



Prakriti

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR NATURE CONSERVATION

JANURARY TO JUNE, 2014

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES MANAGEMENT



Recognizing the detrimental impacts of invasive alien species (IAS) on ecology, environment and socio-economic status of every country on the globe, participants of the International Conference on IAS Management are in agreement to join hands for the control and management of non-native invasive species around the world.

They raised their voices to encourage support for regional and global level coordination of activities against the IAS while helping to build the capacity of all stakeholders in its management. The conference was organized by the National Trust for Nature Conservation at its Biodiversity Conservation Center (BCC), Sauraha, Chitwan, and was participated by the researchers and experts from Australia, India, Nepal, Pakistan, South Africa, United Kingdom and United States of America. The conference declaration emphasized on the urgent need of comprehensive national strategies to

prevent new incursions of invasive alien species and to manage their negative impacts. IAS are running riot with dire consequences not only for agriculture, livestock productivity, forests, wetlands, and water scarcity but also for fisheries, wildlife conservation and human health.

The declaration also emphasized for the establishment of partnership among Government, conservation and development partners, non-Government and community-based organizations, private sector, academicians and the general public, at local, national and international levels for developing and implementing IAS management strategies.

The conference was held on March 25-27, 2014 with the financial support of Asian Development Bank (ADB) and USAID funded Hariyo Ban Program. 27 research papers were presented and discussed in the conference.

NTNC CHAIRMAN NOMINATED



Right Honorable Prime Minister, Mr. Sushil Koirala in the capacity of Patron of the National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC), as per the provision of article 5 (Ka) of NTNC Act 1982, nominated Honorable Minister for Forests and Soil Conservation, Mr. Mahesh Acharya, as the Chairman of the Governing Board of the Trust on Friday, February 28, 2014.

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CHINA DONATES OFFICE EQUIPMENT TO NTNC

On the special ceremony organized at NTNC Central Office, the Government of People's Republic of China (PRC) handed over the office equipment to NTNC's Conservation and Research Centre on Wednesday, January 8, 2014.

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the PRC to Nepal, His Excellency Mr. Wu Chuntai handed over the equipment to Mr. Govinda Gajurel, Member Secretary of the Trust in the presence of Honorable Minister for Forests and Soil Conservation and the Chairperson of the Trust Mr. Tek Bahadur Thapa Gharti. On the occasion, "Certificate of Delivery and Acceptance" of the goods was signed by His Excellency Mr. Wu Chuntai on behalf of the Chinese Government and Mr. Gajurel on behalf of recipient of the Government of Nepal. The office equipment support was worth RMB Yuan 800,000.



CONSERVATION WORKSHOP FOR MISS NEPAL 2014 CONTESTANTS

NTNC hosted two days Conservation Workshop for Fanta Miss Nepal -2014 Finalists at NTNC's BCC, Sauraha, Chitwan on 12–13 April 2014. The main objective of the workshop was to impart knowledge on biodiversity conservation, issues/challenges and efforts made by Government of Nepal, NTNC and other conservation partners in biodiversity conservation sector.

During the presentations, Mr. Govinda Gajurel, Member Secretary of NTNC, provided some tips on personality development. Mr. Ganga Jang Thapa, Executive Director of the Trust imparted information on NTNC's objectives and activities being carried out in the conservation sector. Likewise, Dr. Chiranjibi Prasad Pokharel, Chief of BCC shared his experience on rhino translocation and tiger census across Nepal. Mr. Ramesh Kumar Thapa, Assistant Conservation Officer of Chitwan



National Park (CNP) highlighted the efforts undertaken to control poaching and illegal activities. Dr. Naresh Subedi, Senior Conservation Officer spoke on how NTNC, in coordination with DNPWC, is working in the field to acquire scientific data for the conservation of flagship species like tiger, rhino, elephants and

ungulates. Furthermore, Mr. Shyam Kumar Thapa, Conservation Officer introduced the participants to climate change, emphasizing on what is climate change and how it is happening and effects of climate change on human population, ecosystem and biodiversity.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY MARKED

NTNC-Central Zoo along with other partner organizations; Lalitpur Sub-Metropolitan City, IUCN, WWF Nepal and Bird Conservation Nepal (BCN) marked the World Environment Day on 5th June 2014 with the theme "Raise Your Voice, Not the Sea Level."

A rally with a decorated elephant in the lead and thousands of participants along with traditional Dhime Baja went around Lalitpur city to spread the conservation awareness message in accordance with the theme. The Government of Nepal had translated the theme as "Himal Bachaun, Batabaran Jogaun" in order to make it more relevant as Nepal is a landlocked country.

The school children and teachers of Friends of Zoo (FOZ), a popular conservation education initiative of Central Zoo and a network of thousands of school students and hundreds of schools from Kathmandu valley took part in the rally. Similarly representatives of government and non-government organizations enthusiastically participated in the ceremony. Another attraction of the ceremony was the participation by Miss Nepal World 2014 - Ms. Subin Limbu, who is also the Biodiversity Conservation Ambassador of NTNC, Miss Nepal Earth 2014 - Ms. Prinsha Shrestha and Miss Nepal International 2014 Ms. Sonie Rajbhandari attended as the special guests. The three winners of the Miss Nepal Beauty Pageant -2014



administered the conservation oath to all the participants in the ceremony.

The Chief Guest Honorable Member of the National Planning Commission Prof. Dr. Govinda Nepal highlighted the impacts of climate change and emphasized the need of national plans to ensure adaptation activities are geared to save the environment. Member Secretary of NTNC, Mr. Govinda Gajurel welcomed the participants and Project Manager of NTNC-Central Zoo, Ms Sarita Jnawali delivered the vote of thanks.

On the occasion, the Chief Guest and the special guests distributed prizes to the winners of the different annual activities of the FOZ program and the on the spot banner competition among the FOZ schools. The special guests also released special posters published by BCN.

MOU SIGNING

NTNC and the Department of Forest (DoF) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Wednesday, February 5, 2014 to carry out the project on "Problematic Wild animal Rescue and Rehabilitation in and around Kathmandu Valley." Mr. Govinda Gajurel, Member Secretary of NTNC and Mr. Bishwa Nath Oli, Director General of DoF signed the MoU on behalf of their respective agencies. Mr. Megh Bahadur Pandey, Director General of DNPWC was also present at the ceremony.

Both parties agreed to implement the project under the Strengthening Regional Cooperation in Wildlife Protection in Asia Project in accordance with the procedures agreed with the World Bank under IDA. The World Bank provided grant to the Government of Nepal, through the MoFSC for the project where DNPWC and the DoF are the implementing agencies and the Trust is working as Project Coordination Unit (PCU). The main objective of the project is to reduce human-wildlife interface with particular emphasis on rescue and rehabilitation of problematic wild animals in Kathmandu Valley and adjoining districts by controlling and rescuing problem wild animals.

2ND BATCH OF NEPAL SEMESTER PROGRAM

NTNC in collaboration with University of Minnesota (UMN), USA had launched the 2nd batch of Nepal Semester Program at BCC, Sauraha, Chitwan in 2013 as per the MOU signed between NTNC and UMN.

This year's 16 credits Semester Program, from January to May 2014 is on "Ecological Services and Biodiversity in Nepal's Community Forests". The main aim of the program is to present Nepal's

rich biodiversity to wider audience and to share the practical experiences on conservation of biodiversity, wildlife and culture. 13 students of the University, residing at BCC engaged in theoretical as well practical classes. The students were taught by UMN professors, NTNC and BCC's officers and resource persons from DNPWC. NTNC's wildlife technicians provided assistance in technical sessions.

ANNAPURNA CONSERVATION AREA PROJECT (ACAP)

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION

The project, private and community nurseries in the ACA are operating to meet the demand of seedlings for plantation. The project nurseries of Manang, Bhujung and Sikles has produced a total of 12606 seedlings and distributed for plantation. In Sikles a total of 115 bamboo seedlings were distributed while 19,248 seedlings produced from community nurseries of Ghandruk and 1850 seedlings were distributed to Shikha VDC. A total of 760 m linear stone wall fence was constructed at Narchyang VDC and 4.5 ha area planted in Bhurjung khola and Chaura of Lwang sector. UCO Lo-Manthang has supported wall fencing to Phuwa, Kimling, Chhode Gumba and Tsarang. A total of 2450 m of fencing wall repairmen was also supported to Ghasa, Tiri Gumba, Falyak Youth club, Chhyongyur, Chairathang, Dhumba women group and Khinga respectively. In Jomsom sector, a total of 2200 m wall fence was constructed. Irrigation for community plantation at Chhyongur was completed with polythene pipeline fitting which has benefitted 31 HH. Furniture and stationeries were supported to CAMCs. All CAMC were supported with honorarium of secretaries and forest guards along with the administrative supports.

The project provided gabion boxes for river embankment in the area. During the period, 23 gabion boxes were provided to Dangsing, 13 Lumle and 22 to Ghandruk VDCs. In Lwang sector, 48 gabion boxes were provided to 6 CAMCs for the river embankment and gully protection. Similarly, 140 & 127 gabion boxes were supported in Jomsom and Sikles sector respectively. 170 gabion boxes were provided to different sites and irrigation support was provided to community land of Aatagharsa to irrigate plantation sites. Financial support was provided for the conservation and repairmen of Titi Lake in Kunjo VDC. 16 units of forest patrolling were conducted in Manang, Ghandruk, Lumle and Lo-Manthang.



Awareness camps on illegal wildlife trade, wildlife conservation and management was organized in 8 VDCs of Jomsom sector, on forest fire control & management in Ghanpokhara & Uttarkanya VDC of Bhujung sector and Gandruk sector. Poem competition program on climate change was conducted and was also live telecasted by Community Radio Marsyangdi 95.0 Mhz for wider outreach. An awareness training for the yak herders were held in Kobang VDC in which 18 participated. Relief fund was provided to each sufferer of livestock depredation in Sikles, Taprang, Rohingaun, Ghyamrang, Togi Ghandruk and Dangsing VDCs. 17 cases of livestock depredation by common leopard were reported in Lwang sector and total of 287 cases were reported in Lo-Manthang sector caused by snow leopard. Sagar Tamang of Lete VDC, seriously injured by the attack of Himalayan black bear was provided relief support while 11 other locals were partially compensated for the losses.

Snow Leopard Conservancy (SLC) and NTNC-ACAP jointly conducted programs on snow leopard conservation. Snow leopard conservation workshop and capacity building training to CAMC members were organized in Chame. Leadership training was also organized for 12 CAMC members of Manang and 131 members of Jomsom sector.

Three units of district level Yarsagumba management meetings were conducted in Chame on sustainable harvesting and management of Yarsagumba and other NTFPs in region. Leadership development and management training for CAMC members was organized on February at Birethanti. Appreciative inquiry, leadership qualities, style and characteristics, organization management, office management, time management, good governance etc. were the main focus of discussion of the training which benefitted 26 CAMC members. Day long leadership training for all CAMC members was organized at Lumle VDCs on 25th January. Participants were briefed about the provisions of conservation laws.

ACAP has been implementing its all programs in close coordination with concerned CAMCs. All planning, implementing and monitoring are done through CAMCs. In this regards, UCO Ghandruk organized a planning workshop on 11th January at Birethanti with the participation of CAMCs of Ghandruk, Lumle, Dangsing Shikha, Ghara and Narchyang representing 4 members from each. CAMC Ghandruk also organized co-ordination and networking meeting at Birethanti. In Bhujung and Sikles sector, 2 units of silvi-culture training



were conducted where 42 & 101 participants from CAMC, FMSc and other key persons were involved respectively. CAMC members were taken in 8 day long observation tour to the western Terai. They visited Blackbuck Conservation Area, Khairpur, Bardia National Park, Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve in which 28 members participated. With the objectives of enhancing the knowledge on scientific forest management, 4 days scientific forest management tour was organized for NRCP and CEEP staffs visited Lumbini zone, from May.

Under the Hariyo Ban Program, climate change and disaster risk management awareness was conducted at Ghara, Naryang VDC of Myagdi for CAMC members, Youth Club and stakeholders. Concept of climate change, Greenhouse gases and greenhouse effect, role of forest and impact of climate change etc. were the topics of delivery in the sessions. Similar program was also conducted in Shikha VDC and for students of Paudwar Secondary School, Himalaya High School, Lumle. In total 100 students participated in this program.

Good governance training was provided to 101 community members in Sikles. An anti-poaching training was also conducted in Parche and Thumakodanda with a total of 50 APU and CAMC members. Similar workshops were organized in Ghalegaun with 28 members and in Jomsom with the participation of 262 members of 9 VDCs.

A workshop cum training on account and administration was organized in Bhujung sector. Day long community based anti-poaching training was organized at Naryang, Tolka, Paudwar and Swanta. According to the approved budget of Hariyo Ban Program, the grant was transferred to CAMC Ghandruk and CAMC Naryang to construct stone wall, plantation in barren land and protect the forest. The CAMC, Naryang constructed 600 meters length stone wall and planted 3220 different varieties of seedlings in Gadpar. The CAMC also constructed 400 meters length stone wall at Khairekhola. Similarly, CAMC Ghara constructed 200 meters length stone wall and Khibang irrigation.

Good governance trainings were conducted at Shikha, Naryang, Dangsing and Lumle VDCs. An action plan was developed by the 119 participating members at the end of the trainings and committed to follow it. Similarly, participatory governance assessment training was organized at Shikha, Naryang, Dangsing and Lumle, VDCs. Day long forest fire hazard management training was organized at Gharap on 28th May. Good governance trainings in 5 VDC (Ghemi, Surkhang, Tsarang & Lo-Manthang) were conducted. The UCO has also conducted Participatory Government assessment in 7 VDCs.

CAMC Naryang purchased 45 pieces plastic tunnels (24'x33") and 12 packets

of tomato seed and distributed to the 45 farmers to support the off seasonal vegetable farming. CAMC also purchased 400 seedlings of ground apple and distributed to 25 farmers. Agriculture crops and vegetable collection center was also constructed in Naryang.

Day long capacity building on climate change workshop was conducted for the LAPA implementation at Lumle and Shikha VDCs. Concept of climate change, greenhouse gases and its effect, role of forest and impact of climate change, LAPA implementation, monitoring and reporting were the main topics of the training. A village level Climate Change Coordination Committee (VC4) was also in each VDCs.

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY PROGRAM

In Manang sector, 16 units of back-boiler and solar water heaters were installed and repaired whereas 7 units were installed in Ghandruk VDC. Cash support was provided to Sikles for 10 electric poles which benefitted 350 HH. Cash support was provided for earthing in Sondha Micro hydro of Parche-1 which has benefitted 45 HH.

Financial support was provided to CAMC Lo-Manthang for the establishment of a LPG gas depot. 22 bio-gas plants have been constructed in Ghanpokhara and Simpani. Out of 47 plants installed in this fiscal year, 41 installed in Ghachok and Lahachok VDC. Each household is granted Rs. 5,000.00 as subsidy in addition to government support. 40 number of iron stoves were distributed in Sikha, Ghara, Naryang and Ghandruk VDCs.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION & EXTENSION PROGRAM

Conservation education classes were conducted in all the schools under 7 UCOS. Conservation Education (CE) books were distributed free of cost to all students and remuneration for CE teachers were also provided in a regular basis. Science educational materials were supported to the 7 schools in Sikles sector as well as 22 Dalit students were awarded scholarship to pursue their study. 5 higher level



students and 33 school level students were provided stipend for continuation of their study in Jomsom sector.

The 19th Wildlife week was marked with various programs all over the ACA on the theme of “*Ban ra Banyajantu, Prakritika Adhar: Bhabi Santatilai Hamro Upahar*”. The 104th International Women’s day was marked in all the UCOs by organizing different programs with the theme of this year “Equality for women is progress for all”. 41st World Environment Day was marked in all the UCOs with various programs with the active participation of CAMCs, students, Green Force Clubs, Local Youth Club, local people and other Government and Non Government agencies.

Supports were provided to 7 youth clubs of Sikles sector, furniture support was extended to Kimling youth club of Chhonup and Chuksang club and financial support was provided to Dhakmar youth Club for organizing Lo-chho-den sports competition as well as to Thak sports & cultural development organization to carry out sports and cultural shows in Ghasa. Green Force Clubs were in different schools of Manang. Green Force Clubs and CE teachers training was organized in Chame with the participation of 17 teacher and students. 15 schools in Bhujung sector reformed GFC and 11 GFC were formed in Jomsom and stationery materials were provided to them. “Street Drama” on snow leopard conservation was performed in Ranipauwa, Muktinath during the Yartung festival. Members of GFC and snow leopard scouts performed the drama under the support of SLC.

As a conservation material and creating

awareness for local people the project published posters of 17 different Butterfly species found in ACA. CE teachers’ workshop was conducted in Bhujung & Sikles. UCO, Lwang organized knowledge sharing tour for 14 CE teachers in Sauraha Chitwan with and aim learning from seeing. UCO Lwang organized knowledge sharing workshop for 28 GFC members also organized in Lwang to share the idea and experience among each other.

LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT

CAMC building at Dharapani, Thonche and Braka are under construction while retaining wall for the day care centre and construction of CAMC building of Manang and Tanki Manang has been completed. A trail repairman support was provided to Khangsar and Phoo. Support was provided for drainage construction from chhorten to bridge on the way to Gangapurna Lake. 30 private toilets were supported in Chame VDC to reduce open defecation and improve the sanitation of the village. In Bhujung sector furniture supports were provided to Ghanpokhara, Simpani & Bhujung. The Project has supported to construct 151 private toilets in Pasgaon VDC, 171 in Bhujung and 310 in Ghanpokhara VDC. Similarly, a trail was repaired from Bhalam to Simpani. In Bhoje, the project has supported to construct the kitchen house of the women group.

Similarly in Sikles sector, an RCC bridge was constructed in Sildijure VDC -2, school buildings were constructed in Namarjung VDC-9. In Mijuredanda-3 of Harse and Thumakodanda-2 of Syage, 7 water taps were supported which benefitted 144 HH. In Ghandruk sector,

furniture support was provided to Lumle community building and Gadpar of Narchyang VDC. Sewage construction was supported in Ghandruk-4 Kachho, Uri, jhinu trail Gharap & Gadpar. In Ghar VDC, drinking water scheme was supported. Drinking water tank & taps were repaired in Dangsing, Lumle and Sikha VDCs. In Lwang sector, 8 community buildings were supported partially. School building in Machhapuchhre- 9, Karuwa was repaired by replacing new door and window shutter. The other programs includes-trail repair, suspended bridge in Dhampus, Tadikhola wooden bridge was repaired by replacing the new wooden planks, railing and drinking water schemes.

A community toilet was constructed in Jomsom Jeep park station. A total of 97 private toilets were constructed & upgraded in 5 VDC’s of Jomsom sector. In Lo-Mantang financial support was provided to different programs such as: community shower & building construction, trail construction, bridge construction, wooden bridge repair & maintenance, irrigation canal repair, community toilet construction, and also supported for ODF program.

AGRICULTURE & LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT

The project nurseries of Manang and Chame are operating well and have been providing seedlings to local farmers. As Bhujung sector is very potential for cash crop production such as tea, cardamom, broom grass and coffee, seedlings were distributed for plantation in 462 ropani land. In Ghandruk sector, the conservation farmers were supported different seedlings. The project has supported 30 shed improvement for the cattle to ease the collection of urine benefitting 68 Conservation Farmers. In Lumle seedlings were distributed to farmers of Haijung. A tea machinery plant was installed in Bhujung village.

The project has supported to purchase 52 bee hives, 3 bee capturing bags and 7 pcs of caps and 15 pcs of gates. 2 units of bee keeping training were also conducted in Sikles. 5718 animals were

treated in Sikles sector where the Project has been supporting medicine and remuneration of animal health workers. To enhance income of the local farmers and to mitigate the scarcity of meat in the market, cash supports were provided to 5 farmers at Bhoje VDC for goat farming. A goat farming training was also given to 20 farmers in Pasgaon prior to the support. Mushroom training, bee keeping training, off season vegetable trainings are the regular program of the Trust in the area.

GENDER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The project has supported women group of Lo-Manthang for upgrading local handicraft shop. Plastic handicraft training for 12 women was conducted in Chame aiming to reuse plastics. The Mother's group workshop was organized in Dharapani on the 3rd week of June to share knowledge on nature conservation and office management. In Bhujung sector, weaving & sewing training for the women group was conducted in which 8 women participated. After the training, they have been able to prepare handicrafts such as bags, mobile covers, toothbrush bags etc. Stool (*Muda*) from bamboo training for was conducted for the youths of Thakan, Khudi in which 25 participated. In Ghandruk sector, noodle making training and Dhoop making training were conducted with the participants from Sikha, Ghar and Narchyang where 15 and 20 women benefitted respectively.

In Lo-Manthang, good governance training to the women group of Tsarang, Lo-Manthang, Chhoser and Chhonup was imparted which benefitted 55 women. In Jomsom sector, 8 Dalit women from Jomsom were given sewing & cutting training. The women group core-committee of Ghandruk sector has established drinking water stations in Ghandruk since the mineral water are an eye-sore. With their initiatives the centre is managed by the group themselves selling ozonated safe drinking water in NRs 75 per liter.

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

Check-posts and visitor information centers are established to provide



regular information to the international trekkers and local people. 4 sign posting in landslide area and a profile board of Tilicho Lake was placed aiming to reduce the human casualty from falling stone. In Manang sector of Khangsar and Bhimtang 21 incinerators are under construction and an incinerator was constructed in Muktinath. To improve the alternative trekking routes, 175m of rock cutting in Khotro area and 150m in Chamche were completed.

In Bhujung, an information board and a location boards were placed in Syange and Ghalegaon. While in Sikles, 8 signboards have been placed at Mijuredanda, Yangjakot, Chipli and Sikles. 5 incinerators were constructed in Bhoje and 2 in in Machapuchhre VDC. Support was provided to construct a ticketing building at Dr Harka, Dr Chandra and Mingma hologram eco-park of Dhampus.

In order to promote local destinations and to motivate local youths in conservation, the project has supported village tourism festivals and other programs. Cash support was provided to *Green Hill* Youth Club Lwang to celebrate Chaite Dashain mela 2070 in collaboration with anti-poaching unit. The cultural dance, and different types of sports meet were attraction of the Mela. Wildlife posters were also exhibited in the Mela. UCO Lo-Manthang provided grant to DDC for formulation of Tourism Management Plan of Mustang.

New trail exploration & construction was also completed in Thokyo to Kyubaraha Kharka via Kheodar, Khudiche to Sarangikharka, Fuju Deurali to

Thulokharka, Thunju to Myardikhola. A total of 610 m trail was constructed in Syangje waterfall. Places like Dhdungka of Surkhang VDC, Ghyakar of Chhukung VDC and Ghara of Surkhang VDC for alternate trekking route, and a porter shelter in Pathani on the way to Tangya to Chhukung was constructed. In Jomsom sector, 1 km trekking trail was constructed in Thini village & Lubra village, which benefitted the trekkers & local people as well. A tourist trail was constructed from Jhipra to Pahirothapla which is 750 m with wooden bridge construction.

In the culturally rich Gurung village in Bhujung, the project supported 15 home-stay owners with mattresses, quilts, pillows and bed-sheets. In-order to provide basic skill for cooking food training was organized which benefitted 19 hotel entrepreneurs. Similarly, 16 people were given cooking training in Dhampus which was facilitated by CTEVT/PTTC, Pokhara. Trekking guide training was also given to 7 local youths of Lwang sector through the support of NTB and TAAN.

E-networking Research and Development have developed and installed "Trekkers Tracking System" as a pilot project in Annapurna base camp region and Ghandruk area. The main aim of tracking system is to track the movement of the trekkers and assist in tracing when being missed around the trekking trail. The pen drive sized E-tag is provided to the trekkers and through the device tourist can be monitored from Pokhara. Till date 158 tags were distributed to the interested tourists.

MANASALU CONSERVATION AREA PROJECT (MCAP)

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION PROGRAM

According to the altitudinal range Chiraito (*Swertiachiraita*) farming is the most feasible and possible profit making species in the area. It can be means for alternative source of livelihood especially for the farmers suffering from the crops depredation by wild animals. Thus hoping towards the successful cultivation of Chiraito two local farmers of Sirdibas were selected and supported with the farming equipments along with the technical support to establish the nursery. The MCA is mainly dominated by Gurungs and Lamas, the follower of Buddhism and each household keeps prayer flag at the roof of their houses. They use Pine saplings as pole to fix the prayer flag. To reduce the pressure on forest, as they used to cut Pine saplings twice a year, NTNC-MCAP has provided iron poles for flag prayers to each household. During the year, 301 households were supported in Chhekampar, Lho and Bihi VDCs.

Conservation Area Management Committees (CAMCs) are the main implementing bodies of conservation and development programs in the area. In order to enhance their capacity and mainstream them in the process of development, 7 units of governance training were organized to 157 individuals comprising CAMC members, APU

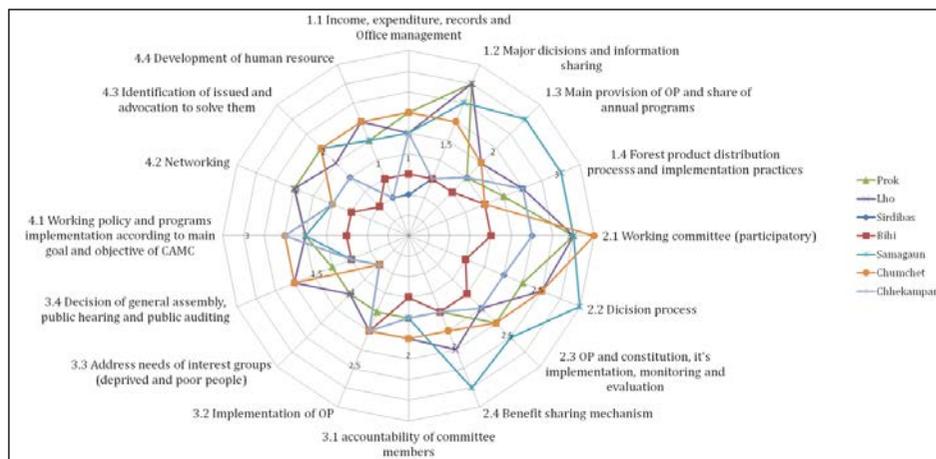


members, FMsC members, Mother group members and community's key persons. Good governance covers the participatory decision making and transparent as well as effective implementation abiding with the rules and regulations. CAMC, a decision making body for resources management and utilization. The project conducted one day participatory governance assessment session of seven CAMCs to assess their decision making process, participation of local people in decision making, benefit sharing, satisfaction level of local communities etc. Considering its importance and to assess their present status. The assessment revealed, CAMCs had adopted the participatory and transparency approached while the

accountability and predictability aspects need to be improved.

Forest fire is one of the major problems of conservation and damages the productivity of forest resources. Considering the needs for its control measure, 2 units of forest fire management training were conducted at Pati and Aanga of Sirdibas VDC. With an objective to sensitize CAMC members about REDD+ and motivate them to conserve forest for its future benefits, REDD+ sensitization workshop for 21 CAMC members of the 7 VDCs was organized on February.

Local rural community particularly disadvantaged groups are at high risk in terms of climate change induced impacts. They need to be sensitized on the local adaptation and mitigation measures of probable climate change impacts. Trainings as well as workshops were conducted to sensitize and aware on climate change issues. Climate change awareness workshops were also organized for the school teachers, local institutions, media and other stakeholders all over the MCA. Teachers can play vital role to disseminate information and educate not only to students but also to local people. Thus, 2 days Training cum workshop on climate change issues was



accomplished with the participation of 35 teachers of MCA. Similarly, a day awareness program was organized to representatives of local institution in Pati, Jagat and Nyak of Sirdibas VDC, Sipchet of Chumchet VDC and Kwak of Prok VDC. Similar programs were conducted at Sirdibas and Ghattekhola settlements, which is considered as disaster prone area. Media personnel are regarded as a means of disseminating information, news, phenomena and to aware the society a workshop was organized on climate change issues under Hariyo Ban Program.

Security personnel and custom officials are the prime authority for the legal enforcement. In order to identify the wildlife, their body parts, protected animals, birds, reptiles and NTFPs and to control the illegal trade and poaching, training was organized for security personnel and project staff on June. Security personnel and staffs engaged in the check posts in the field have crucial role in curbing wildlife trade. Similarly, one day training was organized at Sirdibas on May for the school teachers on curbing wildlife trade. Altogether 36 teachers, representing 25 schools participated the training. Realizing the need of coordination among the different stakeholders in curbing the illegal wildlife trade, 2 units of coordination meetings were conducted on May at Gorkha Bazar.

Realizing the need of strengthening local communities against illegal poaching and trade, 3 units of anti-poaching training were conducted to the members of CBAPUs covering all 7 CAMCs. CBAPU trainings were organized at Philim, Chhekam and Gap. Participants were trained and oriented on wildlife crime, illegal wildlife hunting, control mechanism and legal provision on wildlife crime as well as they were trained to identify protected animals, birds and NTFPs of Nepal through pictures and photos. The Project has been providing supports to CBAPUs to minimize wildlife poaching, illegal NTFPs collection and illegal trade. During the period supports were provided for 4 units of forest patrolling. During the

patrol APU team found and destroyed the traps that were laid to trap wild animals.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION AND EXTENSION PROGRAM

Participation of the local people is the key indicator to success of the conservation programs and can be ensured by motivating them through the awareness programs. Their level of understanding on conservation, active role in grass root and supportive activities in conservation play vital role to implement the sustainable conservation. Two days Awareness campaigns were conducted at Krak and Sirdibas of Bihi and Sirdibas VDCs during May and June. Altogether 52 people in Krak and 47 in Sirdibas participated and benefited from the event. Classes regarding importance of wildlife and forest conservation, wildlife of MCA, protected animals, protected birds of Nepal, legal provision for the control of poaching and illegal trade, role of community for the conservation of wild animal were presented during two days campaign sessions.

In order to disseminate the conservation messages to mass people simultaneously and to highlight the conservation initiatives of MCA, MCAP has prepared four different themed media clip and disseminating it through two FM station (Kalika FM of Chitwan and Choice FM of Gorkha). During the period four national and international days were marked.

The Project supported and organized to mark the declaration of Sirdibas as Open Defecation Free zone, International Women's Day, Wildlife Week and the World Environment Day by organizing the different programs.

There is only a secondary school in the MCA. Most of the students discontinue school after primary level education. Thus the Project has supported 36 students (19 girls and 17 boys) needy and deprived students to ensure their completion of education.

GENDER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Orientation on GESI mainstreaming strategy was organized to local mother groups and other subcommittees also involved in saving and credit activities. Altogether 25 representatives of 8 mother groups of Sirdibas VDC participated in the program. They were orientated on concept and need of gender equality and social inclusion, strategies and role of women groups in heading the communities towards equality and social inclusion and conservation of biodiversity as well as adaptation measures to climate change.

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY PROMOTION PROGRAM

The main source of fuel for cooking in the region is firewood which is collected from nearby forests and private lands. Thus,



to minimize its use and also to reduce the pressure on forest, MCAP has been supporting metallic improved cooking stove (MICS) to local individuals. During the period 163 MICS have been purchased and being transported to the sites. To minimize the firewood consumption by tea shops and hotels in the trekking trail of MCA and to provide better service to visitors, the Project has supported for transportation of solar water heater to five private hotels of Sirdibas.

AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The major settlements of Chhekampar, Sirdibas, Bihi, Prok and Lho VDCs falls in Himalaya range around an elevation of 1,500 – 2,700 m above the sea level which is favorable altitude for apple farming. Thus, looking towards the potentiality of apple farming 1940 apple seedlings were purchased from Jumla and distributed to the local farmers. Local households of Chhekampar, Sirdibas, Bihi, Prok and Lho VDCs have farming apple trees in their garden but are not getting proper production due to the lack of technical farming knowledge. The Project organized apple cutting training at Prok VDC in technical support of District Agriculture Office, Gorkha.

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

In order to promote the tourism and aiming to highlight the tourism potentiality of MCA, a trip was organized to local journalists of Gorkha on May. They did trek along the main trail from Soti of Gorkha to Larke pass following the Kaal Tal and Nubri valley. Altogether 9 media persons representing different print, radio and televisions participated in the 10 days long trek.

The home stay is the best alternative of hotel accommodation in family environment. Through home stay the guest not only receives opportunities to experience local culture and tradition also contributes to improve socioeconomic status of the local community. Day long home stay orientation training was conducted at Philim, a Gurung dominant

settlement in April. Training was focused basically on tourism concept, legal procedure, and basic infra-structure requirement for home stay and also shared the experience of successful operating places. After the training, 5 households initiated arrangement of the infrastructures for home stay. Beside the main trekking trails, Larke La trek and Tsum trek are the major alternate trails in the region from which trekkers can view the beautiful Himalayan range and scenery, and experience pristine natural destination. The Project initiated the improvement of the trails to connect two trekking routes Larke La trek and Tsum trek that will avoid visitors to use the same trail while going to Tsum valley and then come back till the Larke La trek, nearby Eaklebhatti of Sirdibas VDC. This year, local community of Chumchet also accomplished 2100 m long trail improvement work along high pass and rocky mountain in Chumchet VDC.

Rubinala trail improvement and sign posting has been completed around Rubinala pass with an aim to guide the trekkers to the right trail while crossing the pass. Ten iron poles were placed in the Rubinala pass. Likewise, a mother

group Nyak village of Siridas VDC has taken initiation to improve the trail; hence, 2450 meter long Rupinala trek was improved. There are many potential tourist destinations in MCA which are yet not explored and promoted. Thus, MCAP has surveyed to assess this destination along Ripchet – Gumba Lungtang - Ganesh Himal Base Camp-Chhekam/Rachen Gumba, which can be the potential alternative trekking route to Tsum valley.

The Project, for the promotion of tourism and to support the visitors by providing local guide, 7 local youths of MCA were sent to participate in nature guide training in BCC, Sauraha, Chitwan in June. The Project also posted the sign posts in 24 places within MCA and on main trail from Soti to Jagat.

Hospitality and good governance in hotels, teashops and camping sites helps to provide better tourism services which ultimately supports in the flourishing tourism in the region. Three units of hospitality and good governance training were organized in Chhekampar, Prok and Sirdibas on April. Altogether, 71 hotel, teashop and camping site's owners and TMsC members including 36 females took part in the event.



GAURISHANKAR CONSERVATION AREA PROJECT (GCAP)

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION

GCAP has been continuously working towards institutionalizing different community based organizations to ensure effectiveness in conservation and development initiatives. CAMCs, Women Development Groups, LRP, conservation guards and green force clubs are being formed all over GCA and are being mobilized. These CBOs along with the Nepal Police team were mobilized for control of illegal wildlife trade in Lamabagar and Singati area of Dolakha, Chichure area of Ramechhap and Marming, Tatopani and Ghorthali area of Sindhupalchok. GCAP staffs, CAMCs member, Conservation guard, Youth groups are mainly involved in the forest patrolling and during the period, CAMCs of Phulpingkatti and Marming VDCs of Sindhupalchok were effectively involved and mobilized in joint patrolling with police force and seized four illegally possessed guns.

Jointly with Media Center of Charikot, a day Photo exhibition was organized at Charikot on June 5 where the Project purchased and exhibited more than 30 photos related to major tourism destinations within GCA. A total of 861 individuals observed the exhibition.

CONTROLLING WILDLIFE TRADE

Demands of wildlife products have been the major factor to increase poaching of wildlife and illegal trade of its products in Nepal. Seizure of wildlife parts such as rhino horn, tiger skins and bones leopard skins in the considerable amount by enforcement officials in different parts of Nepal in recent years has shown that the illegal trade of wildlife parts exists and even growing in Nepal.

Open border with India in the south and different terrain and accessible mountain passes in the north bordering with Tibetan Autonomous Region of China has often been used as safe passage for the



illegal traders to smuggle wildlife parts into and out from Nepal. Lamabagar and other parts of Gaurishankar Conservation Area are under pressure from illegal trade of the parts of endangered species. Since GCA is considered to have the major underground illegal wildlife trade routes and little information is known or available on the trend and volume of illegal wildlife trade in the area. GCAP initiated to implement the wildlife trade controlling activities, such as mapping of illegal wildlife trade route/hunting spots, conduction of awareness campaign, coordination meetings, community mobilizations and awareness materials publications under the grant support of WWF Nepal.

GCAP organized training for security personnel, CAMCs members, custom officials and GCAP staffs on February 17 at Tatopani of Sindhupalchok aiming to facilitate them in controlling illegal wildlife trade in the trade routes of GCA. GCA organized 4 units of trainings for youth groups, CAMCs, LRPs and Conservation guards about the wildlife trade control in the area. Conservation education is initiated in six high schools in GCA. Wildlife trade control training was also organized for the teachers at Secondary school of Suri, Chuchure and Bulung.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION AND EXTENSION PROGRAM

GCAP conducted mass education and awareness program through publishing 4000 pieces of awareness materials to build a participatory community movement aimed at curbing illegal wildlife trade. The material has helped in creating awareness during the meetings and peoples' dialogue. Radio program also broadcasted through Bimeshwar FM of Dolakha related to wildlife trade control and awareness from January to June.

GCAP has organized conservation awareness Programs in Shyama, Phulpingkatti, Alampu and Rolwaling area of GCA on April, May and June. The awareness programs in Rolwaling area was participated of CDO, LDO, DEO, Upper Tamakoshi Hydropower officers, VDCs, CAMCs of related area, women groups, school teachers, students and youth groups of GCA. Similarly, various awareness programs like, conservation songs, mass meeting, conservation related speech, conservation games and dance were organized on the occasion of World Environment Day on June 5. Information Boards were posted in 7 places of Lamabagar, Tatopani and Ghorthali area to raise awareness.



TOURISM MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

GCA is a new emerging tourist destination where the numbers of tourists are increasing each year. Under the financial support of Samarth Project, 3 units of tourism management training were organized in Shivalaya, Tatopani and Jagat within the main tourism spots and trekking routes where the participants were enriched with tourism management knowledge and information.

All three units of the targeted program of basic cook training in Singati, Kalinchok and Tatopani has been completed. The basic cook training was provided to 62 lodge owners including local people from Home stay of Bigu, Simigaun. The training aimed at strengthening the capacity of the hoteliers in preparing diversified quality food items which helps in the promotion and management of tourism in the area. Similarly, the menu standardization for Bigu which has initiated homestay was also accomplished. The boards were also provided for 10 homestay household and a homestay location board was also placed in the main entrance of the home stay village for its promotion. To develop the capacity of local people and facilitate the visitors by local people Nature Guide training was provided to 21 selected individuals of Dolakha, Sindupalchok and Ramechhap districts. Similarly, to mitigate communication barriers with the visitors it is essential for nature guide, basic english language training was

initiated in Singati to make them able to speak English. Altogether 27 participants were benefitted from the training.

Boards are related to tourist information (code of conduct) and major tourism attractions of GCA were placed in Tatopani, Thingsala Pass, Tashilapcha pass, & Kalinchok area of the GCA. Similarly, 50 way signboards were placed in May and April to guide the tourists in Rolwaling area, Cheese Curcuit (Shivalaya area), Kalinchok area, Thingsang area and Shivalaya to Deurali area of entire trekking trail of GCA.

2 check posts and information centers are established in strategic locations namely in Chhetchhet of Dolakha District and Phulpingatti of Sindupalchok District. The centers are equipped with all the accessories such as laptop, desktop computer, printer, white board,

communication materials, display board, information board and furniture and the physical maintenance were also accomplished. Similarly, in Chhetchhet and Shivalaya the building has been repaired and all the accessories such as white board, communication materials, display board, information board, furniture, and brochure and information materials are setup. The project has been planning to install 2 units of safe drinking water stations in Simigaun and Singati of the trekking route of GCA.

COORDINATION MEETING

GCA lies within Sacred Himalayan Landscape and borders China in the North. Tatopani of Sindhupalchok, Thinsang of Dolakha and Deurali/Serding of Ramechhap are believed to be underground trade routes in the conservation area. Animal parts include musk pods, bear bile, leopard skin and bones, leopard parts, live animals and medicinal plants. In the area, activities like district level coordination, advocacy, training, intelligence gathering and informants' network needs to be strengthened. GCAP organized a coordination meeting among the district level stakeholders of Dolakha, Ramechhap and Sindhupalchok. Chief Districts Officers, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Local Development Officers and District Forest Officers of the 3 districts, social activists, journalists including chairperson and secretary of 15 CAMCs of Dolakha, and Sindhupalchok attended the meeting held at Singati.



Central Zoo

CONSERVATION EDUCATION AND EXTENSION

Friends of Zoo (FOZ), an innovative and creative program of NTNC-Central Zoo in campaigning of conservation education among the school students which has been model for the other south Asian countries too, is being very effective in spreading the conservation messages and to create awareness among the school students. Observation and feeding program for the captive animals, night guided tour, observational trips and talk programs and the different extracurricular activities like, drama, drawing, singing and writing competitions are the major regular activities offered to the FOZ members in order to build their capacity and to increase the level of understanding about wildlife, nature and ecosystems.

Night Guided Tour for the FOZ members was organized in December and January. A total of 1318 students from 20 different schools actively participated in the tour program. Even in the chilling winter FOZ members showed interest and enthusiasm to learn about the behavior of nocturnal animals in captivity. An Educational tour was organized for senior FOZ Members from grade 8-10 to Ghandruk of Annapurna Conservation Area. Altogether 25 FOZ members from 9 different schools acquired knowledge



on natural resources management and various conservation and income generating activities in Ghandruk. Similarly, same tour was also organized for the junior FOZ members from grade 5-7 to Chitwan National Park. Altogether 34 FOZ members from 9 different schools participated in the tour and were briefed about Biodiversity Conservation Center (BCC) and its activities along with the importance of Chitwan National Park in the conservation endeavor. An interaction program was organized with the students of Shree Bachhuli Higher Secondary School through which FOZ members got an opportunity to explore and share their

knowledge on human-wildlife conflict issues.

Another tour for the FOZ coordinators was organized to Bhujung of Annapurna Conservation Area from 4th to 7th February. Altogether 17 FOZ Coordinate teachers from 12 school participated in the tour. Bhujung, the largest Gurung settlement in ACA, located at an altitude of 1600 meters from sea level in North West of Beshisahar, Lamjung. The main objective of the tour was to acquaint teachers with Integrated Conservation and Development Program conducted in ACAP. On the occasion, an interaction program was organized with the Bhujung UCO and Tribhuvan Vidyashram Secondary School.



Excursion Trip to National Botanical garden, Godavari was organized on 17th February and 21st February for public and private school students to generate ideas on ex-situ and in-situ conservation and to aware FOZ members to conserve plants diversity through the collection, propagation and exchange. A total of 45 FOZ members participated in each trip. Participants also visited the nearby area of Fisheries Breeding Centre and ICIMOD Knowledge Park. Day long solid waste management training was organized on 28th February. A total of 51 FOZ students

from 26 different schools participated in the program. Pradeep Amatya, Arjun Aryal and Laxmi Prasad Ghimire facilitated the training. Students visited the waste management site of the Central Zoo to learn how the Zoo wastes are being managed.

Inter school FOZ Quiz Contest was organized on 7th March with the participation of 67 students from 22 schools. The Little Angles School of Hattiban secured first position followed by the Everest English, Bhaktapur and Bijeshwori Gyan Mandir Sainik M. Vidyalaya, Sayambu. World Wetland day was marked with the theme, "Wetland and Agriculture: Partner for Growth" on 2nd February, 2014. The day was marked by conducting presentation, signature and cleanup camp with the participation of 25 FOZ members of 5 schools. International Biodiversity day was marked with the drawing competition on the theme of 'Mountain Biodiversity' on 22nd May to increase understanding and awareness of mountain biodiversity and conservation efforts. Altogether 42 students from 21 schools participated in the competition where Anushka Shrestha of Ideal Model Higher Secondary, Sanim K.C of The Excelsior, Anish Rai of Gyanodaya International Residential, Kumari Budhathoki and Shreejana Khaling Rai of Bijeshwori Gyan Mandir Sainik Maha Vidyalaya and Bhaktapur English School bagged first, second, third and consolation prize respectively.

In order to provide membership and to encourage public schools in conservation education, the Central Zoo supported 250 students from 5 different public schools namely Mahalaxmi Lower Secondary, Nakhipot; Bishnu Devi Shiksha Sadan, Satungal; Bishwa Mitra Ganesh Madyamik, Lubhu; Adarsha Saula Yubak Higher Secondary, Bungmati and Chundavi Madyamik, Thankot in the fiscal year. FOZ members spent a day with a vet Dr. Roshika Shrestha, consultant vet of the Central Zoo accompanying on general health check up of captive animals. During the practical session, Assistant Curator Ganesh Koirala and Senior Veterinary Technician Radha

Krishna Gharti demonstrated the physical examinations too.

To create awareness about the emerging issues of climate change and its impact climate change awareness program was organized for FOZ members where 85 students from 42 schools participated. Dipesh Chapagain, climate change expert facilitated the training. The FOZ Coordinator Interaction meeting was held on 21st March. Altogether 36 FOZ coordinators interacted discussed on annual educational program. Friends of Zoo club (FOZC) members conducted a cleanup camp inside the Zoo premises on 2nd February. Altogether 100 FOZ Club member from 15 schools participated in the camp.

ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

After the intensive treatment and care in quarantine Gauri- a rescued red panda is transferred to her new home in the Zoo. She was rescued from the eastern part of Nepal and was brought to the Zoo in 2012. Gauri's new home has all the facility required along with her favorite food bamboo planted all over her enclosure with air condition room.

A pair of Emu (*Dromaius novaehollandiae*), housed in 2012 hatched 4 chicks last year now the couple is expanding its family, this year again after 58 days of incubation 6 eggs were hatched and their family has expanded to 10. The chicks are in good health and are being reared by

their father which is a particular feature of these birds. Captive breeding of wild avian species is quite an arduous and challenging phenomenon due to the elevated release of adrenocorticotrophic hormone, epinephrine and other stress hormone; in captive the breeding and hatching success is compromised particularly in the wild exotic species. However due to the intensive care and management system compounded with the simulation of natural ambience the Central Zoo successfully hatched 6 Emu chicks and are in sound health. Similarly 6 chicks of Nepali Kaliz pheasant have also been successfully hatched in the natural environment.

The small mammals' viz. Toddy cat (Common palm civet), Himalayan Palm civet, Large Indian civet, Leopard cat, Jungle cat and Porcupine of Central Zoo are now enjoying in its newly constructed enclosure. The enclosure is enriched according to the habitat, nature and requirement of the animals. The lair are well furnished with wooden logs, newly planted trees, tree branches, green grasses etc. Due to the perennial human encroachment and other anthropogenic activities the natural habitat of wildlife is waning day by day. Perhaps due to such human misdemeanor the common monitor lizard has been spotted from Sankhu, Kathmandu on 10th June within the periphery of human settlement. It was rescued and brought to the Central Zoo.





ZOO NETWORKING MEETING

In order to discuss the common issues of zoo management and share information with mini zoos, the NTNC - Central Zoo organized the Zoo Networking Meeting on May 25 at its office in Jawalakhel Lalitpur. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Govinda Gajurel, the member Secretary of the Trust and Mr. Bishan Singh Bonal Member Secretary, Central Zoo Authority of India was the Chief Guest which was also attended by government officials and representatives from various mini Zoos and animal facilities in Nepal.

Mr. Bonal highlighted the guideline required for the establishment of Zoo and to keep wild animals in reference to the examples of the Indian Zoos. He also shared and showed the examples of various enclosure designs and the food enrichment required for the Zoo animals. Ms Sarita Jnawali, Project Manager of Central Zoo highlighted the importance of Zoo networking and how the Zoos can play role in promoting tourism. She also emphasized on the need of Zoo policy and legislation and its importance for smooth operation of all the animal facilities in Nepal.

Dr. Maheshwor Dhakal, Ecologist of DNPWC congratulated all the mini zoos for taking care of the wild animals as a rescue centre by providing shelter to the animals. He also shared government views in establishing rescue centers at regional level to minimize the issues of human wildlife conflict. Mr. Gajurel,

the Member Secretary of the NTNC, concluding the meeting, thanked Mr. Bonal for his presence and all other participants for attending the meeting and making it successful.

CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT

NTNC-Central Zoo has organized a 2 days training on "Training for High Performance" which was facilitated by Mr. Min Ghale from Nalma Academy, Lalitpur. Altogether 75 staff participated in the program. The training helped to increase the performance on task and focus on group work for better and fruitful output on performance and also provided opportunities to lift capability and performance and bring everyone together to achieve significant milestones. The Zoo keepers and the vet team of the Central Zoo got an opportunity to enhance their knowledge on Rabies and tuberculosis



participating in a talk program delivered by Dr. Balaram Thapa, Chief Consultant Surgeon. Dr. Thapa shared his knowledge regarding the precautions to be taken while handling the animals infected with the disease and how to keep the animal healthy. Altogether 25 staffs from animal management took part in the event on February 9.

DIFFERENTLY ABLED VISITED ZOO

Zoo visit program for the differently abled children was organized on 27th March and 28th April. A total of 20 disabled students and 8 teachers from Patan Community Based Rehabilitation Organization (*Patan CBR*) visited the Zoo. Likewise 15 children from Creative Hands of Deaf Women (*CHWD*) visited and observed the Zoo. The student observed the animals of Zoo, and attended the talk program.

SIR JOHN CHAPPLE IN THE ZOO

Field Marshal Sir John Chapple, Chairman of UK Trust for Nature Conservation in Nepal visited the central Zoo and explored the ongoing infrastructure development of the Zoo. Sir John appreciated the work initiated by the Zoo. He also observed the conservation education activities. Likewise Dr. Nic Masters veterinarian from Zoological Society of London, UK visited the Zoo, Dr. Master delivered the talk program related with pheasant breeding and general health care and disease to the animal management and Zoo keepers.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION CENTER (BCC)

RESEARCH AND MONITORING

Barandabhar Corridor Forest (BCF) is the only corridor of Nepal that connects Terai Arc Landscape and the Chitwan Annapurna Landscape. Regular monitoring of tigers and their prey is important to understand the functionality of the corridor. This year, the survey was carried out in BCF under the USAID funded Hariyo Ban Program. Similarly prey base population estimates were carried out using distance sampling both on foot and from the elephant. Six individual tigers including four males and two females were recorded from 29 camera stations. Among them, only male was captured in the area. Prey density in the BCF is found higher (78.48 animals/km²) higher than overall estimates for Chitwan National Park in 2013 (73.63 animals/km²).

ID based rhino monitoring, one of the major initiative of NTNC in Terai protected areas was initiated in 2008 by NTNC-BCC in close collaboration with DNPWC, WWF Nepal and Darwin Initiative/Zoological Society of London. An ID profile is built up for each animal along with a photo, which is then maintained in a database. Such profiling is a valuable tool for long-term monitoring of rhinos and also helps to determine the population size in a particular area. Total 172 individual ID profile was prepared in CNP. In order to assess the status of rhino, sweep operation was conducted in BCF in April 27-30, 2014. During the operation 7 rhinos were recorded in the area.

CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT

Four events of community based anti-poaching units (CBAPU) training were conducted in BCF area from January to June 2014. After the training, strengthening and mobilization supports were provided to 5 CBAPUs (4 from BCF and one from Manahari)

Nature Guide Training is a regular program of BCC since last 20 years. BCC trained



about 600 local youths and among them 250 are working as professional guides under the Nature Guide Association. Nature guide in Chitwan is a fast growing green sector job with good incentive/exposure and is one of the successful community engagement programs to bring communities in conservation as well as build local guardianship. Under the Hariyo Ban Program, BCC organized 7 days nature guide training from June 3 to 9, where 7 participants from Manaslu Conservation Area and 20 from Chitwan/Nawalparasi area participated.

The International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) states that wildlife crime is acts committed contrary to national laws and regulation intended to protect natural resources and to administer their management and use, that included illicit exploitation of natural resources such as poaching of fauna and flora particularly falls under threatened status. Furthermore, it also covers activities regarding processing of animal and plants parts into products, their carriage, sale and possession. Under the Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Wildlife Protection in Asia Project, with an aim to develop human resources, NTNC, DNPWC and DOF organized a week "Scene of Crime and Wildlife Forensics Training" during February 16-22 at BCC,

Sauraha. 19 officer level personnel representing protected areas and district forest offices participated the training.

In order to make the locals skilled and incapacitate them for income generation house wiring training was organized to 5 individuals selected by the Thangkhol Community Forest from Padampur and Jutpani VDC. The training is ongoing at Shree Kalika College of Technology, Bharatpur which includes both theoretical and practical classes.

HUMAN WILDLIFE CONFLICT (HWC) MITIGATION

HWC, a major threat in wildlife conservation, caused by crop raiding, livestock depredation, human casualties by wild animals and few cases of retaliatory killings of wildlife in surrounding to the protected areas and forests has been a serious problem for the conservationists. To combat HWC and motivate local people in conservation, different measures have been applied such as trenching and fencing, electric fence, alternative cropping etc. Under the support of Hariyo Ban Program, 3.33 km fencing has been installed in Bhimwali and Barandabhar CF and 4.5 km was installed under the Kerunga user committee in Jagatpur. Similarly, maintenance of the



existing fence was also done. 2 days training was organized for forest guards of the concerned community forests. 5 local resource persons (LRPs) were employed in Gyaneshwor, Panchakanya, Tikauli, Thangkhola and Budi Rapti user committee for three months period for regular maintenance and monitoring of the fence.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION

In order to remove the Mikania and to restore the water in *Aapsoti ghol* as in the years earlier, approximately 25 ha area in Barandabhar corridor forest was cleared by removing Mikania manually. The area, in last few years was fully covered by Mikania and went dry during April-May. Under the financial support of Hariyo Ban Program through NTNC-BCC Tikauli BZCF mobilized its users to remove all Mikania.

Support was provided to Chaturmukhi Community Forest to restore Gaida Tal, a regular habitat of rhinos in BCF. Up to 2021 BS, there was water in Gaida Tal and was used for irrigation in surrounding village. After the Government's decision to establish Mirgakunja in the area villagers were evacuated and the Gaida Tal eventually dried out. The Tal had enough water for rhinos till 2060 BS. but after the resettlement of the Padampur village, Tal dried out due to deforestation, habitat destruction, and may be the climate change impacts. Hence, Chaturmukhi

Community Forest initiated to restore the Tal making soil boundary around to collect water. Local resources were used to excavate soil from Tal area and to fill the soil in boundary. Chaturmukhi is also planning to pump underground water using electricity/solar power for regular water source in the Tal. 56 feet deep bore has been made to harness water from the ground. The length of restored Gaida Tal is 300 m and width is 40 m.

TOURISM PROMOTION PROGRAM

Gyaneshwor forest block comprises four community forests namely Gyaneshwor, Seti Devi, Siddhi Ganesh and Majuwa. A meeting was organized at NTNC-BCC with an aim to promote ecotourism at

Gyaneshwor forest block at first stage. Then after, the Gyaneshwor forest block organized interaction workshop with hoteliers at Sauraha. Feedback gained from the interaction workshop and considering the interest of local community they decided to initiate rafting program from Narayanghat to Gyaneshwor. After a successful piloting of rafting on 27th May they invited all stakeholders including government line agencies, political parties and journalists for boating on 2nd June. The forest block is working on grassland management, bird trails. They lunched website, prepared brochure and conducted awareness raising activities.

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY PROMOTION

Bio-gas support program is one of the successful programs of NTNC-BCC. Under the financial support of Hariyo Ban Program and other organizations, Kumroj VDC in buffer zone of CNP was declared as "First Model Biogas VDC of Nepal" in 2013. During the period, supports were provided to install 193 biogas plants; 50 to Panchakanya Community Forest, 50 to Manahari user committee 39 to Sonakhari user committee, 5 to Nirmal user committee, 49 to Amleshwor user committee, and 377 plants to Thangkhola Community forest. 193 biogas plants installation was successfully completed and 377 plants in Padampur VDC are in process of installation.



CONSERVATION EDUCATION AND EXTENSION

On the occasion of 104th international women's day, BCC, in collaboration with Synergy FM and Budi Rapti user committee recognized 7 local women who have contributed in biodiversity conservation and women's empowerment in buffer zone area of CNP. The event was marked on 8th March with rewarding the selected women with certificate and prize. Similarly, 19th wildlife week was marked all over the first week of Nepali New Year. The celebration program was organized jointly by CNP, BCC and other conservation partners. Various programs including BCF cleaning, bird watching, and crocodile counting in Rapti River were organized. The Honorable Minister for Forests and Soil Conservation and the Chairperson of NTNC Mr. Mahesh Acharya was the chief guest of the closing session.

An interaction program on benefits of biogas on women was organized at Kumroj VDC. Budi Rapti user committee and Synergy FM jointly organized the program with the support of Hariyo Ban Program. The event with participation of around 100 was live broadcasted by Synergy FM 91.6 MZ.

ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

NTNC-BCC rescued a male baby rhino of about 5-6 months from Syalbas area of western Chitwan, which survived the attack of the tiger and thus separated from its mother on 26th February and taken into veterinary care. The baby was provided intensive veterinary management with regular wound dressing, antibiotics, analgesics and supportive treatment for its deep penetrating wounds on right fore feet and fractures. Two bone fragments were recovered during the course of treatment. This baby was fed with commercial skimmed milk and additional grasses adlib during the treatment. Additionally apples, spinach, bananas, carrots were also incorporated into the diet along with additional vitamins and minerals. Maize flour has now been incorporated in feed along with milk as concentrate ration. For about 4 month



treatment, this baby rhino leg has now healed and is walking, grazing and eating normally.

Sub-adult rhino, accidentally escaped from its habitat was rescued from Makawanpur ca 100 km distance from Sauraha. It suffered nail crack, pad loss and extreme exhaustion when attempts were carried out to push it back to CNP area. After the veterinary treatment with fluids, antibiotics and analgesics as well as topical treatment for its wound, the rhino was translocated to Sauraha on 22nd April with a full equipped team of CNP, Parsa Wildlife Reserve and NTNC-BCC with support from DFO Makawanpur, Nepal police and local people. This rhino is still under regular monitoring and veterinary care due to the ulcer and wear off of its footpads causing difficulty in walking.

A problematic tiger was captured from Shitalpur Madi on December, 2013 and held captive at Kasara became severely ill and anorexic. The treatment began on 28th January 2014 with remote drug injection in which the antibiotic and vitamins was injected through the dart syringe. Treatment continued daily for a week and the tiger gradually resumed eating. The wound over its back was treated topically with betadine, maggotical drugs, and antibiotic powder. This tiger recovered healing of its wound.

Another captive held tiger caught on December- 2013 as it was killing domestic

animals, after some months stay in captivity was released in the wild on 18th April. It was immobilized, micro chipped and then transported in transport cage and released in the Temple tiger area back in the wild.

COLLARING OF A WILD BULL ELEPHANT

Ronaldo, a wild bull visiting to Elephant Breeding Center (EBC), Khorsor and NTNC-BCC for breeding with captive females, was immobilized for the purpose of study through satellite based positioning. Immobilization was performed on 10th January with well-equipped veterinary and technician team of CNP and BCC. Samples were collected, minor wounds on its body were treated and a satellite collar was placed in its neck. Due to the abnormal position and head not extended for collar positioning, the collar become loose when the animal was awake. Unfortunately, it took out its collar the next day.



BARDIA CONSERVATION PROGRAM (BCP)

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION PROGRAM

NTNC-BCP is managing 2 forest nurseries in Betahani since 1993 and in Banjariya since 1996. In the nurseries, 27,800 poly bag and 42,600 bare root seedlings of 17 species are grown for plantation in public and private land. To protect the forest from fire, the existing fire lines were timely cleaned in 15 BZCFs of Suryapatuwa and Thakurdwara VDCs. A total of 91.83 km fire line was upgraded mobilizing 2294 households. 6 BZCFs declared their community forests as grazing control zone. Before the declaration, awareness campaign was organized in 9 BZCFs to aware on disadvantages of uncontrolled grazing and alternative measures to reduce cattle and promoting stall feeding. Hoarding boards are also installed in 7 places to display grazing control message. Invasive species mainly Banmara (*lantana camera*) has spreaded covering the Karnali flood plain of BNP and buffer zone since last 10 years. The Khayer-sissoo forest and grassland are being replaced with *lantana* causing scarcity of grasses, fuel wood and timber for the users of buffer zone community forest of Thakurdwara and Suryaptuwa VDCs. BCP, under the Hariyo Ban Program provided supports to 6 BZCFs for the removal of *lantana* in corridor forest.

Community Based Anti-poaching Unit (CBAPU) is youth focused conservation initiative first initiated by the 45 youths of Dalla Village in 2009. As the extension, 78 CBAPU sub-committees are reformed in 13 VDCs of the district. To enhance the capacity of CBAPUs youth orientation trainings were organized for 383 members of 14 CBAPUs. Similarly, grants were provided for their institutional strengthening. A three day proposal and report writing training was organized for 17 CBAPUs members of Thakurdwara, Shivapur and Suryapatuwa VDCs. Similarly, 5 CBAPU members received one month house wiring training and 37 youths are involved in income generation activities. CBAPU day was marked on 11th March with the active participation of



CBAPUs, BZUCs and other stakeholders at Thakurdwara.

MIST has been initiated in BNP as a trial in Karnali flood plain since October 2011 and intensively incorporating the patrolling team from Babai valley since February 2012 by selecting poaching prone 8 posts of Babai valley. Now MIST has been operating from 31 posts of BNP. BCP has been supporting for the continuation of MIST in BNP with the support of WWF Nepal. A total of 2658 patrols were performed during the period covering 19,528 Sq. km. During the period, one gun fire, 2 encroachments, 138 fire wood collections, 47 fishing, 92 livestock grazing and 6 NTFP collections were recorded. A Total of 14 species of mammal were sighted including tigers, rhinos and elephants.

BCP facilitated for the formulation of CAPA of Godana of Neulapur VDC, Bardia. A total of 29 vulnerable households were identified, and they devised a number of activities in the CAPAs to address these vulnerabilities. During the period as mention in CAPA two irrigation systems were installed in Godana. River control works (gabion check dam) is also construed in Orahi river with the support of District Soil Conservation Office, Kailali. Climate change and biodiversity conservation training was organized

for protected area manager of western and far western region in the last week of January. 18 protected area managers participated in the training. Similarly, local journalists were also oriented on climate change issues. Another awareness session was conducted for the 15 community members representing CAPA, CBAPU and BZUC on June.

HUMAN WILDLIFE CONFLICT MINIMIZATION

Human-wildlife conflict in the buffer zone of BNP is increasing. To minimize conflict and reduce damage made by wildlife, about 119 Km of electric fence have already installed and in this year, 2.5 km fence is extended in Bagnaha VDC. Additional 4 power back up with energizer were installed in Ishwarigunj, Bhatara, Motipur and Gobrella with the support of International Elephant Foundation (IEF), Hariyo Ban Program and AWELY France. BCP has also been providing support for the extension, upgrading and maintenance of existing power fence. Community people hired the fence guard for timely repair and maintenance of the fence. An electric fence management fund is established in 5 BZUCs which will be used for the partial salary of guard, purchase of repair materials and timely maintenance of machine and other accessories.



To minimize livestock damage from predator, BCP is supporting to construct predator proof corral house. This year 250 corral houses were constructed in Thakurdwara, Suryaptuwa and Shivapur VDCs. Farmers collected locally available materials whereas BCP provided support to purchase the materials from market. More than 120 watch towers have been constructed adjoining the park boundary to scout the wildlife in the night. BCP supported to renovate the existing 15 watch towers of Neulapur, Thakurdwara, Suryapauwa and Shivapur.

BCP is providing stipend support to local children of wildlife victims for continuation of their education. A total of 29 students from the project area were awarded where 26 received NRs. 2400 each for school education and 3 received Rs 6000 each for higher studies. During the period, 5 farmers were supported for chamomile cultivation, 2 community groups for lemon grass cultivation, 49 farmers for turmeric cultivation and 59 farmers were supported for the promotion of mentha across the Geruwa river.

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY PROMOTION PROGRAM

Biogas is one of the major alternatives of fuel wood to minimize deforestation and degradation by reducing fuel wood consumption in rural households. During this period, BCP under the Hariyo Ban Program has supported to install

239 plants in 10 VDCs. The exemplary outcome of the support is Bhatara Village where 58 are using biogas technology out of total 72 households. Patabhar BZUC declared Bhatara village as a biogas model village on 5th June. Supports were provided to install 99 Improved Cooking Stoves (ICS), made of Iron Sheet in the Tharmuse and Sanodhungi of Lekhparajul BZUC and Guranse and Harrekanda of Taranga-Siddhachuli BZUC in northern buffer zone.

WOMEN DEVELOPMENT AND LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT PROGRAM

Orientation of GESI Mainstreaming Strategy to BZMC/BZUC, governance training in BZCF and GESI Sensitization Training for CBAPUs was organized on February. Altogether 69 representing from different CBOs participated of which 36 were female. 5 day account keeping training for BZUCs and Cooperatives was organized on May in collaboration with MSFP and Co-Act Nepal.

AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Most of the households in northern buffer zone depends on forests and natural resources, mainly non timber forest products like Amala *Imblica officinalis*, Kurilo *Sparagus*, Barro *Terminilia balerica* etc. To minimize dependency in the park area, the Project initiated lemon Plantation as an alternative livelihood program in the private land of Sireni

Chiurigaira Village of Chhinchu VDC. It starts fruiting after three years of plantation and can fetch good income. The 29 farmers are involved in commercial lemon plantation.

COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICE PROGRAM

BCP established Geruwa community health center in 1995. For the sustainable management of this center, the Project has established an endowment fund in the bank. BCP has also provided financial grant of NPR 120,000 to cover the deficit management cost of health center. During the period 2958 patients received health treatment in the center. There was no snake bite treatment center in and around the BNP while the incidents of snake bites are frequent. Bagnaha BZUC, BNP and Narsingdal Gan initiated to build a snake bite treatment center at the Sainwar of Baghnaha. BCP extended financial support to build a new snake bite treatment center building and only in the month of June 20 patients of snake bites were treated.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAM

30 sessions of street drama performance were done in different location of buffer zone and it's adjoining corridors. The drama was prepared on human wildlife conflict mitigation measures and its precaution, importance of village youth in tiger and rhino conservation, climate change and its impact, river poisoning and bird conservation. Conservation awareness sessions on human wildlife conflict mitigation measures were organized in 6 schools of Patabhar VDC. Park visit program was organized for 63 groups and 1590 members of 20 CBAPUs, 21 schools and 22 community groups. During the period, 29 conservation education sessions were conducted among community members in Geruwa region.

World Wetland Day was marked with the slogan 'Wetlands and agriculture: Partners for Growth' by releasing 3 gharilas in Babai river, cleaning campaign at Taranga, wetland visit and art competition among the school students. With slogan 'Inspire change'

International women's day was marked by organizing rally and song competition with theme of conservation and women right at Thakurdwara. With slogan "Forest and wildlife Nature's foundation, our gift to the upcoming generation" 19th wildlife week was marked by organizing interaction program, street rally, cultural show, street drama, tree plantation, highway clean campaign, declaration of grazing free zone, quiz contest and scholarship distribution on the first week of Nepali Year.

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

BNP is being gradually developed as 2nd best tourism destination after CNP in Terai. Shivpur Bandahawa CFUG of Thakurbaba BZUC initiated canoeing and recreation in the Hattisar, in the upper part of Khata corridor. More than 200 groups of picnic groups chose the area for picnic. For the better sanitation at start vantage of canoeing, facility of toilet is upgraded. Similarly, BCP conducted a week long cooking training for 25 cooks of local hotels. Similarly, Nature guide training was organized for the 61 local youths on June. Participants were trained on basic course of plants and wildlife, habitat, birds, park rules and regulations, first aid, code of conducts of a nature guide and guest hospitality together with field practical sessions. Altogether 28,685 visitors have visited Tharu museum and crocodile breeding center of which 18,128 are Nepali, 575 are foreigners and 9932 students.

RESEARCH AND MONITORING PROGRAM

After the heavy loss of rhinos due to poaching, Intensive ID based Rhino monitoring, a simple monitoring system where each individual rhino is assigned with a particular ID and name based on its distinct physical appearance was initiated to secure the remaining individuals in BNP since 2008. At present, Master ID files of 30 rhinos are prepared in BNP of which ID 1, 11 and 12 have not been recorded since 2009. Now, there are at least 27 survival rhinos of which 17 adult,

4 sub adults and 6 calves. Similarly, 8 are male, 11 female and 8 are unknown.

BCP is conducting monitoring and assessment of wildlife damages and mitigation programs in the buffer zone of BNP in support from AWELY-France since January 2009. In 2013, 190 livestock predation events were registered and 149 property damage events took place. The majority of crop is being damaged by elephants. The crop raiding is highest when there is the main crop species (rice, wheat and maize) in the field.

BCP under the AWELY Red Cap Nepal program has established alternative crop research plots in western sector of buffer zone since January 2013. The aim of the project is to test attractiveness, palatability and contribution to the economic well being of the farmers of 9 different aromatic plant species, namely chamomile, mentha, lemongrass, citronella, turmeric, french basil, aloe-vera, palma-rosa and coriander. The research plots are made outside the electric fence so that the response of the wild animal to the crop could be known.

The recent survey in 2013 shows that there are 16 gharials in the rivers of BNP of which two are in Karnali and 14 are in the Babai. Since 1990, 60 gharials were released of which 30 in Babai and 30 in Karnali River. This year, 50 gharials were released in the Babai river, of which 30 in mulghant and 20 in Dhungeghat which

were brought from the Kasara breeding center. Till now 133 and 23 gharials have been released in Babai and Karnali River respectively. A male tiger was released on 5 January in Ratomate of Babai valley which was trans-located from the CNP. The tiger was monitored using the satellite radio collar. The signals were not receive since 16th January.

Student thesis grants were provided to Mr Santosh Bhattari, M.Sc. Wildlife Biology student from Kota University, India for his thesis on *Population and basking pattern of python bivittatus (Kuhl, 1820) in Bardia National Park* and Ms Chandrama Khadka, M.Sc. Forestry student from KAFCOL for her thesis on *habitat evaluation and suitability modeling of tiger (panthera tigris tigris) using geospatial approach in Bardia National Park*. Similarly, logistic and technical support was provided to Pabitra Basnet, M.Sc. (Environmental Science) student from Khowpa College, Bhaktapur for *human wildlife conflict assessment in Betahani Buffer Zone Community Forest*.

The field survey was carried out during 5-13 June to know the status and distribution of oriental small clawed otter and other otter species. Maximum number of smooth coated otter's signs (foot print and spirants) and 6 smooth coated otters were recorded in Khauraha River whereas there is no any evidence of oriental small clawed otter in Karnali river system.



SHUKLAPHANTA CONSERVATION PROGRAM (SCP)

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION PROGRAM

SCP has been providing stipend support of forest guards to 3 buffer zone community forests of buffer zone of SWR. This year, the project continued the stipend support to Nageshwar BZFC of Sundevi UC, Jharanasagar BZFC of Kaikitch UC and Kisan BZFC of Bageshwari UC. The support has particularly supported in conservation of biodiversity. The Project also provided the stationary and administrative support to 3 user committees of the SWR and Nageshwar BZFC. Similarly, the Project also provided technical assistance for formulation of statute, working plan to different BZFCs. Under the Hariyo Ban Program, 50,000 seedlings were grown in the project nursery to be distributed for public and private plantations. The Species includes *Acacia catechu*, *Dalbergia sissoo*, *Dendrocalamus strictus*, *Pterocarpus marsupium*, *Dalbergia latifolia*, *Phyllanthus emblica*, *Terminalia chebula*, *Terminalia bellirica*, *Bauhinia variegata* etc. Similarly, SCP, under the AWELY Green Cap Project produced more than 10,000 seedlings of the different species of put grass.

In order to raise the awareness on biodiversity conservation and to show its importance in human life, SCP conducted 2 units of training to community based anti-poaching sub committees of Sundevi and Bageshwari UC. The training was mainly focused on the biodiversity of SWR, Legal provisions and the rights and responsibility of sub-committee. Similarly, supports were provided to formulate a statute and action plan of CBAPU subcommittees. Different trainings were conducted during the period which includes training to post in-charges and security personnel of Garud Dal Gan on GPS and patrolling form; gender and social inclusion training to community based anti-poaching sub committees and governance training to BZFCs.



The Project has supported for the formulation and implementation of community adaptation plan of action (CAPA) of Jhalari-6 Simalphanta community. Under the plan, support was provided to install the gabion wall to control landslide in the banks of river. 1000 copies of summarized CAPA leaflet were produced and distributed in the community. In order to coordinate the efforts made by different governmental and non-governmental sectors, under the AWELY Green Cap, coordination meeting is being regularly organized in Beldandi.

WILDLIFE RESEARCH AND MONITORING

As, 2013's census revealed that the total tiger population in SWR is 17. Under the Hariyo Ban Program, the Project also monitored the tiger population which revealed that there are 14 to 20 tigers in SWR. The monitoring was carried out from February 14 to March 8 (33 days) by dividing entire SWR into 2 blocks with 81 grids.

Similarly, intensive ID based rhino monitoring, a major program of SCP is ongoing to identify the population, habitat and movement of individual rhinos in and around the SWR. Individual ID profile was prepared based on the

monitoring. Under the Hariyo Ban Program, wildlife technicians of SCP and SWR are engaged in rhino monitoring and it is found that there are 9 individual rhinos in SWR which includes 3 female 2 male and 4 are unknown (calves).

On the occasion of wildlife week, the first week of Nepali New Year, SCP in collaboration with SWR conducted swamp deer counting in the SWR. The result shows that there are 2301 swamp deer in SWR. Among them 777 are male, 1390 female and 134 are yearlings which is higher by 131 individuals compared to last year. SWR holds largest herd of swamp deer in the world.

The Project provided research grant to Ms Asmita Rawal, studying in BSc in Pokhara University to carry out research in "Assessment of Carbon Stock on Dead Woods in SWR".

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY PROMOTION PROGRAM

SCP has been providing supports to install the biogas plants aiming to reduce the firewood collection and pressure on natural forests. The project, selected 4 major areas to make model biogas villages. SCP supports sum of NRS 10,000 rupees to each plant in the community.

Similarly, under the AWELY Green Cap project supports were provided to install 10 plants in Beldandi and Bhim Dutta municipality area. During the year, altogether 65 (Hariyo Ban-55, AWELY 10) households were supported in Shuklaphanta, Kalikitch and Kalika user committees.

On the occasion of World Environment Day 2014, the Aeiya Women User Group (AWUG) of Katan, Bhimdatta Municipality-14 was declared as a "Model Biogas User Group". A total of 323 biogas plants were supported in 4 BZUCs. 32 households installed plants out of 38 households in the village which includes 27 biogas plant from SCP, 4 from Park People Program and 1 was privately installed.

In order to reduce the fire wood consumption, the Project supported 191 households with improved cooking stoves (ICS). Under the Hariyo Ban Program, supports were provided to 121 households of Rataulibichawa Ward no 8 & 9 and 70 households of Jhalari Ward no 2.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION AND EXTENSION PROGRAM

The Project, with an aim to raise awareness among the community people conducted different conservation awareness programs in the buffer zone areas. During the period, conservation awareness program was conducted among 145 people of the buffer zone area. Among them 120 were female and the sessions were presented by officials of SWR and Garun Dal Gan and other stakeholders. Under the AWELY Green Cap, the Project conducted awareness campaign among the representatives of 9 groups of 3 UCs. The Project conducted conservation awareness sessions among 480 school students of 16 schools in the area.

National and international conservation related days were marked by organizing the special events on the occasion. During the wildlife week, swamp deer



count was done in SWR and a day was marked with formal event. An interaction program was organized on April 19 on the theme of the year, "Ban ra Banyajantu, Prakritika Adhar: Bhabi Santatilai hamro Upahar" among the officials of SWR, SCP, Ganum Dal Gan, conservation activists and community people. International Women's day was marked on 8 March at SCP's office, Chandmari.

World Environment Day was marked jointly with SWR by organizing an interaction program on the theme of the year, "Raise Your Voice, Not the Sea Level" which was translated as "Himal Bachaun, Batabaran Jogaun" in order to make it more relevant to Nepali context. Biodiversity day was marked on May 16 with an interaction program on "role of women in conservation" at Beldandi, Kanchanpur. The event was attended by women members of 5 groups of Kalikitch and Bageshwari users committees.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND RELIEF PROGRAM

The Project has been continuing conservation education programs among school students of the region. In order to improve the school infrastructure and provide better educational environment, the Project supported a set of computer and printer to Siddhanath Lower Secondary School, Bagphant of Bhimautta municipality. Total 550 students and 18 teachers benefitted by the support.

Residents, residing nearby the SWR and jungle areas have been facing many wildlife conflicts because of their open toilets in the jungle area. So, The Project supported to construct improved toilets in 20 households of the buffer zone area. Supports were provided to 6 households in Piparaiya of Shuklaphanta UC, 3 households in Gobaraiya of Kalika UC, 2 households in Gobaraiya of Bageshwari UC and 9 households in Rataulibichawa of Deurali UC. 2 guard posts were constructed in Shuklaphanta - 2 to control and monitor the movements of wildlife in the area.

In order to make the local people self-sustained in terms of their basic needs through income generation activities and to motivate them in conservation, SCP organized 2 days ginger and turmeric farming training to 6 members of Janaki User Group under Shuklaphanta UC. They were also supported with some seeds of the ginger and turmeric. Similarly, 3 months tailoring and sewing training was organized to 20 women from 3 UCs of the buffer zone of SWR. They are taking training in SCP supported and promoted tailoring centers in Mahendranagar Bazar of Kanchanpur. The trainers were also trained by SCP previously.

The Project also supported for artificial insemination of local domestic cows for their timely breeding. There are 196 cows under the 4 groups Shuklaphanta UC.



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