



# Newsletter

## Awareness Campaign to Mountain Communities



People engrossed in understanding the message of the poster, Boudha, Kathmandu

The international trade in endangered species is the second largest illegal occupation next only to narcotics. Organized syndicates operate from India through Nepal up to China and further to other countries with demand for these products. Nepal has open border with India on the south and Tibet, China on the north which are porous and accessible from all sides. This becomes advantageous for traders dealing in tiger skin and other wildlife products (Talukdar, 2003, WCN, 2006). Despite stringent laws, trade on tigers and other wildlife products are on the rise. With the increase in such illicit trade, Nepal's tiger and rhino

populations is under constant threat from local extinction. WCN believes that trade of wildlife and its body parts can be limited by creating awareness in communities that are involved in this illicit trade and purchase of these products.

WCN launched an awareness campaign for the mountain communities on wildlife conservation and illegal wildlife trade. WCN has developed a poster with religious connotation targeted on the mountain communities. The poster has been developed in the form of a *Thangka* (painting of gods, deities with religious value) with focus on wildlife poaching, selling and buying and aftermath of life of poachers and traders. Since september 2007, WCN has distributed more than 1000 posters at various monasteries of Kathmandu and Pokhara Valley.

During an awareness program, the head lama of the *Goldhunga Monastery* deliberated on the importance of wildlife and aftermath of the life of poachers and traders amongst local community and other visitors to the monastery.

Mountain communities of the South East Asia have been found to be the main consumers and traders of wildlife products. One of the most effective deterrence method for these communities could be used is through religion and preachings on karma. WCN has found that religious beliefs can be a strong motivational force for conservation. This awareness campaign will continue to the other religious groups of different localities as well. ■



Distributing posters at Peace Stupa, Pokhara



The Thangka Poster depicting the importance of nature and wildlife conservation.

Wildlife Conservation Nepal announces its 4th Annual Amateur Nature and Wildlife Photography Competition 2008



"An initiative to promote nature photography and nepali photographers in Nepal"

For further details visit our website [www.wcn.org.np](http://www.wcn.org.np)

**Traditional Livelihoods in Protected Areas**

Over the past few decades there has been a shift in the conservation paradigm from conventional pattern of conserving one species to a whole ecosystem. In the latter, humans are also considered an important component of the ecosystem as protected areas are home to several indigenous and traditional communities. Their traditional knowledge on natural resource, its use pattern and its management have enabled communities to adapt themselves to these areas without affecting the surrounding environment. The Sonaha Community is one such specialised fishermen community living in the buffer zone of Bardia National Park (BNP) whose major livelihood strategies are fishing in the Karnali river and gold panning. However, with the establishment of BNP these communities have come under serious stress with an exclusion from fishing and gold panning and access to national parks for other resources. The livelihood of these indigenous Sonaha community in BNP was brought into highlight through a research conducted by Saumitra Neupane with financial support of Wildlife Conservation Nepal.



The Sonaha Community

Saumitra completed his bachelors in developmental studies from Kathmandu University. ■

**Resource Use and Dependency on Wetlands  
- A Case Study of Phewa Lake, Pokhara**

Wetlands are centre of multitude benefits both socially and ecologically. Wetlands are diverse ecosystem with high water availability and a significant influence on the flora and fauna. Yet in many parts of the world,



Local Fisherman at Lake Phewa

wetlands have been degraded or lost and demand for development has put pressure on many of those that remain. Wetland ecosystems such as rivers, marshes, rice fields and coastal estuaries provide many benefits that contribute to human well beings as well. The livelihoods of people living in, or on the borders of wetlands often depend partially or entirely on wetland ecosystem services. Loss or degradation harms them directly.

A preliminary research was carried out at Lake Phewa and on the traditional fishermen “*Jalaris*” by Ritu Gurung to understand and analyze the resource use and dependency on wetlands with the support of Wildlife Conservation Nepal. Fishing is the main economic activity of the Jalari community. The entire representative from each household is found to be engaged in fisheries on a daily basis. Fishing occurs almost all year round but is difficult during the core monsoon season from July to mid September during which these fishermen families depend upon cage culture for their living. In recent times there has been an increasing concern over the future of fish population at lake Phewa. Encroachment into this area by increasing tourism activity, urban development, usage of illegal activity such as poisoning, electrocution and bombing, infestation of water hyacinth and pollution is reported to have a significant impact on the habitat itself.

Ms. Gurung is a post graduate student at Universitat Bremen, Germany ■

# Workshop for Media Personnel

Wildlife Conservation Nepal conducted a one day workshop for media personnel on disseminating information in wildlife conservation. The program was conducted in partnership with Radio Nepal, Nepal's pioneer radio station, on July 1, 2007 at Royal Singhi Hotel Kathmandu. The workshop was focused on sensitizing media personnel on wildlife issues. Forty six media personnel representing 24 media houses participated in the workshop. This was the first time that such sensitization program was conducted in the country.



Workshop participants

The inaugural session started with an age old Chinese earth tune on the flute by Qiang Lan, a traveling musician from China. During the program distinguished personnels; Dr. Uday Raj Sharma, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation and Mr. Shesh Hari Bhattarai, Director General, Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation shared their views on the role of media in nature conservation.

Dr. Pralad Yonzon, Chairperson of Resources Himalaya Foundation, Mr. Himmat Singh "Lekali", a Social Scientist, Mr. Shyam Bajimaya, Ecologist, Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, Mr. Prasanna Yonzon, CEO of WCN, Dr Chuda Bahadur Shrestha, Executive Director of Saugat Legal Research and Consultancy (SLRC) and Mr. Rajendra Sharma, Executive Director of Radio Nepal expressed their views during the technical session.

After the workshop a task force was formed in the initiation of WCN along with representatives from 24 media houses who had participated in the workshop. Several

meetings have already been conducted in the WCN office premises to seek out the role of media on the conservation of wild fauna and flora.

A book entitled "**Footprints: Resource book**", published by Wildlife Conservation Nepal was distributed to the guests and participants during the workshop. The book is a collection of different issues on wildlife and conservation aired during WCN radio program "**Footprints**". Footprints is WCN's weekly radio program reaching out to the mass of the valley and outside through Times FM90.6 MHZ. Footprints talks about conservation themes ranging from global warming, wildlife habitat, exploitation of natural resources, sustainable development to policy formulation including international policies and treaties concerning Nepal's role in conservation. Till date WCN radio program has completed 130 episodes.

## "Conservation song" a musical CD launched

"Conservation Song" a musical audio CD was also released by Dr Uday Raj Sharma, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation during the workshop. This music CD contains a song entitled "Uthau aba Jagau". Lyricist of this song is Mr. Himmat Singh "Lekali". Music for this song is composed by Mr. Bhupendra Rayamajhi and vocalists of the song are Ms. Lochan Bhattarai and Mr. Pradeep Niraula.■



Catch up with the latest news,  
views and wildlife related  
issues

on **Times FM 90.6 MHZ**  
every Tuesday, 8 AM onwards

# Building leaders In Conservation

## - WCN in Mid Western and Far Western Development Regions

WCN's outreach programs usually focus on areas with important natural heritage, specially in communities living near Protected areas. In this context, WCN conducted a series of programs in the mid western and far western development regions of Nepal.

### Workshops:

Orientation workshops focusing on the importance of endangered mega vertebrates of our country like the Bengal Tiger and the One Horned Rhinoceros were conducted in schools of Bardia, Kanchanpur and Kailali Districts benefiting more than five thousand students of the buffer zone area of Bardia National Park and Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve. The lectures also informed the students about biodiversity conservation and environmental ethics. After the orientation, the students actively participated in discussion sessions where they discussed on various wildlife and conservation issues.



Students during the ECAP Workshop



Students voicing out their opinion

Group debates were conducted involving students of Banke and Bardia Districts at different centers. The debate was based on a mock court session regarding human-wildlife conflict in the fringes of the forests in Bardia National Park which could eventually lead to poaching.

The students shared their opinions and discussed causes of human wildlife conflict in their area and suggested ways to mitigate these problems in a sensible manner. The debate however turned into heated arguments which reflected anxieties felt by communities and students who had been suffering from such conflict. They voiced that without proper compensation schemes for crops raided by wild animals, protection would be the least priority of the villagers. This debate proved to an effective way of understanding the real feelings of people towards wildlife and in the process The debate revealed the commitment of young students in conservation of wildlife in their locality provided they are given mentorship.

### Scholarship Award:

Six students from Bardia and Banke districts were awarded with "Promising Student in Environment Conservation" scholarship award. This award has been established to motivate students towards conservation and help develop themselves into leaders to bring in changes in conservation scenario. This year the awardees were awarded with a year's scholarship along with books and stationery. ■

### Support to National Parks

On August 6, 2007 Mr. Prasanna Yonzon, CEO, Wildlife Conservation Nepal, handed warm gears and tents to Mr. Yubraj Regmi, warden of Makalu -Barun National Park with an aim to contribute towards conservation of the himalayan ecosystem. Likewise another set of warm gears was handed over to Mr. Durga poudel, Warden of Rara National Park on August 20, 2007.

Wildlife conservation Nepal also supported Bardia National Park with rain gear. The gear was handed over to Mr. Fanindra Kharel, Warden of Bardia National Park.■

### Green Efforts

On August 11, 2007 WCN along with Dhumbarahi Yuva Jagaran Club and the students of South point school planted trees in the green belt section of Dhumbarai with an aim to conserve and protect the urban flora and fauna. The tree plantation program was further followed by cleaning campaign. WCN Urban Wildlife Program has been supporting the club in maintaining the area.■

### Regional Conservation Forum

Wildlife Conservation Nepal participated in Asia Regional Conservation Forum - an international conference on environment and sustainable development - under the theme "Synergies for a Sustainable Asia" held at Hyatt Regency on September 10-14, 2007. The conference was hosted jointly by IUCN and Government of Nepal. WCN had also participated in the 4 day long exhibition which was held during the period of this regional conference from September 10-13, 2007.

WCN displayed different flexes depicting information on activities of WCN, importance of biodiversity, illegal wildlife trade and endangered animals. WCN also disseminated posters and fliers about environment and wildlife conservation to the visitors.■

### Commemorating Conservation Heroes

A tribute was paid to the conservation heroes who died in a helicopter crash at Ghunsa in Taplejung District last September at a program "Remembering, Honoring and Celebrating the Lives and Achievements of Conservation Heroes" on September 23, 2007 organised by WWF. WCN along with other conservation partners ICIMOD, IUCN, NTNC, IMI and WWG participated in the program. During the programs different conservation awards were also given to different individuals of different genres who had contributed in the nature conservation.■

### Database Management Training

Database collection from every poaching case is the key to apprehending perpetrators. It will enable the related agencies to analyze the risks in the area of wildlife trade, enable law enforcers to identify existing trends in illegal wildlife trade and to undertake risk assessments.

A four member team led by Mr. Bidur Baidya from Wildlife Conservation Nepal participated in a two day Database Management Training held in New Delhi from November 5, 2007 by Wildlife Protection Society of India (WPSI). The training dealt with different aspects of wildlife crime data collection and its management. The training was facilitated by Mr. Tito Joseph, Program Manager at WPSI.

It was a learning experience for the WCN team which provided an opportunity to understand the mechanism and maintenance of the Database Management System that would be helpful in developing WCN Database System. The database will be an asset for WCN which will help the national park authorities and other enforcement agencies to obtain information on carrying out investigative measures on wildlife crime and other related issues.■



[www.wcn.org.np/youth/ecap](http://www.wcn.org.np/youth/ecap)

# WCN's Programs in Kaski



WCN launched its knowledge based program in Kaski district through its Environment Conservation Awareness Program. Programs targeted at different strata of the society of the district, were organized to generate awareness among the mass on emerging environmental issues.

## Outreach Program

The outreach program in the schools and colleges of Pokhara mainly focused on the importance of biodiversity conservation and effect of climate change in the Himalayan region. Students debated on various environmental topics and also made impressive presentations regarding biodiversity conservation and environmental problem amongst friends, colleagues, school principals, teachers and WCN team members at the end of the day. More than thousand students of different private and public schools and colleges of Kaski district participated in this outreach program.



The students displaying their work during the ECAP workshop

## Community Awareness program

A community awareness program was conducted on September 24, 2007 in Pokhara to the "Jalari" Community- a community based entirely on Phewa Lake for sustaining their life. The 'Jalaris' are the fishermen community settled on the northern periphery of lake Phewa. A group discussion and a resource map making were done with the members of the community. The community voiced their opinions about the growing environmental problems on the lake and its impact on their livelihood. Different films on living in harmony with nature were also screened for the community members.



The Jalari Community

Khapaudi and Pame areas of Phewa Lake's shoreline have been seriously affected by the landslides caused by heavy off season monsoon this September. The community is struggling to rebuild their homes and lives once again.

## Nature and Wildlife Photography Exhibition



Nature Through Lens-photography exhibition at Pokhara

"Nature through Lens in Pokhara" a photography exhibition was organized in Pokhara. In the two day exhibition from 22 to 23 September, 2007, 100 best pictures of 3 consecutive Nature through Lens Exhibitions in Kathmandu on Nature and Wildlife were on display. The exhibition was inaugurated by Mr. Bhola Prasad Siwakoti, Chief District Officer of Kaski district. During this two day exhibition more than 500 visitors visited the exhibition. WCN is planning to organize many such traveling exhibitions around the country, promoting amateur photographers and nature photography and in the mean time bring people from all walks of the life closer to our natural heritage.■

---

## Livelihood Program In Chitwan

The rural life of women in Chitwan district is difficult. Lack of income generating activities is one of the major reasons for women being economically and socially deprived and on many occasions is also the reason for them to be engaged in illegal activities like wildlife poaching and trade. WCN's livelihood program therefore is initiated to support these women living in the bufferzone of Chitwan National Park and uplift their social standing. Among others, WCN has started micro credit schemes to facilitate local income generating opportunities for the women.

WCN has started such projects in *Simara Goan* of Dibyanagar VDC, Chitwan with the objective to enhance the capacity and well being of women through effective and sustainable livelihood program that will lead to real income generation and self sufficiency. The program is designed to meet the problems of the buffer zone areas like conflict with wildlife, bank cutting and unemployment which are the prime factors for the people to resort to poaching, smuggling of timber and illegal wood cutting.

Micro credit activity for rural women is becoming a central element of development in the rural settings. Women



are organized in small groups with a stress on self reliance. The participants are those women living close to buffer zone area and particularly those living in a crisis.

WCN has also provided a seed money to the *samuha*. The products generated by these groups are thereby sold in the local market or *haat bazaar*.

With the establishment of the women's group, the women have an eagerness to do something worthy in a group effort rather than to be engaged in their daily domestic chores. They have an enthusiasm and zeal to bring a social and economic change in their village where each and every individual member can lead a decent livelihood.■

## Publications



The poster on illegal wildlife trade provides information about the rules and regulation on illegal trade and also displays the trade scenario of the mega vertebrates of Nepal.

"Footprints - Resource book" is a compilation of more than a hundred episodes of WCN's radio program - Footprints. The book contains information on wide range of issues on wildlife and conservation.



## New Faces At WCN



Mr. Bidur Baidya joined WCN as a database specialist from November 1, 2007 to assist in WCN database management program. Mr. Baidya has a masters degree in Computer Applications.



Ms. Sulochana Basnet joined WCN livelihood program as sociologist from June 21, 2007. Ms. Basnet has a masters degree in Sociology.

## A Species Protected is a Heritage Maintained. -WCN

Editor: Brinda Dewan, Ritu Gurung and Sanjeevani Yonzon

### Wildlife Conservation Nepal (WCN)

PO Box: 20569

Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel: 977 01 4289818

Email: mail@wcn.org.np

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