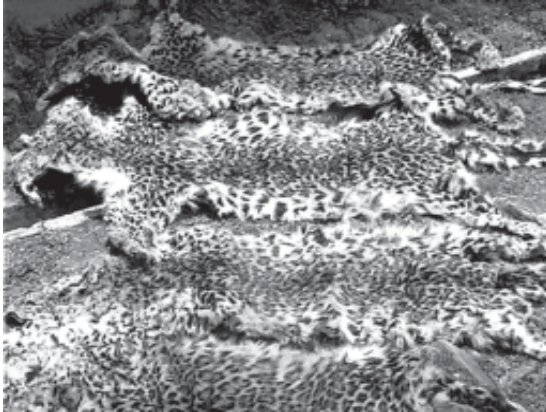




Illegal Wildlife Trade on the Rise



WCN ©

This year has been particularly successful in confiscation of wildlife products. In the last three months alone, over 115 leopard skins, 7 rhino horns, 8 tiger skins and scores of other animal skins and bones have been seized. Late last year in Tibet, a consignment containing 32 tiger pelts, 579 leopard skins and 665 otter pelts were seized with two Nepalese traders. Some notorious seizures in 2003 in Nepal were the 109 leopard skins near Swayambhu Temple, 215 kg of shahtoosh wool which transited through Darchula, Nepal to Dharchula, India indicates Nepal as a conduit for illegal wildlife market. This worries all nations including Nepal, which is a state party to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

Of the non-charismatic species in 2001 alone, 194 specimens of stag beetles were confiscated from two Japanese nationals while boarding a plane from Kathmandu international airport. This did not deter another set of 'wildlife entrepreneurs' from collecting over 200 specimens of beetles in 2002. A pair of stag beetle from Nepal fetches a little over US\$ 2000.00 in Japan. In the same year, Kanchenjunga Conservation Area personnel seized 1,139 arthropods and insects from a German tourist group, which now claims that the purpose of collection was for scientific reasons only.

Recently, during a security check near Royal Chitwan National Park, two Nepalese were caught with 5 rhino horns hidden in the engine of their vehicle on July 10, 2004. Last year, a Nepali businessman

disembarking in Narita Airport, Tokyo was caught with 7 rhino horns. About four years back, an eminent Bhutanese lady was found with 8 rhino horns in Taiwan. With such high intricacies of individual involvement, illegal wildlife trade seems to be increasing amongst influential elites and no institution seems to take the lead to investigate. Given these, we need to be more proactive and responsible as all these products pass through the scrutiny of many line agencies situated at international airport and custom centers in border areas. To control illegal wildlife trade, line agencies including stakeholders require more trainings, commitment and vigilance in their line of duty. ■



WCN ©

Leopard (top-left) & rhino skins (above-left) seized in Sindhupalchok. A leopard skin with signature (above-right).

Fighting Wildlife Crime

Fighting wildlife crime in cities is a humungous task because different line agencies have different work priorities. Last year, the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) and Wildlife Conservation Nepal (WCN) established a cell to monitor illegal wildlife trade in Boudha and today some rippling effect are being seen.

Compared to last year, seizures on illegal wildlife products this year have been more prominent. To be more effective in limiting illegal wildlife trade, WCN proposes an orientation and a sensitization workshop on wildlife trade to enforcement agencies and others across the country with the support of philanthropic organizations, INGOs and NGOs.

Seminar on Wild Tigers



The Tiger seminar at WCN

WCN recognizes that dissemination of contemporary knowledge on biodiversity conservation through seminars is necessary. Seminars provide a forum to understand, share, learn and perhaps contribute in strengthening our ways of thinking. Therefore, to share this vast knowledge with the public, civil societies and other sectors, a seminar on Wild Tigers was organized at WCN on May 28, 2004.

Mr. Nanda SJB Rana, a prominent naturalist and a wildlife photographer who has been a consultant to the National Geographic magazine and the UK-based

Partridge Film presented brilliant still photographs on wild tigers and delivered a seminar on tiger conservation. Mr. Rana has dedicated his life towards conserving and protecting tigers while addressing the need of the local communities. At present, he is working on a compensation scheme for villagers whose cattle are killed by tigers in Bandhavgarh National Park, Madhya Pradesh, India.

Mr. Rana is a Trustee of WCN. His photography is exhibited in galleries at home and abroad. He believes protecting the tiger can preserve biodiversity in the wild. ■



Photo: Nanda SJB Rana

Tripartite Meeting

To monitor illegal wildlife trade, exchange information on conservation issues, develop networks and strengthen ties with different line agencies operating at district level, a tripartite meeting was organized in Kathmandu with a focus on Royal Chitwan National Park. The participants were from DNPWC, Royal Chitwan National Park, Nepal Ex-Police District heads of Chitwan, Makawanpur, Parsa, Nawalparasi and WWF Nepal Program. ■



Participants of the tripartite meeting

Sensitization Workshop

A sensitization workshop on illegal wildlife trade was organized to develop linkages with 13 districts known for illegal wildlife trade routes. The program focused on disseminating information on wildlife trade, policies, legalities and networking at district level to impede illegal trade. ■



Participants of the sensitization workshop

GIS Seminar

July 22, 2004

Nepal GIS Society conducted a one-day seminar on GIS application and its role. WCN participated in this seminar.■

Seminar on Wildlife Poaching

July 14, 2004

Nepal Environment Forum for Journalist organized a public seminar on illegal wildlife trade. WCN was invited as a guest speaker.■

Meeting in Kathmandu

May 6, 2004

Mr. Siddhartha SJB Rana, Chairman of WCN met Mr. David Hulse, Program Officer of MacArthur Foundation along with Mr. Prasanna Yonzon, CEO. Institutional strengthening, cooperation and future strategies on conservation were discussed.■

April 29, 2004

While on a visit to Nepal, Mr. Vivek Menon, Executive Director of Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) met Mr. Prasanna Yonzon to discuss future joint-

programs on monitoring wildlife trade and training to protected areas personnel.■

April 28, 2004

Ms. Belinda Wright, Executive Director of Wildlife Protection Society of India met Mr. Prasanna Yonzon to discuss future collaboration.■

Traffic Workshop in Kathmandu

April 26-30, 2004

Traffic International with the support of US Embassy in Nepal, WWF US, CITES, IUCN and Canadian Customs organized two workshops namely South Asia Wildlife Trade Diagnostic and Trade Law Enforcement. WCN participated in both workshops.■

Training on CITES

March 31-April 2, 2004

A three day training workshop on CITES was organized by DNPWC. The Department invited WCN to highlight NGOs role in combating illegal wildlife trade. Ten different government agencies participated in this CITES training program.■

Investigating Mongoose Trade

Previously mongoose were traded to eliminate field rats, today it is killed for its hair which is used in paintbrushes. A single mongoose provides 10 gm of paintbrush hair. Due to over killing of mongoose, India put a total ban on its trade from December 10, 2002.



Paintbrush from Mongoose hair

WTI provided a documentary on mongoose trade, which prompted WCN to do an investigation. Mongoose paintbrushes are locally made and available in Kathmandu market with names such as Everest and Fine Art. WCN was told mongoose hair could be made available in Kathmandu, provided an order was placed. If such is true, the three species of mongoose found in Nepal are in great peril. And people who are associated with paintbrush trade admit the trade is illegal.■

“ A Species protected is a heritage maintained. ”

- WCN

Trimonthly Seminar

Apart from monitoring illegal wildlife trade and other conservation initiatives, Wildlife Conservation Nepal understands that seminars are equally important to deliver information to the public.

The seminars will provide platform to various personalities that have contributed to nature conservation who have yet to reach a wider audience.

WCN will bring Nepalese and other experts to communicate and share information through this program. Moreover, WCN feels sharing information provides knowledge, opportunities and a better understanding of our environment.

Environment Conservation Awareness Program

WCN launched Environment Conservation Awareness Program (ECAP) to minimize degradation, create general awareness to safeguard natural heritage and develop interest on environment. Different activities relating to environment and conservation themes with focus to school going children, university students and communities have been implemented.

WCN through ECAP plans to interject efforts in drawing the attention of civil society and scientific



ECAP Volunteers

community towards environment protection and develop awareness on illegal wildlife trade. More than 80 volunteers are currently involved in ECAP.■

Conservation Theme Workshop

ECAP organized a one-day workshop on Environment Conservation Awareness theme. This workshop was aimed to motivate youths of Kathmandu on environment conservation issues.

(RONAST), spoke on contemporary conservation issues on biodiversity policies and species extinction, while Mr. Prasanna Yonzon, provided an insight on NGO's role in conservation and illegal wildlife trade.



Ms. Myangbo briefing on on arts and collage

Four resource person were invited to share information on environment and conservation. Representing DNPWC, Mr. Shyam Bajimaya, Chief Ecologist spoke on conservation awareness program implemented by the department. The DNPWC has a separate wing that deals in conservation awareness program.

Dr. Dinesh Bhujju, Academic Assembly Member of Royal Nepal Academy of Science and Technology



Volunteers' active participation during ECAP workshop

In the later part of the workshop, Ms. Param Myangbo, Art Director of Spiny Babbler Organisation, initiated a collage session on environment. The collages prepared by the participants reflected views on conservation, ideal situation and present trend. The program closed with recommendation for an outreach program for school students.■

ECAP in Bungamati, Khokana and Sainbu

Environment Conservation Awareness Program (ECAP) has been launched in three Village Development Committees (VDCs) of Lalitpur district which lies on the southern fringe of Kathmandu valley. ECAP intends to further this program to neighboring districts and shall include community members which promote and support conservation of local flora and fauna.

Out of the ECAP member schools, twenty five students were nominated to participate in the wildlife week organized by DNPWC from April 13 – 19, 2004. Prior to the wildlife week program, an orientation program was conducted to the students of the member schools. ■



A visit to Taudaha, a wetland of Kathmandu



Books for the Library

WCN is in the process of establishing a library. This library will have books, magazines, newspapers and reports on wildlife, environment and photography, etc. A mobile library is currently in operation for students of suburb areas. ROOM TO READ, a charity based international organization has provided reading materials for the library. WCN is seeking more support from other institutions as well. ■

Upcoming ecap Event

Photography Competition

WCN is organizing a nature/wildlife photography contest. Photography has been an integral part of society in documenting events and history. ECAP acknowledges nature/wildlife photography in Nepal is yet to witness and recognize young talented photographers. This competition is an attempt to encourage amateur wildlife/nature photographers. An exhibition will be organized on October 2004. A panel of three prominent photographers will judge the best 12 photographs which then will be featured in WCN Annual Calendar 2005.



For more details, contact Wildlife Conservation Nepal, Phone: 5524202 or write to cap@wcn.org.np

WCN ©

Outreach Program for Schools on Environment and Conservation

Presently 20 schools have joined ECAP. WCN Volunteers proposed a two-day outreach program for schools. WCN envisages more than twenty thousand individual students benefiting from this program. The first outreach program was held at Shuvatar School, Sanepa on July 12-13, 2004.

The program was initiated with a background discourse on conservation values, protected areas, CITES, wetlands, etc. Later, the students were divided into groups for hands-on experience on environment and nature conservation.

The second day program was based on nine projects facilitated by 18 volunteers. The projects were based on photography, paper recycling, tree plantation,



ECAP-Program Officer provides an insight on environment conservation

case studies, collage, public debate on elephants raiding farmers' field, poster, news reporting and bird watching.

News reporting and public debate reflected commitment of young people to protect and conserve wildlife while addressing the need of local community. The birdwatching group went to Bungmati, southern end of Kathmandu valley where they observed birds and identified them in their habitat, the tree plantation group learnt about forests, planting trees, management and conservation from Mr. Govinda Raj Kafle, Coordinator, Leasehold Forestry, Department of Forest, Babarmahal. Similarly, the research group did a case study on ex-situ conservation program of the Central Zoo, Jawalakhel and made recommendations as how it could develop better facility for wildlife and public viewing. The collages and posters on wildlife have been extraordinary. Recycling wastepaper seem to be taken up by young participants with much enthusiasm who proposed use of recycled paper for



Students involved in ECAP activities

class activities. Photography session revealed an innate natural talent. The program was a novel experience for the participants and volunteers alike.

At the end, participants spoke about their experiences and how it motivated them. The participants enjoyed the program because it was conducted in a conducive environment that had not been done before. The outreach program requested the participants to fill in a questionnaire, 98% said they would not purchase any wildlife product and all respondents replied a positive interest on nature conservation was developed due to the program. ■



Photographs taken by young participants of ECAP



A young participant exhibiting his collage on "love for the earth"

Partners in Conservation

Care for the Wild International (CFTWI, UK)

WCN has developed ties with CFTWI, a charity based organization in UK, to carry out antipoaching program and support line agencies in being more effective in stopping illegal wildlife trade especially with focus on snow leopard.



Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC)

The Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation have been supportive towards WCN activities. Activities that relate to fighting wildlife crime in city area has been a priority and DNPWC has endorsed a few programs related to limiting illegal wildlife trade.



Nepal Ex-Police Association

To monitor and impede illegal wildlife trade in rural and urban areas, share information and develop network, WCN initiated a working relation with Nepal Ex-Police Association by signing a Memorandum of Understanding. The Association has an extensive network spread all over Nepal which could be utilized to monitor and control illegal wildlife trade and its body parts including medicinal plants that are banned from collection, trade and export.



नेपाल भूतपूर्व प्रहरी संघ
(केन्द्रीय कार्यकारिणी समिति)

Resources Himalaya Foundation

Resources Himalaya Foundation, a non-governmental, regional research organisation concern with the well being of Himalayas will collaborate with WCN by sharing landscape level information to conserve natural resources in the Himalayas for their sustenance.



The Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation

The Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation have been supporting WCN in all its endeavors including in the earlier days of its establishment and also during the workshop on curbing illegal wildlife trade in and around protected areas.

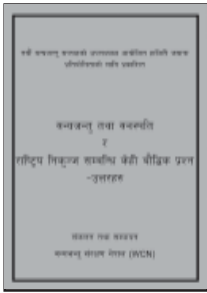


Wildlife Trust of India

To share information on conservation issues including wildlife trade and conduct joint field works, WCN signed a Memorandum of Understanding with WTI. The two partners have invited each other in their respective country to participate in workshops concerning illegal wildlife trade.



Publications

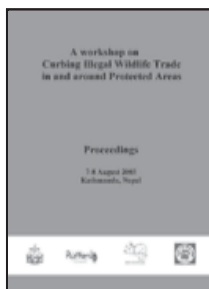


Wildlife Quiz Booklet

One of the components of Environment Conservation Awareness Program is understanding the values of conservation. WCN in its line of work have brought forth a quiz booklet which would trigger the interest of young people. This is a quiz booklet for school going students which will enrich their knowledge on wildlife.

Report on Mongoose Trade

A common species found everywhere has been at great peril in India due to its trade of hair, which is used to make paintbrushes. WCN did a field investigation on its trade in Kathmandu.

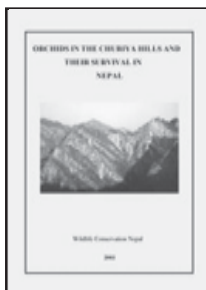


Proceeding of Workshop on "Curbing Illegal Wildlife Trade in and around PAs"

Nepal's protected area has been under a tremendous threat from poaching. To understand strengths and weaknesses, a two day workshop was organized where protected area managers detailed a plan of action to curb poaching in their respective protected areas.

News on Wildlife Issues

News on wildlife seizures, conflict and conservation stories are forgotten over time. WCN initiated tabling the last 10 years events related to wildlife that had been published in national dailies.



Orchids in Churia Hills and Their Survival in Nepal

The orchids of Nepal have been famous world over. Majority of this epiphytic plant found in the Mahabharat range have been exploited on a non-sustainable basis. This report on the central development region focuses on trade and over harvesting technique.

Editorial team: Sanjeevani Yonzon, Ritu Gurung and Bhushan Shilpakar



WCN has launched a website www.wcn.org.np

This website is user friendly and most information on conservation issues are updated on a daily basis.

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The founder of WCN is Mr. Siddhartha SJB Rana who is an entrepreneur and a keen conservationist. It is with his support that WCN is operating today.