

Since 1961, WWF has worked to conserve nature and ecological processes through a combination of actions on the ground, national and international advocacy work to establish appropriate policies, and international campaign to highlight and demonstrate solutions to crucial environmental problems. Our focus has been on species, forests, climate change, and freshwater.

Nepal has been a pivotal country for WWF since 1967 when it launched a rhino conservation program in Chitwan. Our support and involvement in the country has evolved from the early emphasis on species conservation in the 1960-70s to the integrated conservation and development programs in the 1980s to the landscape level conservation linked to sustainable development programs at the start of the new century. In 1993, WWF Nepal office was established in Nepal.

**We have been involved in landscape level conservation projects in the Himalayas and in the Terai and today we are one of the key organizations involved in Nepal's conservation efforts.**



## WWF's Mission

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by:

**Conserving the world's biological diversity**

**Ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable**

**Promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption**

WWF is one of the world's largest and most experienced independent conservation organizations, with almost 5 million supporters and a global network active in more than 100 countries.

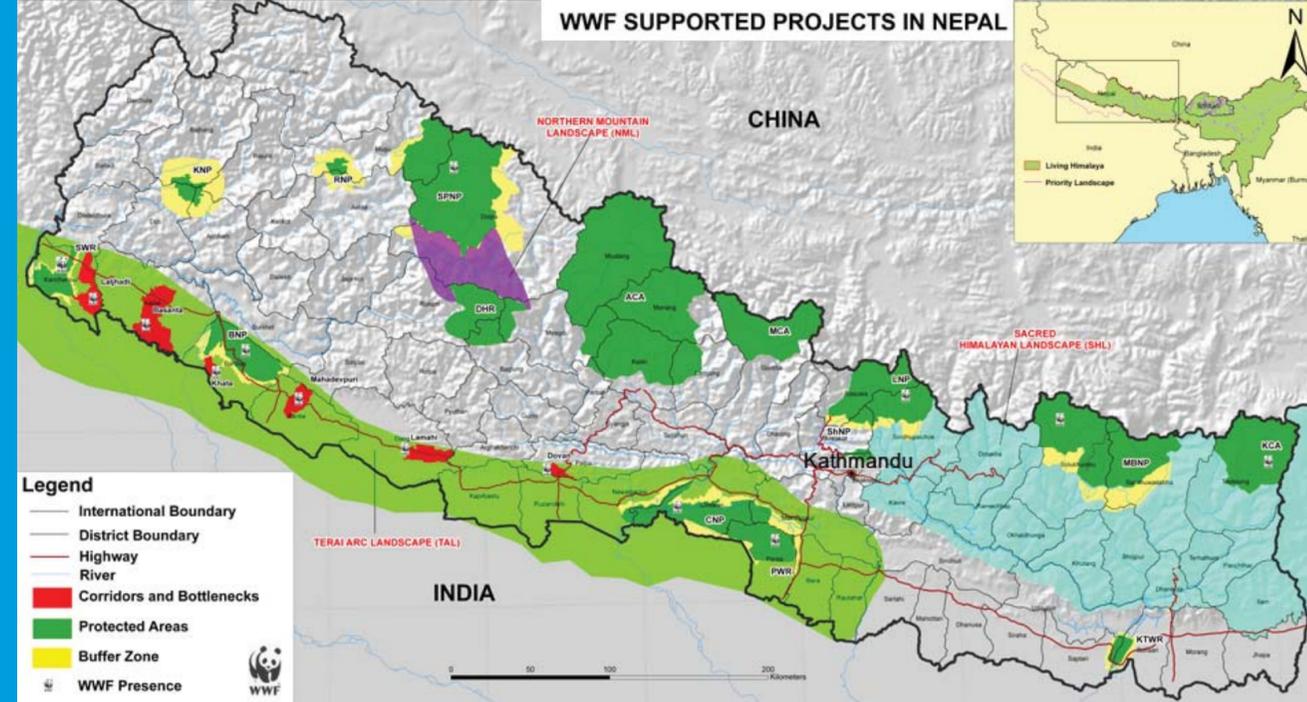
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## Going beyond the boundaries for conservation

The **Terai Arc Landscape** covers approximately 49,500 sq. km. from Nepal's Bagmati River in the east to India's Yamuna River in the west, linking a network of 11 transborder protected areas, national forests, and water bodies in both countries. The Terai Arc Landscape (TAL) in Nepal covers an area of 23,199 sq. km. and extends from Bagmati River in the east to Mahakali River in the west with the first ridge of Chure as the northern boundary. It is a joint initiative of WWF and Government of Nepal that involves a large number of partner organizations, donor agencies, stakeholders, community based organizations and local people.

In order to ensure the long-term survival of flagship species like Greater One-horned rhinos, Bengal tigers and Asian elephants, the Terai Arc Landscape was envisioned to maintain ecological integrity through linking protected areas by forest corridors for movement and dispersal of wildlife.



## Sacred Himalayan Landscape

The lesson learnt through the implementation of Terai Arc Landscape Program has been carried through into the **Sacred Himalayan Landscape**, which extends 30,021 sq. km. from Langtang National Park in central Nepal through the Kangchenjunga region in Sikkim and Darjeeling in India to Toorsa Strict Nature Reserve in western Bhutan. The initiative comes under the greater vision of "Transboundary Partnership for a Sacred Himalayan Landscape in the Eastern Himalaya" (TBPSHL). The Sacred Himalayan Landscape Program aims to conserve the rich biodiversity and enhance local livelihood needs and sustain diverse culture and traditions in the globally important Eastern Himalayan Region.

## Northern Mountain Landscape

The Northern Mountain Landscape encompasses the Shey-Phoksundo National Park (SPNP), the largest National Park of Nepal (3,555 sq. km) and its surrounding area. SPNP represents the unique collection of flora and fauna of Trans Himalayan ecosystem, including rare, endangered, and endemic medicinal plants and the prime habitats for snow leopard, Tibetan wolf, musk deer, blue sheep and several endangered wildlife species. It is equally unique for its diverse sociological and cultural resources including the practitioners of oldest Tibetan religion, Bon and a human settlement at the highest altitude in the world in Dho-Tarap valley. Due to its rich natural and cultural diversity, it has been proposed as a World Heritage Site.

# WWF in Nepal



## Ensuring the future of forests and species

An important priority for WWF has been forest conservation. WWF Nepal works with local communities to restore and regenerate forests and biological corridors through community forestry. This fosters a sense of ownership among the people living on the fringe areas of national forests and protected areas who depend on agriculture and forest products for their livelihoods.

**Nepal is endowed with a rich and varied biodiversity and WWF Nepal has, from the start, been actively involved in the conservation of endangered species through activities ranging from grassroots level involvement to lobbying for policy changes. WWF Nepal also supports community based anti-poaching operations that have garnered community support for conservation.**

## Taking on the challenges of climate change



Although being one of the countries in the world having the least emissions, Nepal is one of the most vulnerable countries because of fragile ecosystems, poverty, slow economic growth and lack of resources for adaptation. Recognizing these factors, the Climate Change and Energy Program was started at WWF Nepal in 2003 with a major focus on research, policy and advocacy, capacity building, awareness raising, adaptation and promotion of renewable energy and Clean Development Mechanism projects.



**WWF Nepal has taken a step forward to save biodiversity of Nepal and help communities switch to using feasible alternative energy like biogas, micro hydro power, and solar technology at various landscape levels.**

## Safeguarding freshwater resources

Globally, WWF works with partner organizations to conserve rivers and wetlands by redirecting harmful infrastructure and curbing water waste in agriculture through better management practices and poverty reduction schemes compatible with environmentally strong water policies. WWF Nepal began a freshwater initiative from October 2004 with the long-term vision of conserving and sustainably managing Himalayan water towers and freshwater habitats in Nepal to benefit people and nature.



**Our priorities lie in policy advocacy in safeguarding freshwater resources, institutional coordination and strengthening, conservation education on freshwater issues, wetland conservation in the Terai Arc Landscape – Nepal, high altitude wetland conservation in the Sacred Himalayan Landscape, implementation of the Integrated River Basin Management and conservation of freshwater species like the Gangetic Dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*).**



## Illegal wildlife trade

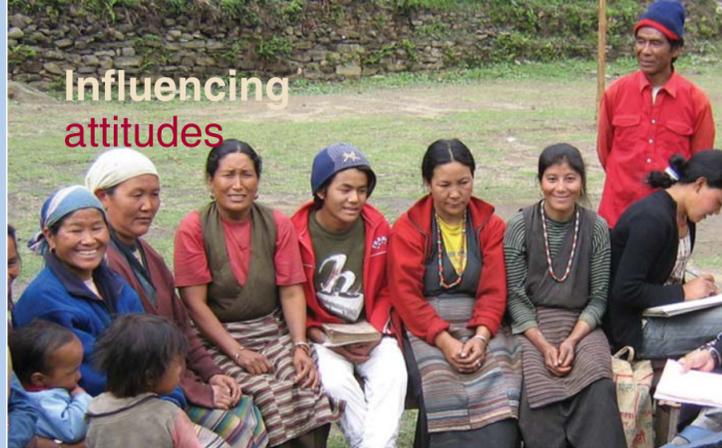
WWF Nepal has been actively involved in controlling poaching and illegal wildlife trade through its wildlife trade program. It supports enforcement agencies and community-based anti-poaching operations (CBAPOs) for various activities to curb the unauthorized and illegal actions against wildlife species. It also supports in the capacity enhancement of the enforcement agencies and members of the CBAPOs to curb poaching and illegal wildlife trade. WWF has also been supporting the government for the CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) implementation in Nepal by providing technical and financial supports for policy formulation, implementation, capacity enhancement, as well as field actions to implement the CITES.

## Business and industries

WWF works with companies to help them change the way they do business. Our approach to working with the private sector is constructive and solutions-oriented. It is both collaborative in its methods and challenging in its objectives. And it is always forward-looking.

Three of WWF's most important guiding principles for engagement are, mutual respect, transparency, and WWF's right to criticise. WWF and the corporate partner will not agree on all things all the time. Agreeing to disagree in the context of a transparent framework has been a key factor in sustaining relationships that are beneficial to both partners.

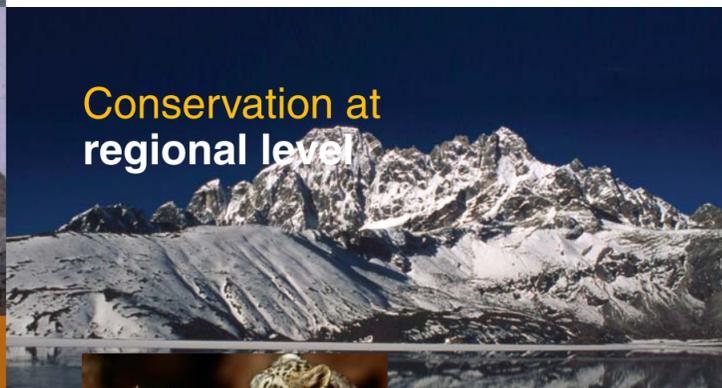
## Influencing attitudes



WWF Nepal's projects focus on people's dependence on forest and other natural resources. We aim to motivate community participation in conservation through maximizing opportunity, benefits from natural resource, livelihoods improvement activities and capacity building. This is to ensure conservation benefits translate to livelihoods benefits too because we know that effective conservation is not possible without the participation and stewardship of local people.

## Communications and conservation education

We believe that communication is an important tool for reaching our goals and sharing the lessons we learnt and what we have achieved. We use print and electronic media to highlight our projects and experiences on the ground. WWF Nepal produces newsletters and regularly updates on its website, airs regular radio programs, television programs, and celebrates important dates on the conservation calendar with partner organizations. To share and promote conservation awareness, WWF Nepal started and supports a network of Eco Club in schools across Nepal. We also run non-formal education for local



## Conservation at regional level



### Living Himalayas Network Initiative

The Eastern Himalayas encompass some of nature's most magnificent spaces, rich

in forests, wildlife and freshwater. Irreplaceable plants and animals coexist with millions of people from diverse cultures and religions, forming a rich tapestry of life across Northern India, Nepal and Bhutan.

Combining connectivity and a regional approach, our work will view the ecoregion as a single unit, not a series of fragmented landscapes in separate countries. Wildlife trade, landscape management and development issues will be treated regionally, bringing people, governments and industry together in all countries and developing plans that straddle borders and link landscapes.

women, organize exchange visits for students and community members and have set up a stipend for girl students.

Through print media, television, radio and web, we share our project successes and experiences on the ground to a wider audience. Every year, Miss Nepal dons the Conservation Ambassador title and supports our awareness programs.

The Abraham Conservation Awards, established in 1995, is held annually to honour frontline conservationists and institutions for their contribution to biodiversity conservation and environmental protection. From 2007, we have added the Matthew Preece and Yeshe Choden Lama Young Conservation Leaders Award to identify and recognize a new generation of committed conservation leaders and the WWF Media in Conservation Award to recognize the transformational role of media persons or organizations in highlighting conservation issues in Nepal.

Nepal Conservation Memorial Scholarships, Mingma Sherpa Memorial Scholarships, Jillian Bowling Schlaepfer and Jennifer Headley Memorial Scholarships have been established to encourage students to pursue careers in nature conservation, thus, preparing a new generation of conservationists.

## Policy and advocacy

WWF Nepal works actively for policy and advocacy. A major achievement was the endorsement of the Terai Arc Landscape Strategic Plan by Government of Nepal that serves as a guiding document for developing, planning and implementing natural resource related programs and projects across the 14 districts in Nepal that TAL encompasses. A national Rhino Conservation Action Plan and Tiger Conservation Action Plan together with the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation have been prepared. We are formulating strategies to deal with the mal-effects of hydrocarbon exploration and hydropower projects in nature conservation.

## Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) is a joint initiative of Conservation International (CI), l'Agence Française de Développement, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Government of Japan, the MacArthur Foundation and the World Bank. In the Eastern Himalayas region, comprising Nepal, Bhutan and Northeast India, WWF leads the regional team responsible for facilitating, coordinating and monitoring grants for CEPF-supported conservation projects. These grants help strengthen the role of civil society in biodiversity conservation.

[www.panda.org/easternhimalayas/cepf](http://www.panda.org/easternhimalayas/cepf)

## Asian Rhino and Elephant Action Strategy (AREAS)

WWF's Asian Rhino and Elephant Action Strategy (AREAS) grew out of the recognition that conservation success for these endangered large mammal species and their habitats will only be possible through a landscape-based approach that goes beyond isolated protected areas and addresses issues of land-use practices in the surrounding areas.

With proactive social, economic, and biological analysis, AREAS believes that a balance can be struck so that wild species get the secure core areas and forest corridors they need, while people can pursue agriculture, forestry, and other forms of land-use in a more clearly planned and sustainable manner.

In an ambitious program that brings together cutting edge conservation biology with trade monitoring, socio-economic analysis, and policy advocacy, AREAS promises new hope for dwindling populations of these threatened pachyderms.

[www.panda.org/areas](http://www.panda.org/areas)



## Engaging communities in conservation



## Sustainable livelihoods

WWF Nepal recognizes that livelihoods issues are crucial to the sustainability of conservation. WWF Nepal adopted Sustainable Livelihoods Approach in 2002 with its revised framework to define inter-linkage between conservation and livelihoods, and analyze the livelihoods complexities.



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## Joining hands for a living planet

We work in close partnerships with various ministries, departments, and the line agencies of the Government of Nepal, locally elected bodies, conservation organizations and development agencies, diplomatic missions based in Nepal, and national and international agencies based in NGOs. We also work with community groups, local people and grassroots stakeholders, private sector, individual donors and others committed to biodiversity conservation and environmental protection.

“Let's join hands for a living planet!”