



Wildlife Conservation Nepal Newsletter

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Database on Wildlife Crime

WCN has developed a GIS interphase database on wildlife trade, wildlife crime, information on traders, poachers and their associates so that enforcement authorities can retrieve information, and conduct investigation on the basis of information available in the database. The database has many attributes including digital maps to identify areas of hotspot and monitor poachers and traders involved in illegal wildlife trade. This is probably the first time that such a task is being performed by an NGO. The data collected is available from courts, district forest offices (The Right to Information Act) has allowed access to information on wildlife crime. To develop the software for this database, Bidur Baidya spent more than 240 working days with an assistant.

One of the reasons for this software development was that wildlife crimes have increased and information scattered. WCN wants to bring all information in a single platform that would serve and help the enforcement officials to address wildlife crime.

With less complexity and easy access, the system is developed on MS Access (front end) and SQL server (back end) format. Additional graphics with thematic maps provides more in depth information.

There are five interfaces in the database. They are:

CASE DETAIL: Case detail deals with the place of detention and offense, offense type, name of the responsible authority involved the operation, source of information, assisting organization, seized goods and its market value.

ACCUSED/ASSOCIATE DETAIL: Accused/associate detail deals with personal information of accused person or associates. Personal details include digital photos of the convict including their personal identification and other information that can be linked to different wildlife crime over a period of time. The unique feature is when appropriate information is logged; it generates a digital map of that area for easy processing.

SEIZURE: This deals with items seized, number, etc. Photograph of the goods are logged for evidences in the court and for future references.

IMPORT EXPORT: Import Export form deals with items seized at customs. This helps to identify areas that are susceptible to trade and thus help enforcement agencies to step up vigilance to stop trafficking of wildlife goods.

REPORT: A report can be generated from any case file. It can be done through names of individuals, places of seizure, names of product seized, etc. Through this system, the enforcement officials can correlate illicit activities and bring out a report.

Winner of “WCN Amateur Nature and Wildlife Photography Competition” 2008



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Advocating Awareness Through Radio

After three years of Footprints, a weekly radio program of WCN completed 180 episodes. It aims to provide correct information on environment, climate change and on wildlife conservation from national to international level.

"Footprints" is a hall mark of WCN to sensitize people to lead a sustainable and environmental friendly lifestyle.



Catch the latest news, views and wildlife related issues on **Times FM 90.6 MHz**

Every Sunday, 8:30 AM onwards

ACCUSED DETAIL	
CASE NO.	TYPE: Accused
ACCUSED NAME	
ALIAS	
GENDER	MALE
FATHER'S NAME	
HOUSE #	STREET NAME
COUNTRY	Nepal
DISTRICT	Kathmandu
TEL (RES)	TEL (OFF)
D.O.B (BS)	D.O.B (AD)
HEIGHT (cm)	WEIGHT (kg)
IDENT_MARK	HABIT
PROFESSION	LANGUAGE
NATIONALITY	CITIZENSHIP NO.
CITIZENSHIP DATE	CITIZENSHIP DISTRICT
PASSPORT NO.	PASSPORT ISSUE DATE
PASSPORT ISSUE PLACE	
CRIME BACKGROUND	
CHAR DETAILS	

Manjushree Kathmandu District Kathmandu

0 10 Kilometers

Record: 1 of 1

Sensitizing Media Personnel on Rhino and Tiger Conservation

WCN organized a three day field visit for media personnel to Chitwan National Park from February 28 to March 1, 2008 with an aim to sensitize media personnel on Rhino and Tiger conservation. A team of journalists of different media



houses - Radio Nepal, Rastriya Samachar Samiti (RSS), The Kathmandu Post, Himal Patrika, Times FM and volunteers participated in the awareness campaign.

During the field trip, a seminar was conducted. The participants were briefed by WCN Chitwan team. There were five organizations that provided an insight to Chitwan National Park and the difficulties faced while protecting rhinos and tigers. These institutions were from National Trust for Nature Conservation, Terai Arc Landscape Project, Buffer Zone Council - Mrigakunja, Bird Education Society and WCN Kathmandu. Various issues ranging from encroachment, poaching, invading species (*Michenia spp.*) and the growth of tourism along with community participation and buffer zone issues were discussed.

WCN provided an insight on wildlife poaching and crime. As It had been successful in the past regarding rhino protection in buffer zone, it knows the modus operandi of poachers working inside the park. WCN intelligence unit found poachers hide guns in the park on branches of trees and sometimes in the hollow trunk of old trees or dig pit and bury guns wrapped in plastic. They will use this for poaching rhinos and sometimes tigers.

The BES briefed the participants on birds of Chitwan in the Chitwan Camp Ground of Resources Himalaya Foundation which was followed by bird watching in mixed sal forest. The NTNC provided elephants for the morning visit to the park.

One of the highlight was the jungle drive where the participants saw many wildlife in their natural habitat



Bird watching near Khorsor Community Forest

Workshop on the Establishment of Wildlife Crime Database

Wildlife Conservation Nepal conducted "Workshop on the Establishment of Wildlife Crime Database" from March 10 to March 11, 2008 at Thakurdwara, Bardia National Park. The workshop focused on the establishment of a Wildlife Crime Database and on limiting poaching inside national park.

More than 50 participants representing Nepal Army, Nepal Ex-police, members of civil societies and National Park authorities participated in the workshop. There were five speakers and most dealt on controlling wildlife crime and poaching inside Bardia National park and its buffer zone areas. The main theme of this workshop was to develop a database, collect information and how it could be shared from national to district level to control wildlife crime.

The database can bridge information gaps amongst different enforcement agencies to thwart organize wildlife crime syndicate and wildlife crime offenders.



Mr. Fanindra Kharel, Chief Warden addressing the participants

Support to National Parks

To support Bardia National Park in its monitoring activity inside the park, WCN provided 22 bicycles to Nepal Army for silent patrolling. The cycles will be used to patrol areas inaccessible by vehicles, an effective way to monitor illicit activities in the park. This is an effort of WCN to support national parks in protecting endangered wildlife from the onslaught of poachers and traders.

WCN will support more parks in the coming months. Similarly, it supported Rara National Park and Makalu Barun National Park and Conservation Area by providing warm gears and equipments. WCN has supported Chitwan National Park anti-poaching unit to protect rhinos and tigers from poachers.



Cycles given to Bardia National Park army personnel for patrolling

New Board Members

A new Board has been formed. The new board members are Prof. Chuda Nath Aryal, an eminent Professor of education, Dr. Chuda B. Shrestha, former senior ranking police officer, currently teaching environment crime



Board of Trustees of WCN

to graduate students, Mr. Jeeban Thapa, Enterprise and Management consultant on natural resources and Mr. Sachindra Shrestha, entrepreneur with an experience of 40 years in food industry.

Trustee Meeting

On January 18, 2008 a Trustee Meeting was conducted in Kathmandu. Annual program, budget allocation, upcoming projects and future programs were tabled and discussed. The Board passed a tentative budget for 2008-2009. The Board gave direction on future projects, provided an insight on monitoring and evaluation by involving experts so as to allow cross sectoral knowledge on activities of WCN. It also suggested a study on gender role in community forest from different districts.

The board was informed about pre proposals that WCN had been writing to various donors for 2008-2009. The board suggested WCN role not be limited to wildlife conservation but be broadened to include environment themes as well.

Few projects such as elephant conservation, wildlife academic courses are under review by donors to further WCN activities in conservation field.

Field Visit

Two Board members visited Chitwan on January 6-8, 2008 and on February 29- March 2, 2008 to see WCN activities at field level. After the field visit, it was suggested that WCN should change its strategy especially in areas close to national parks and focus more on awareness activities to protect wildlife. WCN should support marginalized communities to protect wildlife species while serving the needs of these communities.

Seminar on Water

WCN conducted a photography seminar entitled "Water" after successfully conducting photography workshop "Learn photography from who knows best" in Hotel Shangrila, on April 21, 2008. Professor Neil Eschenfelder of University of Utah shared his two decade photography experience with sixty photography enthusiasts including amateurs and professional photographers. Neil will provide guidance to WCN in nature photography.

Future Plan and Strategy Workshop April 24-25, 2008, Nagarkot

To strengthen field based conservation activities, WCN organized a two day workshop on conservation plan, policies and collaborative role. Seven speakers from WCN highlighted the event with proposed plans and program.

The meeting had been attended by more than 20 participants. Dr. Pralad Yonzon, Chair of Resources Himalaya Foundation and Mr. Shyam Bajimaya, acting Director General of DNPWC provided their views as well.



Participants of a workshop organized in Nagarkot

Seminar on Controlling Illegal Wildlife Trade

A seminar on controlling wildlife crime in rural and urban landscape was conducted on May 26, 2008 in Kathmandu. The aim of the seminar was to sensitize civil societies on illegal wildlife trade and poaching. The seminar attended by more than 40 teachers and community members of Bardia and Banke districts were fruitful because our message concerning protection of the mega fauna were disseminated. Despite the best effort of national park authorities to contain wildlife poaching, rhinos and tigers are still being poached in national parks. We need to advocate a message to such societies who can lobby our efforts through schools, communities and form groups to control poaching in their areas.

WCN will support specific activities of ECO Club in conducting conservation activities in and around Bardia district. WCN will provide training to ECO Club members in Kathmandu and donate a desk top computer for its administration work. ECO Club of Bardia will be supported by WCN for carrying out its various activities at the grass-root level. WCN looks forward to strengthening relation with the grassroot organization that cares to protect wildlife.

WCN encourages local institution to participate in programs that benefit environment while serving to the need of the people.



Participants of a workshop from Bardia and surrounding districts

Nature and Wildlife Photography Competition Exhibition

This is the 4th year of Nature and Wildlife Photography Competition. The theme for 2008 was on small mammals, invertebrates and landscape. More than 150 individuals submitted their photos. Participants were from different regions of Nepal. Through this participation, people have come to know that WCN conducts Photography competition every year. To disseminate conservation messages through photography, WCN in consortium with business houses is planning a mobile exhibition at different regions of Nepal. The wildlife photography is a medium to explore, promote Nepal's natural resources through lens and provide a message that Nepal's wildlife needs to be protected in their natural environment.

To select the outstanding photos, a panel of five professional photographers associated with WCN since the inception of this photography competition will select the best ten photos. The criteria for the top ten are based on the presentation, background display, uniqueness and other factors.



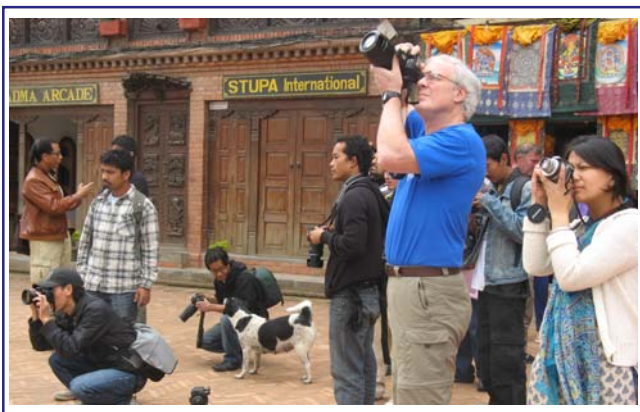
Photography Workshop “Learn Photography from Who knows Best”

WCN in partnership with Insight Himalaya organized a photography workshop with a theme on ‘Learn Photography From Who Knows Best’ from April 11-12. The workshop was facilitated by prominent photographers Professor Neil Eschenfelder and Mr. Nripa Dhoj Khadka.

Prof. Eschenfelder is a passionate photographer with an experience of more than twenty years. Mr. Nripa Dhoj Khadka, a senior instructor of Electronics and Computer Engineering at Institute of Engineering, Pulchowk has been involved in nature photography for the last 30 years.

The participants actively interacted with the facilitators and learnt the basics of digital photography. The facilitators provided an in-depth knowledge on the different functions of a digital camera. For the field trip, they were taken to Boudha an important cultural heritage site to practice skills and knowledge gained in the workshop. The photos were then displayed at the workshop and discussions were held on pros and cons of the photo. At the end of the workshop, the participants were awarded a certificate.

This workshop encouraged Neil to be back in Nepal to provide more trainings and workshops. WCN looks forward to conducting a week long program in the near future.



Neil Eschenfelder with trainees in Boudha taking photos

Symposium on Combating Illegal Wildlife Trade

The U.S. Embassy organized a wildlife symposium on June 19, 2008 to commemorate the World Environment Day and launch Public Service Announcements (PSAs) on combating illegal wildlife trade featuring Harrison Ford, a Hollywood actor. The core message of all the three PSAs (30 seconds each) was to raise public awareness to stop consumer demand for illegal wildlife products. On this occasion, three speakers were invited for presentation. Prasanna Yonzon presented a paper on Wildlife Trafficking in Nepal and how Nepal could limit wildlife trade with the cooperation and support of enforcement agencies and civil societies. The other two speakers were from the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation and WWF Nepal Program.

Nature School

Four years ago, a basic concept on nature school was designed by WCN in coordination with a Skovdyrkerne-Danish Forestry Extension. This concept gave rise to the development of a mobile school which was processed by DFE to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark on WCN behalf. The project is a joint venture between WCN and DFE. The project was approved on June. WCN is currently working on logistic issues. The project should be launched by the end of 2008.



MORE NEWS

Warden Seminar

DNPWC organized a warden seminar in Maadi, extreme south west of Chitwan National Park from February 4-9, 2008. The seminar was hosted by Chitwan National Park.

The seminar was inaugurated by the Minister of Forest and Soil Conservation. There were two issues in this warden seminar - buffer zone and protected areas. The first technical sessions were on buffer zone while the second concentrated on protected area management issues. All park managers present a status paper on their park, wildlife reserve or conservation areas. To bring cohesiveness amongst conservation partners, the park invites NGOs and partners in this gathering to present technical papers.

Prasanna Yonzon presented a paper entitled 'Combating Illegal Wildlife Trade in Nepal.' This paper is based on the research of WCN on Bawarias and Behaliyas, traditional poachers and their arrival in Nepal. The Bawarias and Behaliyas are poachers who wiped out the tiger population from Sariska Tiger Reserve in India. Their presence in Nepal could jeopardize the existing tiger population.



Prasanna Yonzon speaking in the warden seminar

The Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation visit

Mr. Simon Mickleburgh, Grant Manager of The Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation visited Kathmandu from April 7 to April 8, 2008 to evaluate WCN project. WCN briefed Mr. Mickleburgh on the status of the project and arranged meetings with concerned officials of enforcement agencies and Resources Himalaya Foundation. After the meeting, a reception was organized where Mr. Mickleburgh met high ranking police officers, national park authorities, wildlife biologist, eminent scientist and dignitaries working in conservation.



Briefing The Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation Grant Manager

Visitors to WCN

Environmental Investigation Agency

On February 28, two representatives of the Environmental Investigation Agency, UK called on WCN to collaborate on wildlife crime database. Debbie Banks, Senior Campaigner had discussions with WCN regarding a joint venture on sharing the database. EIA would provide WCN with photos of traders, names, etc. to follow on those individual networks in Nepal. WCN has a good working base in Kathmandu for monitoring illegal wildlife trade. WCN is keen on sharing such type of database that would support in bringing down wildlife crime.

Blue Moon Fund

On May 23, Prasanna Yonzon and his colleagues had a meeting with Prof. Ji-Qiang Zhang, Vice President of Blue Moon Fund and Kristin Tracz, Program Associate. Different topics were discussed on sustainable development and management of natural resources through effective use and policies. Protecting rhinos and tigers in their natural habitat were also discussed.

Later the meeting ended with a reception where the Trustees of WCN along with senior official from police and national parks were present.



WCN staff, senior police and national park officials with Blue Moon Fund representatives at a social gathering

Volunteers Enrollment

To bring awareness on conservation values, the Youth Environment Program regularly conducts volunteers enrollment program. On February 1, 2008, a recruitment program was held where more than 30 new volunteers from different education background registered. The new volunteers were briefed on WCN activities, programs and the role that they need to fulfill. From this group, WCN selects a few to conduct outreach program in other districts of Nepal. All volunteers undergo training at WCN before sending them to the field.

Photo Sharing

WCN conducts Photo sharing program on a periodic basis with an objective to bring nature photographers under one forum to share pictures, events and experience through photos on nature and environment. A program was organized on April 3, 2008 attended by photographers, volunteers and board members. Photographs were shared and views expressed. Some of the photos were outstanding especially on culture and tradition.

Environment Conservation Awareness Programs



Educational Program

WCN believes that education is pivotal for creating leaders in conservation. With such concept, WCN launched ECAP in Banke, Bardia, Kailali, Kanchanpur and Chitwan districts to civil societies and schools. The ECAP is targeted to students who have a voice in their household and such can be passed from one household to another till it reaches the community. This activity contains film and slide shows, cutting edge lectures with graphic are some of the tools used in this ECAP. Much of the discussions are on environment protection - with focus to tiger and rhino protection. Posters, booklets and flyers with facts on rhinos and tigers are distributed among the enthusiastic participants.

legal aspects, costs of poaching to Nepal's environment, etc. Once they know about environment crime, the student debate actively in group discussions. They value wildlife protection and express how they could contribute to protecting wildlife. This pilot program has been well received because students have never been involved directly. In this activity, every participant has a voice to express their feelings on wildlife protection. Eight resource persons were involved in conducting the program across the five districts for more than 75 days.



The students displaying their work during the ECAP workshop



The students Presenting their work during the ECAP workshop

Outreach Program

WCN conducted two day outreach workshops in Government and private schools. The outreach Program focuses on grooming leadership qualities in students so as to enable them to be proactive towards conservation and provide young people to value and protect wildlife and their habitat. There are five thematic activities in the outreach program where the students themselves are involved. Documentaries are shown to participants regarding wildlife crime, poaching etc. At the end discussions and debates are the highlights of the program. Providing an insight on environment costs of poaching is an eye opener for these young participants. At the onset of the program, most participants are clueless on

Scholarship Award in Chitwan

WCN identified eleven outstanding students through ECAP who were awarded 'The WCN Environment Conservation Scholarship Award 2008'. Prior to the awards, WCN discussed with school teachers and principals on the criteria of how the award should be given. In this award, WCN covers one year tuition fee including stationeries. This award has ushered a learning attitude of students and schools that had participated in WCN program. WCN will make sure that the award is continued till the student reaches high school.

WCN believes that awards must be provided to outstanding students who can protect the environment at later stage provided we support them at the early phase of their academic career.



Students with scholarship awards

Scholarship Award in Bardia

WCN awarded six students of Bardia with “Promising students in Environment Conservation” scholarship award. This award has been established to motivate students towards conservation and help them develop into young leaders to bring a change in conservation scenario. The awardees’ were awarded with a year’s scholarship, books and stationeries. There are few criterias that needs to be met if one wants to be enrolled for the award. The incumbent must be intelligent and hard working.

There are cases of individuals who cannot afford schooling. WCN tends to support such students who can deliver and provide encouragement to other students to do better, WCN will increase the number of scholarship by providing additional 12 in the coming year.



Awarding young leaders in conservation

Taudaha Conservation - Celebrating World Wetland Day

Nature Jamboree was organized on 2nd February, 2008 at Taudaha to mark the world wetland day in partnership with Bird Conservation Nepal, Karkotak Nagraja Nagrani Basasthan Samaj and Taudaha Youth Club. The objective was to generate awareness amongst people to protect Taudaha pond. Taudaha is an important habitat for migratory birds.



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Protecting Elephant through Outreach Program

WCN is conducting an outreach conservation elephant program in eastern Nepal. It will create awareness in schools and communities on elephant conservation and conduct regional seminar to understand the present situation of human elephant conflict with local stakeholders and government officials. It will dig waterholes for elephants in forest areas used by elephants.

On June 20, 2008 an elephant was killed at Bahun Dangi, Jhapa. It had been shot 3 times in the fore head with a high caliber rifle that are mostly used by enforcement agencies and poachers.



An elephant died of gunshot wounds in Bahun Dangi

Photo: Govinda Neupane

Advocacy Campaign To Value Biodiversity Through Gender Empowerment

An advocacy program was conducted on May in buffer zone of CNP. The program focused on rhino and tiger conservation by women who are the backbone of a Nepali household. Without women participation, it is difficult to protect wildlife. They are the ears and eyes of the community to protect endangered wildlife at the grass root level.



Gender empowerment participants in Dibya Nagar of Chitwan

Wildlife Trade on the Rise

There has been a rapid rise in illegal wildlife trade. From January to June 2008, WCN intelligence led to six different seizures of wildlife products. More than 14 people were arrested by the police and national park authorities in connection with the trade. Some have been sentenced, others are still in custody, awaiting sentences.

On February 25, WCN field intelligence came across two Tibetans who could identify a rhino horn by just touching it. Such methods of detection does not come from few handling of the rhino horn, rather it is an experience gained from years of handling rhino horn. This confirms that trade in rhino horn still exists amongst Tibetan traders. According to our intelligence report rhino horns are pulverized into a powder before being sent to China. This could be one of the reasons that WCN has been unable to seize rhino horns in Kathmandu valley.

On March 1, 2008 at Tatopani customs, WCN supported Nepal Police in arresting a Chinese trader with 7 sacks of orchids being taken to Tibet, China. The trader and the seized goods were forwarded to Chautara District Forest Office for further investigation. On March 13, 2008 a local business man was arrested by Crime Division of Hanuman Dhoka at Chapagaun with a sloth bear skin - information WCN. Previously trades in skins were limited to leopard, tigers and otters. Today the demand is any skin. On April 7, 2008, a rhino horn along with 3 people was caught in Butwal through WCN intelligence. The rhino horn has been sent to the forensic lab in Kathmandu. On June 12, 2008 two leopard skins along with a professional trader were caught by police in coordination with WCN.



Skull of clouded leopard with teeth seized in Malekhu.

Another team of WCN was negotiating with poachers and traders at district level regarding illegal wildlife products. The deal would take place near the main highway where most of the people get down to stretch their legs and grab a bite. The local police were informed and this sting operation of June 13, 2008 led to the arrest of three persons with two leopard skin, one Himalayan Palm Civet and one clouded leopard skin. The Clouded leopard is an endangered species and listed in schedule 1 of Nepal's protected list of mammals.

There is a new trend in the illegal wildlife trade that was not seen in the last eight months. Due to new demands from the oriental market, the skins that have been seized contain teeth and skull indicating that these type of skins are preferred. The skins are also better tanned.

Besides these wildlife crime cases, the recent Ian Baker case opened a Pandora box. Baker an eminent writer for New York times decorated his flat by more than 200 years old wooden statues, tiger and leopard skins. Baker attitude towards Nepal and its policies could be seen with trophies and products that were lying in his living room.



Bear skin and leopard skins seized in Kathmandu Valley

To know more detail on people who had been staying overlong in Nepal, WCN did a small investigation and found few foreigners keeping wildlife in their houses. As WCN collect information, it will pass them to the enforcement agencies to take proper and legal action so that Nepal's wildlife are protected outside protected areas and national forests of Nepal.

A Species Protected is a Heritage Maintained - WCN

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Log on to www.wcn.org.np for news, updates and information on conservation issues.