

## NATURE THROUGH LENS NATURE AND WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY FESTIVAL - 2016



WCN's ten-year-old Nature and Wildlife Photography Program has evolved into an international platform for promoting Nepal and strengthening its nature photography scene. In 2013, to celebrate 10 years in photography, WCN took this program one step further by organizing a biennial photography festival. The second biennial photography festival was launched in June 2016 to promote nature and wildlife photography and develop awareness and interest in nature conservation among people of all backgrounds. This year the festival was supported by Nepal Bangladesh Bank Ltd (NB Bank Ltd.), who strongly believes in instilling awareness through photography and is committed to strengthening forest communities through Eco-restoration.

The festival kicked off with the announcement of the 8th national WCN Nature and Wildlife Photography Competition during the 22nd Anniversary of NB Bank Ltd. The competition was announced in five different categories - Flora, Fauna, Human Interaction with Nature, Landscape and Macro. Additionally, about 500 high value multipurpose tree saplings were planted during an Eco- restoration program organized by WCN in collaboration with NB Bank Ltd. in Padampur Community Forest, Chitwan.

Both amateur and professional photographers gathered together for a one day Photo-Walk at Godawari Botanical Garden where photographers joined together with some of the eminent photographers of Nepal – Mr. Mani Lama, Mr. Raj Bhai Suwal, Mr. Nripa Dhoj Khadka and Mr. Om Prakash Yadav. The eighth edition of the competition of the festival saw more than 500 photographic entries from 104 participants in 5 categories. The competition culminated into a grand outdoor exhibition at Kathmandu Durbar Square, Basantapur.

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## NATIONAL TEACHERS TRAINING ON IEE - PHASE III & IV



WCN, through its Education Program Nepal Prakriti Pathshala (NPP) in joint collaboration with Department of Education, National Center for Education Development, and Curriculum Development Center, has been conducting National Teachers Training on Environmental Education and Local Curriculum for teachers from government schools in different districts of Nepal.

The three days training package included sessions on Interactive Environmental Education (IEE), step-by-step guides on how to create Eco-Teachers groups and networks, and guidance on how to use the online portal, developing local curriculum, and different educational materials.

The objective of Eco-Teacher network is to link all the trained Eco-Teachers of NPP and their local networks. Using the online portal, teachers can share their own events and activities and also exchange information and access materials and resources. The network page also directs teachers to different websites and information on IEE. The trained teachers will be given the title of Eco-Teacher after they complete the components of the Eco-Teacher training.

Two trainings covering 81 teachers from the eastern region and 51 teachers from the mid western region were conducted on August 11-13, 2016 and December 17-19, 2016. The participants in the eastern region were from Jhapa, Morang, Panchthar, Illam and Taplejung districts, and the participants in the mid western region were from Surkhet, Dailekh, Banke, Bardia and Jajarkot. The training focused on how to strengthen and promote IEE and local environmental curriculum. The participating teachers participated in various hands-on activities, learned about methodologies to promote interactive education, and learned to use the online portal.

To date, 849 teachers are already in our National Eco-Teacher Network and have been conducting various IEE activities after the training.



## EVENTS

### REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE AND RETHINK AT KAASTAMANDAP VIDYALAYA



WCN Nepal Prakriti Pathshala (NPP) organized a two day workshop on the theme “Waste Management” to the students of Grade 7 at Kaastamandap Vidyalaya on September 20 - 21, 2016. The students were divided into 7 groups and each group worked on different activities such as making a chair out of plastic bottles, garbage pie, make your own paper, mapping my community, reuse my paper, and “trash-on”. All these activities were focused on the 4 Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Rethink. The program concluded with a vote of thanks and closing remarks by teachers of Kaasthamandap Vidyalaya. The students created beautiful artwork based on 4 Rs and showcased in a mini-exhibition generating awareness amongst students in their school.

### INNOVATION IN EDUCATION FAIR 2016

The Innovation in Education Fair 2016, a forum to discuss how to make our teaching and learning practices more engaging, meaningful and memorable for students and educators, took place in Kathmandu from August 5 - 7, 2016. Twelve different organizations which work to make learning more effective through practical approaches to education were present in the three day education fair, which concluded with a symposium. WCN Nepal Prakriti Pathshala was featured in the fair. The fair was organized by Karkhana, Quixote's Cove and Srijanalaya and sponsored by The American Embassy and CKU.



### PARTNER KICK - OFF MEETING

Danish Forestry Extension (DFE) and its partners Ama, Mozambique, WCN and LSC Nepal, and More Trees Vietnam held a partner meeting from September 19 - 24, 2016 to inaugurate the common program “Empowerment of Communities through Democratic Natural Resource Management” in Vietnam. The meeting included presentations on program implementation progress, overview, group work and discussion on the program’s guiding administrative document, the Operational Manual, as well as partner input on tools for monitoring the program. The week was spent discussing, sharing, working together, and socializing. The meeting also included a field trip to see More Tree’s work with farm forest groups and the establishment of cooperatives in Hoa Binh province.



## PLANET NEPAL 4 - FESTIVAL OF ART AND ENVIRONMENT

WCN participated in Planet Nepal 4, festival of Arts & Environment organized by Alliance Francaise de Kathmandu and the French Embassy from November 18-19, 2016. The festival was a platform for artists, educators and national and international stakeholders to create awareness and take action against illegal wildlife trade. The students of ACE school presented a Drama "Ban Hamro Jeevan" developed by WCN.



Creative Education Corner was run by WCN Nepal Prakriti Pathshala (NPP) team where young children were busy with various hands on activities. NPP Art corner was also installed during the festival where young children created various artworks of their own. Along with WCN, various other organizations, Bird Conservation Nepal, Art For Nature, Red Panda Network, Clean Up Nepal, Australian Embassy, Center for Molecular Dynamics Nepal, Nepal Army, WWF Nepal, National Trust for Nature Conservation, Central Zoo, Tribhuvan University, Egypt Embassy, French and Nepali Artist, 1974 AD, TMR Trio, The triplets, Chan Chan duo and others were present.

## SENSITIZATION ON WILDLIFE PROTECTION



WCN conducted a wildlife protection sensitization program with the Gorakh Dal Battalion based at Banke National Park under the expertise of Dr. Chuda Shrestha, former SSP, Shyam Bajimaya, former DG of DNPWC and Prasanna Yozon, CEO of WCN on December 16, 2016. During the program Mr. Yonzon discussed environment protection with a focus on wildlife conservation and the contributions of the Nepal Army. Dr. Shrestha talked about wildlife investigation and crime. The Wildlife Investigation book published by WCN was also presented to the officer in charge. The program taught the trained soldiers and officers new ways to achieve conservation goals, as well as research, identification and operation strategies for poachers in protected areas.

## LOCAL CURRICULUM “LANGTANG KO SEROPHERO CLASS 1-5, 2069” REVIEW WORKSHOP DHUNCHE, RASUWA

On November 21, 2016, WCN NPP organized a Local Curriculum “Langtang ko Serophero Class 1-5, 2069” Review Workshop at Dhunche, Rasuwa in collaboration with Shree Rasuwa Secondary School Resource Center, Dhunche and Shree Shyameywangphel Secondary School Resource Center, Shyafubensi. The general objective of this program was to review the curriculum “Langtang ko Serophero, Class 1-5, 2069” along with analyzing the impact and importance of local curriculum on school children and community and to review the curriculum for incorporation of contemporary local issues. Altogether there were 25 participants including subject teachers, headmasters, resource persons, the school supervisor, and the district education officer of Rasuwa. All member schools, students and teachers have requested the continuation of this curriculum with colorful reference books. The edited curriculum will be implemented from 2074 BS (2017/018 AD) academic year.

## WINDOW TO FAUNAL DIVERSITY - CONTEMPORARY KNOWLEDGE, 2016

There are numerous species in the world and some species are often highlighted, while some species are always in shadow. However, but still each species plays a pivotal role in our ecosystem. Recognizing this, WCN has initiated the Contemporary Knowledge Sharing event where lesser-known species are highlighted. This is an annual event with the main objective to create platform where individuals or organizations can come together to



share their knowledge on lesser-known species and try to identify gaps and opportunities for effective conservation. This year “Window to Faunal Diversity - Contemporary Knowledge 2016” series (I) was jointly organized by Natural History Museum (NHM) and Wildlife Conservation Nepal (WCN) on December 23, 2016 at NHM. Four technical papers were presented by Prof. Dr. Bhaiya Khanal, Prof. Paras Mani Acharya, Mr. Prakash Aryal and Ms. Sabita Gurung. The species that were in focus through this event were Butterflies, Otter, Barn owl and Frogs.

## NATIONAL CURRICULUM DAY 2016

WCN Nepal Prakriti Patshala (NPP) celebrated National Curriculum Day at the Curriculum Development Center, Sanathimi on August 21, 2016. Education Minister Mr. Dhani Ram Poudel graced the event where WCN NPP publications and its activities were put on display. For the past few years WCN NPP has been facilitating and promoting the development of local curriculum through its teachers' trainings. WCN/NPP has also supported Jhuwani Resource Center, Chitwan and Shyamewangphel Resource Center, Rasuwa in developing their local curriculum focused on their environment, culture and history.



## CURRICULUM BASED INTERACTIVE ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION (CIEE)

The CIEE under Eco Smart School endorses Environment and Science Curriculum based activities to help students with their academic achievement. It also applies innovative methods that enhances classroom knowledge by interacting with nature and environment.

### **HOW DOES ANIMAL ADAPT?**

Finding school in nature.



To learn about animal adaption students of John Dewey visited Central Zoo on 11th July 2016. They learned different animal adaptation characteristics by observing the animals themselves.

### **PLANT LIFE PROCESSES**

Students of ACE learning about processes involved in plant growth.



They learned about plant life processes like transpiration, photosynthesis and osmosis. Hands-on activities helped students to discover how water is transported to the leaves, the importance of photosynthesis to all the living things, and its mechanism. They also learned the method involved in uptake of water by the roots of plants.

### **REUSE YOUR WASTE**

Reusing old newspapers, students of Creative Academy created art work. Among the three groups, some rolled the papers to make pencil holders; some tore, soaked, and pressed paper to made new paper, and others made balloon baskets. These activities were aimed to teach students how to reuse papers.

### **SAMPLE A REAL ECOSYSTEM**



John Dewey students busy sampling a selected area to learn about the interrelations between the biotic and abiotic components of the environment.

### **SUNRISE ORGANIC GARDEN**



Little farmers of Sunrise school planted cauliflower in their organic garden.

The Photographs were judged by the judging panel comprising of Nepal's renowned photographers Mr. Mani Lama, Mr. Raj Bhai Suwal, Mr. Nripa Dhoj Khadka and Mr. Sunil Sharma, Officiating Director for PR and Publicity, Nepal Tourism Board. The winning photographs were unveiled with an award ceremony. The inauguration program was graced by Mr. Prasanna Yonzon, Chair and CEO of WCN and Mr. Gyanendra Prasad Dhungana, CEO, NB Bank Ltd. The three day outdoor exhibition was opened for the public where the top fifty photographs, including winning photographs of each category, were exhibited. The grand prize was won by Mr. Ayush Man Kayastha, who also won the top ten category. Mr. Rameshwar Maharjan won the category prize for Flora, Mr. Sanjay Maharjan for Fauna, Ms. Shreemila Bajracharya for Macro, Mr. Prakash Budha for Landscape, and Mr. Chandra Man Dongol for Human Interaction with Nature. Top ten winners were Ms. Nikita Shresha Shakya, Mr. Santosh Raj Pathak and Mr. Ummid Ratna Shakya. Special felicitation was also marked during the event. Mr. Durga Bahadur Kunwar was celebrated for his work as a tree grower in a nursery for the last 40 years. Mr. Kunwar at the age of 87 is still actively involved in the nursery in Chalnakhel under the Department of Forest and has raised more than 20 million saplings, which have been distributed in different parts of Nepal for plantation. The exhibition was presented by NB Bank Ltd., supported by Foto Hollywood and promoted by Nepal Tourism Board. The festival will conclude with a photo Sharing event organized at Nepal Tourism Board at the end of January 2016.

## WCN EXPLORES

### ***Participation in IUCN World Congress 2016***



Mr. Prasanna Yonzon, CEO at WCN, participated in the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Hawaii this September. The IUCN World Conservation Congress is the world's largest and most important conservation event, and it aims to improve how we manage our natural environment for human, social and economic development. An estimated 10,000 people converged on the Hawai'i Convention Center in Honolulu to exchange conservation ideas and discuss pressing issues. For many participants forests were at the top of the agenda, and dozens of talks, workshops, and presentations allowed WCN to share and exchange experiences from community forests in Nepal. .

### ***North American Association for Environmental Education Conference***

WCN Program Manager Ms. Sanjeevani Y. Shrestha represented NPP at the North American Association for Environmental Education Conference in Madison, Wisconsin, USA in October 2016. At the conference she presented about the NPP program in Nepal. She received a partial scholarship to attend this conference, and it provided a valuable opportunity for global networking with professionals and institutions involved in environmental education. As a spin-off of this conference, she was also invited to visit the Aldo Leopold Nature Center to share works of NPP in Nepal and talk about possible collaborations in the future.





# PUBLICATION

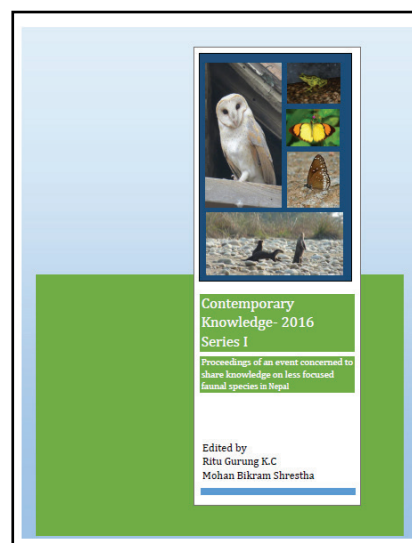
## *WCN Nature through Lens Postcards*



The top 10 photographs have been featured in WCN postcards which are available for sale. Proceeds from these sales will go to Eco-restoration program in community forests of Chitwan and Nawalparasi.

## *Proceedings – Contemporary Knowledge , 2016 – Series I*

This series I on Contemporary Knowledge 2016 focuses on the studies conducted by various authors on four different lesser discussed species- Otter, Barn Owl, Frogs and Butterfly



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

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