society (GCCS) and Ghodaghodi Area Conservation and Peoples' Awareness Forum (GACAF) and was supported by BASE-Nepal,

TAL, IUCN-Nepal and World Vision.

The event was organized on the occasion of Lawangi puja, a festival of the Tharu community celebrated to mark the harvesting of crops. Ex-Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba attended the festival as chief guest and gave away prizes and certificates to youth making significant contribution to control

poaching and timber smuggling activities in the area. Around 6,000 people attended the event. The messages conveyed through cultural songs were effective in raising awareness among the community. On the occasion, WWF posters on Ghodaghodi Lake were also distributed.■

Retreat at Hattiban

WWF Nepal family gathered at Hattiban Resort and within the three days, together found out the issues that might play havoc with the team effort and performance, came up with recommendations to senior management team, program management team and all on building a better team and emerged out with commitment to perform better in the days to come. Ken Afful and Era Shrestha from Organizational Development Centre facilitated the sessions starting from 16 January through 18 January 2008.

All staff from field and centre participated enthusiastically in the group works and facilitation sessions to bring up and solve the issues pertaining to team work and working modality.■

Parade to raise awareness on climate change

More than 2000 students from schools and colleges, representatives from more than 20 organizations working on advocacy, conservation and environmental issues, and people from all walks of life participated in the climate parade organized on 8 December 2007.

The rally was organized in solidarity with the demonstrations held throughout the world to coincide with the UN Climate Talks in Bali, Indonesia, from 3 to 14 December 2007.■

