

## Wildlife Policing

To see that Nepal ceases to become a transit route for illegal wildlife trade and products, WCN has been conducting many programs to enforcement officials, NGOs and civil societies at national and regional level. As a result of trainings and sensitization, illegal wildlife trade have been reduced.

WCN workshops and training programs deliberates on protection of endangered wildlife species by monitoring trade, sharing intelligence and information,



Chief of Police addressing the workshop participants in Kathmandu

advocating the importance of biodiversity in the ecosystem. The main focus is that Nepal's charismatic megafauna should be protected in their natural habitat so that Nepal's future generation can see these magnificent wild animals in the wild.

### Kathmandu

With the cooperation of Nepal Ex-Police Association, WCN conducted an effective workshop entitled 'Sensitization and Training on Wildlife Crime in Nepal' on 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2007 to the apex body of police force and districts president of Nepal Ex-Police Association. The workshop was inaugurated by Mr. Om Bikram Rana, Chief of Police.

Mr. Rana mentioned that Nepal Police must remain vigilant and they would support to protect Nepal's natural heritage through effective policing. Furthermore, police would provide cooperation and support to other enforcement agencies in the fight against illegal wildlife trade.



Training and Sensitization workshop inaugural program

The main objective of the workshop was to inform and sensitize the police on the nexus of wildlife crime and how it has graduated into an organized crime that had networks beyond Nepal. On that occasion wildlife veterans from India and Nepal spoke about wildlife trade and how new traders were being groomed by elderly people who are active in the trade. Some of the speakers mentioned Nepal as a main transitional routes for illegal wildlife trade products. Shyam Bajimaya, Acting Director General of the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation provided a full picture of the national parks and how they were supporting communities through different integrated approach to protect and conserve

(MORE ON THIS AND RELATED IN PAGE 4)

## Promising Environment Student Scholarship



Awardees of the Promising Environment Student Scholarship

To promote conservation values at field level, WCN conducted conservation awareness programs in many schools of Chitwan. While conducting this program, we learnt of gaps in the education and realized the students attaining higher education were slim because of social constraints. After consultation with the school board and students' performances, WCN provided 14 scholarships on April 20, 2007.

The award ceremony was organized to celebrate Wildlife Week at Khorsor, Chitwan amidst distinguished enforcement officers, conservationists and the civil society. ■

### TUNE INTO



on Times FM 90.6 MHz  
Every Tuesday at 8:00 AM

# Nature through Lens 3 - A Nature and Wildlife Photography Exhibition

**W**CN Youth Environment Program (YEP) held its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual amateur Nature and Wildlife photography competition, 2007. Photographers can portray wildlife in the wild by a simple and effective clicking of a camera shutter. A competition of this kind is unique and has the potential to capture the attention of the general public and concerned agencies in nature conservation. The competition culminated by displaying the 300 photos participated by more than 100 participants in "Nature Through Lens 3" exhibition, inaugurated by His Excellency Mr. James F. Moriarty, Ambassador, Embassy of United States of America on 15th June, 2007 at the Nepal Art Council, Babarmahal, Kathmandu. The judges for the competition were renowned Nepali photographers; Mani Lama, Nripa Dhoj Khadka, Pradeep Shakya and Raj Bhai Suwal.



H.E. James F. Moriarty, American Ambassador to Nepal enjoying the exhibition



Grand Prize winning photograph of Mr Maurya

category), Mr. Sanjay Lama (Macro category) and Mr. Rajendra Dev Adhikari (Flora category). The top ten photographers of the competition were Rabi Karmacharya, Ujwal Bhattarai, Janak Khattiwada and Silvia Del Conte.

This exhibition promotes amateur photographers and nature photography in Nepal and raises funds for conservation. In addition, this program draws people together for a common cause to bring awareness on nature and wildlife conservation.

By conducting this photography competition WCN/YEP seeks to formulate a plan where amateur and nature photographers can bring out photos on nature which would have never been seen by the public. ■



The Chief Guest and the judges handing over the prizes to the winner

---

## World Environment Day

**T**o mark the World Environment Day on June 5, 2007, WCN organized an interaction program in its office premises. It was attended by more than 50 participants from civil society, conservationists and students. The main objective was to bring awareness about global warming and its threat to the living ecosystem. During the program, the Oscar winning documentary "An Inconvenient Truth" was screened which details present to future dangers on what it holds for this planet if we overlook the problem now. During the discussion, participants discussed the effect of Climate Change on the Polar

Regions and Himalayan Glaciers, their ecosystems and communities. In recent times, Himalayan glacier has been retreating at the rate of 70m per year forming glacial lakes and increasing the risk of GLOF (Glacial Lake Outburst Flood). If there is a GLOF, fertile land below would be inundated and the calamity could outweigh tsunami and other natural disasters. Similarly on the other front, when the snow cap of the Himalaya begins to melt, the downstream land will face severe drought as most of rivers of this region are fed by melting snow, which is the only source of water for drinking as well as for irrigation. ■

## Tuskers In Peril



**T**he Indian wild elephant is listed as an endangered species in Nepal by the National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1973. Elephants are the largest land mammals listed in CITES Appendix 1.

Domestic elephants are used to clear forests, carry loads, used in ceremonial purposes and for special functions and festivals. Today, the domestic elephant is used by researchers and anti-poaching teams to monitor wildlife and to patrol forest areas. The domestic elephants have promoted eco-tourism through elephant safaris.

Nepal has a resident population of less than 150 Indian elephants found in eastern, central, western and far western regions of Nepal. Due to habitat shrinkage and food



Bracelet made from elephant tail hair

base, wild elephants migrate to new areas for food. Loss of life has resulted during elephants and people conflict. And when tuskers die, the ivory is usually taken by the government officials for record keeping or the locals keep it for future use.



Elephant hair seized in Kathmandu

There is a growing demand for ivory products in the form of prayer beads, small jewelries, trinkets and bracelets. WCN studied ivory trade in Kathmandu and have filed a small report. In the course of monitoring trade, WCN intelligence led to the arrests of Indra Rasaili and Prem Bahadur Tamang in Kathmandu who were wanting to dispose 500 elephant hairs at NRs. 500 a piece on 24th May 2007 by the District Forest Office. Sixty to seventy hairs grow at the end of the elephant's tail forming a tuft. Most probably, more than 80 elephants would be needed for those 500 tail hairs. Elephants use their tails to chase away flies and mosquitoes and scientists suggest that it may also have an important function during mating times. ■

## "A Species Protected is a Heritage Maintained"

-WCN

### Radio Program

**A** month long sensitization program on conservation theme was featured in Image FM's weekly program called "Saturday Meltdown" where WCN representatives deliberated on issues from illegal wildlife trade, values of biodiversity, awareness campaign, livelihood and conservation to protecting megavertebrates and interesting facts about wildlife. The program was aired throughout the country. ■

(... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

biodiversity. He further added that role of NGO is critical to bridge gaps amongst different enforcement agencies to plug environment crime and appreciated WCN in bringing them together to a common platform.

**Chitwan:**

To be certain that information and sensitization on wildlife crime reaches the enforcement agencies at the grass root level, WCN conducted a "Sensitization and Training workshop on Wildlife Crime" to Nepal Ex-police Association members from three districts on 22-24<sup>th</sup> April, 2007 in Chitwan. During the workshop, various subjects including intelligence

sharing to information gathering were tabled.

The national park authorities were kind enough to

provide the participants about their activities and how participants could support the national park authorities in brining wildlife crime down. It was stressed that future programs must be based with local livelihood to ensure the security of mega vertebrates in their natural habitat.



Mr. Chuda B. Shrestha talking to the workshop participants

**Bardia:**

On May 3, 2007, WCN conducted a similar sensitization

workshop in Bardia National Park, Thakurdwar. The participants were very much committed.



Workshop in Nepalgunj

WCN have realized that more training are required to provide these people with a direction in protecting biodiversity at the grass root level. Chief Warden of the Bardia National Park provided an insight of the national park activities and projects and how different groups could help to protect wildlife through information.

**Nepalgunj, Banke:**

Most transnational wildlife crime occurs in Nepalgunj, Banke. In the recent past, Nepal has seen many wildlife seizures in Nepalgunj which is the central point of entry to Nepal. As a result of such rise in the illegal wildlife trade, WCN conducted a sensitization workshop on wildlife crime at the Police Training Center to enforcement officials, ex-police officials, lawyers and civil societies on May 4, 2007. After the workshop, Police and other enforcement agencies have better knowledge and what they could do to prevent the flow illegal wildlife trade in border areas. The ex-police have already delegated a task force to monitor illegal wildlife trade with the support of WCN. ■

**Photo Sharing Program**



Photo: Sanjay Lama

2007. The program was attended by thirty enthusiasts including professionals and amateur photographers. Mr. Nripa Dhoj Khadka, WCN Adviser on photography talked on the basics of nature photography. More than two hundred photographs of nine participants were shared during the program and how photography can portray conservation was discussed. WCN has been conducting photo sharing programs with goal to bring nature photographers together in one forum.



WCN Photo Club organized a photo sharing program on "Nature and Wildlife" on May 4,

## Keeping Our Ponds Alive

**T**audaha is a small wetland that lies south west of Kathmandu valley. It is rich in faunal diversity.

Birds from as far as Siberia migrate to Taudaha every winter. Over 30 species of birds are seen throughout the year. It is a staging site for migrating birds and the local communities have taken initiative in protecting the landscape through WCN support. WCN promotes Taudaha conservation activities through a local club. It has organized various jamborees by creating innovative and interesting programs. This year, the Taudaha Jamboree was organized by WCN in alliance with 17 different organizations like DNPWC, FoB, WWF, etc on February 3, 2007. Activities like Nature Hike and Art Workshop were very popular among the visitors.



Participants enjoying the hike

WCN organized an On-The-Spot Art competition for school students on the theme "Fish For Tomorrow". In the event twenty eight students from different schools of Kathmandu painted posters on the same theme. The paintings were evaluated by three judges, Mr. Sujan Chitrakar, Coordinator, Department of Fine Arts, Kathmandu University; Mr. Nepal Dangol, Mithila Art expert and Mr. Bal Mukunda Pokhrel, Head of Art Department, WCN.

This event was organized to promote Taudaha and its vicinity as a nature hike route to preserve the entire area in its pristine form. If Taudaha gets proper attention from nature lovers, there is a possibility that the habitat for numerous resident and migratory birds will be preserved. ■



Enthusiastic Students painting during the Art Competition

## A Wing of WCN in Nepalgunj

**T**o protect and save mega fauna and control illegal wildlife trade at border areas, WCN established a satellite office in Nepalgunj where the office will monitor illegal wildlife trade activities in adjoining districts as well.



Mr Yonzon handing over office equipment to Mr. Tamang

WCN has learnt that illegal wildlife consignment are taken to Surkhet and then to Jumla from where it is transported by mule and donkeys to Taklakot and then to Tibet. The office is already in operation. ■

## Conservation Award



Awardees with the guests during the award ceremony

**C**onservation Award was awarded to six individuals for their outstanding performance in controlling illegal wildlife trade in the frontline and for helping line agencies in addressing rhino poaching. The award ceremony was organized amidst distinguished enforcement officers, conservationists and the civil society. The Award included commendation certificates and cash prize. ■

## Teachers Training Program



Teacher participants of the workshop with the organizing committee

With the support of Ratna Nagar Chamber of Commerce and Industries, WCN conducted a two day orientation program on Wildlife and Environmental Conservation to the teachers and civil society of Buffer Zone of Chitwan National Park on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> March 2007. In the program attended by park authorities and other enforcement agencies, the experts shared their experiences. Forty teachers teaching Environment Science, Population and Health were provided with techniques to be more effective in their teaching through practical teaching tools. Training of this nature is beneficial because teachers can motivate young students in conservation thus making every individual aware of conservation values in the long run. ■



Participants interacting during the workshop



Teachers showing their artwork during the workshop

## Workshop on Contemporary Environmental Issues

WCN organized an interactive workshop on contemporary environmental issues. This workshop was specially designed for young leaders in conservation. The workshop mainly focused on sharing information on contemporary environment themes



Mr. Yonzon talking to the participants during the workshop

in Nepal. Four resource persons provided different thematic presentations on various environmental issues. Mr. Prasanna Yonzon (CEO, WCN), Mr. Jhamak B. Karki (Senior Ecologist, DNPWC), Mr. Batu K. Uprety (Under Secretary Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology) and Mr. Ukesh Raj Bhujju (IUCN Nepal Chapter President) gave insights on Capacity Enhancement in Illegal Wildlife Trade Control, Biodiversity conservation in Nepal, Environment Policies and Conservation Education.

Documentaries on different conservation issues were also screened during the program. Later the participants



Participants enjoying the birdwatching session

discussed on how they see themselves taking part in the conservation scenario of Nepal.

The program was followed by a field trip to a wetland site where the participants enjoyed various activities like nature hike and bird watching. ■

## Meetings and seminar

**January 7 and 10, 2007.** Two meetings were conducted at the Parliament level where parliament members, concerned Ministries and Departments along with experts met to discuss on rhino conservation strategy. Many proponents to save rhinos were forwarded, however it was realized that manpower at ground level was critical to save the rhinos. After the mobilization of guards and reinstallation of guard posts rhino poaching were minimized.

**January 9, 2007.** An interactive meeting was held between Navin Singh Khadka of BBC and Prasanna Yonzon regarding how media could strengthen the environment conservation works by broadcasting information on illegal wildlife trade.

**January 18, 2007.** John Adams Director, Regional Environment Office for South Asia, US Embassy met Prasanna Yonzon at WCN office in Chitwan. Prasanna provided a brief account of the role WCN undertakes to protect the mega fauna through the support of Chitwan National Park and other stake holders.

**March 5-7, 2007.** The Asian Rhino Specialist Group organized a workshop on rhino conservation in Kaziranga National Park, Assam. Prasanna Yonzon attended this workshop where he presented a paper on Rhino Conservation Strategy. The meeting was attended mostly by range countries which had rhinos in them.

**April 16-18, 2007.** An International Tiger Symposium was organized in Kathmandu by the Global Tiger Forum and the Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation. WCN participated in this workshop where many tiger relating issues on trade were tabled and discusses.

**May 23, 2007.** WCN team met officials of Nepal Ex-Police board of trustees at the Nepal ex-police Secretariat regarding institution strengthening at district level. The Secretariat agreed in principle to support our monitoring activities through their district offices.

**June 2-15, 2007.** Prasanna Yonzon was invited by Save the Tiger Fund to attend the Conference of the Parties 14 meeting of Convention on International Trade of Endangered Wildlife

Flora and Fauna in Hague.

**June 5, 2007.** WCN was invited to St Mary's School to address the students on the concurrent issues of environment and conservation. On the occasion, Sanjeevani Yonzon, Program Coordinator motivated the students to lead environmentally friendly lives in order to combat global warming at individual level.

## WCN Retreat

A retreat was organized on February 6, 2007 for WCN staff in Nagarkot. During the retreat, prospective future projects that would support our five year strategy were discussed.



WCN staff discussing future projects during the retreat

## Pangolin Rescued

An injured pangolin, one of the rare and protected mammals of Nepal was rescued from Taudaha on January 23, 2007 with the support of WCN field workers and locals of Taudaha.



Rescued pangolin

## ASMAN Mela

WCN participated in Alumni Association of St. Mary Nepal (ASMAN) mela on 17 March, 2007 to sensitize civil society about environment and wildlife conservation. In this occasion many business houses, educational enterprises and different civil organizations took part in the program. Over four thousand visitors including celebrities, entrepreneurs, journalists, civil societies and children participated in the event.



WCN stall at the ASMAN Mela

WCN's information centre provided a glimpse of how ordinary people can stop wildlife trade by being more sensitive towards wildlife conservation. ■

## Youth in Conservation

A day camp was conducted for students of Basu Higher Secondary School and Bageswori Higher Secondary School of Bhaktapur on 1-3 February, 2007. Lectures on CITES, environment and conservation issues were given with the aid of audio visual and multi media. Documentaries on tiger and mongoose trade were screened during the program.



Students cleaning up Taudaha

A facilitator provided information about the resident birds and birds which flock to Taudaha for staging. Migratory birds as well as resident birds were seen, identified and notes regarding their life cycle were made.

Since Taudaha is an important wetland in the area, students conducted a research on the environmental status of Taudaha. The research concluded that the pond that exists today has been heavily exploited by local people for various purposes and it is equally being polluted at an alarming rate which has already been rendered unfit for drinking purpose. Generally activities like washing clothes, bathing, cleaning cooking utensils etc are mainly observed here. In addition the water which comes through the inlets into the lake passing through rice fields that partly surrounds it, most possibly deposit its toxic contents like insecticides there in. The major threats to this wetland are encroachment, siltation, and pollution from sewage discharge and agricultural runoff.



Participants making presentation after the workshop

At the end of the program the students made impressive presentations on their findings and experiences gained during the two day camp. ■

### PUBLICATIONS



Tiger Brochure gives a brief introduction to the Royal Bengal Tiger.



Program Framework 2007-2012 showcases the different programs and activities of WCN for the next five years.



Rhino Brochure gives a brief introduction to the endangered One Horned Rhinoceros.

Editorial team: Brinda Dewan, Nabin Gopal Baidya and Sanjeevani Yonzon

### Wildlife Conservation Nepal (WCN)

PO Box: 20569

Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel: 977 01 4289818

Email: mail@wcn.org.np

Log on to WCN's

website [www.wcn.org.np](http://www.wcn.org.np) for news, updates and information on conservation issues