



“Fighting Wildlife Crime in Kathmandu” A National Workshop

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and studies on illegal wildlife trade including recent seizures in neighboring countries indicate Nepal as a conduit to international illegal wildlife market.

Therefore, a national workshop on fighting wildlife crime was held in Kathmandu on December 7, 2004 by Wildlife Conservation Nepal with Nepal Ex-Police Association and Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) in collaboration with WWF Nepal Program. The

There were three plenary sessions- wildlife conservation history, legal issues on wildlife conservation and networking amongst different agencies to control illegal wildlife trade.

Recommendations from the workshop have been forwarded to concerned line agencies for their approval. This workshop developed networks amongst different line agencies to fight wildlife crime in urban and rural areas. The workshop ended with a pledge to stop illegal wildlife trade. ■



Photo courtesy: Min Bajracharya

Right Hon. Prime Minister Mr. Sher Bahadur Deuba releasing the poster



Some of the police participants in the workshop

workshop was designed to develop awareness amongst police personnel on wildlife trade, legalities, cooperation and information sharing and stemming illegal wildlife trade. This workshop is a bench mark on fighting wildlife crime. The workshop was inaugurated by Right Honorable Prime Minister Mr. Sher Bahadur Deuba.

On this occasion, a poster on conservation was released by Rt. Hon. Prime Minister. The poster designed by WCN has been distributed at field level and at major public work stations to bring awareness on illegal wildlife trade.

The participants were representatives from all police station and wards of Kathmandu valley including crime branch, Department of National Parks, District Forest Offices of Kathmandu Valley, Nepal Ex-Police Association members and others.

CONTROLLING POACHING

One of the priorities in controlling poaching is to create awareness in societies and communities through media (audiovisuals, prints, campaigns, etc.) and develop mechanisms at district level through training, monitoring, sensitization and awareness programs to enforcement agencies, communities and schools. The solution to wildlife crime is not seizure, but advocating to local communities of benefits that arise from wildlife conservation. It is crucial to allow communities who reside near protected areas to voice their opinion and bring them to the mainstream of conservation by including them in the developmental processes. This will curtail poaching to some extension. ■

Seminar on Non Timber Forest Product



Dr. Uday Raj Sharma sharing his experiences

On September 19, 2004, a seminar was delivered by Dr. Uday Raj Sharma, Director General of Department of Plant Resources on 'Prospects on cultivation, harvesting of non-timber forest products and their contribution to national economy' organized by WCN. Dr. Sharma said "There is a wide variety of non-timber forest products (NTFP) in which commercial gain lies in the sustainable and optimal

use." Furthermore, he elaborated on the potential of aromatic plants to Nepal's context.

Dr. Sharma emphasized that there is a need to amend policies and to incorporate new ones that facilitates trade and the sustainable use of NTFP. The participants were from government officials, professors, university post graduate students, INGOs, NGOs, social marketing and others. ■



Participants from various organization.

Investigating Shahtoosh Trade



An adult Chiru

Photo courtesy : WPSI

The Tibetan Antelope (*Pantholops hodgsonii*) commonly known as Chiru gained international attention when it was listed on Appendix I of CITES in 1979 due to over hunting for its fur. Three Chirus are killed for making a single shawl, famously known as "Shahtoosh". Shahtoosh is a finely woven shawl made by master weavers, especially in Kashmir, which for generations has been considered as a traditional heirloom passed on to daughters by family members. Since late 1980s poaching and illegal trade of Chiru has increased dramatically due to its high demand in the international market. The international conservation com-

munity has indicated that its fur trade is being passed from Tibet via Nepal into India for making shawls.

During an under cover investigation in Kathmandu and Pokhara, WCN found shahtoosh shawl being sold with price tags starting from US\$ 500 and upwards. WCN was told that the shawls could be made available in Kathmandu, provided an order was placed. The shopkeepers are well aware of the fact that the trade of shahtoosh is illegal which shows that Tibetan Antelope or Chiru is in peril and its business lucrative despite the prohibitory laws. ■



Even a new born is hunted down by poachers for fur

Photo courtesy : WPSI

News in Brief

Joint Program

Professor Joel Heinen of Florida International University called upon WCN in December to discuss future programs on wildlife conservation. The program should go on floor by August, 2005.

Focal point established in Langtang National Park

WCN established a focal node on October in Langtang National Park to initiate integrated conservation awareness and tree plantation programs.

Interaction program

On September, an interaction program between DNPWC, Kathmandu District Forest Office (KDFO) and WCN was conducted at the district forest office to coordinate with each other and share information on curbing wildlife trade.

Leopard in Kathmandu



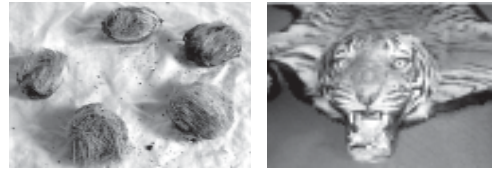
Leopard in Kathmandu valley

Kathmandu has sporadic cases of leopards moving in cities. Last December, KDFO informed WCN that a common leopard was found dead in the southern end of Kathmandu valley, a place called Dakshinkali. Today, wildlife conflict with local communities living in Kathmandu suburb is common because wildlife habitat have been used for cultivation and settlement. Conflict between wildlife and human is inevitable when we have taken their habitat away.

Yarsagumba

A mountain herb (*Cordycep sinensis*) Yarsagumba collected in the northern region of the Himalayas are being smuggled to Tibet via Chagaru and Tinker check points. Last year, trade in Yarsagumba reached about 1200 kg, which meant a transaction of US\$2.4 million. HMG Nepal has yet to address

Musk and tiger skin seized in Kathmandu



Wildlife Seizures

The Himalayan musk deer is a protected and endangered species. Hunters from mountain communities snare the musk deer for its pod. Recently at Thankot checkpost, a man was in possession of 5 musk pods which he wanted to sell. This information was received through channels of KDFO and WCN. Late July of last year 3 tiger and 11 otter skins along with 5 sacks of tiger bones were seized in different parts of the country.

Meeting with security forces

Senior Superintendent of Police and Police Spokesperson Mr. Ramesh Chand had a meeting with Mr. Prasanna Yonzon on August 9, 2004 regarding programs to control wildlife trade in Kathmandu.

WWF Nepal Program

WWF Nepal Program signed an agreement to support the workshop on fighting wildlife crime in Kathmandu Valley.

WCN Live on Radio and TV

Radio Nepal interviewed Mr. Prasanna Yonzon, CEO to talk on conservation, wildlife trade and WCN future program at district level. It was aired throughout Nepal. A program called *Aba Hamro Palo* (Now, it is our turn) of Kantipur Television was aired on November 1, 2004 to discuss conservation themes and youth program of WCN.

A local FM station Hits FM 91.2 aired WCN program with focus to young people. A live interaction program with discussion was broadcasted.

adequate strategy on legitimizing trade of mountain herbs through policies that can contribute to national economy, sustain local practices and create job opportunities. It has been realized, revenue collected from a single herb such as Yarsagumba could manage to run mountain parks very effectively. But unfortunately, such management practices are wanting. ■

Nature and Wildlife Photography

Environment Conservation Awareness Program (ECAP) is drawing attention of civil society, government, and scientific community, to conserve and promote local wildlife. The programs aim to instill general interest and propel nature and wildlife conservation. We believe - conservation is only possible when civil society believes and acts upon it. In this regard, ECAP announced an amateur nature/wildlife photography competition on October, 2004. Over a period of two months, 130 photographs had been deposited at WCN. Some of the photographs are awesome. We have come to value Nepalese photography on nature and wildlife. It has been an outstanding gathering of photographers.

WCN youth program acknowledges photographers as an important component of our society that reinforces conservation values by reaching out to people of all ages and communities through their photographs. A memento preserved in time.

On December 24, 2004, judges comprising of prominent photographers like Pradeep Yonzon, Mani Lama, Hari Bangsha Kirant, Amar K Simha and Deepak SJB Rana selected the best nature and wildlife photographs. The best 10 photographs will be featured in greeting cards to be released during the three day photography exhibition starting from 16 to 18 January 2005 at Nepal Tourism Board, Bhrikuti Mandap.

All participants will be accorded certificates whereas the three best photographers will be awarded

with prizes including visit to Royal Chitwan National Park. Nripa Dhoj Khadka's photograph won the first prize, while Dinesh Shilpakar and Vikash Pradhan ranked second and third respectively.

Dibesh Shrestha, Rujan Bajracharya, Sunil Dongol, Rameshwar Maharjan, Kripa Chitrakar, Neelima Shrestha, Bhushan Shilpakar, Brinda Dewan, Hari Maharjan, Prajwal Pradhan and Raju Acharya are among the top 15 winners. The competition is also a fund raising event. The fund raised from the sales of the greeting cards will be logged back into conservation awareness program for research grants to deserving 2 science postgraduate students through competition for the year 2005 and in conservation activities at local level.

Photographs of sixty seven individuals will be featured in the exhibition. The supporters of the program are FUJI Film- FOTOMALL Pvt. Ltd, WAVE magazine, Greenline Tours, CAS Trading Pvt ltd, The Explore Nepal, Texana Resources Company, Siprodi Trading Pvt. Ltd, WildlifeWatch Group and many more. ■



The judges selecting the winner



Award winning photo of locust by Mr. Nripa Dhoj Khadka

POSTER COMPETITION

ECAP will be conducting a poster competition on environment, landscape and nature conservation. In this competition, schools, colleges and different organizations will participate. This poster will be distributed to all schools of Kathmandu to bring awareness amongst school children on environment.

Outreach Program on Environment and Conservation

A Three day outreach program on environment and conservation was held in National College, Baluwatar, 9-11 November, 2004. The participants were the third semester students of Bachelors in Development Studies. With the support of audio visual and multi media, lectures on CITES, environment and conservation issues were given. Afterwards students were taken to Taudaha, a small water-body, south of Kathmandu for a day exercise. The students were briefed about Taudaha, its history by ECAP facilitator. Mr. Lalit Chand, member secretary of Bird Conservation Nepal provided information about the resident birds and birds which flock to Taudaha for staging. He



Students watching birds at Taudaha

provided tips in identifying various birds and spoke to individual students and guided them towards bird watching. Migratory birds as well as resident birds were seen.

For capturing the moment in still photos, Mr. Avash Piya led the second unit. The photography unit enjoyed capturing landscape and wildlife in their digital camera, which was later



Mr. Lalit Chand briefing students on birdwatching

downloaded. The birdwatching team had a unique experience of watching migratory birds that arrived from north and was flying south of Taudaha for warmer places. At the end of the day, participants spoke about their experiences. The program concluded on the third day with the presentation by students and mentors. Certificates were also distribution in that occasion. ■



A student making a presentation after the workshop

● ● ● ● ● **WCN YOUTH online @ www.wcn.org.np/youth**

YOUNG VOICES

We must be aware of illegal wildlife trade that exist in our society and help institutions which are fighting to save wildlife. Wildlife doesn't belong to only some institutions, it belongs to all of us as well.

-Saumitra Neupane, National College

We need to educate ourselves and think positively towards wildlife. People should not harm wildlife. We should pay heed to the famous saying 'Nature provides everything for man's need but not for his greed'.

- Samir Laden Lama, St Xaviers School



The most interesting fact i learnt from the ECAP workshop is that wildlife is an important part in our lives as they contribute to our natural heritage and environment and yet, we do not realize it.

-Sujata Gurung, Shuvatara School.

Rich people should be involved in conservation activities and not in its trade. They should not use any wildlife products like wool of Tibetan Antelope for shawl for luxury but use alternatives .

- Prasuma Dangol, Shuvatara School



I learnt to recycle waste paper and help to maintain the environment and make proper use of waste paper from the ECAP Workshop.

-Bishrut Sapkota, St. Xaviers School



Iam happy that i took part in the ECAP Workshop. Now i have become familiar with various bird species and this is new to me. Another thing is such workshop raises awareness amongst people like us which is equally important.

-Hari krishna Maharjan, National College

The citizen should make efforts in conservation by themselves instead of depending upon the government to do conservation work. Illegal wildlife traders should be discarded from society. Awareness should be raised among all.

-Bhuvan K.C, National Cpllege

Photography Workshop

WCN youth program organised a photography workshop on 4-5 December 2004 for 15 photography enthusiasts. On the first day of the workshop, Mr. Avash Piya, the head of the photography department of WCN Youth Program took an introductory session on photography. He mainly focused on ten points for better photography for beginners such as light, focus, subject, background, timing, etc.

On the second day of the workshop participants attended a practical session in Taudaha, Chobar and Chandragiri hill. The participants were divided into two groups led by Avash Piya and Ujwal Bhattarai. The young participants tried their hands with manual camera, few of them for the first time.

The workshop ended with a presentation of photographs taken during the fieldtrip.



Avash Piya taking an introductory photography session

Conservation education classes to schools

At the invitation of rural schools of Kathmandu Valley, WCN developed a curriculum to conduct conservation education classes to high school students. The curriculum comprised of international convention on flora and fauna, wildlife trade, in-situ and ex-situ conservation, consumptive and non-consumptive values of wildlife, introduction to wetlands, biodiversity conservation and landscape conservation.

Rudraini, Yuba Prativa and Adarsha Saula schools have asked WCN to conduct more programs of such nature in future as well. WCN is proposing similar programs to other schools of Kathmandu Valley.



Conservation education classes in a co-ed school

Forthcoming Events

- Outreach Program in various schools and colleges of Kathmandu Valley
 - Little Angels High School
 - St. Mary's High school
 - Campion College, Gahanapokhari
- Free environment education classes to schools
- Solid Waste Management at community level

Partners in Conservation

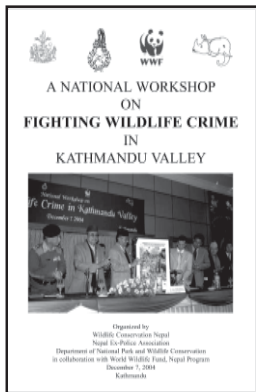
The Explore Nepal will be sponsoring Youth Programs of WCN at field level. Some of the programs for this year will be excursion tours to protected areas, environment campaign, awareness programs, etc.

Nepal Tourism Board signed a contract with ECAP, WCN to promote local initiatives on nature and environment. Future programs of WCN will be organized at Nepal Tourism Board, Bhrikuti Mandap.

To create awareness amongst Nepal security forces in fighting wildlife crime, WWF Nepal Program supported WCN in bringing forth a poster on conservation awareness.

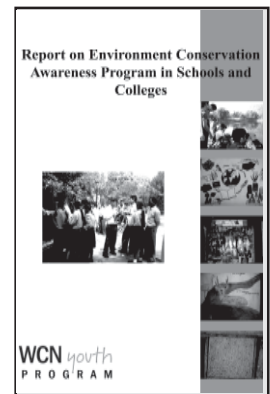


Publications



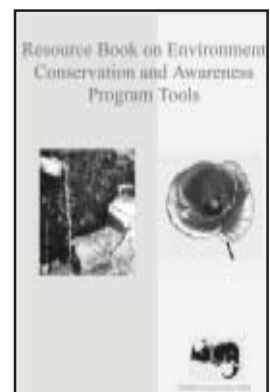
Proceeding of the National Workshop on “Fighting Wildlife Crime in Kathmandu Valley.”- The workshop recommended capacity enhancement, trainings, information sharing, developing trust, database on wildlife crime and cooperation amongst different enforcement agencies.

Environment Conservation Awareness Program in Schools and Colleges - A Brief Report - This is a compilation of past activities carried out in schools and colleges.



Wildlife Identification Crime Book - This is a field guide book to identify endangered wildlife and its body part during seizures.

Environment Conservation and Awareness Program Resource Book - This book contains the ten programs launched by ECAP.



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.

Wildlife Conservation Nepal (WCN)

PO Box: 20569

Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel: 977 01 5524202

Fax: 977 01 5549803

Email: mail@wcn.org.np

URL: <http://www.wcn.org.np>