



Prakriti

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR NATURE CONSERVATION

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TWO NEW ANIMAL SPECIES RECORDED FOR THE 1ST TIME IN NEPAL

Senior Conservation Officer of National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC), Mr. Madhu Chetri, a PhD fellow at Hedmark University College, Norway has recorded 2 new species for the first time in Nepal. The new species are the Steppe polecat *Mustela eversmanii*, recorded on June 23, 2014 and Tibetan/Himalayan wolf *Canis lupus chanco*, recorded on May 27, 2014 in Dharkeko pass of Upper Mustang at 5046 m asl.

Mr. Chetri shared his research experience and process of identification of species in a press conference held at NTNC premises on August 22, 2014. NTNC organized a press conference to announce the record of both species for the first time in Nepal in the presence of government officials, academia, experts, donor agencies, and conservation partners.

Information on biological resources are scanty and limited to isolated pocket areas. Hence, NTNC has initiated long term ecological research with an aim to assess the status of snow leopard and wolf in Annapurna-Manaslu landscape



Steppe Polecat

of the Chitwan Annapurna Landscape (CHAL) since September 2013 through various methods like camera trapping and genomic studies.

On the occasion, Dr. Maheshwar Dhakal, Ecologist of Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC); Dr. Ghanshyam Gurung, Sr. Conservation Program Director of WWF Nepal; Mr. John Stamm, SEED Director of USAID; Prof Karan Shah, Natural History Museum and

Judy Oglethorpe, Chief of Party of Hariyo Ban Program spoke about the significance of this scientific achievement. Mr. Govinda Gajural, the Member Secretary of the Trust welcomed the invitees at the conference. This study was initiated by NTNC with the support of the USAID Hariyo Ban Program and further supported by Panthera-Kaplan Graduate Awards and Hedmark University College, Norway.



Himalayan wolf

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SAWEN 2ND ANNUAL MEETING

Nepal hosted the 2nd Annual meeting of South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN) held from August 26-29, 2014 in Kathmandu.

Inaugurating the meeting, the Chief Guest, Honorable Minister for Forest and Soil Conservation (MoFSC) and the Chairperson of NTNC Mr. Mahesh Acharya emphasized on the inter-

governmental collaboration to combat wildlife crime in the region. Honorable Minister highlighting the international network of wildlife crime expressed the Nepal's commitment to work jointly with member countries in curbing wildlife crime in the region. He also thanked all the consortium partners involved in law enforcement.

For the effective implementation of the respective laws of the member countries, SAWEN was initiated in January, 2011. The government of Nepal has been taking lead role by establishing a secretariat at DNPWC.

On the occasion, Mr. Sharad Chandra Poudel, Secretary of MoFSC, Mr. Upendra Kant Aryal, Inspector General of Nepal Police, representatives from Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) and Interpol highlighted on the threats from wildlife crime in the region. The inaugural session was chaired by Mr. Megh Bahadur Pandey, Director General of DNPWC and Mr. Bishwa Nath Oli, Director General of Department of Forests (DoF) welcomed the participants.

The meeting was participated by 27 representatives from seven member countries and 30 representatives from different organizations.



Honorable Minister Acharya addressing the inaugural session

CENTRAL ZOO MARKED 19TH ANNIVERSARY UNDER NTNC MANAGEMENT

The 19th Zoo anniversary under NTNC management was celebrated with different activities like poem competition and inter school badminton tournament among the Friends of Zoo (FoZ) members. The Central Zoo has been celebrating its anniversary in December 29 as the Government of Nepal entrusted the management responsibility of the Zoo to NTNC on December 29, 1995.

The poem competition in the topic entitled "Hamro Prakriti, Hamro Dayitwo" was participated by 52 FoZ members of 29 schools. Anisha Thapa of D.A.V Sushilkedia Vishwa Bharati School, Aparajita K.C of Gyandeep Secondary Boarding school, Swastik Ghimire of Gyanodaya Bal Batika School and Yukta Singh of Gyanodaya Residential International School and Anuska Shrestha of Ideal Model School bagged first, second, third and consolation prizes respectively.

The Chief Guest Mr. Sharad Chandra Poudel, Secretary of Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation distributed prize and certificates to the winners on special

ceremony organized on December 29. He appreciated the Central Zoo's contribution in conservation education, entertainment and research. Further he also committed to process the establishment of new location for the zoo as the present space is limited. Director General of Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) Mr. Tikaram Adhikari emphasized on the need of zoo policies and legal provision

regarding the establishment and management of zoos in the country.

Likewise, Member Secretary of the NTNC Mr. Govinda Gajurel in his welcome address highlighted the need of zoo policy and the urgent need of wildlife rescue center. Ms Sarita Jnawali, Project Manager of the Central Zoo shared the major achievements of the last 18 years and issues pertaining to zoo management.



Chief guest Mr. Poudel inaugurating the Zoo anniversary

ANNAPURNA CONSERVATION AREA PROJECT (ACAP)



NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION PROGRAM

In order to ensure the sustainability of forest and biodiversity in the region, ACAP has been working to conserve forest through plantation and nursery operations. During the period, project nursery of Lwang distributed 556 forest and fodder seedlings whereas private nursery of Rivan distributed 3,500 forest and fodder seedlings for public and private plantation. In Jomsom sector, seeds of *Pinus walichinia*, *junipers* and *rubinia* were collected and around 7,000 seedlings were produced. The project nurseries of Bhujung as well as private nurseries operating in Lamjung district also produced 17,000 seedlings this year.

Livestock depredation is one of the major problems in ACA. During this fiscal year, nine cases (2 in Rivan, 6 in Lwangghalel, 1 in Sardikhola) of livestock depredation by common leopard were reported and the project provided relief compensation. Similarly, on the 23rd of November, snow leopard killed 15 sheep and goats in Samjung village of Upper Mustang and the project provided relief compensation for the loss.

All the UCOs provided honorarium to conservation area management

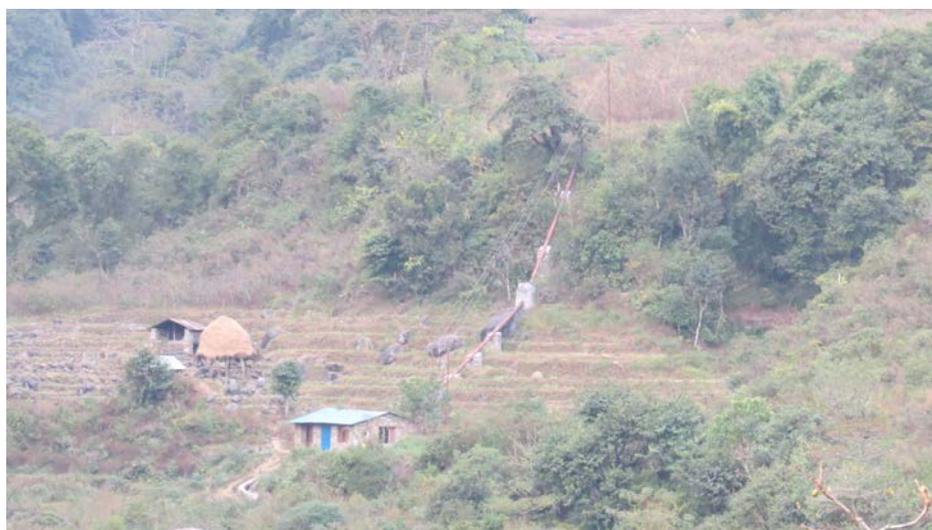
committee (CAMC) secretaries and forest guards and administrative supports on a regular basis. The CAMCs and subcommittees were audited by the registered auditor appointed by ACAP to assess the financial management and governance. In order to control wildlife poaching, CAMCs along with the local youths patrolled their respective forest area. CAMCs are responsible for implementing conservation and development activities in the field level. All the unit conservation offices (UCOs) conducted networking and program review workshop with the participation of

CAMCs. During the workshop, programs implemented in the fiscal year were reviewed and finalized the work plans for coming year.

Forest fire control awareness camps were organized in Lete, Kunjo, Kobang, Tukche, Marpha, & Jomsom VDCs of Mustang. Causes of forest fire and controlling methods were discussed during the session. Altogether 276 participants were actively participated and benefitted from the camps. UCO Jomsom organized seven days long capacity building and conservation awareness tour for 24 CAMC members of Ghalegaon, Bhujung, Pasgaon, Pokhara & Ghandruk of ACA.

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY PROGRAM

Pasgaon micro hydropower scheme produces 65 kw electricity was handed over to local community through CAMC Pasgaon on December 29, 2015. The construction work of the plant was initiated on May 15, 2011 and was completed on December 2013. The electricity is distributed among 214 HHs of ward no 5 to 9 of Pasgaon VDC and is used for lighting, cooking, heating and milling. The total cost of the scheme is 23.46 million. The GEO Rainforest Conservation, Germany had supported 85 percent followed by NTNC-ACAP (5%) and local communities (10%).



To minimize the pollution of plastic garbage (bottle) and provide safe drinking water for trekkers, a unit of safe drinking water station has been installed at Tadapani of Ghandruk with the financial support of NTNC-ACAP and Nepal Pariwar Holland. Altogether 16 units of Back boiler and solar water heater were repaired and installed in Manang sector.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION & EXTENSION PROGRAM

In addition to the regular curriculum, ACAP has introduced a separate curriculum for conservation education in schools within ACA and published the Prakritiko Sandhesh Part 1, 2 & 3 for grade 6, 7 & 8. All the schools teaching Parkritiko Sandesh are being supported for teacher's incentive and stationary. Similarly, 10th December is celebrated as the "Conservation Day" which was celebrated across all the UCOs. Different programs like agricultural products exhibition, quiz contest among the CE schools, reward and recognition, folk dance competition and traditional cultural shows were organized.

CAMC Parche was awarded with Equador Prize, 2014 by United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) in recognition to advancing sustainable development. Project Director, ACAP officially congratulated with the letter of appreciation to CAMC Parche.



Likewise, CAMC Parche also recognized 9 individuals for their outstanding contribution towards sustainable development and resource conservation. Project Director also inaugurated the cultural museum in Sikles, which was established by project itself in the office premises and the management responsibility was officially handed over to CAMC Parche. About 300 items are displayed in the museum to reflect the local culture and nature targeting to local people, students and visitors.

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Check-post cum visitors information centre at Ghasa, Puthang & Muktinath in

Jomsom sector were upgraded. Puthang check-post recorded total 17,745 tourists during the period, with 6,876 Nepalese supporting staff. Newly established entry permit counter and information centre at Besishahar is operating well and recorded 554 international and 25 SAARC tourists. In Birethanti check-post, a total of 30,988 trekkers have been recorded during the period. Two new trail sign posts have been placed at Chhokhopani and Sauru trekking trail of Jomsom sector and a trail sign painting was also carried out in the alternative trekking trail from Jomsom to Kokethanti.

The 35th International Tourism Day with the slogan of "Tourism and Community Development" was celebrated in all the check posts and welcomed the first arrival guests offering tika, khada and a token of love. In Ghandruk sector, it was celebrated with the active participation of CAMC, FMSc, TMSc, mother groups and hoteliers of Birethanti and Shikha. A new entry permit check post was established at UCO Manang on 10th November in which a total of 2,612 trekkers were registered while Dharapani registered 15,890 from July to December. A day long entrepreneurs interaction workshop related to home stay management, community campsite management and other tourism activities was also accomplished.





WOMEN EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

Regular support to child day care centers of Ghandruk, Lwang, Bhujung, Jomsom and Manang were provided. Remuneration to the teachers are borne by the project whereas the other costs are managed by the management committees. The auditing of 17 saving and credit groups of Bhujung sector was accomplished.

AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

With the aim of promoting cash crops for income generation at local level, UCO Ghandruk has promoted tea nursery in three villages and has produced 10,000 seedlings. Utilizing their abandoned land for organic tea plantation. This program is supports local people in income generation. In Bhujung, the

agricultural demonstration plot aiming to promote modern agriculture techniques is operating well.

ACAP has purchased basic and necessary medicines and materials & distributed to the farmers through Livestock Health Workers (LHWs) free of cost where 25,418 animals of 8 VDCs have benefitted. The medicines was also distributed to disadvantaged groups especially dalits and pro-poor locals in Bhujung sector benefitting 370 households.

Bhujung sector has immense potential of goat farming. In order to boost the knowledge on goat farming, training was organized at Ghimrang and 21 farmers were benefitted. Goat farming system, selection of goat, feeding, caring and management of newly born kids, market access, preparation of shed, diseases, disadvantages of in-breeding were the major topics discussed in the training. In Sikles, 46.08 kg of vegetable seeds has been distributed to the farmers. Tea nursery in Togi and 4 coffee nurseries under UCO Sikles are in function to meet the demand of the farmers.



MANASALU CONSERVATION AREA PROJECT (MCAP)

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION PROGRAM

MCAP has been continuously working for institutionalization and strengthening of conservation area management committees (CAMCs) and sub-committees. During the period, two forest management sub-committees (FMsCs) were reformed in Sirdibas VDC. Administrative support and honorarium of CAMC secretaries was provided to all CAMCs. To keep account transparent, CAMC Sirdibas, Chumchet, Chhekampar, Bihi, Lho and Samagaon, and anti-poaching unit (APU) of Chhekampar were audited. CAMC workshop was also conducted together with the auditing in participation of 10 representatives of 6 CAMCs. Program and progress of current fiscal year and proposed program and activities for upcoming fiscal year 2072/73 were discussed in the workshop.

MCA Liaison Office registered three cases of illegal activities in the MCA on illegal collection of medicinal plants, wildlife crime, and possessing of Musk deer's fur. Mr. Limba Gurung of Sirdibas-3 was arrested at Ghattekhola on possessing of Panchaunle (7.5kg), Nirmasi (5kg) and Red mushroom (200gm). Mr. Ganesh Gurung of Uhiya-8 was taken in control by Prok CAMC and local people during their forest patrol in keeping traps for wild animal. Both cases are forwarded for legal peruse. Likewise, Musk deer's fur (hair) about 250 gm was found in a hotel owned by Mr. Singh Bahadur Gurung during police raid.

Stakeholders' consultation workshop on climate smarting MCA management plan was organized on October 30 and 31, 2014. The participants representing different government and non-governmental sector put their opinions over the subject. The workshop inaugurated by the Mr. Bed Prasad Kharel, the Chief District Officer of Gorkha which was also attended by the Deputy Director General of DNPWC Mr. Fanindra Kharel,



Executive Director of NTNC Mr. Ganga Jang Thapa, and the Chief of Party of Hariyo Ban Program Ms. Judy Oglethorpe and the expert Dr. Eric Wikramanayak as Consultant. The workshop was mainly focused to share the innovative ideas to mainstream the climate change response into MCA management plan as a pilot for the protected area.

MCAP has been promoting iron pole as a substitute of pole size wooden saplings for prayer flag stand. During the period 198 households were supported for iron pole in Chhekampar and Lho VDCs. Maize, the major crop in MCA is damaged by the Himalayan black bear and according to the data 2013, 25.99 Kg/ha loss has been recorded. To reduce the conflict, 3.35 km long power fence has been installed in the periphery of Prok settlement from the support of Hariyo Ban Program. 78 HHs have directly benefited by the support.

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY PROGRAM

In order to minimize the pressure on forest resources and improve health of local women by reducing the quantity of firewood, MCAP has been promoting metallic improved cooking stove (MICS) which are proved to be less fuel consuming and are also useful for space heating in Himalayan region. During the period, MICS support was provided to 163

HHs in Samagaun (35), Pork (35), Sirdibas (40), Chumchet (18), and Lho (35) VDCs.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION AND EXTENSION PROGRAM

With the aim to encourage local student for better access to education, particularly for those belonging to disadvantaged communities, orphan, poor and talent students, project has been providing stipends for continuation of their education. During the period, 43 students (Primary-16, Lower Secondary-20 and Secondary-7) of Buddha Secondary School, Sirdibas were awarded with scholarship of amount five, four and three thousand for secondary, lower secondary and primary level.

16th anniversary of MCA was celebrated at Sidibas on December 28 (Poush 13) marking it as a day of its gazette. The day was marked with various activities like quiz, essay, art, biscuit race, pot breaking, chair rounding, and conservation song with dance competitions. School students, local youth and mother groups as well as local people actively participated in the events.

TOURSIM MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Project has been keeping records of tourist and providing information about



MCA to visitors by operating check post cum visitor information center at Jagat and Samagaun. Jagat check post is in operation throughout the year while Samagaun check post is operational only during tourist season. In total 4,024 trekkers entry was registered at check posts Jagat (3,924) and Samagaun (100) from mid July to end of December, 2014.

Beside the Larke La and Tsum trek, there are other potential trekking trails like Chumchet to Bhi and Rubinala to Nyak, from which trekkers can view the beautiful Himalayan range and experience pristine natural destination. Chumchet-Bhi trail passes through midsection of MCA from which trekkers can view the beautiful panoramic scenes of famous peaks like

Ganesh Himal, Shringi, Himalchuli and Manaslu. It also links the Larke La trek and Tsum trek that will avoid visitors to use the same trail while going to Tsum valley and then come back. During this period CAMC Bihi initiated to improve 470 m part of the trek from Thungang to Furbaghyak.

Waste management systems along the main trekking trail are inadequate. Local people and trekkers are often seen disposing waste mostly around the public places and river banks. To manage the waste and to keep environment clean dumping pit and incinerator have been constructed at Chhekam of Chhekampar, Namrung of Prok and Samagaun of Samagaun VDCs. Installation committee was formed to monitor the work. With an aim to provide clean and safe water to the visitors, five ozone purified safe drinking water stations were installed in Jagat, Philim, Chhekam, Namrung and Lho. Local communities of Sirdibas have fixed the price of NPR. 80 per liter.



GAURISHANKAR CONSERVATION AREA PROJECT (GCAP)

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION PROGRAM

The Gaurishankar Conservation Area is enriched with natural resources and local people depend on the resources for their basic needs such as fodder, timber, fuel wood. GCAP has been implementing the program through 21 conservation area management committees (CAMCs) to conserve the forest and pastures in the area. Two days workshop on operational plan preparation was organized for GCA staffs on November 15-16, 2014. During the program, the ideas and knowledge related to operational plan preparation were shared. In order to build strong working relationships at the local level, UCO Fulpinkatti organized a coordination meeting with CAMCs, Youths and social workers on last week of August.

The Multi Stakeholder Forestry Program (MSFP) provided support for climate smarting Gaurishankar VDC which is highly vulnerable in terms of climate vulnerability as it encompasses Tsho Rolpa Lake which lies under Rolwaling river watershed and also encompasses range of mountain peaks of above 6000 m asl. Having the goal to develop GCA as climate smart conservation area, the project intended to pilot and develop replicable climate smart conservation model in Gaurishankar VDC. Day long forest management training was organized at Tasinam and Simigaon to impart knowledge in managing forests and responding impacts of climate change. Altogether 25 participants participated in Tasinam and 20 in Simigaon. During the training, theoretical sessions as well as hand on practical exercises were also conducted in the field.

In order to provide seedlings of different tree species and vegetables to communities, GCAP established a multi purpose nursery at Singati and is operating well. The nursery produced about 5,000 seedlings annually including



soap nut, Sapindus mukorossi, (Rittha), *Choerospondias axillaris* (Lapsi), nevaro, *Ficus auriculata* (Nimaro) etc. Apart from this, green house was also constructed in the nursery for the production of vegetable seedlings for local people and it also serves as a demonstration plot. Similarly, to reduce pressure on natural forest resources and ecosystem, GCAP distributed 9,988 seedlings of fodder and tree species to 112 households at Simigaon and Tasinam. The dependency on natural resources has created tremendous pressure on it and has negative impact on ecosystem. The fodder plants and trees can supplement the fodders requirement.

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

GCA is blessed with its natural beauty and cultural heritage including various landscapes, mountains, lakes, glacial lakes, waterfalls, rushing rivers, and rock cliffs. Rolwaling valley, a beautiful trekking route adjoining Mount Everest; Tsho-Rolpa, highly publicized glacial lake; Mt. Gaurishankar (7,145m) and Melungtse (7,181m) and several monasteries are major attractions of GCA. In order to promote the region as tourism destination and attract more tourists, GCAP has been implementing activities

for ecotourism promotion in the region. UCO Fulpinkatti organized a waste management and clean-up campaign on December 3, 2014 at Khokundol bazaar area. Clean-up subcommittee was also formed. On the occasion, knowledge on waste management and the use of incinerator were also shared. The project also provided financial support to Laduk Aadarsha Paryatan Bikash Sahakari Limited for the maintenance and upgrading of the building which was once used by GCAP as headquarters.

A tourism management sub-committee (TMSc) was formed under the chairmanship of Ms. Chhyu Dhoma Sherpa in Gaurishankar VDC. GCAP provided support for stationary and operation of the sub-committee. In order to promote home stay as a part of promoting climate resilient livelihood options and a best way to promote local culture and tradition, home stay operation support was provided to 15 households in Simigaon and Tasinam. They were supported with PVC carpet, rubber mat, bucket, mug, jug etc. Besides support, the chairperson of the home stay group visited Ghalegaun, a model home stay in Annapurna Conservation Area. Similarly, Basic cook training was organized for local people of Gaurishankar VDC to impart skills on



cooking and preparing different foods for tourists. 20 local participants benefitted by the training. In order to promote traditional culture and conserve it for present as well as future generation, GCAP supported for preservation of cultural and traditions which could be boosted by eco-tourism. The project supported for the maintenance of Sherpa's Nyatasi monastery at Tasinam village.

LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT PROGRAM

Vegetables and cash crops are means to earn cash by selling products in the local market. To capacitate the local farmers, two days practical orientation training was conducted on November 13-14, 2014 at Simigaon. Altogether, 15 selected farmers participated in the training. They were also supported modern tools (loose pipe, sprinkler, water cane and sprayer along with plastic tunnel) and vegetable seeds (bean, cauli flower, cabbage, tomato, radish, and pea) so that they can produce seedlings and distribute to other villagers. The farmers were able to understand seasonal and off-seasonal farming system, crop production methods, pest management, irrigation methods, post-harvest handling, seed processing, nutritional and commercial value of vegetables and marketing. Low cost toilet construction support was provided in Simigaon which is also the gateway of Rolwaling trekking. During the period, 38 households were supported

each with a set of toilet pan, 2 sacks of cement, 3 CGI sheet and 2 m HDPE pipe. The support improved sanitation and maintained tourist friendly environment in the village.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION AND EXTENTION PROGRAM

Climate change is not only the local and regional issue but is now a global issue that has direct and indirect impact on biodiversity, ecological system, human beings, and livelihood. Two units of climate change sensitization workshops were organized with the aim to sensitize local community on climate change and its impact and to impart knowledge on

adaptation measures. People of this area depend on natural resources, tourism, animal husbandry and agriculture for livelihood. In total of 33 people from Tasinam and Simigaon took part in the workshops. Similarly, to raise awareness among students, teachers and local people about climate change and its impacts, six units of climate change awareness camps were also organized in local schools and Simigaon village. In total of 140 people participated in the campaign.

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY PROMOTION PROGRAM

In order to reduce fuel wood consumption and indoor air pollution which thereby helps to reduce pressure on forest and improve health hazards caused by smoke, improved cooking stoves (ICS) were distributed to 65 households at Simigaon, Riku and Beding of Gaurishankar VDC. ICS also helps to minimize climate change impact and improve air quality. The ICS have many direct and indirect benefits such as increased thermal efficiency, conservation of forests by cutback in firewood consumption, reduction in women's labour, reduction in indoor air pollution and hence reduction in smoke related health disorders, prevention of fire hazards, and reduction of cooking time.



CENTRAL ZOO

CONSERVATION EDUCATION

Friends of ZOO (FoZ), initiative of NTNC-Central Zoo in campaigning of conservation education among the school students is very effective in spreading conservation messages and creating awareness among the school students of Kathmandu valley. During the period, 250 additional students of 5 public schools namely from Balkumari Higher Secondary School –Shainbu, Panchakanya Secondary School –Syuchatar, Paropakar Adarsha Higher Secondary School -Bhimsenathan, Jana Udaya Secondary School -Bhaisepati and Adinath Secondary school –Chovar also joined the campaign. In order to strengthen the conservation education program and make it effective, 49 principals of FoZ schools discussed and suggested to incorporate the Zoo education in curriculum too. A trip to Natural History Museum was organized for 67 FoZ members of 31 schools on 22nd August to upgrade their understanding on the history of evolution and diversity of flora and fauna of Nepal. Similarly, FoZ club meeting was organized at St. Xavier's



school on 8th August which was attended by the 33 representatives of 21 different schools.

Animal feeding program is among the highly appreciated program by students as it provides first hand experience of feeding animals. During the period, 2,575 students from 35 schools participated in the program where they together with keepers prepare food and feed the captive animals. On the occasion of

Global Tiger Day on 29th July, Central Zoo conducted face painting program among FoZ members and visitors. The aim of the program was to raise awareness about the tiger, its prey base and habitat. Similarly, FoZ members of Himalayan International Ideal School participated in the tiger feeding program too.

Essay and drawing competitions were organized for FoZ members on the theme of "Four Horned Antelope and Its Conservation" for junior (grade 5-7) and "Natural Disaster in Nepal" for senior (grade 8-10). In total 1024 students participated in essay and 1065 in drawing competition which was on "Four Horned Antelope and Its Habitat". FoZ badminton tournament was organized on 7th and 8th December with participation of 20 schools. Night guided tour is another regular program for FoZ members. In a total 1550 students and teachers from 26 schools participated in the event.



CAPACITY BUILDING

Ms. Sarita Jnawali, Project Manager of Central Zoo attended the 69th World Association of Zoos and Aquarium (WAZA) conference held at New Delhi, India from November 2 to 6, 2014. WAZA

is the unifying largest conservation organization globally for zoo and aquarium community. The theme of the conference is "Biodiversity Is Us". Ms. Jnawali also attended the meeting of Conservation Breeding Specialist Group from 30th October to 2nd November 2014 at New Delhi.

Ms. Rachana Shah, Acting Curator attended week long training on 22nd Biennial Conference of International Zoo Educators Association held in Ocean Park, Hong Kong in the first week of September. The theme of conference was "education success - what does it look like and how do you measure it?" The main objective of the conference was to improve the education programs facilities of its members, to provide access to the latest thinking, techniques and information in conservation education and to excellence in animal care and welfare.

ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

Macaws were confiscated by police officials in Nagdhunga, Kathmandu check post on 14th October, 2014. Kathmandu District Forest Office handed-over the confiscated 6 pairs of blue-and-yellow macaw (*Araararauna*) to Central Zoo for



proper management and conservation of the species. Blue and yellow macaws are distributed in Venezuela and south to Peru, Brazil, Bolivia, and Paraguay. They are listed in CITES Appendix II. They can live up to 50 years in captivity.

A pair of four horned antelope (*Tetracerus quadricornis*) rescued by Banke National Park was brought to Central Zoo on 12th September. They are now rearing with existing pair in a well enriched enclosure. Emu (*Dromaius novaehollandiae*) the second largest bird at the Central Zoo is successfully hatching new chicks every

year. This year also 5 chicks have been hatched. The male becomes broody after his mate starts hatching eggs.

One horned rhinoceros nearly of 5 months aged was rescued in a traumatic condition from tiger attack in Chitwan National Park on 26th February. After the proper examination by the veterinarian, the baby rhino was kept under observation for further treatment within the periphery of NTNC's Biodiversity Conservation Center (BCC) Chitwan. The baby rhino was then handed over to Central Zoo on 2nd November 2014. The man eater tiger which was rescued by the CNP was also handed over to the Central Zoo.

CENTRAL ZOO INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

With the plantation of various trees and ornamental plants, gardens are established in the west and north side of big pond of the Central Zoo to beautify the surroundings. Similarly, pavement in the north-side of the big pond is under construction. Conservation education centre has been constructed inside the zoo. The newly constructed CE centre has a hall where the information and poster are in display to cater the large groups of visitors and FoZ members.



BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION CENTRE (BCC)

WILDLIFE RESEARCH AND MONITORING PROGRAM

NTNC-BCC is conducting different short and long term wildlife monitoring in and around the Chitwan National Park (CNP). ID based rhino monitoring, tiger and prey base monitoring, bird monitoring, vegetation study, study on impact of invasive species etc. are major on-going research and monitoring activities in collaboration with national and international universities, NGOs, government agencies and local communities. ID based rhino monitoring in low density rhino areas of Chitwan was initiated in 2009 with dual objectives of reducing the threats of poaching by increased surveillance and gather scientific information on rhinos.

Human-tiger conflict in CNP and its surrounding areas is becoming severe in recent years. Thus, BCC is implementing a project with support of US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to build capacity to deal conflict, establish a rapid response team and up to date conflict database. BCC jointly with Kalabajar Buffer Zone User Committee laid three pairs of camera traps in forest areas to monitor movement of tigers especially a man eater female known as 'Nangrapothi'. Similarly, the centre is supporting Government of Nepal in management of problem animal. As a part of this, a man-eater male tiger was taken in control from Tribeni area of Nawalparasi which was living close to village in bushes and sugarcane fields. Rescue team successfully captured the tiger on July 24 and put into the enclosure at Kasara.

As a part of national capacity building on wildlife research, BSc students Mr. Amrit Nath Acharya and Mr. Udit Aryal from Institute of Forestry, Pokhara were provided financial and technical support



for their study on "An Assessment of Human-Tiger Conflict in Chitwan National Park (A case study from Gardi and Gunjanagar VDCs of Buffer Zone in Chitwan)" and "Contribution of Biogas on Local Forest Conservation (A Case Study from Kumroj VDC, Chitwan)" respectively.

Under the Program for Planned Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research Program (PPBIO) undergraduate students from Griffith University, Australia together with graduate students from Tribhuvan University and Kathmandu University visited CNP from 29th November to 12th

December 2014 and worked on the existing permanent plots for ecological research and data collection.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Plantation and restoration of the degraded land is BCC's priority program to meet the need of local people and maintain the forest greenery. A nursery established in BCC produced 15,000 seedlings of 16 plant species which were distributed to local community for plantation. The species includes timber, fodder, fruit trees, ornamental and medicinal plants,



bamboos, etc. BCC supported for the preparation of Community Adaptation Plan of Action (CAPA) of Thangkhol Community Forest (CF) and has been supporting in implementation of the plan. As a part of this, 3,850 bamboo seedlings and 125 bamboo shoots were planted along the riverbank of Thangkhol in August 2014 with an aim to check floods and control soil erosion. An assessment of survival rate was done in December which found 72% survival.

BCC has been providing support for anti-poaching activities within park, buffer zone, and national forest areas. An endowment fund of NPR 10 million was established few years back. Similarly, BCC is assisting in CNP's eastern sector from the support of Chairperson of UK Trust for Nature Conservation in Nepal, Field Marshal Sir John Chapple through ZSL. Moreover, BCC has been helping for the effective mobilization of community based anti-poaching units to control poaching.

SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT PROGRAM

In Padampur, cow farming for green enterprise promotion (dairy) was supported as a part of CAPA implementation under the Hariyo Ban Program. By-law of cow farming is

prepared and endorsed by Thangkhol CF for effective implementation of cow farming. Thangkhol CF decided to support NPR 45,000 in average for one household to buy a cow and the recipient should reimburse the amount to CF after 45 months of period. Identified 27 households were supported with amount ranging from NPR 30,000 to NPR 46,000 based on the cost of cow they purchased. The supported households have started generating benefit from selling milk.

Biogas has already been proven as one of the best alternative energy source for rural Nepal. Following the success of Kumroj as first model biogas VDC in Nepal, BCC is extending its support to other communities for biogas installation. In total 570 biogas plants were installed in different parts of the Chitwan, Parsa and Makawanpur districts with financial support of Hariyo Ban Program. Installation of 193 biogas plants was successfully completed and 377 plants in Padampur VDC are in progress.

The cases of human wildlife conflict are increasing in Chitwan and expected to rise in coming years as population of mega fauna such as rhinos, tigers and elephants are increasing. Prevention of conflict, installing physical barrier such as electric fencing is the best strategy. Thus, BCC has supported for the installation of

5 Km electric fence along the border of Gyaneshwor forest block in Mangalpur and maintenance of 8 km fence in Kathar area was also accomplished.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION AND EXTENSION PROGRAM

School conservation education program through green force clubs and environmental teacher's forum (ETF) is one of the major conservation education programs initiated by BCC. Started in 2002 with 55 public schools from buffer zone and peripheral areas green force clubs now have network in 62 schools. Green force clubs with the support of ETF has been conducting different education and awareness programs among students. BCC had established wildlife display and information centre in 2004 as an education centre providing information on wildlife through demonstration of whole or body parts. The centre has more than 400 specimens of preserved animals, skeleton, skin, bones and faecal matters of more than 80 species on display.

ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

Under Nepal Elephant TB Surveillance and Healthcare Program, following the 'Nepal Elephant TB control action plan', 150 captive elephants were tested for TB and about 25% of them were found positive. The program is a joint initiative of DNPWC, NTNC, WWF Nepal and Elephant Care International (ECI), USA.

There are three on-going captive breeding programs in Chitwan viz. Vulture Conservation and Breeding Center (VCBC), Gharial Breeding Center (GBC) and Elephant Breeding Center (EBC). BCC has been managing VCBC since 2007 in collaboration with CNP and Bird Conservation Nepal (BCN) from the support of Royal Society for Protection of Birds (RSPB) and ZSL. In VCBC, there are total of 57 vultures kept in two breeding aviaries. For the first time in Nepal, one chick was successfully hatched in the



captive. NTNC-BCC has been collecting the funds from the donation contributed by the visitors (tourist) in EBC & GBC and utilizing for the management of centers.

COMMUNITY BASED GORAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM

BCC has initiated Goral conservation in Mahabharat range of Nawalparasi and Palpa districts since last couple of years from the support of Hariyo Ban Program. Through participatory mapping technique, boundary was delineated and an area of 112.638 km² in six VDCs (Dhaubadi, Naram, Ruchang, Deurali and Hupsekot of Nawalparasi district and Jhirubas of Palpa) have been identified as Goral Conservation Area. Natural Resource Management Sub-Committee and Environmental Youth Group have been formed in each VDC. Vantage count of the Goral was conducted in November 2014 from 12 vantage locations and 17 Gorals were recorded. According to the participatory well being ranking (PWBR) conducted in the 1,248 households, project has prioritized 629 HHs for the income generating activities. Sign boards are installed at 2 places on the east-west highway. Similarly, 5,600 seedlings of 10 different species were planted in Dhaubadi VDC to restore the degraded habitat. Support was provided to Mjhdada CFUG of Naram VDC for

2 km barbed wire fencing. To reduce dependency on forest for fuel wood, support for 30 HHs were supported for biogas installation in Pokhari VDC.

PARSA CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Parsa Conservation Program was established on May 2010 as satellite project to conduct biodiversity research

and monitoring in and around Parsa Wildlife Reserve (PWR). BCC conducted tiger monitoring through camera trapping in PWR with support from ZSL and Panthera Foundation. Two week long training on camera trapping and SMART patrolling was conducted in September. Camera trapping was carried out from November to December by dividing whole PWR into 130 grids of 2x2 km². A pair of camera traps was installed in each grid for at least 21 days. A total of 10 individual tigers were identified by analyzing 225 tiger photographs. Similarly, with the support from ZSL/Panthera SMART implementation was started in PWR since October 2014. Since the inception of PCP, regular monitoring of wildlife, especially birds is ongoing and according to the checklist over 325 bird species has been recorded. In order to impart knowledge on SMART Patrolling and capacitate field staffs, training on "SMART Patrolling" was organized at BCC for 15 participants from Terai protected areas.



BARDIA CONSERVATION PROGRAM (BCP)

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION PROGRAM

BCP managed forest nurseries in Betahani and Banjariya produced 27,000 seedlings and distributed to communities for plantation. In order to control illegal collection of timber and firewood, open grazing and encroachment, Betahani BZCF installed 500 m. fence with support of BCP. In order to control the human elephant conflict and adapt the appropriate controlling measures, consultation workshop was organized among the stakeholders on September 5 which emphasized on the need of regular maintenance of electric fences, conservation awareness, alternative crops promotion and establishment of relief compensation fund. Similarly, stakeholder workshops were organized in Chinchu, Lekhparajul, Taranga, and Hariharpur BZUC. Institutional supports were provided to Taranga, Hariharpur, Chinchu and Lekhparajul, BZUCs for their smooth operation and strengthening.

Community based anti-poaching unit (CBAPU) was initiated from Dalla village in 2009. At present, 82 CBAPU sub-committees comprising 2,313 youths have been mobilized in anti-poaching activities among which 737 are female. During the period, two VDC level and 13 ward level CBAPUs were formed and



registered in Bardia National Park (BNP). Administrative support was provided to all CBAPUs on a regular basis. BCP also managed a 24 hour stand by vehicle for anti-poaching operation. Communication and fuel support is regularly provided to the respective patrol teams. Elephant stable with shade house was constructed at Dalla post and Laguna Machan post with an aim to monitor the rhinos intensively in Khata corridor and Karnali flood plain.

About 124 Km electric fence have already been installed in the buffer zone of BNP while some of them were not functioning properly due to damage by wild

elephants, flood, livestock and misdeed of local people. The project supported to replace the old solar panel with 140 watt in Sonahaphanta, Prasenipur & Baajpur of Manau VDC. During the period, 46 km fence were maintained across Gerwa River in which BCP provided 531 Kg of fencing wire, 4,540 no clips, 12.75 Kg of nails and 24 insulators.

BCP has been regularly providing scholarships for orphans of the wildlife victims, monthly stipend support for single women and disables and immediate medication. Similarly, 18 families were supported for income generating activities like, cosmetic shop, shoe shop, grocery, pig farming, goat farming and buffalo farming. Altogether 54 people were killed by wild animals in last two decades among them 38 were killed by elephant and rest of the casualties was associated with rhino, tiger and leopard. Aromatic crops, mainly mentha and chamomile, are unpalatable to wildlife. BCP is regularly promoting alternative crops in Thakurdwara and Suryaptuwa VDCs and has extended its support in Gola, Manau, Pashupatinagar and Patabhar VDCs from this year. As the result 470 farmers earned NPR 4.8 million from mentha alone in last season. Similarly, support was provided to 242 HHs across Geruwa river for mentha,



turmeric and lemon grass cultivation. The multipurpose distillery unit was established with the financial support of Awely France was handed over to the community in Patabhar. To extend the cultivation techniques of selected aromatic plants species, 4 units of trainings were organized for 100 farmers at Rajipur, Thapapur, Shantipur and Bajhpur.

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY PROMOTION PROGRAM

Fuel wood is the main source of energy for rural population and the collection of firewood has escalated degradation of forest and wildlife habitat. Biogas is one of the major alternatives of fuel wood which ultimately reduce pressure on forest. During the period, BCP from support of Hariyo Ban Program has supported for the installation of 45 plants in Karmala Village of Neulapur VDC and 30 plants in Bhada VDC.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION AND EXTENSION PROGRAM

In order to involve local communities and school students in conservation and to aware them about the biodiversity, 50 conservation education sessions were conducted with participation of 1,687 people in northern buffer zone. Similarly, 15 community education sessions involving 371 local people and 4 School education classes involving 130 students were accomplished in Geruwa region. During the period, BCP facilitated 11 trips of jungle visit programs for 308 individuals including school students, teachers, journalist, and communities.

Nature Conservation Youth Group performed a street drama at Thapapur on the theme of human wildlife conflict mitigation. Similarly, street drama on human elephant conflict minimization was also performed at Bankhet. Street drama team were taken for a BNP visit to familiarize on the biodiversity of the park. Questionnaire survey was carried out among the 117 school teacher, students, women, members of community forest user group, and other local residents



to assess the level of conservation awareness with an aim to update the CE curriculum. A tiger conservation campaign was conducted among CBAPU members Thakurdwara and Suryapatuwa. On the occasion of Global Tiger Day on July 29, a documentary on tiger conservation and anti-poaching were shown and other programs include the essay, poem, street drama competitions. Similarly, CBAPU Coordination Sub-Committee Thakurdwara was supported to organize the second elephant football competition and cultural program on the occasion of Bijaya Dashami 2071. On the occasion of Sri Krishna Ashtami, Shreeram Nagar BZUC was supported to organize and promote "Lakhe Nach" with the conservation theme. Haritalika Teej festival 2071 was celebrated by organizing Teej songs and dance competition at Lekhparajul VDC.

WOMEN DEVELOPMENT AND LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT PROGRAM

NTNC-BCP is facilitating various women users groups and other functional groups for saving and credit scheme. BCP regularly provides assistance to finalize their books of accounts including auditing at the end of the fiscal year. At the end of Ashadh 2071, 29 groups were audited in which they have mobilized the amount of NPR 3.15 million for income generation activities to their members. BCP provides passbook and ledger to all groups and are also facilitate them to link with

cooperatives for sustainability. Currently, 4 cooperatives are providing loan facilities to the local farmers to facilitate their livelihoods. During the period, the project supported 4 cooperatives with the seed money of NPR 100,000 to each.

Chandra Kala Budha former Treasurer of Taranga Consumer Committee who was honored last year as a brave woman on international women's day by recognizing her contribution on wildlife conservation. With the small support of Hariyo Ban Program, she has conducted conservation awareness campaign for the village women at 7 villages of Taranga VDC. Leadership development training was provided to 24 executive members from Thakurbaba, Suryapatuwa, Shivapur, Shreeramnagar BZUCs. Sikshya Adhikari Rana, GESI Officer and Bina Bhattarai, Gender Development Assistant (GDA) of NTNC facilitated the training.

AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

During the stakeholders workshop BZUC, community leaders identified Cinnamon (*Cinnamomum tamala*) and Nepal pepper (*Zanthoxylum armatum*), Broom grass (*Thysanolaena maxima*) as major alternative source of income to minimize the dependency on forest based livelihood. Following the conclusion, 1,500 seedling of Cinnamon, 300 seedling of Nepal pepper and 12,000 slips of Broom grass were provided to the farmers along



with technical assistance. Lemon (*Citrus aurantifolia*), Banana (*Musa paradisiaca*) and off season vegetable farming are selected agriculture based livelihood options and 70 farmers of Chhinchu and Lekhparajul BZUC are involved in it. Support was provided to 5 HHs of Harre village involved in off season tomato and cucumber cultivation.

COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICE PROGRAM

BCP organized a free health camp on August 30, 2014 jointly with BNP, Nepalgunj Medical College and Red Cross Society, Thakurdwara at Thakurdwara Bazar and Bakuwa for the primary health check up and treatment. This camp benefitted 876 homeless (580 female and 296 male) displaced due to the flood in August. BCP has continued its support to snake bite treatment center established jointly by the Bagnaha BZUC, BNP and Narsing Dal Gan.

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

BNP is the one of the major tourist destinations in Terai region. As the tourists are increasing in the region and to address the need of Nepali and continental foods, BCP organized a week long cooking training on last week of May. 25 participants were awarded with certificate after completion of week long theoretical classes and 3 months of practical courses in hotel.

WILDLIFE RESEARCH AND MONITORING PROGRAM

Intensive ID based rhino monitoring is the ongoing program since 2008. It is a manual tracking system based on their physical appearance. Each of the animal is assigned with particular ID and can easily track their movement. In close coordination with BNP and security forces, the initiative is being carried out from financial support of Hariyo Ban Program since 2012. Rhinos are monitored using the manual prepared

by IUCN-Asian Rhino Specialist Group (AsRSG). Based on the field data, a master ID file of 32 rhinos is prepared.

BCP is conducting monitoring and assessment of wildlife damages and mitigation programs with support from AWELY France since 2009. In 2014, 180 livestock predation cases were registered. In total 182 cases of property damage were reported. The crop damage incidence is less compared to previous years due to the effectiveness of electric fence, mobilization of local people and fence watch guards. BCP has established alternative crop research plots outside the fence in Bajpur, Rajipur and Janaknagar since January 2013.

Student thesis grant was provided to Ms. Kanti Kandel, BSc. Forestry student for her thesis on "status and potential threat of golden monitor lizard (*Varanus flavescens*) in buffer zone of Bardia National Park", logistic and technical support was provided to Mr. Subodh Kumar Upadhyaya, for "ecology and genetics of sympatric wild cats of BNP and its relation to human wildlife conflict" and Mr. Parash Acharya for "status and ecology of smooth coated otter in BNP".



SHUKLAPHANTA CONSERVATION PROGRAM (SCP)

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION PROGRAM

SCP provided cash support to 3 buffer zone users groups for the honorarium of forest guards. Forests guards are responsible for patrolling the forest and controlling illegal activities inside the forest. Support was provided to Nageshwar, Kisan & Jharanasagar buffer zone users groups under the Sundevi, Bageshwari & Kalikitch users committees.

Leadership training was organized for women members of natural resource management group with the support of USAID funded Hariyo Ban Program. The program held on November 22-23 at SCP was participated by 20 women of 5 users committees and facilitated by Ms. Shikshya Adhikari Rana, GESI Officer, NTNC. The project has supported for the formulation of Volunteer Drama Group comprising 17 local youths. They were also trained on the importance of biodiversity and tiger conservation,

legal procedures and on the approach of performing drama.

WILDLIFE RESEARCH AND MONITORING PROGRAM

The project in collaboration with Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve (SWR) conducted the tiger habitat monitoring in SWR to assess the impacts of human activities in tiger habitat using observation method and GPS by dividing the 45 km area in blocks of 5 into 5. The monitoring was carried out in the month of August and was supported by AWELY Green Cap Project. Tiger and its prey base survey were also carried out in SWR.

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY PROMOTION PROGRAM

In order to reduce the pressure on forest resources by minimizing fuel wood consumption and improve health of local women involved in kitchen, improved cooking stoves (ICS) are effective which consume low fuel wood and reduce

smoke. During the period, NTNC-SCP supported 33 households to install ICS benefitting 183 individuals of 4 user committees.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION AND EXTENSION PROGRAM

The project has been implementing "Strengthening Tiger Conservation Initiatives in and around Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve in Far-western Terai of Nepal" with the support of US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). As a part of the project, SCP organized an interaction workshop on "Tiger Conservation: Problems and Challenges" among the park authorities, officials of buffer zone council and local communities. During the program, locals put their experiences and queries and concerns about the tiger conservation with the NTNC and Park authorities. Addressing the local's queries Dr. Naresh Subedi, Senior Conservation Officer, NTNC; Bed Kumar Dhalal, Chief Conservation Officer, SWR; Puskar





Bahadur Singh, Chairperson, Buffer Zone Council, Hemanta Kumar Yadav, Office In-charge, NTNC-SCP and Cory Broun from USFWS shared their experiences with emphasis on the role of community people in tiger conservation. 78 people participated in the program held at Ratauli Bichawa on October 12, 2014.

The project organized a school awareness sessions in tiger conservation during the months of November and December. Under the AWELY Green Cap 10 sessions were organized in Beldandi VDC and Bhimdutta Municipality area. Altogether 402 students of grade 8 were benefitted. Similar sessions were conducted for community people where 359 community members took part from 9 users committees. Similarly, 5 sessions were also conducted in support of USFWS in buffer zone of Dodhara area. Altogether 284 students from class 6 to 10 were benefitted.

On the occasion of Global Tiger Day, tiger conservation awareness rally function was organized on July 29, 2014. Participants holding play cards and banner with messages of tiger conservation rallied around the city and converted into a mass meeting. Puskar Bahadur Singh, the Chairperson of Buffer Zone Council and Chandra Bahadur Chand, Assistant Conservation Officer

of SWR put their views in the meeting. Altogether 328 local people from 6 users committees took part in the program.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND RELIEF PROGRAM

The project supported for the artificial insemination in local cows to increase productivity. During the period, 45 cows were inseminated in coordination with District Livestock Service Office, Kanchanpur with the support of AWELY Green Cap Project. Seeds and seedlings of local grasses were supported to 359

households with an aim to control grazing and entrance in forest for grass collection. After collecting the cattle records, grass seeds were provided in consultation with Livestock Service Office Kanchanpur.

GESI AND LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT PROGRAM

With the support of AWELY Green Cap Project, accessories support was provided to six sewing and tailoring centers in Beldandi and Mahendranagar to upgrade their services. The centers established with the support of NTNC-SCP were provided sewing machines, interlock machine, chair and iron. Local 20 women have directly benefitted from the support. Similarly, the project has supported 20 women of 2 user groups for mushroom farming. They were supported with mushroom seeds and have now started earning by selling mushrooms in the local market.

Micro enterprise development training was provided to community people to encourage them in entrepreneurship. The training was provided to 42 community members including 35 female of Mahendranagar and Beldandi area from September 6-20, 2014.





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