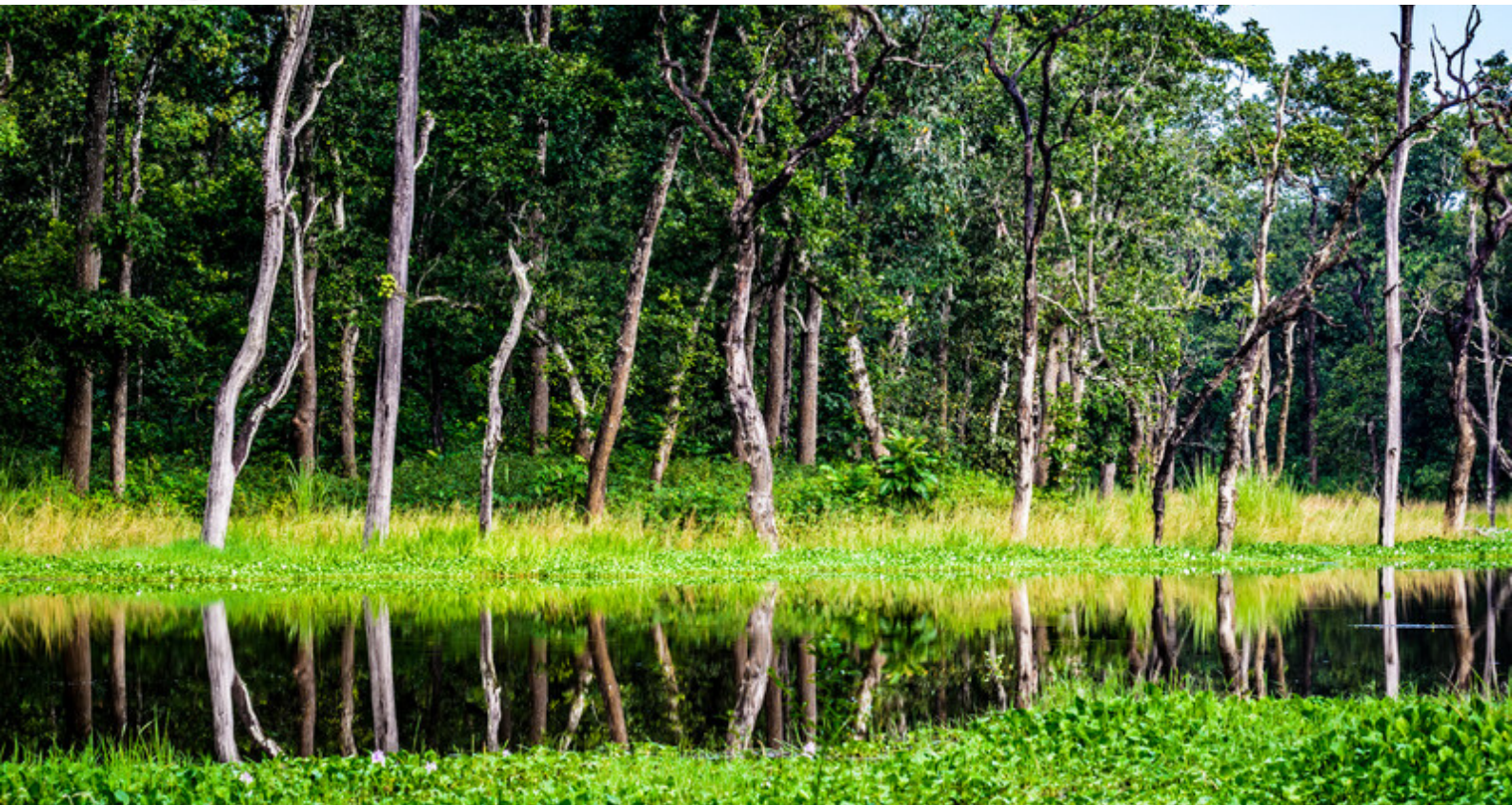


WILDLIFE CONSERVATION NEPAL

Newsletter



This issue covers WCN activities from July to December 2019. The second half of the year began with youth focussed events and partnerships for new endeavors.

A 3D Art Program for the young minds focussed on the current environmental crisis of Kathmandu Valley was organized. As a part of citizen science approach, WCN in collaboration with with Companions for Amphibians and Reptiles of Nepal (CARON), Environment Protection and Study Center (ENPROSC) and Golden Gate International College (GGIC) launched its yearly program on the survey of the frogs.

Eco restoration continued in Nawalparasi and Chitwan. Women groups focussed on green businesses while mitigating and adapting to climate change were empowered.

WCN provided technical support for the development of the local curriculum of Bharatpur, Budhanilkantha and Shankharapur Municipalities. WCN Eco Smart School Program was in full swing in its member schools. Two MOUs were signed focussing on promoting ethical and sustainable eco tourism in mountain region and to support young scientists of Nepal. ■

WCN TEAM

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AWARENESS THROUGH ART: ARTLIFE

Art is among the many mediums through which people can share their ideas, opinions and emotions. In this age where the environment is degrading at a rapid pace, art has proved to be an effective medium to spread awareness. Especially in terms of environmental awareness, various forms of art have a positive impact on the community. In Europe, most of the countries have started to integrate art in Environmental Education to bring conscience and understanding about the environment from a young age. Teachers around the world are carrying out various activities based on materials readily available in nature. Art through pine cones, twigs and branches are popular amongst students. Studies have shown that integrating art and music helps students to learn more effectively and it's easier to teach subjects like Maths, English, botany, anthropology and ecology when you are outside in nature.

Integrating the environment with education is also one of the priorities at WCN's Nepal Prakriti Pathshala (WCN NPP)'s program activities. Generating awareness through art such as photography and painting have been proven to be more impactful especially on students.

Recently WCN NPP conducted its First 3D Art Exhibition and ART workshop with an aim to create an

awareness about the current pollution situation of Kathmandu valley. The Workshop cum Exhibition "ARTLIFE" was organized in cooperation with Ms. Priyanka Rana landoli from Crafty Cat Club, UK, on August 5, 7 and 8, 2019. Thirty concept notes were selected who participated in the workshop and out of 30, 3 were chosen as finalists to develop a 3 D Art model.

Ms. Mowli Shah from ACE School presented her idea on plastic pollution with the title "Our Choking World". Her model showed the earth choking with excessive amounts of plastics. Similarly, Ms. Sony Majhi from Shristi School had her model based on the rampant air pollution. The model, titled "Factories: Give or Take?" showcased the haphazard use of resources which has resulted in air pollution. The other model was jointly presented by Ms. Deepika Singh, ACE School and Ms. Kritika Rayamajhi, Triyog School. The theme was water pollution and titled "No More Pollution + Pollution Underwater". The model emphasized on the pollution of rivers and its impacts on the aquatic animals.

The 3D Art exhibition was inaugurated by Mr. Sujan Chitrakar, an artist and Head of Department of Fine Arts, Kathmandu University. ■



ECO-RESTORATION: ACTING TOGETHER FOR CLIMATE

The rapid development of human society has been at the cost of haphazard use of natural resources resulting in degradation of the environment. Among the various aspects of environment, ecosystems have been severely impacted, with some of them completely degraded due to intense human activities like selective logging, land clearing for agriculture and random grazing. About 1.6 billion of the total population is dependent on forests to sustain livelihoods. In Nepal as well, forest ecosystems are severely affected. With the help of community forests, the coverage increased to 44% in 2015 but the rate of unsustainable use of available forest resources has also increased. This action of humans has a negative impact on the overall health of the forest like decrease in forest productivity, reduction of canopy and tree density.

Some of the community forests in Nepal are also seeing a fast pace of degradation along with maximum areas of unused land. The improper and high use of fodders and plants have resulted in this situation. To save these forests from looming danger of destruction and overuse, WCN carried out eco restoration programs at three different community forests Sitapokhari, Chispani and Panchakanya community forests in Nawalparasi and Chitwan respectively.

The tree saplings planted were high value timber and fodder species. Additionally broom grass slips were distributed to the 7 women groups of 7 community forests in Nawalparasi and a training on broom making was also conducted. These 7 women groups are now officially registered, functioning as independent entities and are today involved in various income generating green businesses including the cultivation of Medicinal Aromatic Plants.

WCN team also provided a technical support for the tree plantation conducted by Shankharapur Municipality. Various fruit, timber and fodder species were planted at Shree Ugratara Secondary School in coordination with Municipality's Education Department. Following the Government's Green School Directives, WCN has been actively involved in promoting green spaces in schools and open areas. At another event WCN jointly organized the restoration with the UN house at Sapantirtha temple, Tokha.

A total of 25000 high value multipurpose species both timber and fodder were planted in 2019. A total of 32 hectares of degraded/unused forest land was restored. ■



Photo credit:
CARON Nepal

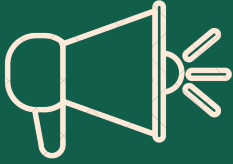
Citizen Science: Croaking Monsoon 2019

There has always been a misconception related to science and scientific research. People believe that only scientists are responsible for scientific research. To break this myth Citizen Science has been introduced to the world to spread the message that the public too are eligible to participate in monitoring and action research whose outcomes can be a great asset in scientific research. This also can lead to an increase in the public's understanding of science. Citizen science has created the platform for the public to broaden their knowledge in almost every aspect of science. Astronomy, technology, education, wildlife, arts, climate, agriculture and ocean are some of the few fields that are actively using citizen science. In the environment sector as well, citizen science has helped significantly especially in terms of monitoring and data collection.

WCN Citizen Science for Conservation is a program designed to create platforms for young and amateur scientists to come together, creating a collective civic community for science through volunteer monitoring, or online citizen portals led by professional scientists and professionals to establish data on different pertinent issues of our landscapes.

Seeing the potential of this form of science, WCN Citizen Science for Conservation has successfully conducted research projects and surveys of frogs and trees in Kathmandu Valley.

WCN in collaboration with Companions for Amphibians and Reptiles of Nepal (CARON), Environment Protection and Study Center (ENPROSC) and Golden Gate International College (GGIC) organized a two day training entitled "Croaking Monsoon 2019" on August 8 and 9, 2019 at WCN office. The training was conducted to gather information on the current status of the Frogs of Kathmandu Valley. Nature enthusiasts, graduate and post graduate students of different backgrounds (Forestry, Environment and Management) from various colleges from all over Nepal participated. The training focused on Herpetology and Frog, Taxonomy of Frog species, Citizen Science and Approaches to Biodiversity and Conservation, Field safety and precautions, Ethics, do's and don'ts and Use of Smartphone for research were taught during the training. ■



SOCIAL WEEK: YOUTH FOR A GREENER FUTURE

2019 was the year when the whole world saw the involvement of youth in environmental protection and awareness on climate change. Especially in schools and younger populations, the wave of this consciousness has significantly increased. With this same mindset, WCN held a program where the participants were fresh graduates from school. A total of 20 undergraduate freshers from Ace School of Management attended the "Ace Social week on Environment" from Sept 15-22, 2019 hosted by WCN in coordination with Ace School of Management and NIR holidays.

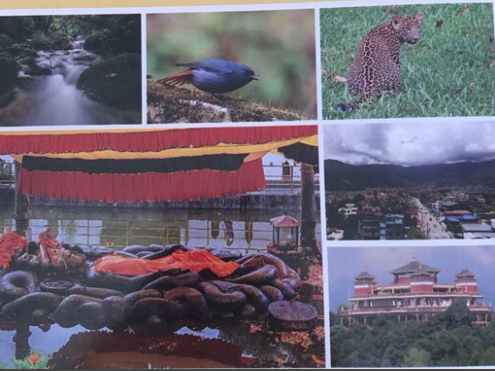
The Social week was divided into different sessions in which the students learnt about the alarming issues of Environment in Nepal, planned a waste management drive and educated the communities of Ward no 4 and 5 of Dhapasi, Tokha Municipality, on waste segregation and learnt about the plants around us. The students also participated in weeding of the saplings planted in Sapantirtha temple by WCN and also presented recommendations for the further development of the temple area as a recreation site. ■



हाम्रो बुढानीलकण्ठ

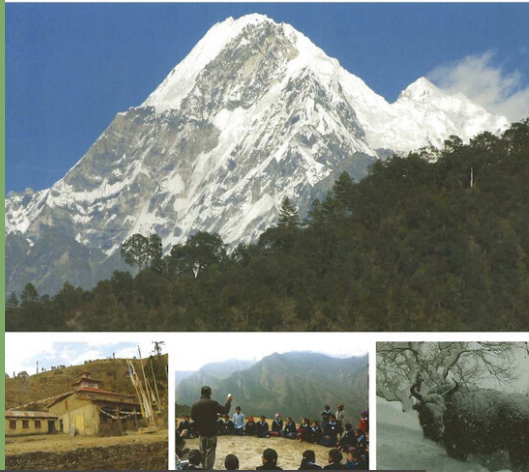
स्थानीय विषयको पाठ्यक्रम

कक्षा १-८
२०७६



लाङटाङको सेरोफेरो

स्थानीय पाठ्यक्रम
कक्षा १-५
२०६९



हाम्रो गौरव, हाम्रो भरतपुर

स्थानीय पाठ्यक्रम

आधारभूत तह (कक्षा १-८)
२०७६



भरतपुर महानगरपालिका
चितवन, नेपाल

CURRICULUM FOR ENVIRONMENT AND WILDLIFE

Education is an essential component of environment conservation. WCN aims in contributing to higher awareness and behavioral change towards responsible natural resource use in Nepal by promoting a more hands-on Environmental Education (EE) in schools. WCN Education Program, NPP, works with the Government of Nepal and relevant national and international organizations to promote a timely and modern Curriculum of the 21st century on Environment. NPP has also supported the Curriculum Development Center to develop the Framework for Local Curriculum in 2014 based on its unique experience in the development and successful implementation of local curriculums in Chitwan and Rasuwa. As of 2019, WCN NPP has been working in partnerships with 5 Municipalities (Budhanilkantha, Shankharapur, Gokaneshwar, and 1 metropolitan city Bharatpur) in developing and implementing Local Curriculum.

Following the development of the local curriculum of Shankharapur Municipality, a one day workshop was organized by WCN NPP in collaboration with Shankharapur Municipality for the development of the textbooks. The textbooks based on the recently launched local curriculum will be developed for Grade 1 - 8. Experts from varied related field participated in the workshop. Mr. Suwarna Shrestha, Mayor, Shankharapur Municipality, also attended the

workshop and gave his valuable inputs in the making of the textbooks.

WCN also provided an orientation to the representatives of Helambhu Rural Municipality, Teachers and Principals of the schools under the municipality on how to develop a local curriculum.

Bharatpur Metropolitan City launched the local curriculum "Hamro Gaurav, Hamro Bharatpur" for Grade 1 -8 on December 6, 2019. The curriculum was launched by Mr. Yubraj Dulal, Minister of Social Development, Province 3. The local curriculum was designed and developed by Municipality with the technical support from WCN NPP. Experts from varied fields such as environment, culture, history, occupation and others provided their valuable inputs during the making of the curriculum.

In order to generate an awareness on the importance of Environmental Education and sustainable living to the policy makers two policy level workshops were organized. In an event jointly organized by Bharatpur Metropolitan City Office and WCN, 250 participants which included principals, academicians and policy makers gathered where new education system in the new federal system of Nepal was discussed. The importance of IEE for responsible NRM and Green school concept was

highlighted by WCN during the event chaired by Mayor Ms. Renu Dahal and Mr. Yubaraj Dulal, Ministry of Social Development, Province 3, Nepal.

The Minister also stressed on Government's priority to put emphasis on education that makes efforts to ensure children are happier, enabling long-term progress, greener environment and sustainable future.

Similarly in a seminar organized at Helambhu Rural Municipality the Rural Municipality Chairman, education section officers, school management committee members, principals and teachers of School under the rural municipality were made aware about the new education system and the need of IEE and were briefed about the Green school concept.

A monitoring and evaluation of the program was conducted by the Secretary of Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and Mr. Babu Ram Poudel, Head, Centre for Education and Human Resource Development, CEHRD where future activities and plans were also put into discourse. ■

OTHER EVENTS

Visit by Malaysian Nature Society



Recognizing the works of WCN on Environmental Education, WCN was visited by Mr. I.S. Shanmuguraj, Executive Director/ Head of Environmental Education Division of Malaysian Nature Society. Possible collaboration and ideas on developing a nature center were discussed during meeting. ■

MoU with Ananya Holidays

WCN has signed MoU with Ananya Holidays to promote Eco-Tourism in Nepal. The two organisations will be starting the collaboration with a pilot project in Gatlang. This is a very exciting partnership as it is based on shared values of conserving natural heritage, creating green jobs, promoting responsible and sustainable tourism and circular economy. ■



OTHER EVENTS

STEAM – Bhawishya



WCN teamed up with Karkhana for “भविष्य – Bhawishya STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics) Challenge 2019 on December 13, 2019 in Kathmandu. भविष्य STEAM Challenge, a time bound national event, is a platform for students from all over the nation to showcase their creativity as young minds to come up with problems solving innovation and develop their scientific skills focusing on STEAM that ties up with United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A total 103 teams of students participated in this event along with their teachers. WCN facilitated the workshop ‘Integrating Environment in STEAM’. The students learnt about Bio mimicry and robotics during the workshop. ■

Innovation in Education Fair, IEF

WCN developed alliances with US Embassy’s Book Bus and participated in “The Innovation in Education Fair (IEF), 2019”, a forum for educational professionals to discuss how to make our teaching and learning practices more engaging, meaningful and memorable for students and teachers from Nov 6–9, 2019. A session on interactive education was conducted where the teachers were oriented on the principles of IEE and Green School. The teachers also prepared an action plan for the implementation of the learning in their school. Nearly 200 teachers, principals and educationists from different schools under Damak Municipality participated. The Education fair, organized annually by Quixote’s Cove and Satori, sponsored by US Embassy, Damak Municipality and UNHCR, featured organizations and individuals working to introduce innovative approaches to education in Nepal. WCN is part of this fair since its inception in 2016. ■



Prem Conservation Research Grant for WCN



WCN has signed an MOU with Ms. Samridhi Shrestha (PhD), Faculty Member, Grand Canyon University, US to set up a Conservation Research Grant for MSc. Final Year students in memory of Ms. Shrestha's Late Father Mr. Prem Pradhan (Shrestha).

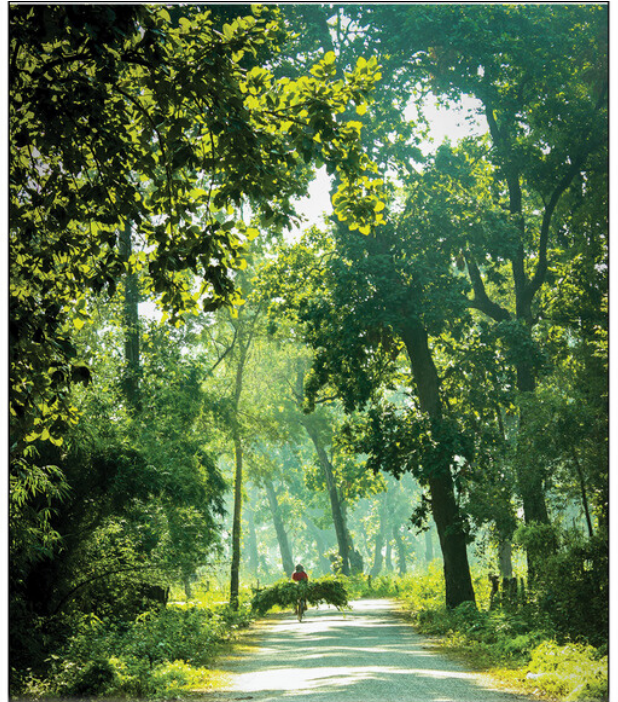
The Research Grant which will be announced in 2020 is aimed to encourage young scientists who have potential to become leaders in their discipline and provide solution to environment problems for a larger community. ■

PUBLICATIONS

जैविक खेती



एक सामान्य परिचय



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Wildlife Conservation Nepal (WCN)

PO Box: 13781

Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel: 977 01 4375460

Email: mail@wcn.org.np