TRUST FOR NATURE
NATIONAL CONSERVATION
NEPAL, 1982
NTNC

# ANNUAL REPORT
## 2025

NATIONAL TRUST FOR NATURE CONSERVATION

"CONSERVATION FOR PROSPERITY"


NTNC

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Khumaltar, Lalitpur, Nepal
PO Box 3712, Kathmandu, Nepal
Tel: +977-1-5253571, 5253573
E-mail: info@ntnc.org.np, URL: www.ntnc.org.np

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# NATIONAL TRUST FOR NATURE CONSERVATION

## Chairman's Message

The National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC) is working across Nepal with the aim of balancing conservation and development while respecting the rights of people and nature. I am proud to see how the Trust's vision of *"conservation for prosperity"* reflects the hopes of our nation. NTNC has helped Nepal grow stronger in wildlife research, fight against environmental crime, promote harmony between people and wildlife, and respond to the challenges of climate change. It has also built bridges of cooperation—between communities, government, and global partners—so that conservation becomes everyone's responsibility.

Today, many NTNC-managed areas welcome some of the highest numbers of visitors among Nepal's protected landscapes. This is a clear sign of how protecting nature also enriches culture, livelihoods, and local pride. The recent expansion of NTNC's work to Karnali Province through the Rara Conservation Program is another milestone in this journey, bringing new opportunities for conservation and community well-being.

Looking ahead, NTNC's role will be even more important. As climate change grows more severe and development pressures increase, the Trust will continue to guide Nepal toward greener, more resilient, and inclusive pathways. Its work will help us meet our biodiversity goals and ensure that prosperity is rooted in healthy ecosystems.

I sincerely thank the NTNC team and all its partners for their dedication and achievements this year. The Trust's strength lies in its ability to combine community values, scientific knowledge, and global cooperation. This spirit will continue to inspire policymakers and future generations.

Together with our partners, I encourage NTNC to deepen collaboration with the Ministry of Forests and Environment especially with the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation and the Department of Forests and Soil Conservation.. With such partnerships, I am confident that NTNC's impact will grow even greater.

Let us keep moving forward—protecting nature, empowering communities, and building a prosperous Nepal.

**Ain Bahadur Shahi Thakuri**
Chairman

Khumaltar, Lalitpur, P.O. Box : 3712, Kathmandu, Nepal, Tel.: 977-1-5253571, 5253573
E-mail: info@ntnc.org.np, Website: www.ntnc.org.np

# NATIONAL TRUST FOR NATURE CONSERVATION

## Foreword

It gives me great pride to reflect on the achievements of the National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC) in FY 2024/25. Our efforts continued to strengthen Nepal's leadership in conservation, climate resilience, and community empowerment. We were able to double the donor-based funding during this fiscal year in spite of global funding cuts. NTNC successfully mobilized external funding for wildlife research and community engagement, enabling scale-up of ongoing initiatives.

Strategic partnerships with universities and research institutions enhanced our scientific capabilities, and NTNC is now among the few institutions in Nepal offering short courses for international graduate students, contributing to academic credit learning while fostering global knowledge exchange. Our scientists were also able to publish 20 peer reviewed papers in partnership with various institutions that are instrumental to generate conservation knowledge in the country and help devise conservation strategies and actions.

We continued to prioritize capacity building for government agencies, frontline staff, and local communities to address environmental crimes and promote human–wildlife coexistence. With technical expertise and field presence, NTNC remains a first-line responder for wildlife rescue and monitoring nationwide.

NTNC has successfully submitted two concept proposals on climate adaptation to the Adaptation Fund for which NTNC is the only one accredited national entity. This effort will secure at least 15 million USD for climate adaptation in Nepal. Similarly, NTNC is submitting a full funding proposal of 10 million USD to GCF focusing to climate change adaptation of the forest dependent communities of Karnali Province. I am confident that this effort will be instrumental to build resilient communities and ecosystems in the verge of changing climate in Nepal.

Tourism in NTNC-managed conservation areas has reached a highest level with about 350 thousand foreign visitors and about a million domestic visitors. This progress underscores the need for quality investments in nature-based tourism, including improved trails, visitor facilities, and strengthened service provider capacities. Our campaign to make trash free trekking trails is taking a momentum. This year we were successful to collect and bring about 35 tons of plastics, metals and bottles from the Annapurna region for recycle into the city centers.

As a science-driven and community-based institution, NTNC remains committed to advancing biodiversity conservation, wildlife management, and protected area governance. These efforts are central to Nepal's prosperity agenda and to ensuring that conservation continues to serve both people and nature. On behalf of NTNC, I extend my deepest gratitude to local communities, national partners, and international collaborators whose support has been vital to our mission. Together, we reaffirm that nature conservation is not only a national priority but also a global responsibility. Looking ahead, NTNC will continue to lead with innovation, partnership, and science-based solutions—ensuring that Nepal's conservation legacy not only safeguards today's biodiversity but also inspires a resilient, sustainable future for generations to come.

**Naresh Subedi, PhD**
Member Secretary

Khumaltar, Lalitpur, P.O. Box : 3712, Kathmandu, Nepal, Tel.: 977-1-5253571, 5253573
E-mail: info@ntnc.org.np, Website: www.ntnc.org.np

# ACRONYMS

| | |
|---|---|
| ACA/P | Annapurna Conservation Area/Project |
| APF | Armed Police Force |
| APU | Anti-poaching Unit |
| BaNP | Banke National Park |
| BCA | Blackbuck Conservation Area |
| BCC | Biodiversity Conservation Center |
| BCP | Bardia Conservation Program |
| BNP | Bardia National Park |
| BZ | Buffer Zone |
| BZCF | Buffer Zone Community Forest |
| BZCFUG | Buffer Zone Community Forest User Group |
| BZMC | Buffer Zone Management Committee |
| BZUC | Buffer Zone Users Committee |
| CAMC | Conservation Area Management Committee |
| CBAPU | Community Based Anti-poaching Unit |
| CDV | Canine Distemper Virus |
| CE | Conservation Education |
| CF | Community Forest |
| CFUG | Community Forest Users Group |
| CITES | Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora |
| CNP | Chitwan National Park |
| DAE | Direct Access Entity |
| DCC | District Coordination Committee |
| DFO | Division Forest Office |
| DNPWC | Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation |
| DoF | Department of Forests and Soil Conservation |
| EBC | Elephant Breeding Center |
| EIA | Environmental Impact Assessment |
| EMMP | Environmental Monitoring and Management Plan |
| FMSC | Forest Management Subcommittee |
| FoZ | Friends of Zoo |
| FY | Fiscal Year |
| GBC | Gharial Breeding Center |
| GBCRP | Gandaki Basin Climate Resilient Project |
| GCA/P | Gaurishankar Conservation Area/ Project |
| GESI | Gender and Social Inclusion |
| GFC | Green Force Club |
| GoN | Government of Nepal |
| GPS | Global Positioning System |
| HH | Household |
| HTF | Himalayan Tiger Foundation |
| HWC | Human Wildlife Conflict |
| I/NGO | International/Non-Government Organization |
| ICDP | Integrated Conservation and Development Program |
| ICIMOD | International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development |
| IGA | Income Generation Activities |
| IUCN | International Union for Conservation of Nature |
| IWT | Illegal Wildlife Trade |
| KCC | Koshi Conservation Center |
| KTWR | Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve |
| KU | Kathmandu University |
| M/ICS | Metallic/Improved Cooking Stove |
| MCA/P | Manaslu Conservation Area/Project |

| | |
|---|---|
| MITFE | Ministry of Industry, Tourism, Forest and Environment |
| MoFE | Ministry of Forests and Environment |
| NA | Nepal Army |
| NORPART | Norwegian Partnership Programme for Global Academic Cooperation |
| NTB | Nepal Tourism Board |
| NTFP | Non- Timber Forest Product |
| NTNC | National Trust for Nature Conservation |
| OP | Operation Plan |
| PA | Protected Area |
| PCR | Polymerase Chain Reaction |
| PNP | Parsa National Park |
| RM | Rural Municipality |
| RRT | Rapid Response Team |
| SAWEN | South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network |
| SCP | Shuklaphanta Conservation Program |
| ShNP | Shuklaphanta National Park |
| TAL | Tarai  Arc Landscape |
| TMSC | Tourism Management Subcommittee |
| TU | Tribhuvan University |
| UC | Users Committee |
| UCO | Unit Conservation Office |
| WDIC | Wildlife Information and Display Centre |
| ZSL | Zoological Society of London |

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# ABOUT NTNC PROJECTS

## MOUNTAINS

### ANNAPURNA CONSERVATION AREA PROJECT (ACAP)

Launched in 1986, the Annapurna Conservation Area Project (ACAP) is the largest undertaking of NTNC. ACA is also the first 'Conservation Area' and largest 'Protected Area' in Nepal covering an area of 7,629 sq. km. It covers 5 districts and includes 15 rural municipalities. Together with its remarkable biodiversity, with 1,884 plants, 128 mammals, 521 birds, 49 reptiles and 29 amphibians, 384 butterflies, and 28 fish species, it is also home to some of the most well-known mountains in Nepal where diverse cultures and peoples reside. This makes it an area of high eco-system sensitivity and the country's top trekking destination. It is here where NTNC pioneered the ICDP model which integrates biodiversity conservation and sustainable development through maximizing community engagement, ownership and opportunity.

### MANASLU CONSERVATION AREA PROJECT (MCAP)

Manaslu Conservation Area (MCA), declared on December 28, 1998 is the second conservation area to come under NTNC management. MCA encompasses an area of 1,663 sq. km. of Tsumnubri Rural Municipality, with all its seven wards except Sirdibas adjoining the Tibetan Autonomous Region of China. Located in the northern part of the Gorkha District, the area is made up of two major mountain valleys—Tsum in the east and Nubri in the west. Ecologically, MCA is home to a diverse range of rare flora and fauna, also serving as a healthy habitat for the snow leopard and its prey. Socio-culturally people are of Tibetan origin who follow Buddhism, observing a profound sense of wildlife compassion, notably in Tsum valley. With far-flung communities living in pristine wilderness, NTNC has replicated the successful ICDP model of ACA in MCA.

### RARA CONSERVATION PROGRAM (RCP)

Rara Conservation Program (RCP) is NTNC's most recent project. It was officially established in May 2025 and is based in Hutu, within the Rara National Park headquarters in Mugu District. The program is strategically positioned to strengthen conservation initiatives across Karnali Province. RCP is currently coordinated by NTNC's Bardia Conservation Program and focuses on wildlife monitoring, habitat protection, sustainable natural resource management, and the promotion of nature-based tourism. Through collaboration with local communities, government agencies, and esearchers, RCP aims to advance habitat restoration, species conservation, ecological research, and tourism development within Rara National Park and its surrounding areas.

### GAURISHANKAR CONSERVATION AREA PROJECT (GCAP)

Gaurishankar Conservation Area (GCA), declared on January 11, 2010 is the third conservation area under NTNC management. GCA covers an area of 2,179 sq. km. encompassing two municipalities and eight rural municipalities in three districts, namely, Sindhupalchok, Dolakha and Ramechhap. The area serves as a biological corridor connecting two crucial protected areas of the country, Sagarmatha National Park and Langtang National Park. Together with its interesting faunal diversity, the area is home to 695 types of floral species and 16 major vegetation types. The region is rich in water resources and is the catchment of Khimti, Bhotekoshi, Sunkoshi, and Tamakoshi rivers that are major water sources for large hydropower projects in the country. To sustainably manage the richly resourced area NTNC has replicated the success of its ICDP model in GCA also.

## KATHMANDU VALLEY

### CENTRAL ZOO

The Central Zoo, located in Jawalakhel, Lalitpur is the oldest zoo in Nepal, its origination dating back to 1932 as a private collection of late Rana Prime Minister Juddha Shumser JBR. After it came under the Government of Nepal in 1956, its management was eventually entrusted to NTNC in 1995. Covering an area of 6 ha, today, the zoo houses more than 1100 animals of 112 different species of mammals, birds, reptiles and fish. The zoo is a centre for recreation, conservation education and wildlife research. Already more than 100,000 students from more than 300 schools inside Kathmandu Valley are a part of our Friends of Zoo (FoZ) membership-based conservation education programme. Today the zoo has also become a focal point for rescue, rehabilitation and treatment of wild animals from in and round Kathmandu Valley, and it continues to promote animal welfare, conservation learning and environmental activism among all sections of the society.

# TARAI

## BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION CENTRE (BCC)

Biodiversity Conservation Center (BCC), formerly known as Nepal Conservation Research and Training Center (NCRTC), was established in 1989 to conduct biological research and monitoring in the lowland (Tarai ) protected areas of Nepal. BCC is among the largest and oldest undertaking of NTNC, and over time, it has been at the forefront of Nepal's milestone achievements in conservation—increase in threatened and endangered wildlife species such as Royal Bengal tiger, Greater one-horned rhinoceros, Asian elephant; restoration of wildlife habitats and key biological corridors; and significant increase in participation of local communities in conservation. Although the centre's services extend across Nepal, it's support presently concentrates on providing technical proficiency to Chitwan National Park, Parsa National park and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve for wildlife management activities like wildlife translocation, survey of flagship species, ecological research within and outside the park, among others.

## BARDIA CONSERVATION PROGRAM (BCP)

NTNC started engaging in Bardia National Park in 1986 to monitor the first batch of translocated rhinoceros from Chitwan National Park. Subsequently, Bardia Conservation Program (BCP) was launched in 1994 as a regular project of NTNC focusing on biodiversity research and sustainable community development in the western lowlands. Its role particularly in wildlife research and monitoring, habitat and corridor restoration, and capacitating local institutions have been key for the increase of endangered wildlife species. Today the Barida-Banke complex is seen to have the highest density of the Royal Bengal tiger among Nepal's protected areas today. BCP works mainly in three protected areas: Bardia National Park and its buffer zone, Banke National Park and its buffer zone, and Blackbuck Conservation Area (BCA); including biological corridors of Khata, Karnali, and Kamdi, and adjoining community forests.

## SHUKLAPHANTA CONSERVATION PROGRAM (SCP)

NTNC started its conservation in the Shuklaphanta National Park (ShNP) in 1999, mainly focusing on biodiversity conservation along with research and monitoring. SCP's main objective is to safeguard endangered wildlife species and their habitats in and around ShNP, and to improve the livelihood of marginalized communities around the park premises. The park is known to have the biggest patch of continuous grassland in Nepal and holds the largest herd of swamp deer in Asia. Serving as a remarkable space for rhinos, tigers, leopards, and other prey species, together with the unique indigenous cultures, ShNP represents the glory of far western Nepal. SCP's program are focused in Shuklaphanta National Park (ShNP) and its buffer zone along with the Laljhadi and Branhadev Corridors.

## KOSHI CONSERVATION CENTER (KCC)

Koshi Conservation Center (KCC) is NTNC's eight and most recent project under operation. It was set up as independent project officially from September 2021. Prior to that, the Trust's Koshi-related operations were managed from its Biodiversity Conservation Center (NTNC-BCC) office in Sauraha, Chitwan. A dedicated project focusing on Koshi Tappu region now ensures NTNC's physical presence across all the protected areas in the Tarai region of Nepal, extending much necessary conservation support into eastern Nepal, where human-elephant conflict are the severest in the country. The project is meant to support the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) and local communities enhance the conservation value of Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (KTWR)—a 175 square kilometre protected area situated in the Saptakoshi River plain of south-eastern Nepal that serves as a prime habitat for diverse wildlife and wetland ecosystems.


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## NTNC's Project and Program Offices

# Newsline

## Inauguration of Rara Conservation Program

The inauguration of a new field office in Rara National Park marks NTNC's strategic expansion into the Karnali Province to bolster remote biodiversity and nature-based tourism. NTNC's Bardia Conservation Program is currently coordinating the new office's inception activities.



## Nepal Gains Direct Access to Global Adaptation Fund

NTNC was accredited as a National Implementing Entity (NIE) to the Adaptation Fund during CoP29, opening new avenues for climate finance access. This milestone enables NTNC to directly design, access, and implement adaptation and resilience projects at the national level.


## Global Knowledge Exchange for Snow Leopard Conservation

In collaboration with China's Shan Shui Conservation Center and Peking University, NTNC organized international workshops bringing together experts from nine snow leopard range countries. The forum

focused on technological innovation and transboundary policy to integrate snow leopard conservation with sustainable socio-environmental goals. Additionally, a three-day China–Nepal Snow Leopard Knowledge Exchange and Capacity-Building Workshop was conducted at NTNC Central Office this year.

## Strengthening Judicial Collaboration to Combat Wildlife Crime

In collaboration with the Judges' Society of Nepal, NTNC hosted high-level workshops across Madhesh, Gandaki, and Bagmati Provinces, attended by the Rt. Hon. Chief Justice and Hon. Judges of the Supreme Court. Conducted under the Combat Wildlife Trafficking in Nepal Project,

funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL), the workshops focused on strengthening judicial perspectives in addressing environmental and wildlife crime in Nepal.

## Advancing Science and Infrastructure for Wildlife Coexistence

To mitigate human–elephant conflict (HEC) along the Kakarbhitta–Laukahi section of Nepal's East–West Highway, NTNC signed an MoU with the Project Directorate (ADB), Department of Roads. A delegation led by Hon. Ain Bahadur Shahi Thakuri, Minister for Forests and Environment and Chairman of NTNC, together with Member Secretary

Dr. Naresh Subedi and team, visited high-conflict areas in Mechinagar Municipality, Jhapa. Stakeholder interactions highlighted the need for coordinated mechanisms at local, provincial, and federal levels. NTNC also provided financial support to the Central Department of Zoology for research on human–wildlife conflict (HWC) in Nepal, focusing on rhesus macaques, wild boars, and porcupines.

# SPECIES CONSERVATION & RESEARCH

Species conservation continues to be NTNC's core area of intervention. Although our collaborative efforts in conservation of key species like tigers, rhinos and elephants, have seen encouraging results, this endeavor remains abound with challenges. This necessitates increasing our interventions in controlling wildlife crime, protecting habitats and managing conflict between people and wildlife. We have aimed to address these challenges by focusing on human-wildlife conflict management, wildlife crime control, species management and wildlife rescue and rehabilitation. Driving innovation and informed decision-making through new scientific knowledge remains a priority for us. Combining our expertise in both in-situ and ex-situ management, our work remains important for long-term viability of critical populations. As a key scientific partner, we continue to support the government through our technical backing. This chapter highlights some of our efforts in species conservation.

# HUMAN WILDLIFE CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC) is on the increase. Our focus in managing HWC is to foster better coexistence between people and wild animals. Our approach in community-driven HWC mitigation is also to offer solutions that simultaneously support local livelihoods. While some measures have demonstrated effectiveness, others require further attention to evolve into proven solutions. Community owned insurance, innovating mitigation measures and scaling up proven methods are in present focus. The successfully restored corridor forests are not free from human interactions and more attention will be needed to manage HWC in these areas. There is also a growing need for outreach to engage more people in HWC management efforts. We remain committed to sharing our knowledge and experiences to the stakeholders. Our target areas go beyond protected areas, where HWC emerges as new problems.

- **92 km solar fence completed in Jhapa district till date,** securing the communities living around 27 community forests from conflict with elephants, and provides safe movement corridor for wild elephants. This year, additional 9 km fencing was completed.
- **805 predator-proof corrals were supported to herders** in our mountain and tarai working areas, contributing to reduce livestock loss and consequent

*Before*

*After*

*Predator-proof corral*

retaliatory killing of snow leopards, tigers and common leopards.

- **A 1.7 km bio-fence** piloted in Shuklaphanta NP combining the effectiveness of non-palatable species to secure agriculture from crop raiding animals.
- **5,600 community members were reached with HWC awareness programs** increasing community knowledge to prevent and minimize HWC.
- **Community-based livestock insurance scheme** initiated in Gaurishankar Conservation Area (GCA) in previous year has secured additional 465 livestock benefitting 44 more herders.
- **Rapid Response Team** of 30 local youths has been established in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve to support the

communities to respond better to conflict with elephants. Team members were also developed as trainers on Human-Elephant Coexistence to raise the awareness.

- A Luna GPS based **HWC early warning system** has been started in Shuklaphanta Conservation Program (SCP) to improve the dissemination of early warning messages in the buffer zone communities. The HWC alerts sent by the communities reaches the park's Joint Operation Cell from where the warning is broadcasted to the affected areas, helping to increase timely information and human security.

| *Support to reduce HWC* | |
|---|---|
| *Alternative crops* | *118 households* |
| *Game proof fence* | *4.5 km* |
| *Machan (raised platform)* | *20* |
| *Improved cattle shed* | *32* |
| *Electric fence maintenance* | *45 km* |

**20** HWC victim familes provided with quick relief

**75** children of HWC victim families were provided education scholarships

**36** wildlife victims are benefitting from monthly stipend fund

**New HWC** relief fund established in Parsa NP buffer zone covering five communities

**680** people trained on human-wildlife coexistence

**465** farmers received compensation for crop loss through ACAP managed community-based crop damage compensation scheme

**619** cases of livestock loss were supported to receive government compensation

Fencing in Upper Mustang secured over **500** ropanies of apple farm

# WILDLIFE CRIME CONTROL

With dual role of managing protected areas and supporting the government NTNC's engagement in wildlife crime control becomes crucial in multiple fronts. Our effort is to increase law enforcement measures to curb poaching and illegal wildlife trafficking, while simultaneously addressing the root causes of community involvement in such activities. In this process, NTNC conducts capacity-building activities for law enforcement agencies, build community stewardship to conservation, and works with at-risk communities to deter them from engaging in poaching and illegal wildlife trade. Given the expansive networks and operations of wildlife criminals, robust law enforcement measures are imperative where the role of motivated community youths also becomes important. NTNC supports the government by providing training in law enforcement, facilitating institutional coordination, and promoting the use of technology for more effective law enforcement outcomes. This year:

- **477 anti-poaching patrols** were conducted by local anti-poaching groups across NTNC managed CAs, effectively covering large distances to prevent wildlife poaching and hunting.

- **6 new community-based anti-poaching groups** (CBAPU) were formed in Shuklaphanta NP to cover the corridor areas around the park.
- **CBAPUs reached 1460 people** in various awareness events on poaching and illegal wildlife trade (IWT) control.

### Supporting to strengthen the government and stakeholders

- **5 interaction meetings** solely with the police force of Annapurna Conservation Area to enhance their involvement in wildlife crime control.
- **23 WCCB meetings** across our working areas, bringing together over 600 stakeholders to increase their coordination in controlling wildlife crime.
- **Provincial WCCB** established for Sudurpashchim Province.
- **2 judiciary** workshops sensitize 281 judiciary personnel on wildlife crime.
- **13 events** of wildlife crime control training were provided for 301 frontline staff.
- **50 media** personnel were trained on wildlife crime issues, especially on effectively covering wildlife crime related news and articles.

### Increasing community involvement in wildlife protection outside protected areas

- **30 local youths** were trained and mobilized in poaching and illegal wildlife trade awareness generation in remote areas of Sudurpashchim Province where conservation awareness is low. The change agents reached over 3,000 people through village-level camps.
- **17 anti-snare campaigns** were conducted in NTNC managed conservation areas to raise conservation awareness and stop the culture of bushmeat hunting and poaching. 607 community members were mobilized to find and remove the snares and traps. This was successful to remove 230 snares that could have been detrimental to a range of wild animals.
- **Awareness raising materials** (posters, booklets and hoarding boards) were used to build up this poaching and IWT awareness raising effort.

# SPECIES MANAGEMENT

NTNC's species management and conservation efforts encompass both ex-situ and in-situ activities, ranging from conservation breeding and species translocation to population monitoring and the implementation of prioritized species action plans. Our focus is on species requiring urgent interventions to reverse population declines and ensuring the longterm viability of critical populations. Key initiatives include the recovery of tigers and rhinos, revival of vulture populations in the wild, reintroduction of gharials, and ongoing efforts to create rhino sub-populations in Bardia and Shuklaphanta National Parks. Despite these successes, challenges such as developing infrastructure, habitat degradation and illegal wildlife trade continue to pose significant threats. Our commitment to species management remains steadfast, driven by science-based evidence and insights from accumulated knowledge.

- **Four greater one-horned rhinoceros were internally translocated** this year in Chitwan NP to address the uneven spatial distribution of the species. The western sector of the park currently supports higher density compared to eastern sector. This was part of the government's target to translocate ten rhinos to manage the habitat pressure and conflict with nearby communities, which risks long-term population viability.

- **Management of translocated rhinos in KTWR**

  Two rescued rhinos (Pushpa and Anjali) were translocated last year to Koshi Tappu WR from Chitwan NP, which is a part of the government's larger plan to create a rhino subpopulation in KTWR. NTNC is supporting the management of these rhinos in an 3 ha area in the eastern side of the reserve. The area with rich grassland and waterholes are being managed and the habitat has been fenced for their protection. A dedicated team of caretakers and veterinarian provides daily care.

- **Growing feral dog populations** can become potential disease threats in community and to wildlife. To control the booming feral dog population in Manaslu Conservation Area, the Cham Nyingje Dog Welfare Program was initiated last year to sterilize the feral dogs and provide them health care. This program has been replicated in the Annapurna Conservation Area as well. This year, 458 dogs were sterilized and vaccinated from both the areas.

- **Elephant Breeding Center**

  Serving as an important resource for park management and research activities, as well as a tourist attraction, the Elephant Breeding Center in Chitwan is NTNC's long-term program. The center this year has 2 new members, and now

has 22 elephants (9 adult females and 13 calves of varying age). A total of 143,985 visitors visited the center.

- **Gharial Breeding Center**

  Gharial Breeding Center (GBC) at Kasara, Chitwan was established in 1978 to regularly produce new hatchlings for releasing in the river systems to revive gharial population in the wild. The center is also a place for tourist to visit and learn about this ex-situ approach that are employed in conserving species that are in high risk of extinction. At any time, there are about 500 gharials in GBC. Over 1200 gharials have been reintroduced from the center since 1981 and helped to repopulate the gharials in their major habitats, the Rapti, Narayani, Karnali, Babai and Koshi river systems. There was no gharial reintroduction in this year. A total of 70,301 visitors visited the place.

- **Captive Elephant Management**

  There are more than 100 captive elephants in the tarai NPs (government and privately-owned). NTNC supports to provide them with regular veterinary care. This year through our health camps, veterinary services were provided for 123 elephants in Parsa, Chitwan and Bardia NPs.

- **Wildlife mortalities and postmortem operation** this year 35 major postmortem operations were conducted. According to the Chitwan NP records, there were 23 deaths of rhinos likewise in Koshi Tappu WR, 7 elephants and 5 arna were found dead.


- **Blackbuck reintroduction site** in Shuklaphanta NP is successfully breeding and managing blackbucks. Its population is in steady increase. This year's population, with 308 individuals level to the last year's population.

# WILDLIFE RESCUE AND REHABILITATION

Escalating instances of Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC) have underscored the critical importance of wildlife rescue and rehabilitation. Situations where people are exposed to wildlife requires quick response. There is a growing trend of humans encountering wild animals where our expertise in wild animal rescue and rehabilitation has become increasingly valuable. Every year, our field technicians conduct frequent rescue operations involving hundreds of wild animals. These operations are inherently risky and demand high levels of professional competency. NTNC's vision in the future is to establish a network of well-facilitated wildlife rescue centers across the country. Our commitment to this vital aspect of wildlife conservation remains steadfast.

- Over 500 rescue operations conducted this year, **543 animals rescued including**, 1 snow leopard, 20 common leopard, 2 pangolin, 20 tiger, 17 rhino, 12 wild elephant and 2 vulture, 12 mugger crocodile, 26 Burmese python.

### Tiger rescued from Eastern Nepal

A female tiger was rescued from Fattepur village in Saptakoshi Municipality, Saptari district. The tiger had entered a residential house and was rescued by the technicians from NTNC-Koshi Conservation Center in coordination with KTWR and security personnel. The tiger was safely captured and then relocated to Parsa National Park. This was the first recorded presence of a tiger in the Eastern Tarai, indicating a greater dispersal of tigers from the adjacent national parks.

# SPECIES MONITORING AND RESEARCH

NTNC's inception can be traced to early years of developing science-based approaches to Nepal's wildlife conservation. As an institution, although its working scope has become increasingly diverse, research and knowledge generation continue to be at its core. Our extensive on-the-ground experience draws scientists and partners worldwide, providing valuable collaborations for science and research. We are a key partner to the government in delivering evidence-based knowledge on conservation policy and plans. Our research has led to the discovery of new species and provided crucial insights for protected area managers. A landscape-level snow leopard assessment, periodic tiger and rhino monitoring, and scientific exploration of lesser-known areas, are some of our ongoing efforts. NTNC's scientists continue to publish important findings and perspectives in many reputed journals. Our research activities this year include:

**Biological survey in Khata corridor** has shown this important transboundary corridor to be well functioning, providing dispersal route for the ranging species. It is among the vital connection for tiger metapopulation in the Tarai Arc Landscape. The survey found 19 tigers with healthy female-to-male ratio. This ecological outcome is a direct consequence of over two decades of dedicated, community-led conservation efforts that has transformed the previously degraded landscape.

**Gaur habitat survey** was completed in Chitwan NP. This survey will provide information that will lead to implementing adaptive habitat management in the park for enhancing the quality of prey base, which has now become crucial for long term viability of tiger conservation in Nepal.

**Annual tiger and prey base monitoring** are conducted in the parks that have small tiger population and prone to demographic threats such as poaching. These surveys were initiated in Shuklaphanta and Banke NPs. This year's survey in Shuklaphanta NP estimated 43 individuals, a stable population compared to last year's 44 individuals.

In Banke NP, data from 169 camera traps are being analyzed.

**ID-based rhino monitoring:** Our ID-based rhino monitoring coverage was limited this year owing to change in resource priorities. Additional 36 rhinos were documented this year in the eastern CNP sector.

**Tiger, co-predator and prey base monitoring in high altitude landscapes of Sudurpashchim** was conducted to better understand the landscape as a larger


Oth katuwa pothi


Female with calf


New male from Pratappur


Saili pothi with male calf


Male from Mani khola

conservation landscape, especially in reference to the probable future scenario when tigers will indeed occupy higher altitude habitats in response to their climate adaptation. Although confirming this phenomenon will need continuous tiger monitoring, this study serves a baseline for future conservation efforts in the higher altitude areas. In total, 27 terrestrial species were recorded. The study confirmed presence of large carnivores such as the common leopard, meso-carnivores including the red fox and golden jackal, and small carnivores such as the large Indian civet, masked palm civet, jungle cat, and leopard cat. The prey species, barking deer, Himalayan tahr and Himalayan goral occur commonly, with less occurrence of Sambar deer. Seven recorded species are listed in the IUCN Red List and protected under the NPWC Act, 1973.

This year's **mid-winter waterfowl survey** was conducted in the wetlands of Banke-Bardia complex, Shuklaphanta NP and Koshi Tappu WR. The surveys were conducted jointly with ZSL-Nepal, Bird Conservation Nepal, Nepalese Ornithological Union, Pokhara Bird Society, students and other stakeholders.

- In the Banke-Bardia complex, 3,087 birds were counted, belonging to 204 species.
- In Shuklaphanta NP, 22,291 birds were counted, belonging to 146 species.
- In Koshi Tappu WR, 9,250 birds were counted, belonging to 76 species.

**Annual Bengal Florican survey** in the Koshi Tappu WR counted 9 Bengal Florican (5 males and 4 females). 3 Bengal Floricans

were sighted outside the reserve's core area, implying the need of protection of these outside habitats and community participation in their conservation. The number of Bengal Floricans recorded this year has declined, possibly as a result of habitat degradation caused by the flooding that occurred last year.

**Annual Dolphin monitoring** was conducted in Koshi Tappu WR, covering the area between downstream of Koshi barrage to Gobargadha village. Out of 17 monitoring sites surveyed, dolphins were sighted in 10 sites. Out of22 dolphins (15 adult, 5 subadult and 2 neonates) were counted this year.

A **biological survey** was completed in the Badimalika, Ramaroshan and Triveni Municipalities, the areas that will constitute the proposed Badimalika-Ramaroshan Forest Conservation Area to be established under the OECM framework. The survey will result in better understanding the area as a place of of biodiversity importance. The conservation area was envisioned considering its rich biodiversity, the ongoing conservation threats and socio-cultural importance.


A study to document **wildlife diversity in the mid-hill areas** of the Annapurna landscape was conducted in Sikles, Bhujung And Lwang. The study has found rich faunal diversity in these areas, including the first photographic evidence of the clouded leopard. Notable recorded species include barking deer, Himalayan black bear, common leopard, Himalayan goral, Himalayan palm civet, large Indian civet, leopard cat), musk deer), Nepal grey langur, porcupine, Assamese macaque, Himalayan serow, various squirrels, stone marten, and yellow-throated marten. This finding expands the known distribution of key species and suggests the critical habitats for many of these threatened species, augmenting the need for community-based stewardship in the southern ACA.

Similarly, **the bird surveys** recorded 205 species in west section of Pipar Pheasant Conservation Landscape, 176 species in Sikles and 120 species in Bhujung.

Floral diversity survey in Bhujung recorded 146 plant species belonging to 35 families, with orchids showing exceptional diversity—90 species were recorded out of the 180 orchid species known from the region. In Sikles, 33 species of edible and medicinal plants were recorded that are closely tied with the culture and traditional knowledge of the local Gurung community.

**Study to understand snow leopard and common leopard habitat overlap** was conducted in Jomsom, Lomanthang and Manang to clarify the possibility of habitat overlap between the two species in the Annapurna region. Analysis of camera trap images and scat samples revealed one overlap site in Shangta, Mustang. This habitat overlap is confirmed but its extent needs more evidence. Similar habitat overlap was earlier recorded in GCA and these evidences indicate interspecific interactions may be happening between common leopards and snow leopards.

To support better understanding of the avalanches in Annapurna mountains, ACAP has initiated an **avalanche monitoring program** in Sikles. The study recorded a total of 242 avalanches across three major Himalayan peaks, with Annapurna IV accounting for the highest number (142), followed by Annapurna II (51) and Lamjung Himal (49). 50 were categorized as large avalanches. It sheds light on the effect of warming in the nival zones where big avalanches seem to be increasing.

### Megafauna study in Gaurishankar region

A multi-year camera trap research is ongoing in Gaurishankar Conservation Area to assess the status and distribution patterns of megafauna species along the altitudinal gradients of the landscape. This year, additional survey was completed in the Khare, Bigu and Rolwaling areas. This research will continue until next year, and it expects to contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of megafauna ecology and informing science-based conservation strategies in the GCA.

**A study for assessing small carnivore community** ongoing in GCA fills the knowledge gap in small mammal community from the area. Different traps such as Sherman traps, pitfall traps, tube traps, live traps along with camera trap survey was conducted in the Lapchi, Marbu and Ladukh region. Along with the traps for small mammals, bat survey was also conducted in the area. The study will continue to the further areas of GCA in the next year and the findings is expected to help assess the ecosystems in terms of supporting these 'lesser' lifeforms as well as implementing targeted conservation strategies for species of conservation concern.

An **avifauna survey** has also been conducted in GCA to assess of status of birds. The research is expected to provide critical data on species richness, distribution patterns, and habitat associations, thereby filling a significant knowledge gap in Himalayan ornithology.

Similarly, a **fish diversity survey** was conducted in the Tamakoshi, Lapchi and Singati rivers of the Gaurishankar Conservation Area. The survey is completed this year and findings will generate baseline data of the fish species and their distribution which will help to guide conservation and sustainable management of the aquatic ecosystems, especially in relation to the numerous hydropower infrastructure that are being developed in the area.

**Pilot study of eye-cow method** is ongoing in Chitwan NP to understand the effectiveness of stamping images of false eyes on the

back of cattle (thus, eye-cow) in preventing predator attacks on livestock while grazing. This method, proven to be successful in some African countries works against predator's hunting behaviour of attacking from behind. 157 livestock are being studied and successful prevention of livestock predation by this method could mean a low-cost measure to reduce livestock loss by tigers and leopards.

### Academic training and research to international students

- A short training course was provided to 28 students of University of Newcastle, Australia in at NTNC-BCC. The course was focused on wildlife research and community based conservation initiatives in and around Chitwan NP. benefitted from the lectures, field visits, hands-on conservation activities, and interactions with experts.

- Ongoing collaboration with Federation University of Australia hosted 18 students this year. The students engaged in various in-class and field level sessions conducted in and around Chitwan NP and the Annapurna CA. The program covered key thematic areas such as wildlife ecology and management, community-based conservation, human–wildlife coexistence, wildlife rescue, and animal health care.
- 14 students from the Inland Norway University of Applied Sciences (INN), Norway and the Kathmandu University (KU), Nepal participated in a two and half months of field course in diverse aspects of biodiversity conservation, including freshwater ecosystems, species population dynamics, occupancy, and species-habitat interactions. The course was conducted through by NTNC-Shuklaphanta Conservation Program providing necessary expertise and resources to successfully conduct the course.

**NTNC's Student Research Grant** program this year provided research grants to 20 university students from Nepal to conduct their academic research.

# PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATION IN COLLABORATION WITH PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS IN FISCAL YEAR 2024/25

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2. Baral, R., Adhikari, B., **Paudel, R. P.**, **Kadariya, R.**, **Subedi, N.**, Dhakal, B. K., Shimozuru, M., & Tsubota, T. (2024). Predicting the potential habitat of bears under a changing climate in Nepal. ***Environmental Monitoring and Assessment***, 196, 1097. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10661-024-13253-2

3. Dhakal, A., & **Pokharel, G. P.** (2024). An Analysis of Medical Waste Management Practices During and After Covid-19: A Case of B&C Hospital, Nepal. ***Journal of Physical and Life Sciences***, 1, 143–157. https://doi.org/10.3126/jopls.v1i1.79019

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# PROTECTED AREA AND ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT

The National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC) has long stood as one of Nepal's leading institutions in the field of nature conservation, playing an important role in the management, protection, and restoration of the country's ecologically rich landscapes. Working in close coordination with the Government of Nepal, NTNC manages three of the country's most significant conservation areas viz. Annapurna, Manaslu, and Gaurishankar representing a large portion of Nepal's protected area system. Across these diverse Himalayan landscapes, NTNC implements science-based management, community engagement, and biodiversity monitoring to ensure that natural ecosystems remain healthy, resilient, and productive. Its technical expertise also supports protected areas in the Tarai and mountain region, where the need for habitat restoration, wildlife monitoring, and sustainable community development remains substantial.

A core strength of NTNC lies in its commitment to inclusive and community-centered conservation. The organization works closely with local governments, forest user groups, indigenous communities, women, and youth to ensure that conservation practices are rooted in local ownership and equitable benefit sharing. Through Integrated Conservation and Development Projects (ICDPs), NTNC promotes livelihood diversification, conservation-friendly enterprises, and capacity-building programs that empower communities as active stewards of natural resources. This participatory approach has helped strengthen institutional capacities at the grassroots level while fostering long-term capacity for protected area governance and biodiversity conservation.

NTNC is also at the forefront of ecosystem restoration efforts across Nepal. It leads a wide range of restoration initiatives, including forest rehabilitation, invasive species management, grassland improvement, and watershed protection. Restoration activities are planned using ecological assessments and climate-responsive strategies, ensuring that recovered habitats support wildlife movement, enhance ecosystem services, and contribute to climate resilience. NTNC also invests in building the skills of frontline staff, rangers, and community volunteers to effectively manage protected areas and respond to emerging conservation challenges such as forest fires, habitat degradation, and changing climate conditions.

This year also, NTNC has continued to strengthen the capacity of local institutions and communities by providing essential resources, technical support, and training focused on promoting sustainable practices and conservation stewardship. Key initiatives included forest restoration programs, the development of invasive-free grassland mosaics, and efforts to reduce human-induced forest fires through community awareness and preparedness activities. These interventions have contributed significantly to improving habitat quality and enhancing the resilience of ecologically important landscapes. NTNC has also prioritized upgrading protected area infrastructure and monitoring facilities to support effective management and conservation-friendly tourism. Additional capacity-building efforts have equipped frontline personnel such as rangers, community volunteers, and local authorities with necessary skills for wildlife monitoring, enforcement, and rapid response to environmental challenges. By empowering communities and fostering long-term stewardship, NTNC continues to play a leading role in safeguarding Nepal's invaluable biodiversity for future generations.

NTNC has officially inaugurated its new field office named "Rara Conservation Program" at Hutu, in Rara National Park, Mugu district. The Office will focus on strengthening conservation initiatives and partnerships in the Karnali province. This initiative is a strategic step towards enhancing biodiversity conservation and promoting nature-based tourism by supporting local communities in Nepal's most remote and ecologically rich landscapes.

# COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONAL AND CAPACITY BUILDING

This year, NTNC continued to strengthen institutional capacity across local conservation institutions and the protected area management authorities through targeted technical, financial, and logistical support. Priority was given to enhancing the governance, legal compliance, and operational effectiveness of community-based institutions, enabling them to play a more active role in natural resource management and biodiversity conservation. NTNC supported Conservation Area Management Committees, forest and buffer zone institutions, and user groups to improve their engagement in monitoring, habitat management, and community-led conservation initiatives.

At the protected area level, NTNC provided technical assistance to park authorities for habitat management, preparation and updating of management plans, and development of conservation strategies. Capacity building efforts were further strengthened through regular coordination meetings with local governments, communities, and partner institutions, as well as through transboundary exchanges that enhanced regional cooperation on wildlife conservation. Through these efforts, NTNC contributed to enhance capacity of local institutions, improved coordination within the protected area system, and strengthened foundations for effective and inclusive conservation governance.

- **157 community-based institutions were supported** to strengthen their capacity which includes 85 Conservation Area Management Committees (CAMCs), 66 Community based Anti-Poaching Units (CBAPUs) and 18 Buffer Zone User Committees (BZUCs).
- Supported Forest management sub-committees to mobilize **83 forest guards** for protection of forest, prevention of illegal resource extraction and to take care of plantation sites.
- Support was provided to Conservation Area Management Committee of Sikha to **renovate CAMC building**.
- Prepared and finalized **management plans for two conservation area** which is being managed by NTNC viz. Annapurna Conservation Area and Manaslu Conservation Area.
- Provided **partial support to prepare the management plan for Khaptad National Park and its Buffer Zone** for the period 2082–2087 B.S.
- Over **150 + units of coordination meetings** were conducted with local institutions, local government and community, in which **4000 + representatives** participated.
- Organized **5 units of transboundary meeting** and workshop for Nepal protected area officials with officials of Protected area and forest division from India, engaging 144 officials to discuss on different issue of wildlife conservation and transboundary movement of wildlife.

# FOREST RESTORATION AND FOREST FIRE MANAGEMENT

In recent years, Nepal has experienced a steady increase in the frequency and intensity of forest fire incidents, driven by prolonged dry periods, rising temperatures, and growing human pressure on forest landscapes. Against this backdrop, NTNC continued to make significant progress in forest restoration and forest fire management across conservation areas and buffer zones. Efforts were directed toward restoring degraded forest landscapes through the production and distribution of diverse native and multipurpose plant species, supporting both community and private plantation initiatives, and strengthening local stewardship of forest resources. Progress was also achieved in enhancing forest fire prevention and response systems. NTNC supported PA authorities for the maintenance of fireline, improved patrolling and access within core forest areas, and strengthened coordination with local

community and security agencies. Awareness programs and practical trainings were conducted to build the capacity of frontline staff and community members, contributing to improved preparedness and more effective fire response. In addition, NTNC advanced the provision of firefighting equipment and logistical support to conservation area institutions and national parks, while promoting culturally appropriate alternatives that reduce pressure on forest resources. Through these integrated actions, NTNC strengthened forest resilience, reduced fire-related risks, and supported the long-term conservation and sustainable management of forest ecosystems.

- **10 forest nurseries** (6 projects and 4 NTNC-supported private nurseries) continued to operate and produce seedlings of different tree, fodder, fruit and medicinal plant species.
- **Additional 4 multipurpose nurseries were established** and start producing seedlings in Gaurishankar Conservation Area in partnership with Conservation Area Management Committees in Suri, Kalinchowk, Marming, and Chuchure.
- Distributed altogether **99,750 seedlings** for both private and community plantations in Annapurna Conservation Area, Manaslu Conservation Area, Gaurishankar Conservation Area, Buffer zone of Shuklaphanta National Park and Bardia National Park directly benefiting more than 5000 households.
- Supported park authorities to repair and maintain **83 km of Fireline** in Bardia, Parsa and Shuklaphanta National Park with an aim to ease the patrolling within the core area and also to reduce the wide wild spread of the forest fire.
- **33 units of forest fire awareness campaigns and 15 units of forest fire control trainings** were conducted in Annapurna, Manaslu and Gaurishankar Conservation Areas, during which **1480 individuals** from the conservation area took part in the campaigns and trainings. Similarly, forest fire management practical course was delivered to 50 frontline staffs and members from Nepal Army, Armed Police Force, Nepal Police, Shuklaphanta National Park, and buffer zone community forests.
- Altogether **10 sets of forest fire fighting tools** were provided to Conservation Area Management Committees, community forest management sub-committees and police stations in Gaurishankar Conservation Area. Similarly, support was provided to **Banke, Bardia and Shuklaphanta NP** with around 15 different **firefighting tools** for each office and additional 6,500-liter **water tank** to Bardia and **dedicated vehicle** to Shuklaphanta national park office to response fire problem in park area.
- **327 prayer flag poles** were distributed in Gaurishankar Conservation Area by NTNC and Conservation Area Management Committees, which help to stop cutting of at least 650 + pole size tree required to rituals in Buddhist culture every year.

# ENHANCING HABITATS FOR WILDLIFE

Nepal has made remarkable progress in wildlife conservation, reflected in the steady recovery of key species across protected landscapes. As populations of large herbivores and carnivores continue to increase, maintaining and enhancing the quality of their habitats has become increasingly critical. Grasslands, wetlands, and associated habitat features play a vital role in supporting prey species and ensuring the long-term survival of diverse wildlife assemblages across the Tarai and other conservation landscapes. Recognizing this need, NTNC has continued to work closely with the Government of Nepal and conservation partners to improve and restore priority habitats in and around protected areas. During the last year, NTNC sustained its focus on improving grassland productivity and ecological quality by managing grasslands to create mosaics of invasive-free grazing lawns within national parks, wildlife reserves, and buffer zone areas. Regular monitoring indicated improved habitat conditions and increased wildlife use of these managed areas for grazing and movement.

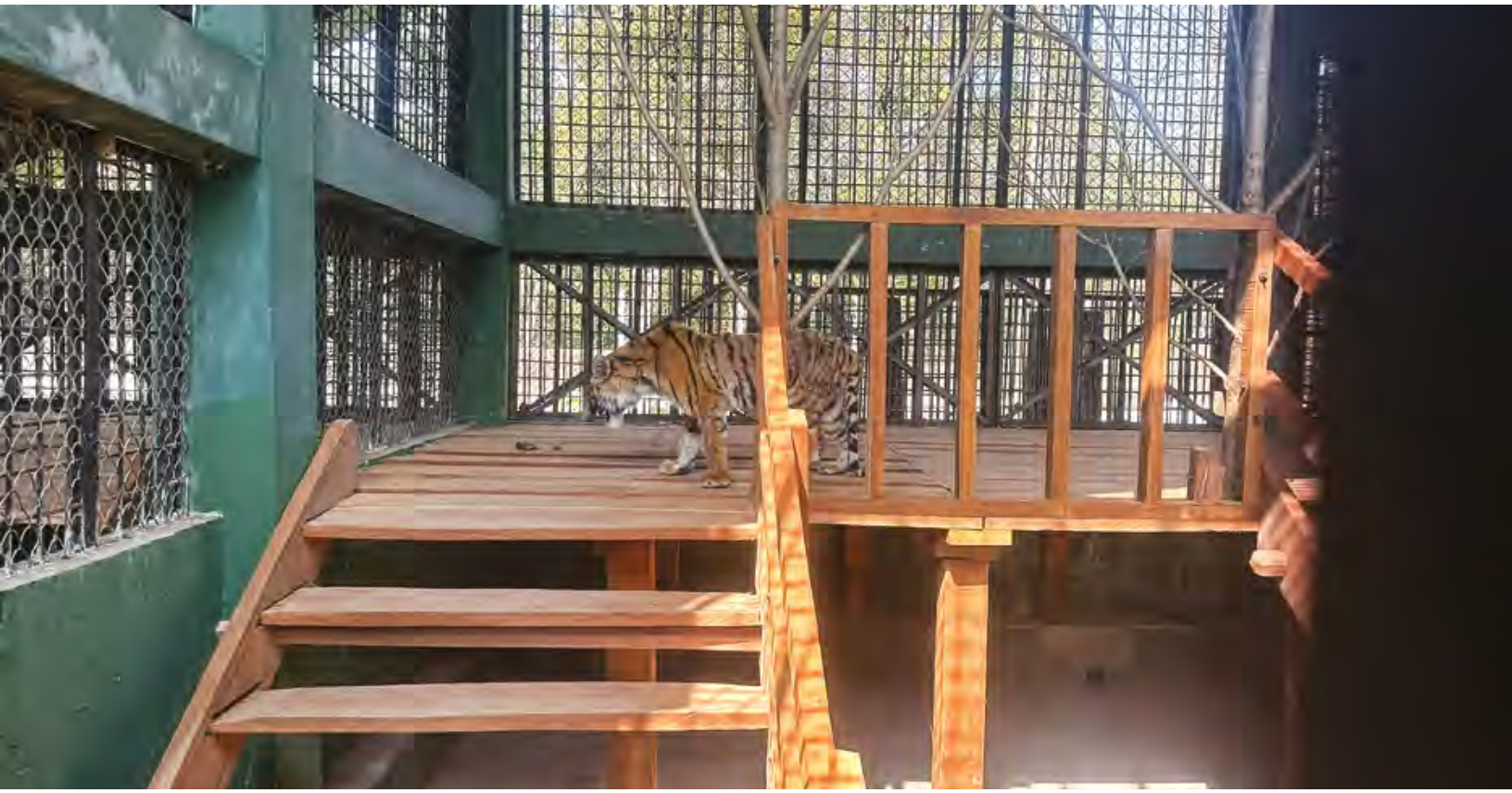
Similarly, wetlands and waterholes, which provide critical, year-round water sources for wildlife have been increasingly threatened by drying, invasive species, and sedimentation, particularly in areas influenced by monsoon-driven floods from the Chure foothills. In response, NTNC continued its efforts to restore and enhance wetlands and waterholes both inside and outside protected areas, improving water availability and habitat suitability for wildlife, especially during dry periods. Through these sustained habitat enhancement efforts, NTNC contributed to healthier ecosystems, improved prey base conditions, and more resilient habitats capable of supporting growing wildlife populations across Nepal's protected area network.

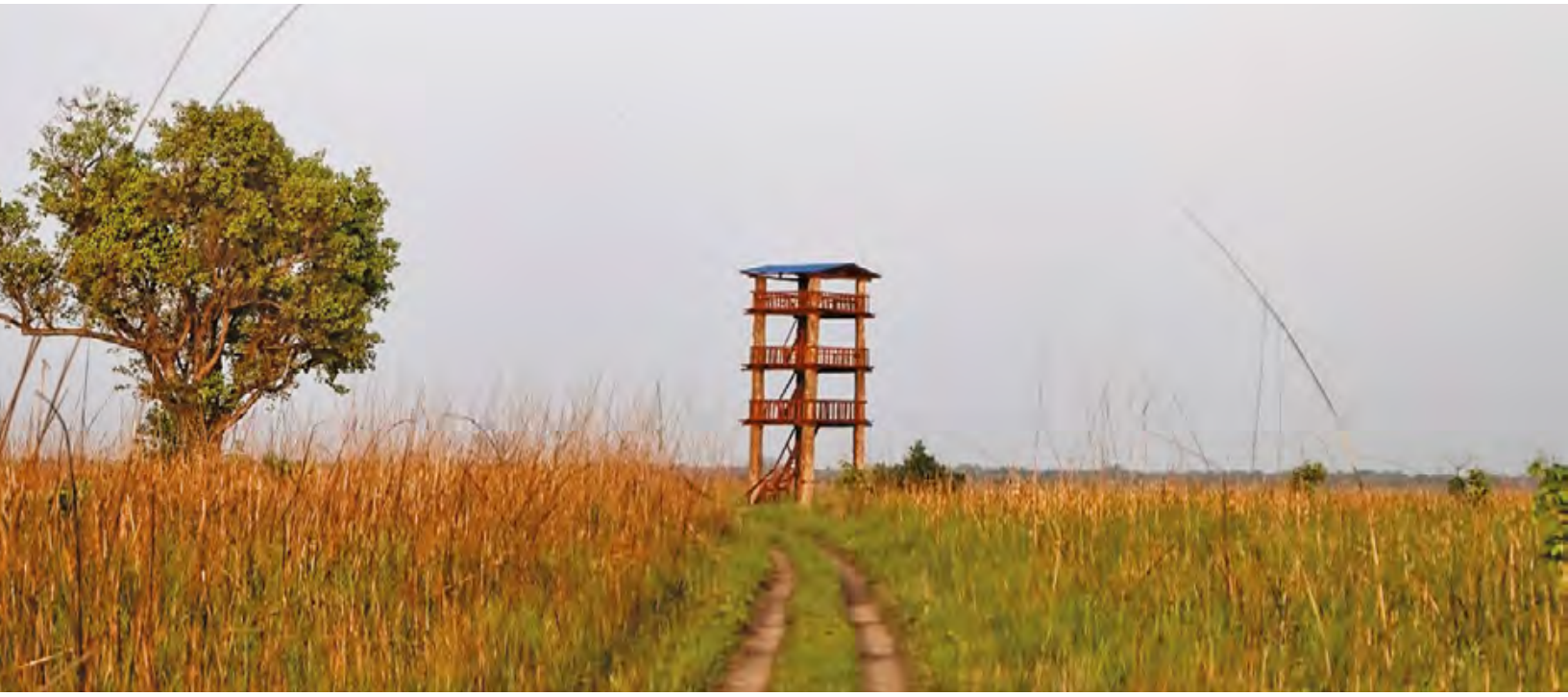
- Made significant contributions to improve wildlife habitat, managing over **750+ hectares of grassland** with an aim to create a mosaic of invasive free grazing lawns for wildlife across Chitwan, Bardia and Shuklaphanta National Parks and buffer zone area as well as in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve.

- **Monitoring** of habitat use and vegetation composition on this managed grassland continued.
- **5 existing water holes** from Chitwan, Bardia and Shuklaphanta national park were improved by clearing invasive plant species and removing siltation including deep boring facility in on water hole.
- **3 new waterholes** were constructed at Buchhapur area of Banke, Bhatpuriphanta Baijanath BZCF of shuklaphant national park. Similarly, **5 conservation ponds** were constructed in Chure Rural Municipality of Kailali.
- To enhance driver's visibility and minimize road-kills in Bardia National Park, **bushes around 10-kilometer stretch** of highway between Amerani and Lalmati Chowk was cleared.
- **10 units of adaptive habitat management trainings** and workshop were conducted in Shuklaphanta and Bardia, during which **300 + PA officials and frontline staff** of Shuklaphanta, Bardia and Banke national park, buffer zone management council and buffer zone community forest user group members and staff of Nepal Army and NTNC take part in different two days and five days trainings package.
- **4 coordination and awareness programs** were organized with an objective of reducing grazing pressure in and around the in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve, engaging 135 participants including Buffer Zone Community Forest members, local farmers, Buffer Zone User Committee members, and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve staff.

# PROTECTED AREA FACILITIES AND SERVICES

During the last year, NTNC continued to enhance the facilities and services across conservation areas and national parks to improve visitor management, safety, wildlife rescue capacity, and operational effectiveness of protected areas. Entry permit counters and check posts in NTNC managed conservation areas are serving to ensure effective regulation of visitor entry and support on-ground protected area management. In the Annapurna Conservation Area, the introduction of an online entry permit system marked a significant step toward digital service delivery, with a growing proportion of visitors using the platform to obtain permits more efficiently. To improve visitor safety and monitoring in NTNC managed conservation areas, surveillance systems has been installed at key entry points and trekking routes in coordination with local authorities, strengthening real-time monitoring and security for tourists and local communities alike.





Progress was also achieved in strengthening wildlife rescue and rehabilitation infrastructure. NTNC supported the construction and upgrading of wildlife holding enclosures, including new facilities for tigers and leopards, to address urgent rescue and rehabilitation needs across different regions. These facilities were equipped with essential infrastructure to ensure safe handling, care, and monitoring of rescued wildlife. In addition, NTNC supported protected area authorities with critical wildlife medicines, rescue equipment, and supplies necessary for effective emergency response and animal care. NTNC also working to enhance protected area infrastructure to support patrolling and sustainable tourism. Through these interventions, NTNC strengthened protected area service delivery, improved visitor experience and safety, enhanced wildlife rescue preparedness, and supported the overall effectiveness of Nepal's protected area system.

- Continued to manage and operate **14 check posts and 4 entry permit (EP)** counters in Annapurna, Manaslu and Gaurishankar Conservation Area.
- In ACA, with an introduction of a **new online entry permit system** over half of tourists visit in ACA now using this digital platform to obtain their entry permits.
- For the safety and online tracking of visitors, **55 CCTV cameras** were installed at key entry points like Nayapul – Birethanti, Lwang – Khorakomukh and other trekking route in ACA region in coordination with Police and Ward Office.

- **2 new tiger holding enclosures** were constructed in the Arjuni Phanta area of Shuklaphanta National Park, to address an immediate challenge of wildlife rescue and rehabilitation in Sudurpashchim Province. The enclosures were equipped with facilities like security cameras, deep water boring systems to make them fully operational. Similarly, support was provided to PA authorities to address the structural and facility improved required for **2 existing tiger holding enclosures** located at Khairi of Banke National Park and Rambapur and Thakurdwara of Bardia National Park.
- **A leopard holding enclosure** was constructed at the Division Forest Office Dadeldhura which has a capacity to hold two leopards.
- Supported Bardia National Park authority with different wildlife medicines, darting and other equipment important for rescuing of wild animals including food for captive tiger.
- **Two wooden bridges** were constructed within Shuklaphanta National Park to facilitate all-weather movement for patrolling and diversify tourism activities. The first bridge is located along the Majhgaun to Barkaula fire line, and the second is at Captain Ghat of Shuklaphanta National Park.
- **An animal viewing tower** was constructed in Shuklaphanta grassland of Shuklaphanta National Park replacing the old structure which had served for over a decade but was damaged recently. With its elevated platform and strategic location, the new tower provides a vantage point for spotting wildlife.

# CONSERVATION ECONOMY

Conservation of natural resources and their sustainable use is crucial for building green, resilient, and inclusive futures that benefit both ecosystems and economies. At NTNC, we recognize the importance of linking local communities' economic development with biodiversity conservation. Our approach promotes the ownership and stewardship of natural and cultural resources, fostering shared prosperity. We focus on leveraging nature-based tourism and green enterprises to enhance livelihoods, generate income, and build community resilience. By reducing forest dependency and promoting environmentally friendly practices, we aim to create a future where ecological, cultural, and economic aspects complement each other, ensuring community growth, sustainable development and long-term conservation success.

## Nature Based Tourism

Number of Tourists visited in the protected Areas

ACAP: 278,113

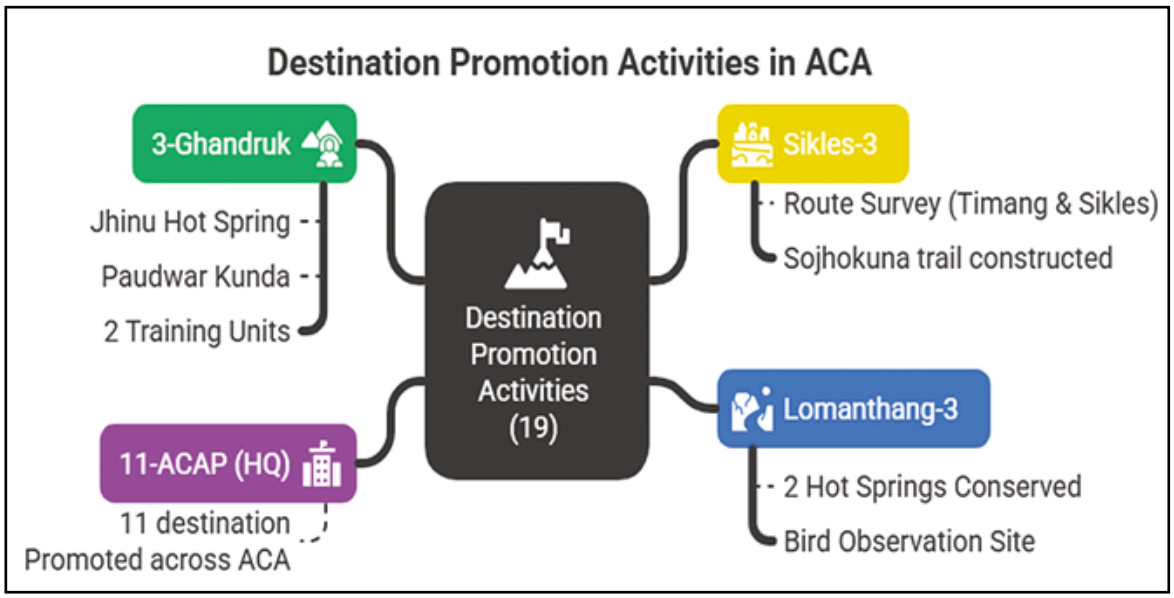
MCAP: 12,512

GCAP: 3,463

# NATURE-BASED TOURISM


### Checkpost visitors centres and signposts, hoarding boards

To enhance visitor services and trail safety, NTNC has established 29 tourist information centers and check posts throughout its three protected areas. Specific improvements include reopening checkpoints at Jagat and Samagaun in MCAP, installing 124 marking poles, and adding 34 new signposts on important trails. In GCAP, the work involved installing 14 new signposts, rewriting 12 others, upgrading three checkpoints, and constructing 3.82 km of new walking paths. A highlight was the installation of a 100 sq ft 'Red Panda Trail' signboard at Kuri Bazar, which makes navigation easier for hikers in these conservation areas.


Destination Promotion Activities in ACA
3-Ghandruk
Jhinu Hot Spring
Paudwar Kunda
2 Training Units
Sikles-3
Route Survey (Timang & Sikles)
Sojhokuna trail constructed
Destination Promotion Activities (19)
11-ACAP (HQ)
11 destination Promoted across ACA
Lomanthang-3
2 Hot Springs Conserved
Bird Observation Site


होमस्टे व्यवस्थापन तालिम
तथा
सहयोग कार्यक्रम
NTNC


In ACAP, a new online permit system has been successfully launched, with over half of all tourists now using this digital platform to obtain their entry permits. To improve security and monitoring, 55 CCTV cameras have been installed at key entry points like Nayapul - Birethanti Lwang – Khorakomukh and in the whole ACAP region. In recognition of their vital role in facilitating tourist entry, 203 T-shirts were distributed to local drivers as a gesture of appreciation for their ongoing support.

### Trekking routes improvement and trail promotional activities

This project significantly enhanced trekking infrastructure and improved visitor safety in key conservation areas. In the MCAP, work included building and maintaining 465 meters of trail in Shyama, enhancing the Larke Pass Trail with new paving and fencing, and installing 210 meters of iron pole fencing on the Tsum Valley Trail for safety, along with specific site construction. Meanwhile, in the ACAP region, 519 signposts were installed to enhance navigation, and 18.1 kilometers of existing trails were upgraded, including 7.12 kilometers of paved and stepped paths and 11 kilometers of improved earthen trails.


## TREKKING TRAILS AND DESTINATION DEVELOPMENT WORKS UNDERTAKEN THIS YEAR

- Altogether **519+ information boards** (ACA – 519) were replaced/ installed in conservation areas managed by NTNC.
- **5 hot springs were renovated**, 1 shelter house constructed and 1 bird observation site established in ACA as a facility for trekkers.
- Upgraded existing approximately 22.6 km trails (18.15 km in ACA, 0.45 km in MCA and 3.82 Km in GCA) including pavement.
- Efforts are underway to establish visitor information center at Banke National Park.
- **4 museums** located at Ghorepani, Ghandruk, Sikles and Bagar of Annapurna conservation area were supported to upgrade which are being managed by local people, showcasing local artefacts, tools, attire, and customs. These museums are serving both for education and tourism purposes.
- As a part of cultural heritage conservation and promotion, NTNC supported local community to renovate and preservation of 7 Gompa and Temples across ACA and help them to celebrate 50 local festivals where around 9740 local people take participation.
- 180 homestays were supported for capacity enhancement and facility improvement in ACA. In GCA, a total of 10 new homestays were established-5 in Chilankha and 5 in Orang-through close coordination with local stakeholders and tourism committees. To ensure these homestays operate effectively and provide quality services to tourists and visitors, essential homestay operation materials such as bedding, furniture, and basic maintenance tools were distributed to each household.
- Infrastructure development: 13 buildings, 1 shelter house, 4 bridges, 10 drinking water schemes, 14 irrigation systems, 7 green parks, 2 streetlights, 1 telecommunication and 2 toilet construction were partially supported across ACA.

# LIVELIHOOD AND INCOME GENERATION

## Seeds and sapling distribution

Across the conservation areas, this initiative has greatly improved local livelihoods through targeted support for agriculture and livestock. In MCA, 531 households benefited from 23 different types of vegetable seeds.

Across all locations, GCAP distributed 185,870 cash crop seedlings, 61,148 grass crop seedlings, 3,260 tree species, 2,000 ginger plants plus 413 kg of ginger, and 375 turmeric plants plus 395 kg of turmeric, benefiting 480 households. In UCO Shivalaya, Ramechhap, cardamom, tea, ginger, turmeric, and tree species were distributed to 181 households. In UCO Chaku, Sindhupalchowk, 30,574 cash crop and 30,574 grass crop seedlings were provided to 207 households. At Singati, Dolakha, 30,574 cash and 30,574 grass crop seedlings, along with 413 kg ginger and 395 kg turmeric, were distributed to 92 households.

In Chitwan, 50 households received 5 ducks each for poultry farming, and 32 families were supported with goat farming, receiving two goats each. In ACA, 276 farmers received 43,240 seedlings of 10 different cash crops. Additionally, 160 farmers received 1,920 kg of ginger rhizomes, 60 farmers participated in a goat support program, and 85 farmers were assisted with chili cultivation. Overall, these diverse agricultural inputs have benefited 1,287 households in ACA alone.

To increase agricultural productivity and strengthen climate resilience, this initiative provided substantial support for protected farming. A total of 120 farmers in ACA received plastic tunnels, while 101 greenhouse plastic tunnels were distributed to farmers in GCA. Additionally, to help families affected by human-wildlife conflict (HWC), 37 victim households in the buffer zone of Shuklaphanta National Park (ShNP) were compensated with high-value cash crops, including 1,800 kg of ginger and 700 kg of turmeric seeds.

To strengthen community resilience and livelihoods, 19 livelihood groups were formed in Sudhurpaschim province with a seed fund of NPR 1,30,63,612.00 (One crore 30 lakhs sixty three thousand Six Hundred and Twelve only), and 300 household-level improvement plans (LIPS) were prepared for mobilized savings and credit groups. In the buffer zone of ShNP, direct support was provided to communities affected by HWC, including soil treatment for 192 farmers, 67 grass cutters

benefiting 335 households, and agricultural tools for 55 households. Furthermore, to enhance community-based tourism, 15 households in Koshi received cultural dresses for a homestay program, and the Tharu homestay group was supported with a pair of inverters.

## Trainings

To build local capacity and economic resilience, comprehensive training programs were conducted across different protected areas. In Koshi, 68 people received homestay support and management training to improve community-based tourism. A wider capacity development effort in Shuklaphanta trained 872 individuals in diverse fields, including integrated pest management, commercial livestock rearing, financial management, and value chain promotion. Additionally, to support alternative livelihoods in conflict-prone areas, 121 people from communities affected by HWC in the ShNP buffer zone received entrepreneurship development training.

To diversify local skills and support livelihoods connected to wildlife conservation, targeted vocational training was provided across protected areas. In MCAP, 12 people received basic training in cooking and baking. In the buffer zone of Bardia


National Park (BNP), 71 individuals, mainly from Community-Based Anti-Poaching Units (CBAPUs), were trained in various skills, including nature guide (22), welding (15), plumbing (12), electrical work (11), and mobile repair (11). Additionally, 14 local health workers received basic training in wildlife conservation. Furthermore, in Chitwan, 40 youths completed a one-month training program as nature guides, and 50 women in the Madi region were empowered through a 10-day wool spinning course, each receiving a spinning machine to start their own businesses.

In ACA, a variety of skill-building opportunities were provided. Sixty-five individuals received two-day pickle-making training, 35 were trained in advanced vegetable farming, and 18 in garlic cultivation. To support enterprise development, three women's groups from Sikles, Parche, and Ghyamrang underwent training in Sishno or common nettle (***Urtica dioica***) powder production and were provided with a dryer and grinder machines. Beyond livelihood support, the program also focused on community well-being by delivering medical treatment to 2,441 patients at a local health center.

## Infrastructure development

In ACA, community infrastructure supports the construction and development of 13

buildings, one shelter house, four bridges, and two toilets. Additionally, the project enhances public utilities by installing ten drinking water schemes, fourteen irrigation systems, seven green parks, and two streetlights, while also backing one telecommunication project to improve connectivity for local residents.

### Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP's) Management

ACAP hosts a rich variety of NTFPs that are vital for the livelihood security and income generation of local and indigenous communities. An assessment conducted in accordance with the national NTFPs Resource Survey Guideline identified 345 NTFP species, with 84 prioritized for their high value. The most popular include Yarshagumba, Kutki, Nirmasi, Satuwa, and Padamchal. Utilization data shows that over half (58.82%) of these species are used for local consumption, while 28.23% serve both local and commercial purposes, and 24.71% are harvested solely for commercial trade. This sustainable harvesting plan, now submitted for approval, highlights the crucial role of NTFPs in supporting rural economies, promoting forest conservation, and addressing global issues like deforestation and sustainable development.

During the reporting year, the CAMCs in Manang issued collection permits for NTFPs to 1,524 individuals for Yarsagumba and 1,858 for Banlasun. Seven NTFP species were harvested commercially, with Yarsagumba, Banlasun, and bamboo shoots (Tusa) being the main species, while Dhupi was collected exclusively for local rituals. This regulated harvesting generated significant economic benefits, contributing NPR 83,42,886 (Eighty-three lakh, forty-two thousand, eight hundred eighty-six only) in royalties and fees to management committees, while the sale of these products provided local communities with a substantial income of NPR 382,332,400 (Thirty-eight crore, twenty-three lakh, thirty-two thousand, and four hundred only).

# CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change is no longer a distant threat but an unfolding crisis across Nepal's diverse landscapes, manifesting through erratic hydrological cycles, accelerated glacial retreat, prolonged droughts, floods, landslides, and intensifying disaster risks. As a Direct Access Entity (DAE) to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and National Implementing Entity (NIE) of the Adaptation Fund, the National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC) is at the forefront of Nepal's national climate response.

Through a combination of basin-scale flagship programming and site-specific climate interventions, NTNC is mainstreaming Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) to deliver resilience at scale. During the reporting year, NTNC reached more than 13,771 direct beneficiaries, setting a national benchmark for landscape-level adaptation and inclusive climate governance.

# GANDAKI BASIN CLIMATE RESILIENT PROJECT (GBCRP)

The **Gandaki Basin Climate Resilient Project (GBCRP)** is flagship climate initiative, operationalizing a **river basin approach** to climate adaptation across highly vulnerable landscapes. Implemented across **19 districts**, GBCRP integrates climate science, ecosystem restoration, climate-resilient infrastructure, and community adaptation to address systemic climate risks at scale.

### Watershed Conservation and Hydrological Resilience

- Supported **14 small-scale irrigation schemes** and constructed over **3,000 meters of canals**, securing climate-resilient water access for **560 hectares of agricultural land** and benefiting **2,543 households**.

- Established **30 water harvesting systems**, including conservation ponds and reservoirs, to reduce drought-induced water stress.
- Restored **560 hectares of degraded land** through integrated NbS, including check dams, runoff diversion channels, and gully-control structures.
- Constructed **4 check dams, 11 runoff diversion channels, and 59 gully-control structures**, stabilizing **189.89 hectares** of erosion- and landslide-prone terrain.

### Ecosystem Restoration and Carbon Stewardship

- Established **5,330 meters of plantation belts**, including **1,065 meters along riverbanks** and **2,910 meters along erosion-prone rural roads**, planting **10,960 native saplings**.
- Removed invasive alien plant species from **71 hectares** of wetlands and forests to restore biodiversity and biomass productivity.
- Improved **5 hectares of community grassland** in the Barandabhar Corridor Forest, maintaining a critical ecological linkage between lowland and mid-hill ecosystems.

### Community Adaptation and Livelihood Resilience

- Distributed **8,987 kg of drought- and flood-tolerant crop seeds**, covering **185.29 hectares** of farmland under climate-resilient varieties of rice, wheat, and maize.


- Established **35 Farmer Field Schools**, developing **88 local facilitators (45.5% women)** and training **852 households** in climate-smart agroecological practices.
- Provided targeted adaptation support to climate-displaced high-altitude communities in **Namasung and Dhey**, securing safer settlement areas for **45 highly vulnerable households** through riverbank fencing and fodder plantations.

### Climate Governance, Science, and Institutional Capacity

- Developed **7 Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)** for climate-resilient management of agroforestry, forestry, wetlands, and grasslands.
- Developed a **Gandaki Basin Water Model using the SWAT tool**, supporting climate-informed basin-wide water planning.
- Capacitated **2,671 elected representatives** and **1,262 community members** on climate governance, adaptation planning, and forest fire management.

**GBCRP alone directly benefited more than 13,771 people**, demonstrating that basin-scale, science-led, and community-driven adaptation is both achievable and scalable in Nepal.

### Climate Action Across Other NTNC Project Areas

NTNC implements **site-specific climate actions** across protected areas and

conservation landscapes nationwide, addressing localized climate risks while complementing GBCRP's basin-level approach.

### Water Security and Climate-Resilient Infrastructure

- Implemented **riverbank protection along the Tamakoshi River** in the Gaurishankar landscape, safeguarding settlements and institutional infrastructure from climate-induced floods.
- Restored **5,510 meters of drinking water pipelines** across the Annapurna and Gaurishankar regions, securing water access for mountain communities affected by drying springs.

### Ecosystem Restoration and Carbon Protection

- Planted **3,360 native seedlings** (*Alnus nepalensis*, *Pinus wallichiana*, etc.) along landslide-prone rural roads in the Manaslu region to stabilize slopes.
- Distributed **327 iron prayer-flag poles** in high-altitude communities, replacing wooden poles and conserving hundreds of trees annually.

### Clean Energy and Climate Mitigation

- Installed **8 solar water heating systems** and distributed **22 solar sets** to high-altitude herders, reducing reliance on firewood.

## Watermills Repair and Upgrade in ACA


## Climate Action at a Glance

**13,771+ People**
Directly benefiting from climate actions

**2,671**
**Elected Representatives**
Capacitated on climate governance

**560 Hectares**
Degraded land restored through NbS

**185.29 Hectares**
Farmland under climate-resilient crops

**8,987 KG**
**Climate-resilient seeds distributed**

**5,510 Meters**
Drinking water pipelines restored

**30 Systems**
Water harvesting systems established

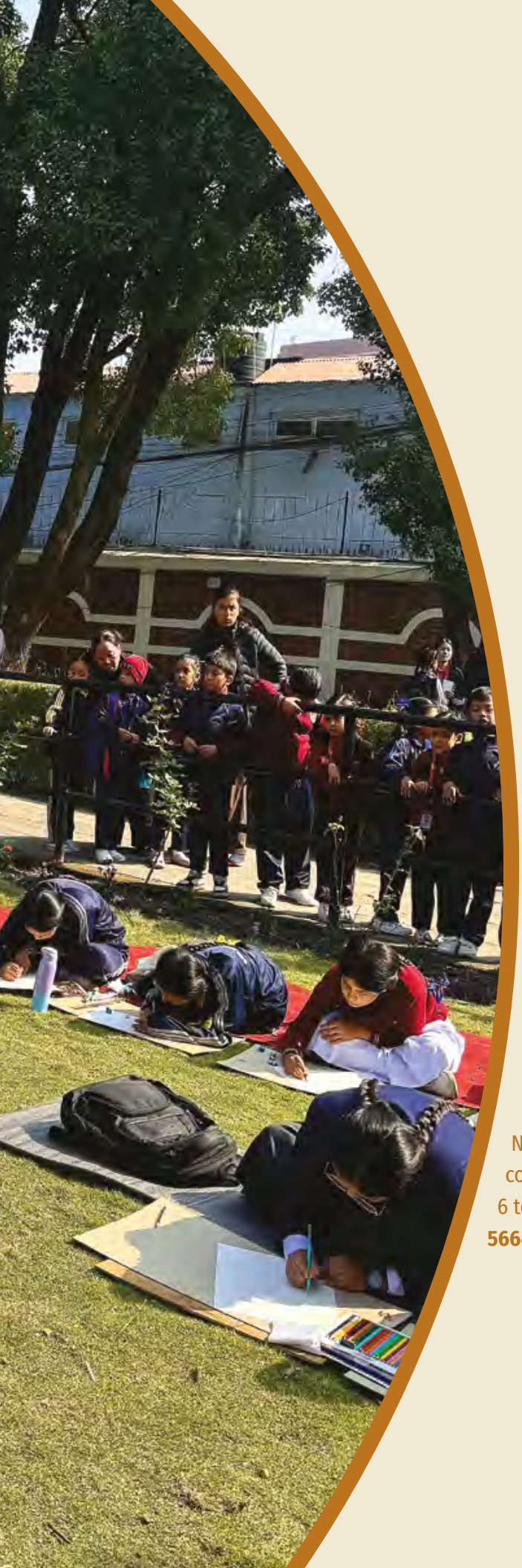
**3,200 Meters**
Bio-fencing installed

**242 Avalanches**
Recorded for climate hazard tracking

## Strategic Significance and Pathway Forward

NTNC's climate portfolio has matured into a **science-led, finance-ready, and nationally relevant adaptation model**. Successful implementation of the GCF-funded GBCRP has positioned NTNC for **Adaptation Fund accreditation**, further expanding Nepal's access to global climate finance.

Moving forward, NTNC will operationalize the **Project Management Information System (P-MIS)** to strengthen real-time monitoring, learning, and scaling of Nature-based Solutions across other high-vulnerability landscapes—ensuring a **green, resilient, and inclusive future for Nepal**.



# CONSERVATION EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Education and awareness raising play a crucial role in creating conservation conscious communities and individuals through improved understanding and engagement with natural environment. NTNC targets three groups with its conservation education and outreach programs: first, the youths, primarily school students, who we perceive as future leaders; second, the local communities who live in and around protected areas, whose decisions and actions directly affect conservation outcomes; and the larger society, whose awareness and support are vital for long-term success. By empowering these groups through tailored educational initiatives, NTNC fosters a sense of responsibility and initiative-taking behaviors that contribute to the health of ecosystems and the sustainability of local resources.

NTNC's conservation education through "Prakriti ko Sandesh" coursebook integrated into the regular school curriculum for grades 6 to 8 in mountainous regions benefited **113 schools** and more than **5664 students.**

## Visitor Engagement at NTNC's Learning Center

**143,985 visitors**

Elephant Breeding Center, Khorsor

**70,301 visitors**

Gharial Breeding Center, Kasara

**83,486 visitors**

Wildlife Display and Information Center, Sauraha

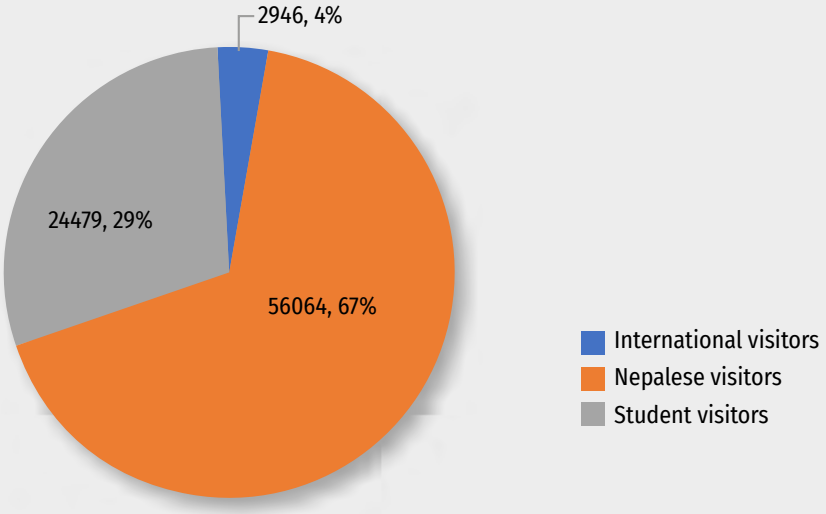
**11,580 visitors**

Annapurna Natural History Museum, Pokhara

**28,067 visitors**

Tharu Cultural Museum, Bardia

### Wildlife Display and Information Centre, NTNC-BCC, Sauraha – **83,486 Visitors**



# MASS OUTREACH INITIATIVES

- One issue of ***Hariyapaila***, ***Manasluko Serofero published and*** 400 copies of ***Herpetofauna of ACA***.
- Over 15,000 awareness materials like wildlife posters, booklets, and brochures distributed across NTNC's project locations..
- More than 553 hoarding boards targeting the safety and easy navigation of visitors, along with more than 100 information and education boards installed across NTNC's project locations.
- Regular conservation education programs aired through 10 National radio stations to raise environmental awareness and promote biodiversity conservation.
- 15 different jingles aired through FM station in Dolakha to raise awareness about protecting biodiversity, preventing poaching, understanding the legal rules against illegal activities, and promoting community participation in forest fire prevention and control.

# SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

- 206 students from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds and wildlife conflict affected families received scholarships and stipends for supporting education from primary level to bachelor's level.
- 24 research grants supported to bachelor's and master's level students.
- 497 students across various Community Education (CE) schools in the Annapurna region recognized through prize distribution.

# TARGETING YOUTH & COMMUNITY

- 129 special events days celebrated with over 8500 students and community members by engaging them in activities such as wildlife knowledge dissemination, plantations, awareness campaigns, competitions, and stage events.
- > 5000 community members engaged in behavioral change campaign aimed at minimizing conflicts and fostering positive perception towards wildlife conservation.
- > 15000 students engaged, including Friends of Zoo (FOZ) members, in various conservation-related activities focused on raising awareness about biodiversity conservation, wildlife protection, environmental issues and public actions.
- > 500 Trainings conducted on animal husbandry, invasive species management, habitat management, biodiversity monitoring, human-wildlife co-existence, nursery management and Illegal Wildlife Trade for community members.
- Community exposure tours and learning visits organized for 44 representatives from community institutions, including BZMCs, local government representatives, and members of CFUGs and livelihood groups.

# SPECIAL INITIATIVES

- Red Panda Conservation Awareness Programs combined with the formation of Green Force Clubs in Gaurishankar Conservation Area involved nine schools with the participation from 598 students in the events.
- 8 units of the Snow Leopard Conservation Awareness Program conducted in Lomanthang, promoting wildlife protection and community-level stewardship benefitting 815 individuals.
- 10 events of interaction programs regarding human elephant coexistence and reducing human elephant conflict in and around the Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve, Division Forest office Morang, Division Forest Sunsari and Jhapa districts.
- 9 capacity-building programs conducted to strengthen skills in forestry, tourism, and hospitality across ACA, which benefitting 142 personnel.

# KNOWLEDGE WORKSHOPS


- A three-day Training of Trainers (ToT) program on Human-Elephant Coexistence (HECx) for Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) was organized in Mechinagar Municipality and Buddhashanti Rural Municipality, Jhapa- 57 participants.
- 71 journalists and media professionals involved in knowledge workshops focusing on human and large carnivore co-existence and importance of biodiversity conservation, strategies for mitigating human-wildlife conflicts, and the implementation of anti-poaching operations.
- 28 interactions with WCCB and stakeholders' regarding human wildlife coexistence.
- 88 conservation networking events conducted, engaging 1500 beneficiaries through diverse thematic workshops.
- Workshop on Statistical Analyses and Modeling for Conservation Biology organized in collaboration with the Biodiversity Research Institute, Spain with 17 participants..
- Workshop on Effective Restoration and Conservation of Biodiversity in the Nepal Himalaya by 2030 in the Context of a Changing Climate jointly organized by NTNC, Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) and the Research Centre for Applied Science and Technology (RECAST) involving 30 participants..

# CENTRAL ZOO

Nestled in the heart of Jawalakhel, Lalitpur, the Central Zoo continues to stand as a living symbol of Nepal's dedication to wildlife conservation and education. Since being entrusted to the NTNC in 1995, the zoo has evolved far beyond its traditional role as a place to view animals. It has become a vibrant center where conservation meets community.

Spanning over six hectares, the zoo is home to an ever-growing collection of animal species that represent Nepal's rich biodiversity. The Central Zoo through engaging exhibits, interactive education programs and community outreach fosters a deeper connection between people and nature.

Beyond its educational role, the zoo plays a crucial part in the rescue, rehabilitation and wildlife care of animals. As Nepal's only national-level zoo, it continues to strengthen its contribution to ex-situ conservation both within and beyond the valley.

# MAJOR ATTRACTIONS & FACILITIES

## Exhibit Zones

- Herbivores
- Large Mammals
- Primates
- Small Mammals
- Birds
- Reptile House
- Aquarium

## Educational Centers

- Field Marshal Sir John Chappel Education Centre
- Bio-fact Centre

## Visitors Services & Facilities

- Boating
- Fishing
- Children's Park
- Electric Vehicle Tour

# YEAR AT A **GLANCE**

## Animal Facilities Improvement

-Old Lion Cage Renovated
-Reconstruction of Wild Buffalo Exhibit
-Upgrade of Red Panda Exhibit
-New aviary for duck

## Visitor Facilities

- Electric tour vehicle service for elderly and disabled citizens started
- New visitor shed constructed; new cultural shelter underway
- 61 visitor benches, two photo stands, and five security cameras added
- New drinking water system installed

**1,008,549**
**visitors visited Central Zoo in FY 2081/82**

**954**
**Animals of 8 species treated medically**
**Regular health checkups for all animals**

**241**
**Animals Rescued**
**48 mammals**
**181 birds**
**11 reptiles**
**1 fish**

**Successful birth of 9 animal species**

**1359**
**Animals of 117 species within an area of 6 ha**

## Infrastructure Development

- Dedicated child care center established
- 8 new pavement lamps installed
- Installment of wooden dustbin

# CONSERVATION EDUCATION & OUTREACH
# FRIENDS OF ZOO (FOZ)

As Nepal's only national-level zoo, it actively welcomes students and visitors from all walks of life, offering formal and informal classes, public education programs, competitions, and celebrations of major international days. Through these activities, along with awareness sessions on life sciences, conservation, environmentally friendly practices, and sustainable development, the zoo inspires a deeper understanding of our connection with nature.

At the heart of these efforts is the Friends of Zoo (FOZ) program, the signature conservation education initiative, which has engaged over 122,676 students from 329 schools. By involving young learners in hands-on conservation activities and competitive programs, FOZ nurtures a sense of responsibility for wildlife and the environment, and many alumni continue to contribute through volunteering, educational outreach, and animal adoption, ensuring that the spirit of conservation thrives across generations.

- Free FOZ memberships to 400 students 3 community schools and 5 public schools.
- Visitors at zoo's education centers 113,282 visitors at Biofact Center 29,012 visitors at Information Centre.

- 35 schools with 1470 students participated in animal feeding program.
- 124 students and 35 teachers from 35 schools took part in essay and drawing competitions.
- Night-guided tour for 1280 students from 32 schools.
- Special zoo visits for 65 orphan children.
- Solid Waste Management Training for FOZ Members.
- 2000+ students directly involved in education programs.
- 7 globally observed special days celebrated with 1000+ visitors.

## Education Program Outside Zoo

- Educational Excursion to ICIMOD Knowledge Park: 44 FOZ student members from 22 schools, to raise awareness about climate change, disaster risk reduction, water-food-energy security, and sustainable ecosystems.
- Exposure tour for 25 FOZ students from 13 schools to Chitwan undertaken to learn about commonalities and contrasts in NTNC's ex situ and in situ conservation programs.
- Exposure tour organized for 20 FOZ coordinator teachers to Manaslu Conservation Area Project to familiarize with NTNC's conservation program.
- Visit to Natural History Museum, Chhauni, organized for 46 students and 5 teachers from 23 schools, to learn about preservation of wildlife species via taxidermy.

- Capacity Enhancement Training for 25 FOZ Coordinators on stress management.
- Bird Identification Training for 67 students and teachers at the Ranibari Community Forest.

## Trainings, Workshops and Outreach for Zoo Employees

- Celebration of International Zookeepers Day with keepers talk engaging 40 keepers.
- Two- day GESI Sensitization and Social Inclusion workshop for Zoo employees.
- Two-day refresher training program for zookeepers, focusing on key aspects of zoo operations, including animal health and welfare, safety protocols, enrichment activities, public interaction, and behavioral observation and documentation.
- To promote team bonding and staff well-being, a recreational tour organized to Bhujung, Lamjung, for all zoo employees.

## Research Grant and Volunteering Opportunity

- Research grant awarded to master's degree research title "Impact of Visitors on Primate Behavior: A Study of Human-Animal Interaction at Central Zoo".
- Total of 31 volunteers trained in animal care and conservation education, including 22 students engaged in animal management and 9 students involved in conservation education activities.

# WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2025


World Environment Day 2025 was celebrated with great enthusiasm at NTNC-Central Zoo on 5th June, aligning with the global theme "Beat Plastic Pollution." The event aimed to raise awareness about the growing threat of plastic pollution while promoting conservation values and encouraging sustainable practices. Through a series of engaging programs, the zoo demonstrated its ongoing commitment to a clean, green, and plastic-free environment. The celebration brought together over 270 distinguished guests, including government officials, environmentalists, researchers, educators, students, and conservation supporters, who participated in discussions, campaigns, and demonstrations to promote sustainable living and environmental stewardship.

As part of the celebrations, Prof. Dr. Bijaya Pant launched her book, "I am Orchid," which blends scientific knowledge with storytelling to spark public interest in orchid biodiversity. The ceremony was attended by Mr. Chiribabu Maharjan, Mayor of Lalitpur Metropolitan City, Dr. Tirtha Bahadur Shrestha, and other dignitaries. The publication aims to raise awareness about the ecological importance of orchids and inspire readers to contribute to their conservation, making a significant addition to environmental education efforts.

Complementing the book launch, the zoo also conducted an Orchid Planting Campaign, planting 100 orchid species within its premises, including *Cymbidium aloifolium* and *Rhynchostylis retusa*. This initiative not only promotes ex-situ conservation but also serves as an educational tool, helping visitors understand the richness of orchid biodiversity and the importance of preserving plant species for future generations.

# ARRIVAL OF RHINO PAIR AT CENTRAL ZOO

The Central Zoo welcomed a pair of Greater One-horned Rhinoceroses, Pooja and Maila, both rescued after severe tiger attacks in the wild. Pooja, rescued from Rapti Ghat, Sauraha, Chitwan on 2 November 2022, received initial treatment at NTNC's Biodiversity Conservation Center (NTNC-BCC) before arriving at the zoo on 11 June 2025 at approximately 32 months of age. Maila, rescued from Bardia National Park on 19 September 2024, was similarly treated at NTNC-BCC and transferred to the zoo on 5 June 2025 at around 23 months of age.

Their relocation was officially approved by the Ministry of Forests and Environment and the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, reflecting careful planning and coordination. Both rhinos are now healthy and thriving in their new home, providing visitors with an opportunity to observe and learn about this iconic species, while the zoo continues its mission of rescue, rehabilitation, and ex-situ conservation.

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
## 2024-25 (2081-82)

# NATIONAL TRUST FOR NATURE CONSERVATION

Khumaltar, Lalitpur, Nepal

## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 31 Ashad 2082 (16th July, 2025) Fiscal Year 2024-2025

*Amount in NPR*

| Particulars | Schedule | Current Year Ashad 31, 2082 (Jul 16, 2025) | | Previous Year Ashad 31, 2081 (Jul 15, 2024) | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Assets :** | | | | | |
| **Non Current (Fixed Assets )** | 3.1 | | 388,627,345.95 | | 385,155,363.22 |
| **Investments** | 3.2 | | 1,791,659,000.00 | | 1,460,691,000.00 |
| General Investment | | 1,182,638,351.09 | | 880,165,000.00 | |
| Employee Benefit Fund Investment | | 579,020,648.91 | | 530,526,000.00 | |
| Human Wildlife Conflict Management Fund | | 30,000,000.00 | | 50,000,000.00 | |
| **Current Assets:** | | | 264,056,479.46 | | 226,804,861.29 |
| Cash and Bank Balances | 3.3 | 240,735,146.56 | | 190,409,200.78 | |
| Advances | 3.4 | 4,378,114.93 | | 8,294,759.84 | |
| Accounts Receivable | 3.5 | 18,943,217.97 | | 28,100,900.67 | |
| **TOTAL** | | | 2,444,342,825.41 | | 2,072,651,224.51 |
| **Fund and Liabilities** | | | | | |
| **Endowment Fund** | 3.6 | | 96,930,000.00 | | 93,930,000.00 |
| **Employee Benefit Fund Payable** | 3.7 | | 579,020,648.91 | | 530,990,987.37 |
| Staff Welfare Fund | 3.7.1 | 29,335,344.42 | | 21,065,373.55 | |
| Provision for Gratuity | 3.7.2 | 446,558,544.72 | | 410,036,153.10 | |
| Provision for Annual and Sick Leave | 3.7.3 | 103,126,759.77 | | 99,889,460.72 | |
| **Capital Assets Fund** | 3.8 | | 319,510,199.25 | | 321,076,490.43 |
| **Exchange Equalization Reserve** | 3.9 | | 313,748,733.14 | | 270,711,703.81 |
| **Restricted Fund Balance** | 3.10 | | | | |
| **Projects** | 3.10.1 | | 334,206,642.49 | | 240,773,237.21 |
| Opening Balance upto last year | | 240,773,237.21 | | 127,404,415.72 | |
| Less: Surplus transfer to endowment fund | | - | | (20,000,000.00) | |
| Add : Current year balance (ACAP & C. Zoo) | | 93,433,405.28 | | 133,368,821.49 | |
| **Others (Restricted Fund)** | 3.10.2 | | 230,927,938.94 | | 122,764,581.62 |
| Opening Balance upto last year | | 122,764,581.62 | | 86,079,847.09 | |
| Add : Current year balance | | 108,163,357.32 | | 36,684,734.53 | |
| **Human Wildlife Conflict Management Fund** | 3.11 | | 79,279,328.05 | | 52,345,628.90 |
| Opening Balance upto last year | | 52,345,628.90 | | 28,545,536.98 | |
| Add : Current year balance | | 26,933,699.15 | | 23,800,091.92 | |
| **Accumulated Surplus:** | 3.12 | | 415,685,122.14 | | 362,344,858.81 |
| Surplus upto Last Year | | 362,344,858.81 | | 203,881,859.82 | |
| Add: Current Year Surplus/(Deficit) | | 53,340,263.33 | | 158,462,998.99 | |
| **Current Liabilities** | 3.13 | | 75,034,212.49 | | 77,713,736.36 |
| Current Liabilities | | 75,034,212.49 | | 77,713,736.36 | |
| **Non Current Liabilities** | | - | | - | |
| (Long term liabilities) | | | | | |
| **TOTAL** | | | 2,444,342,825.41 | | 2,072,651,224.51 |

Significant accounting policies and notes to the accounts form integral part of this statements.

BIDUR PRASAD POKHAREL
HEAD-DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

Dr. NARESH SUBEDI
MEMBER SECRETARY

PRATAP P PRADHAN
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PP PRADHAN & CO
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

# NATIONAL TRUST FOR NATURE CONSERVATION
## Khumaltar, Lalitpur, Nepal

## CONSOLIDATED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
**For The Period 01 Shrawan 2081 to 31 Ashad 2082 (17 July 2024 to 16 July 2025)**

*Amount in NPR*

| Particulars | Schedule | Current Year for the year ended Ashadh 31, 2082 (July 16, 2025) | Previous Year for the year ended Ashadh 31, 2081 (July 15, 2024) |
|---|---|---|---|
| **INCOME :** | | | |
| **External Sources** | | | |
| Received During the Year (Restricted) | | 602,656,139.64 | 296,010,571.63 |
| NTNC- Human Wildlife Conflict Management Fund | | 4,457,758.66 | 2,461,983.22 |
| **Internal Sources** | 3.13 | 929,019,590.18 | 865,282,538.22 |
| **Total Income** | | **1,536,133,488.48** | **1,163,755,093.07** |
| **EXPENDITURES :** | | | |
| Project Expenditures (Restricted) | 3.16.2 | 571,076,835.89 | 316,634,177.93 |
| NTNC- Human Wildlife Conflict Management Fund | 3.16.2 | 4,457,758.66 | 2,461,983.22 |
| **Sub Total** | | **575,534,594.55** | **319,096,161.15** |
| **General Management (Internal)** | | | |
| Personnel Related Cost | 3.14 | 154,872,159.63 | 129,542,402.88 |
| General Management (Administrative and Support) | 3.15 | 239,389,245.04 | 216,705,754.63 |
| Project Cost and Support | 3.16 | 374,876,048.07 | 273,643,892.23 |
| **Sub Total** | | **769,137,452.74** | **619,892,049.74** |
| **Total Expenditure** | | **1,344,672,047.29** | **938,988,210.89** |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Total Internal Fund Surplus / (Deficit) Transferred to Balance Sheet** | **159,882,137.44** | **245,390,488.48** |
| **Surplus (Deficit) of Restricted Projects (ACAP & C Zoo)** | **93,433,405.28** | **133,368,821.49** |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **(1) Internal Fund Surplus During Period** | **66,448,732.16** | **112,021,666.99** |
| **(2) Surplus / Deficit adjusted in current year** | **(13,108,468.83)** | **46,441,332.00** |
| **(3) = (1) + (2)Internal Fund Surplus / (Deficit) Transferred to Balance Sheet** | **53,340,263.33** | **158,462,998.99** |

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# NATIONAL TRUST FOR NATURE CONSERVATION

Khumaltar, Lalitpur, Nepal

## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW

For The Period 01 Shrawan 2081 to 31 Ashad 2082 (16 July 2024 to 16 July 2025)

| Particulars | Current Year As at end of Ashadh 31, 2082 (July 16, 2025) | Previous Year As at end of Ashadh 31, 2081 (July 16, 2024) |
|---|---|---|
| ***A. Cash Flows from Operating Activities*** | | |
| **Surplus/ (Deficit)** | | |
| Surplus/ (Deficit) adjusted in current year | **146,773,668.61** | **291,831,820.48** |
| **Adjustment for:** | | |
| **Add :** | | |
| Depreciation of Fixed Assets | 12,779,238.05 | 10,054,395.08 |
| Disposal of Capital Assets (Write off) | - | - |
| **Less :** | | |
| Income from Investment | (82,403,735.11) | (100,584,448.87) |
| Other Income | (44,961,411.21) | (43,049,592.25) |
| **Operating Surplus before Working Capital Changes** | **32,187,760.34** | **158,252,174.44** |
| **Adjustment for Working Capital Changes:** | | |
| Advances | 3,916,644.91 | (4,413,699.68) |
| Accounts Receivable | 9,157,682.70 | (2,560,781.16) |
| Accounts Payable | 45,350,137.67 | 5,940,286.91 |
| **Net Cash from Operating Activities (A)** | **90,612,225.62** | **157,217,980.51** |
| ***B. Cash Flows from Investing Activities:*** | | |
| **Less :** | | |
| (Additions)/ Disposal of Fixed Assets | (3,599,060.61) | (8,184,394.98) |
| Depreciation of Fixed Assets | (12,652,160.17) | (9,998,454.02) |
| Decrease/(Increase) in Investment | (330,968,000.00) | (365,045,500.00) |
| **Add :** | - | - |
| Interest received from Investment | 82,403,735.11 | 100,584,448.87 |
| Other Income | 44,961,411.21 | 43,049,592.25 |
| **Net Cash used in Investing Activities (B)** | **(219,854,074.46)** | **(239,594,307.88)** |
| ***C. Cash Flows from Financing Activities:*** | | |
| Restricted Fund Balance | 135,097,056.47 | 60,484,826.45 |
| Endowment Fund | 3,000,000.00 | (900,000.00) |
| Capital Assets Fund (Donation in kind on capital) | (1,566,291.18) | (937,340.99) |
| Exchange Equalization Reserve | 43,037,029.33 | (33,871,472.24) |
| **Net Cash used in Financing Activities (C)** | **179,567,794.62** | **24,776,013.22** |
| ***D. Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents (D=A+B+C)*** | **50,325,945.78** | **(57,600,314.15)** |
| ***E. Cash and Cash Equivalents at beginning of period*** | **190,409,200.78** | **248,009,514.93** |
| ***F. Cash and Cash Equivalents at end of period (F=D+E)*** | **240,735,146.56** | **190,409,200.78** |
| **Cash comprises of Bank and Cash Balances** | | |
| Cash in Hand | 263,477.78 | 455,696.63 |
| Cash at Bank | 240,196,908.78 | 189,678,744.15 |
| Gold and Silver Coins | 274,760.00 | 274,760.00 |
| **TOTAL** | **240,735,146.56** | **190,409,200.78** |

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NATIONAL TRUST FOR NATURE CONSERVATION

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National Trust for Nature Conservation
Khumaltar, Lalitpur
P.O. Box: 3712, Kathmandu
Tel: +977-1-5253571, 5253573
Email: info@ntnc.org.np, Website: www.ntnc.org.np