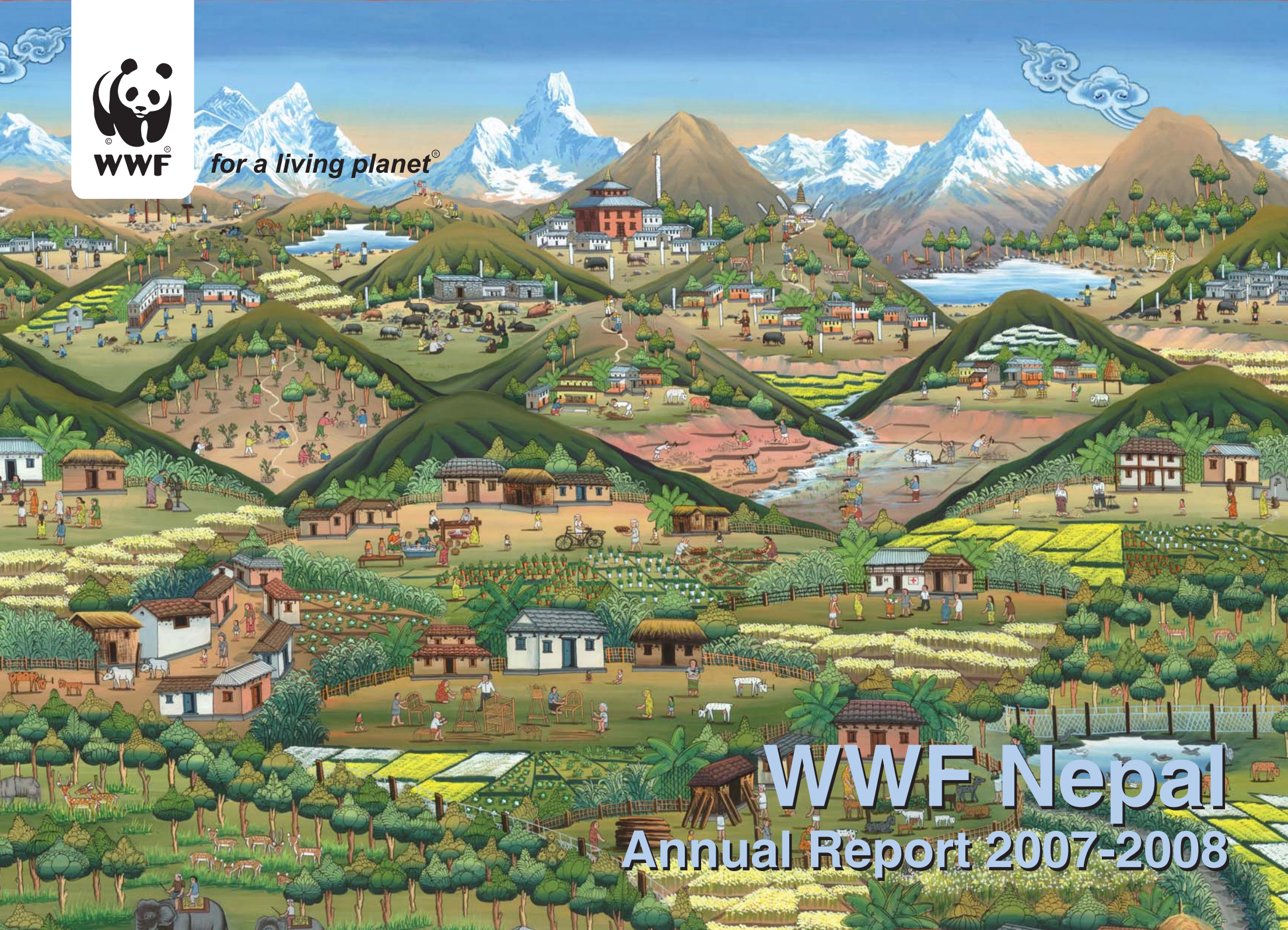




for a living planet[®]



WWF Nepal

Annual Report 2007-2008



Message from the Country Representative

We added yet another rung on the ladder to reach our conservation goals in the year 2008. Celebrating the year as the year of wildlife monitoring, this year we have established new baselines and verified existing figures of several species in Eastern Himalayas. Rhino, gharial, gaur and tigers were counted in their natural habitat while the relative abundance of snow leopard, Himalayan thar, musk deer and blue sheep were estimated based on new survey and ancillary data. The results suggested for rigorous assessment of population and habitat in order to formulate strategies for their conservation.

Never before we had had such an effective political and public commitment to safeguard rhinos against poaching. Local communities around Chitwan National Park have formed a human chain to share information and keep vigilant eyes on possible intruders resulting into a year without any poaching incidents in the immediate outskirts of the national park.

However, the bottlenecks and corridors where WWF has spent a significant resource and time face an extraordinary threat due to changing socio-political condition in the country resulting into rampant encroachment. Nevertheless, with the support of local communities, encroachments at critical sites in Basanta has been partially managed.

The community managing the Kangchenjunga Conservation Area got much empowered after the endorsement of the Kangchenjunga Conservation Area Management Council regulations by the Government of Nepal. In addition, WWF phased out the ongoing projects from Sagarmatha and She-Phoksundo National Parks as the respective Buffer Zone committees are capable to implement the conservation activities on the ground.

A new office has been established in Salleri to initiate the implementation of field programs at Dudh Koshi Sub-Basin area. This will be a milestone in the history of WWF Nepal for its diversification of partnership with yet another government body - the Water and Energy Commission Secretariat (WECS). With the establishment of the office, WWF has forayed in the eastern Nepal that includes the regions spanning from mountains to Terai. This office will initiate the implementation of integrated river basin management interventions in the sub-basins of Koshi River.

The thangka on the front and back covers of this report portrays WWF's conservation initiatives throughout Nepal. The achievements, both small and big, motivate us to climb higher in the coming days. On behalf of WWF Nepal, I would like to thank you all for your continued support in our pursuit to save this living planet.



Anil Manandhar
Country Representative

Acronyms

AEPC	Alternative Energy Promotion Centre	LIS	Livestock Insurance Scheme
BNP	Bardia National Park	LNPBZ SP	Langtang National Park and Buffer Zone Support Project
BZCFUG	Buffer Zone Community Forests User Group	MOFSC	Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation
BZMC	Buffer Zone Management Committee	NGO	Non Governmental Organization
CBAPO	Community Based Anti Poaching Operation	NMCP	Northern Mountains Conservation Project
CBO	Community Based Organization	NTFP	Non Timber Forest Products
CBRP	Corridor and Bottleneck Restoration Project	NTNC	National Trust for Nature Conservation
CFCC	Community Forest Coordination Committee	PHPA	Public Hearing and Public Auditing
CITES	Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna	PWBR	Participatory Well Being Ranking
CNP	Chitwan National Park	PWR	Parsa Wildlife Reserve
DNPWC	Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation	SAGUN	Strengthened Action for Governance in Utilization of Natural Resources
GON	Government of Nepal	SHL	Sacred Himalayan Landscape
HAW	High Altitude Wetland	SLA	Sustainable Livelihoods Approach
IUCN	The World Conservation Union	SLCC	Snow Leopard Conservation Committee
ICIMOD	International Center for Integrated Mountain Development	SNPBZ SP	Sagarmatha National Park Buffer Zone Support Project
IRBM	Integrated River Basin Management	SPNP	Shey Phoksundo National Park
ISSC-MAP	International Standards for Sustainable Wild Collection of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants	SWR	Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve
IWRM	Integrated Water Resource Management	TAL	Terai Arc Landscape
KCAMC	Kangchenjunga Conservation Area Management Council	VDC	Village development Committee
KOSELI	Koshi for Safeguarding Environment and Livelihood	WECS	Water and Energy Commission Secretariat
KRBM	Koshi River Basin Management	WTLCP	Western Terai Landscape Complex Project
		WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature



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“ WWF Nepal works with local communities to restore and regenerate forests and biological corridors through community forestry.”

WWF in Nepal

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, freshwater, and toxics and pollutants.

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. WWF Nepal office was established in 1993.



Forest conservation

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 parks who depend on subsistence agriculture and forest products for their livelihoods.

The success of restoration and regeneration programs in salvaging degraded biological corridors and success can be measured from the continued wildlife movement in areas like Khata, which links Bardia National Park with India's Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary. Community forestry in the mountain protected areas such as Kangchenjunga Conservation Area are also aimed at regulating livestock grazing, and promoting non-timber forest products and medicinal plants to supplement the income of locals.



Species conservation

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 supported the preparation of a CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) Bill and the CITES Unit to work in conjunction with various government agencies to deter poaching and illegal trade in wildlife products. WWF Nepal also supports community-based anti-poaching operations and informer networks that have garnered community support for conservation.

Climate Change and Energy

Climate change is a major global concern and 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 (CDM) projects.

“The Operation Unicornis was implemented outside CNP throughout the year and the rhino poaching was reduced to zero outside the CNP.”

Freshwater

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.

Sustainable Livelihoods Approach

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

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.

Policy and Advocacy

WWF has been actively working for the formulation of conservation friendly policies on Natural Resource Management sector in Nepal and has initiated discussion with key partners for the formulation of a pro-conservation constitution. In Nepal, WWF is a pioneer organization in designing and spearheading landscape level conservation policies and programs. We are actively engaged in

strengthening community based institutions' capacity towards building a society with young people dedicated to nature conservation.

Illegal wildlife trade

WWF Nepal supports community-based anti-poaching operations and informer networks that have garnered community support for conservation. We supported the preparation of a CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) Bill and establishment of the CITES Unit to work in conjunction with various government agencies to deter poaching and illegal trade in wildlife products.

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've

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

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.







“ It is estimated that one unit of biogas installation would help to save about 4.5 metric tons of annual fuel wood consumption.”

The Terai Arc Landscape

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) Program in Nepal 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.

Zero poaching outside CNP

The two years long Operation Unicornis, a special action for rhino conservation, completed successfully and it has resulted in reduced rhino poaching, by more than 90 per cent in 2007 as per the base line of 2006. The operation was implemented outside CNP throughout the year and the rhino poaching was reduced to zero outside CNP after December 2006.

Tiger monitoring

Tiger monitoring through camera trap is being continued in SWR since 04/05. The number of individual tiger trapped in 2004/05 was 15, 10 in 2005/06 and 5 in 2007/08. The comparison of population estimation showed a decline in tiger population by 30 per cent and 62 per cent as per the estimates of 04/05 with 05/06 and 07/08 respectively.

The system established for communication network for anti poaching operation in Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve and its periphery is also being used by tiger monitoring team right.

Relative abundance of tiger prey species has been determined by counting ungulate pellets in the Parsa Wildlife Reserve. TAL supports eight species of ungulates which includes five species of deer family (sambar, spotted deer, hog deer, swamp deer, barking deer) including wild pig, blue bull and greater one horned rhinos.

Tiger Conservation Action Plan for Nepal 2008-2012, prepared and published with the support from WWF Nepal, has been published by Government of Nepal, Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation.

Elephant training through positive reinforcement

Elephant training through positive learning method organized for the Elephant staff of CNP with the support of WWF Finland and WSPA at Khorsor, Chitwan on 11-14 December 2007. Elephant staff of CNP, BNP, KTWR, NTNC, Temple Tiger Hotel and veterinary staff of CNP participated in the training. Beside this, two day long workshop on the health and management of Elephant was also organized at Khorsor, Chitwan on 16-17 December 2007.

Species conservation

WWF supported the rhino count, the gaur count and the gharial survey.



Rhino count

Total rhinos in Nepal: 435

No. of rhinos in Chitwan National Park: 408

No. of rhinos in Bardia National Park: 22

No. of rhinos in Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve: 5

Gharial count

Total no. of gharials in Nepal: 81

No. of gharials in Narayani River: 34

No. of gharials in Rapti River: 24

No. of gharials in Babai River: 10

No. of gharials in Karnali River: 6

Gaur count

Total no. of gaurs in Nepal: 333

No. of gaurs in Parsa Wildlife Reserve: 37

No. of rhinos in Chitwan National Park: 296 (2007 figures)

“The Government of Nepal endorsed the KCA Management Regulation (2064) on 2 April 2008; thus enabling KCAMC with legal and administrative authority to manage KCA more effectively.”

Forest management

With the coordination of CNP, BZMC and BZUCs, a support was provided by TAL to establish a 13 km electric fence to minimize rhino/elephant – human conflict. Similarly, TAL supported in solar powered electrical fencing around the major HWC sites in Khata to reduce the wildlife damage to lives and property. Almost 14 Km long fencing has been completed benefiting 279 HH of 8 CFUGs.

A total of 121 ha of grasslands were managed (in six CF) to provide suitable habitats for various herbivore species. The improved grasslands have increased carrying capacity for herbivore population like spotted deer and rhino in Khata corridor.

To manage wetland habitats and improve habitat for rhino and supplement livelihood of poor households through fishery activities, three waterholes were constructed in Shiva CF, Khata.

Mechanical means for grassland management has been tested at CNP and it has showed that the mechanical means is three times more efficient than the traditional management.

Maintenance of 265 km fire line in four protected areas has provided accessibility and mobility inside the protected area for anti poaching operations, tourism and wildlife monitoring activities.

About 102,495 seedlings of multi purpose use (160,000 NTFP, 122 fruit, 47,673 trees and 54,700 fodders) have been planted in 314.43 ha land as an enrichment plantation by four CFCC.

To restore degraded forest in different CFs, 17.864 Km of trench has been constructed in 14 CFUGs. It is anticipated that this will help to protect 591.67 of degraded forest. Forest fire is one of the major problems in protecting forests

in Terai and Siwalik range. Since fire line are effective means to prevent fire induced forest damage, 4 Km long fire line was constructed in 4 CFs under Dovan CFCC. It was expected that this intervention will reduce fire hazard in 259.67 Ha of forests.

More than 160,000 NTFP, fodder and tree species seedlings were produced in different CFCCs and DFO nurseries from TAL support.

TAL provided NRs 600000.00 to the Masuriya CFCC as a HWC endowment fund. Bhajani and Masuriya CFCCs have finalized the HWC endowment fund mobilization guideline.

Alternative energy initiatives

A total of 518 biogas plants have been installed in this fiscal year at different places. It is estimated that one unit of biogas installation would help to save about 4.5 metric tons of annual fuel wood consumption. It will contribute to save more than 2000 metric ton of annual fuel wood consumption and will play significant role in reducing pressure on the forest for fuel wood products.

The main purpose of Improved Cooking Stove (ICS) installation is to reduce the pressure on forest for fuel wood, minimize workload of women and improve family health and sanitation. This also supports poor and marginalized HHs who can not afford biogas installation cost. In Khata (Bardia), 101 ICS have been installed benefitting more than 500 individuals. It is estimated that if one unit of ICS can help to save up to 0.462 metric tons of fuel wood consumption; then 101 ICS will help to save about 46.662 metric Tons of annual fuel wood consumption

Khata CFCC has distributed more than 1300 Solar Tukis under the microfinance scheme in 34 CFs benefitting more than 8000 people. CFCC will provide repair and maintenance support through locally trained technicians.





Sustainable livelihoods

Mentha is very popular among local farmers due to non-palatability to the animals and a good source of income. Five CFUGs in Khata area cultivated mentha crop in private farm land and received profit worth more than NRs 521000 by selling about 652 Kg of processed oil last year.

Next popular NTFP species among the farmer is camomile cultivation, which is low volume high value crop, fetching high market price despite its low yield. So far, 62 HHHs have been involved in Camomile plantation in 12.38 ha private farm land, getting net profit around NRs 820000. Lemongrass cultivation has been initiated in 14 different CFs within Lamahi CFCC, benefitting 4236 HHHs of 14 CFs.

TAL has provided support for the purchase of five NTFP distillation plants, 4 in Khata and 1 in Panchakanya CFUG in Lamahi. All together 7 distillation plants have been installed in Khata and Lamahi.

Revolving fund for income generating activities (IGA) has been channeled through the respective cooperatives of CFCC.

Education and capacity building

This year, TAL supported to 64 schools for eco club activities. In addition 29 new eco clubs were formed and 53 eco clubs were renewed.

Various extra curricular activities in biodiversity conservation were organized by TAL eco clubs like conservation related folk song competitions, essay competitions, art competitions, handicraft making competition, poetry and debate competition, sports competition etc.

TAL has supported in eco-club networking at different locations for institutional sustainability and development.

The Sacred Himalayan Landscape

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, aims to conserve the rich biodiversity and enhance local livelihood needs and sustain diverse culture and traditions in the globally important Eastern Himalayan Region. The initiative comes under the greater vision of “Transboundary Partnership for a Sacred Himalayan Landscape in the Eastern Himalaya”.

Under SHL WWF Nepal is working within and outside Kangchenjunga Conservation Area, Langtang National Park Buffer Zone and Sagarmatha National Park and Buffer Zone for the fulfillment of broader vision of conservation at landscape level.

Kangchenjunga Conservation Area Project

The Kangchenjunga Conservation Area Project (KCAP) was launched with the objective of conserving the biodiversity through an integrated conservation and development approach. The project aims to achieve this by strengthening the capacity of local communities to manage their natural resources while improving their livelihood opportunities.

Community stewardship in KCA management

The KCA handover on 22 September 2006 was the historic event for materializing WWF Nepal's vision of people managing a conservation area. Since its hand over, KCAMC has demonstrated dedicated performance in managing KCA. In the spirit of the tripartite agreement signed among DNPWC, WWF and KCAMC, the KCAMC fulfilled its responsibilities and was able to deliver conservation outputs with the grant support of USD 196,793. Further, the Government of Nepal endorsed the KCA Management Regulation (2064) on 2 April 2008; thus enabling KCAMC with legal and administrative authority to manage KCA more effectively. The reformation process of KCAMC and its affiliated institutions took place in May 2008 with the formation of 46 User Groups, 35 Mother Groups and 7 CAUCs. The newly elected members have shown strong commitments towards institutionalizing KCA management at grassroots level, and participated at central level decision making process.

Linking culture and religion with biodiversity conservation

The project supported the renovation of temples and religious sites and conservation of religious forest, making sure that improved and sustainable management practices are in place. In Ghunsa, people delineated 676 ha of community forest and declared as sacred natural site on 23 September 2008. Out of 676 ha, 50 ha is the Sustainable Utilization Zone, where harvesting and other utilization is carried based on noble notions of Buddhism that only dead, dying and diseased resources can be harvested. Remaining 626 ha is the No Use Zone that will be developed as research centre and living natural museum of species. Similarly, on the advent of changed political situation in Nepal, WWF Nepal supported indigenous people groups and their organizations to sensitize members

“The Ghatte khola micro hydro project (70 kW), the first microhydro project implemented by WWF Nepal in the mountain area, was inaugurated and handed over to local communities on 25 September 2007.”

of leading political parties on nature conservation and indigenous peoples' roles and responsibilities on sustainable natural resource management. The consultations resulted in inclusion of conservation issues in their party manifesto and their commitment towards its implementation.

Snow leopard conservation initiatives

Snow leopard presence/absence survey has been carried out in KCA for quite some years; the GIS modeling using the revised criteria predicted that about 63 per cent land (ca.1283.36 km² of ca.2035 km²) can be categorized as a potential habitat of the snow leopard in KCA. Ghunsa and Yagma valley have been identified as the prime habitats of snow leopard within KCA with an estimated population of 3-4 snow leopards/100 km² according to the recent survey based on SLIMS protocol.

Livestock depredation by snow leopards is considered to be one of the primary aspects of conflict between conservation priorities and local livelihood needs in the KCA. The community based livestock insurance scheme was set up in December 2005 in Ghunsa SLCC of KCA with the major funding support from NCCR-S-N/University of Zurich, Switzerland. By July 2008, 1,427 livestock of 147 HHs have been insured in the scheme while 45 claims have already been compensated so far. This scheme is also replicated in other mountain project sites of Nepal such as Dolpa, and has potential to replicate across the snow leopard habitats of Nepal.

The research findings and other initiatives for conserving snow leopard were shared at national workshop in Kathmandu and district workshop in Taplejung. The community managed livestock insurance scheme was highlighted as one of the successful initiatives for addressing human wildlife conflict, and it was also presented at international snow leopard conference held in March 2008 in Beijing, China.



“ The Ghatte khola micro hydro project (70 kW), the first microhydro project implemented by WWF Nepal in the mountain area, was inaugurated and handed over to local communities on 25 September 2007. ”

Sagarmatha National Park and Buffer Zone Support Project

After a decade of successful implementation, Sagarmatha National Park and Buffer Zone Support Project was phased out in December 2007 and conservation work was handed over to park office, local communities and the Sagarmatha National Park Buffer Zone Management Committee (SNPBZ MC). From last year, WWF Nepal in line with its Strategic Plan has started implementing conservation programs in SNPBZ through community based organizations and NGOs. Under new modality, SNPBZ MC was directly granted for implementing conservation initiatives in SNPBZ in April 2008.

Forest conservation

An assessment of technical and organizational management practices of nine CFUGs was carried out. It showed irregularities in FOPs implementation in some cases. Public hearing and public auditing has been made mandatory for all CBOs including BZCFUG. The members of CFUGs were oriented on technical skills of forest management.

A five year rangeland management plan was prepared in consultation with local communities, especially herders and livestock owners at major rangelands/pasturelands in Thamo, Thame, Hilajung, Phortse, Pangboche and Dingboche. As per the plan, rangeland management groups were formed, and their members were oriented on wise use practices for sustainable management of rangelands/pasturelands.

Species conservation

The snow leopard presence absence survey was carried out outside the park in Lumding. It showed a very low presence of snow leopard.

The project supported to establish data on snow leopard conflict. The CBAPOU and SLCCs were mobilized to collect data from pastures in 3 VDCs with technical support from the park. The data

showed a comparatively higher depredation rate in Khumjung VDC and lowest in Chaurikharka VDC.

Six events of forest patrolling were carried out in community forest area. The patrolling team dismantled 87 snares set up for musk deer poaching in Kongde community forest.

The project provided support to community based initiatives for red panda habitat management. The management initiatives included construction of 345 meter long barriers to prevent cattle grazing and monitoring of 120 ha area to control unsustainable firewood and bamboo shoot collection. Similarly, about 17 signposts with message on red panda conservation and code of conduct were erected at different locations. The message is intended to make local CF users aware of red panda conservation. In addition to this, communities participate in regular monitoring of red panda in potential sites and update database.

Climate change and energy

The Ghatte khola micro hydro project (70 kW), the first micro-hydro project implemented by WWF Nepal in the mountain area, was inaugurated and handed over to local communities on 25 September 2007. This scheme has benefited more than 100 HHs of Tok tok villages. This scheme has changed peoples' lifestyle. Driven by enormous sense of ownership, they are targeting for optimum use of power by using it in a variety of ways such as internet café, bakery, and poultry. A total of 519.4 MT of firewood is saved annually from this alternative energy intervention.

WWF Nepal extended its support for another micro-hydro scheme- Chusserma (35 kW, benefiting HHs) in Chermdin area of SNPBZ. This scheme is largely funded by Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Association, along with local communities and WWF Nepal.

The project supported in installation of an automatic weather station and hydrological station at Thukla, Khumbu glacier. Two local





people were oriented and mobilized for regular monitoring. The hydrological and meteorological department of the Government of Nepal is directly involved in technical management of this project.

Freshwater

After a year long advocacy and lobbying, the Gokyo Lake was declared as a Ramsar site by the International Bureau of Ramsar. Following up with this announcement, local communities have been mobilized for the sustainable and wise use of lake, and for maintaining its integrity and value through pollution control in and around this area. The Gokyo Lake Management Committee (GLCC) and the local NGO- Sagarmatha Pollution Control Committee (SPCC) jointly conducted a number of activities to improve solid waste management in and around Gokyo Lake such as rubbish pits and trash bins were installed along the main trails of Gokyo Lake, hoarding boards, notice boards and arrow boards were placed and brochures illustrating the value of Gokyo lake were distributed amongst stakeholders throughout Khumbu region.

Education and capacity building

A Trainer of Training for conducting Non Formal Education (NFE) on snow leopard conservation was provided to participants representing CBAPOUs, SLCCs, park and BZ institutions. The trainees were taught on skills of using a flip chart (NFE material) to raise awareness on snow leopard conservation. After training, 10 trainees facilitated NFE classes to 52 herders and livestock owners in 36 pastures.

Local people, school students and teachers (members of eco club network) were oriented on global threat of climate change and the vulnerability to livelihood, freshwater and biodiversity of Khumbu region in particular. The students and teachers participated in a campaign to disseminate message on value of Gokyo Lake as Ramsar site and its vulnerability to climate change.



“ A guideline on monitoring of snow leopard and prey species was developed in Nepali language; the guideline is intended to help SLCC members and local communities in snow leopard monitoring. ”

Langtang National Park and Buffer Zone Support Project

Langtang National Park and Buffer Zone Support Project (LNPBZ SP) is a new project initiated by WWF Nepal, officially launched on 26 February 2007. The primary goal of the project is to conserve biodiversity, enhance livelihoods opportunities and sustain diverse cultures and traditions by integrated management of land, forest and water resources in Langtang National Park and Buffer Zone.

Forest conservation

Thirteen forest operational plans were revised to incorporate public hearing and public auditing, and participatory well being. Members of community forestry user groups (CFUGs) were trained on technical aspects of forests management. Active forest management initiatives are being carried out in 215 ha of community forests.

Two site level rangeland management plans were prepared (for Langtang and Syabru VDCs) and some recommended actions were initiated in the field. The project supported to implement some of these actions such as construction of wooden bridges, native grasses plantation, clearing of invasive and thorny species (e.g., *Berberis* spp), trails improvement, and creating water bodies for drinking facilities/purposes in the pastures.

A participatory bio-diversity monitoring plan was prepared and handed over to local communities. This is intended to support local communities to identify and assess the status of floral and faunal species, their habitat, ecosystem and threats.

A new initiative called International Standard for Sustainable

Wild Collection of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (ISSC-MAP) for reconciling standards of sustainability and responsible business practices of NTFPs/MAPs was introduced in LNPBZ. A number of promotional activities were carried out for wider dissemination and awareness raising of this program.

Species conservation

Local people including the members of the SLCC were oriented on importance of snow leopard and community initiatives for saving this flagship species. They were also oriented on operation and management of SLCC and its crucial role in snow leopard conservation. A guideline on monitoring of snow leopard and prey species was developed in Nepali language; the guideline is intended to help SLCC members and local communities in snow leopard monitoring.

To strengthen community based anti-poaching operations in LNPBZ, two new CBAPOUs were formed. They were provided with skill enhancement training for identifying smuggling, poaching and possible route used for trading.

An assessment on Snow leopard conflict showed that the livestock depredation by snow leopard is high in Langtang VDC. Among the total number of sheep and goats dying within past one year, 60 per cent were killed by snow leopard. Similarly, a study was carried out to determine the status of retaliatory killings of snow leopard and other wild animals in Langtang National Park. The study did not find any case of retaliatory killing in Langtang valley. In Syabru, about 90 per cent respondents cited no retaliatory killing and rest 10 per cent respondents admitted retaliatory killing of wild animals.



Status survey on Himalayan tahr and musk deer

The status survey on Himalayan Tahr showed an estimated population of 160 with density 2.01 per square kilometre.

Sustainable livelihoods

A sub-sector/value chain analysis of the most commercially viable commodities (NTFPs/MAPs) in Langtang National Park and Buffer zone was conducted. The study was intended to improve business opportunities for the local people. It identified key actors involved in selected sub sectors and provided with comprehensive intervention strategies for the development of the selected sub-sectors. Local people were provided training on market linkages and business development.

Education and capacity building

Four eco-clubs were institutionalized and the members were oriented on the roles and responsibilities of the eco-clubs.

More than 70 herders were oriented on sustainable management practices of pastureland/rangeland management. In addition, they were oriented on sustainable management of NTFP/MAPs by adopting sustainable harvesting practices.

“As micro hydro is not feasible in Upper Dolpa, the project has been emphasizing in Home Solar System. Solar system has lightened every house and ICS has helped to reduce firewood consumption to a greater extent. This in turn is up scaling the socio-economic condition of the people.”

Northern Mountains Conservation Project

WWF Nepal launched the Northern Mountains Conservation Project (NMCP) in 1996 in Shey-Phoksundo National Park (SPNP) in collaboration with the Department of National Park and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) with the aim to conserve biodiversity and to improve socioeconomic status of local communities of the SPNP and buffer zone area.

NMCP aims at addressing the problems of increasing pressure on forest and pasture resources from livestock, poaching, illegal and unsustainable harvesting of non-timber forest products.

Forest management

The constitutions and forest operation plans of seven BZCFUGs of Rimi and Kaigaun have been renewed. The trend of conducting Public Hearing and Public Auditing (PHPA) has remarkably increased peoples participation in public issues. This has helped to strengthen good governance practices among the CBOs working in various sectors.

Species conservation

Community based conflict mitigation measures, Livestock Insurance Scheme being one of them, have been adopted to deal with the human-wildlife conflict. Livestock Insurance Scheme which was recently launched in Saldang and Vijer has been owned and successfully managed by community for cost-benefit sharing. The SLCCs have been trained on snow leopard monitoring. Besides this, a database on snow leopard and its prey base have been developed for the scientific study purpose and for applying management interventions within and outside Protected Area. Two vet clinics have been established

in Saldang and Vijer to provide veterinary care service for livestock including the ones injured by snow leopard attacks. Likewise the project has supported in the construction of predator proof goth (enclosure) and corrals in Saldang through the SLCC in the pilot site and guard dogs have been provided to prevent the loss of livestock from predator attacks.

Alternative energy

Since its establishment the project has been focusing on alternative energy promotion through support for Micro hydro, Solar and ICS. The construction of Chhalagad Micro Hydro Electricity Project of 35 KW and its hand over to respective community of Tripurakot VDC has brought revolution in the lifestyle of the people at the same time contributing in reducing pressure over the scarce forest resource. As micro hydro is not feasible in Upper Dolpa, the project has been emphasizing in Home Solar System. This year, HSS and ICS were provided to all the households of Saldang VDC. Solar system has lightened every house and ICS has helped to reduce firewood consumption to a greater extent. This in turn is up scaling the socio-economic condition of the people.

Freshwater and climate change issues

The designation of Phoksundo Lake as a Ramsar site is a great source of inspiration for the local community to dedicate their efforts in conservation activities. Recently lake management committee comprising of the local residents has been formed and some initiations have already been taken for the management of the lake. Along with camp site management, a view tower has been constructed nearby the lake and will be retained as information centre.

Similar awareness raising activities were conducted on climate change starting from the school students and primary level school teachers. This has been effective in awareness raising by diffusion of knowledge and adoption of the environment friendly measures.

Sustainable livelihoods

IGA implementation activities have been carried out to support subsistence livelihood of the poor. Off season vegetable farming has been initiated in Phoksundo as small scale community grant support especially benefiting women and disadvantaged groups. Yarchakumbhu (*Cordyceps sinensis*), one of the livelihood alternatives is the backbone of economy in Dolpa. For the sustainable management of this important NTFP, a guideline has been developed after a series of consultation meetings in the district.

A study was conducted in Dho, Saldang and Vijer to assess the range lands of SPNP and its BZ area. Another study was conducted in Pahada and Tripurakot to analyze the market aspects of selected species of NTFP. Besides community based Biodiversity Monitoring Plan has been prepared to assess the biodiversity of the SPNP and BZ in scientific way.

Education and capacity building

Women's empowerment is realized to be a prerequisite for conservation and sustainable development. As a part of it Endowment fund for girl's stipend has been established for Phoksundo VDC. Similarly, in Upper Dolpa woman Amchi have been trained with traditional health care for promoting the Amchi medicine as well as for dealing with the women health problems.



Climate Change and Energy

Climate change is a major global concern and 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 (CDM) 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. Besides this the Climate Change and Energy Program will work in the areas of bio-fuels, carbon sink and energy efficiency in the future.

Expanding the Horizon of WWF Nepal partnership for conservation education

WWF Nepal signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Curriculum Development Centre (CDC), Ministry of Education and Sports/Government of Nepal (MoES/GoN) on 8 January 2008. This MoU will help WWF Nepal to foster its partnership with Ministry of Education and Sports to incorporate conservation education at national curriculum. As a first phase, two organizations agreed to incorporate climate change topic in formal education from grade 1 to 10. In this fiscal year, climate change topic has been incorporated in national curriculum of grade 5, 9 and 10, and the remaining will be incorporated in

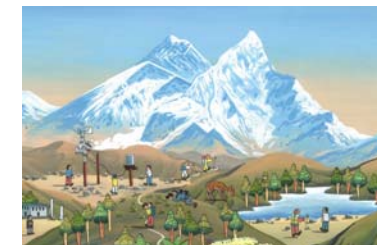
coming fiscal year. With climate change topic subsumed in the formal curriculum, the future generation will be well informed about this global phenomenon, which has serious impact in human lifestyle and ecosystem at large.

100 per cent solar electrification in upper Dolpa

WWF Nepal and various partners have been successful in fully lighting the buffer zone areas of the Shey Phoksundo National Park of Upper Dolpa through solar electrification. With the current distribution of 251 solar sets in support from the Kadoorie Charitable Foundation, this area is 100 % electrified. Out of 859 households, WWF Nepal supported 692 households in this region resulting in 100 % electrification. With such facilities, these communities are more resilient to climate change impacts. Besides, significant positive impacts on conservation, health and education have been noticed.

Gold Standard Biogas Verified Emission Reduction (VER) Project

WWF Nepal developed the WWF Network first gold standard biogas verified emission reduction (VER) project. This project is the first of its kind to be piloted by private entrepreneur and the first gold standard VER project in Nepal. Designated National Authority (DNA) of Government of Nepal has approved this project by providing a letter of no objection for this project. The project designed document (PDD) has been developed and submitted to DNA for their approval. The retroactive registration of this project has been successfully done in gold standard foundation. In this fiscal year, 1,105 biogas plants were constructed to meet the target as highlighted in PDD document, the target of 7500 biogas plant by 2010. TUV NORD, a German based company has been selected as a designated operational entity (DOE) for the validation of this Gold Standard VER project.





Forest Carbon Initiatives in Nepal

WWF Nepal initiated the dialogue with concerned stakeholders on Forest Carbon initiatives and discussed with Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation (MoFSC) and Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology (MoEST) on the submission of RFIN for FCPF to the World Bank. MoFSC with technical support from WWF Nepal, SNV, ICIMOD, CARE, DFID and other relevant stakeholders drafted the RFIN for REDD and submitted to the World Bank. Out of 36 RFINs submitted, 14 of them were approved entailing Nepal as one of them. This will open the avenue of forest carbon initiative in Nepal.

National Climate Change Policy

The Ministry of Environment Science and Technology (MoEST) with the support of the European Commission (EC), and WWF Nepal has drafted the National Climate Change Policy for Nepal. A coordination committee chaired by joint secretary of MoEST and a focal person of UNFCCC guided the process of drafting this policy. The policy was sub divided into four major issues mainly GHG Emission, Carbon Sink and Mitigation Measures, Vulnerability and Adaptation, and Policy and Legal Provisions. Numerous regional level stakeholder consultations and five different consultants were held in drafting this policy. A draft policy has been submitted to MoEST by WWF Nepal on behalf of coordination committee. In light of the political developments and a formation of a new government, a final stakeholder consultation will be held in the centre prior to the policy endorsement in the coming fiscal year. The endorsement of the policy will help all the sectors and provide access to the opportunity to funding at a larger scale.

3000 participants express solidarity for climate change

A Climate Parade was organized in Kathmandu on 8 December 2008 with an objective to pressurize the international and national governments to take climate change issues with urgency and take right decision to mitigate the problem in Bali COP/ MOP. The parade was synchronized with "Global Climate Campaign" in which various programs were organized in 84 countries on the same day to show solidarity of the whole world in this issue. About 3,000 participants including school students, climate volunteers, city volunteers and members of civil society participated in the parade. The participants carried placards and banners with slogans, which reflected the issues of Nepal concerning climate change impacts.



“ For the first time in the country, four high altitude wetlands of the country, have been listed as Ramsar sites of the Ramsar Convention, an international convention of wetlands. ”

Freshwater

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*).

Four High altitude wetlands declared as Ramsar sites in Nepal

For the first time in the country, four high altitude wetlands of the country, have been listed as Ramsar sites of the Ramsar Convention, an international convention of wetlands. Now there are eight Ramsar sites in the country. The other four wetlands are located in the tarai.

This development coincides with the first anniversary of the Ghunsa tragedy, which took the lives of 24 noted

conservationists of the country. The four new high altitude wetlands included in the Ramsar sites are Gokyo of Sagarmatha National Park, Shey-Phoksundo of Dolpa, Rara Lake of Mugu, and Gosaikunda of Rauswa.

KOSELI: Moving towards water smart future

In order to secure a smart future for water, project “KOSELI” (Koshi for Safeguarding Environment and Livelihoods) was piloted in Dudh Koshi Sub Basin. This lies within the Sacred Himalayan Landscape (SHL) in Nepal and practices the principle of Integrated River Basin Management in Koshi River Basin. A water management demonstration site was established in May 2008 to demonstrate the water saving and water efficient irrigation technologies to the local people. In the middle hill areas people have relatively more rain fed land compared to irrigated land and spring sources are not wisely tapped. The main objective of this demonstration site is to collect the water in the plastic pond from the spring sources during night time and use to irrigate the rainfed land to grow crops by using the water saving irrigation technologies like drip and micro sprinkler system. These systems use less water than conventional irrigation method and appropriate for the mid hills.

Exploring the impacts of climate change on aquatic biodiversity in Gokyo Lake, Everest region

WWF Nepal has established a partnership with Aquatic Ecology Centre (AEC), Kathmandu University in April, 2008

to conduct a scientific research in the high altitude wetland Gokyo (Ramsar site), Everest region. Aquatic Ecology Centre was established with the objective of promoting biodiversity of lakes and rivers in the region through documentation of species inventory, development of assessment tools for bio-monitoring, and capacity building to promote aquatic ecological researches. A scientific research was conducted previously by WWF Nepal together with water experts to assess the impact of climate change on the hydrological cycle and impact on Noggumpa glacier, longest and one of the most active glaciers in Nepal, which partially feeds the Gokyo Lake.

Climate change impact and vulnerability assessment in Langtang National Park and Buffer Zone

A draft report on “Vulnerability Assessment and Formulation of Climate Change Adaptation Strategies in Langtang National Park and Buffer Zone” has been prepared by WWF Nepal. With the support from WWF Nepal’s Freshwater and Climate Change Unit, the study was conducted by a group of experts from SAFE concern during April-June, 2008. The study mainly focused on three broad categories in terms of climate change adaptation: Freshwater, Biodiversity and Livelihoods.

Inventory of HAWs outside Protected Areas within SHL

The inventory based on Ramsar criteria was conducted for 3 HAWs, ie, Panchpokhari and Jatapokhari of Ramechhap-Dolakha District, Parbatikunda of Rasuwa District and Timbung

“ Pani Prasad was busy throughout December 2007 – March 2008 visiting different schools and talking “ALL ABOUT WATER!!” ”



Pokhari and Hans Pokhari of Taplejung-Panchthar District that falls within the SHL in the Eastern Himalayas for wider dissemination.

Likewise, considering the sacredness of high Himalayan wetlands and its cultural and religious significance, 3 HAWs outside the protected area has been explored. The local people's belief has been documented and will be published. The 3 sites are Bahula pokhari of Dolakha district, Dudh kunda of Solu district and Timbung pokhari of Taplejung district.

Second phase of regional project on Conservation of High Altitude Wetlands and Lakes in Himalayan Region

Three day Regional HAW workshop was facilitated by WWF Nepal on 29 to 31 January 2008. The Participants were from Bhutan, China/Tibet, India, Pakistan and Nepal. Representatives from WWF International and WWF Netherlands also participated in the workshop. The workshop launched the second phase project and conducted series of discussions on different issues related to HAW project.

Popularity of Freshwater conservation resource book “The Journey of Pani Prasad” and the character “Pani Prasad”

An awareness program on water conservation and dissemination of the resource book “The Journey of Pani Prasad” was organized for 25 schools of Kathmandu valley to educate the eco-club members.



Pani Prasad was busy throughout December 2007 – March 2008 visiting different schools and talking “ALL ABOUT WATER!!” The World Water Day 2008 “Celebrating World Water day with Pani Prasad” was celebrated together the eco-club students who supported in spreading the message to their friends, parents and neighbours. Moreover 100 students from the 25 different schools participated in the program accompanied with teachers' representative. A high demand came from different schools for Pani Prasad and it became a favorite character among the school students!



Illegal Wildlife Trade

WWF Nepal supports community-based anti-poaching operations and informer networks that have garnered community support for conservation. We supported the preparation of a CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) Bill and establishment of the CITES Unit to work in conjunction with various government agencies to deter poaching and illegal trade in wildlife products.

Enforcement in effect

Illegal trade of wildlife and their derivatives has been a major threat to the endangered species, especially the flagship species of Nepal including rhinos and tigers. The illegal trade has led to the poaching of rhino and other wildlife of Nepal, and despite several efforts carried out by the government, the number of rhino population had gone down to 372 individuals in 2005 from 512 in 2000. The unstable political situation and insurgency for almost a decade is also responsible for the increase in poaching and the subsequent decrease of the rhino population. Data shows that 11 rhinos were poached in the CNP in 2004, 14 in 2005, and 19 in 2006. Realizing the serious trend of poaching in 2006, WWF Nepal launched a special program "Operation Unicornis (OU)" to address the poaching issues in and around CNP in November 2006. Various strategies and actions were adopted and implemented. Among the strategies and actions, massive interactions with the local communities, community based organizations (CBOs), youth groups and media were initiated, and they were mobilized for anti-poaching activities in light of their important roles in supporting anti-poaching activities. Partnerships with the enforcement agencies were strengthened and they were also provided with financial resources required to combat poaching. The OU program has brought about a significant achievement in reducing poaching in the year 2007. No rhino poaching has been reported outside the CNP in fiscal year 2008.

With the support from WWF Nepal, the CNP was successful in bringing down poaching rate of rhino and even nabbed more than 50 people involved in poaching and trading of wildlife parts. The joint patrolling team formed in leadership of District Forest Office of Chitwan with WWF's support was significantly successful in controlling rhino poaching in the national forest as well as in protecting the habitat. Sixteen poachers and traders were arrested during the fiscal year including a notorious poacher responsible for poaching eight rhinos in

the Chitwan. The mobile team also helped to remove the encroachers from rhino and tiger habitats. A forest fire network has also been established in the national forest of Chitwan to safeguard the wildlife from forest fire.

Bardia National Park in collaboration with local communities and supported by WWF arrested more than 15 poachers and traders and wildlife parts including rhino horn and tiger bones were seized. In Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve (SWR), more than 10 poachers and traders were arrested, and tiger bones were seized inside the reserve. Similarly, local youths mobilized by Terai Arc Landscape Program helped to seize tiger parts and bones in Attaria of Kailali district.

This project was also successful in bringing down the smuggling of red sandalwood in collaboration with the Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation (MOFSC). More than 10 tons red sandalwood and dozens of truck were seized during the last fiscal year.

Collaboration with KMPCD

In collaboration with Kathmandu Metropolitan Police Crime Division (KMPCD) and Ministry of Home Affairs, WWF Nepal initiated the proactive engagement of police to curb illegal wildlife trade in the Kathmandu Valley. This initiation has given a very positive result in arresting criminals involved in illegal wildlife trade and seizing wildlife parts. Within a year, KMPCD made successes in more than 10 cases of wildlife crimes.

Policy dialogue

In the context of changing political scenario including the restructuring of the country, contemporary issues of the conservation and management of Protected Areas, the management of natural resources under new structure of Nepal, WWF Nepal in collaboration with Department of National Park and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) initiated policy dialogues with local and centre level stakeholders. The main objective of this project was to encourage and motivate the local communities living around the Protected Areas (PAs) to raise their voice for the effective conservation of species and management of the Protected Areas, and to secure/ensure their right towards natural resources.





“ With the support from WWF Nepal, the CNP was successful in bringing down poaching rate of rhino and even nabbed more than 50 people involved in poaching and trading of wildlife parts. ”

Draft CITES Regulation

WWF Nepal helped to prepare Draft Regulation for the implementation of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). It is expected that once the Draft Regulation is approved by the government, the provisions of the CITES is implemented effectively and will help to reduce illegal trade of wildlife parts in Nepal.

Awareness raising and capacity building

A training on CITES and Wildlife Trade was conducted in collaboration with the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation for the officials of the enforcement agencies and other concerned agencies in May 2008 at Kathmandu. The primary objective of the training was to sensitize the enforcement officials on the wildlife trade issues and make them aware of their roles and responsibilities in controlling illegal wildlife trade. A legal training for the enforcement officials of Chitwan National Park was conducted in Chitwan in May 2008 to strengthen the capacity of the enforcement officials on legal procedure for dealing with wildlife crimes.

A team of enforcement officials of Government of Nepal participated in Wildlife Law Enforcement and Control of Illegal Crime held in December 2007 at Dudhwa National Park, India to bring in multidisciplinary enforcement agencies of India and Nepal and to help build a better strategy to control the trans-border illegal wildlife crime. A team comprising of government officials representing centre and fields went to Wildlife Institute of India (WII) for the capacity enhancement of the officials for the investigation of wildlife crimes.

SAWTI Workshop

A workshop on South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative (SAWTI) was jointly organized by South Asia Co-operative Environment Program (SACEP) and the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology of Nepal as well as supported by WWF Nepal and TRAFFIC International on 31 January -1 February, 2008 in Kathmandu with the objective of managing legal trade in wildlife at sustainable level and controlling illegal trade effectively through improved networking, cooperation and coordination in South Asia. The workshop was represented by high level government representatives from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The workshop issued/produced Kathmandu declaration and made recommendations for the establishment of Regional Forum for Wildlife Trade in South Asia.

“ A socio-economic survey and evaluation of Kangchenjunga Conservation Area has shown some key significant changes in people wellbeings, livelihoods strategy, issues and practices in comparison to its inception in 1998. ”

Sustainable Livelihoods



Building on our past practices and experiences working with diverse ecological zones, communities WWF Nepal recognizes that livelihoods issues are crucial to the sustainability of conservation. Our 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 resources, livelihoods improvement activities and capacity building. This is to ensure conservation benefits transform to livelihoods benefits too because we know that effective conservation is not possible until improvement of livelihoods of people living in and or around protected, corridor, bottleneck and or bufferzone areas.

With our support, communities engage in various agro-based, forests based and off-farm initiatives as well as eco-tourism related income generating activities including small scale community support services like sanitation and hygiene practices, and enterprise development. We value indigenous knowledge, culture and experiences, which are incorporated in management plans that are representative of all stakeholders.

We work with various governmental and non-governmental partners and community-based organizations to promote sustainable development and ensure that the lives of people are improved while conserving local biodiversity.

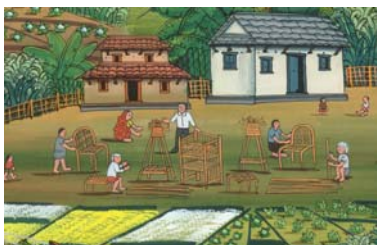
Livelihoods improvement plan implementation guideline

A field based practical guiding document has been developed for BZCFUG committees to build skills of livelihoods improvement plan design and implementation and monitoring process at users groups' level. The "Livelihoods Improvement Plan Implementation Guideline" is a reference document for all the users in the Sacred Himalayan Landscape sites. Similarly, Livelihoods Improvement Plan (LIP) document for KCA has also been developed.

Livelihoods evaluation and surveys

An evaluation study on changes in mountain people livelihoods by the implementation of livestock insurance schemes in high mountain areas has been completed. The major outcomes are zero retaliatory killings of snow leopard and changes in livelihoods strategy.

A socio-economic survey and evaluation of Kangchenjunga Conservation Area has shown some key significant changes in people wellbeings, livelihoods strategy, issues and practices in comparison to its inception in 1998. Among them the diversification of people's livelihoods strategy e.g., agro-based livelihoods income shifting from 83 per cent in 1996 to 49 per cent in 2007 indicated that a majority of households living in KCA shifted their agro-based livelihoods practices to modern practices with other off-farm enterprises. Increasing income from remittances, access to community services, increasing access to formal and non-formal education facility, women empowerment, increase in households' direct involvement



with cash income generating activities, increased in users involvement with community based conservation and development groups, increased use of energy efficient devices e.g., solar system are the indicators of changes in community, their behavior and wellbeing in KCA.

Similarly, an assessment of new Padampur area has been completed. The major outcomes of the periods are the changes in cropping pattern due to urbanization of Narayangadh Bazaar. A large no. of farmers are growing commercial and new crops that has increase the farm based income. The installation of deep boring irrigation has also contributed to the change in community well being. It has helped to diversify the livelihoods options and reduced frequent forest encroachment, collection of fuelwood and fodder and grazing pressure in nearby forest. Similarly, other changes in community are physical assets like house type, bio-gas attached toilets, graveled road, small culverts, access with paved road, irrigation facility, and modern education some what extent fuled by irrigation opportunity and diversification of livelihoods options.

In Langtang and KCA some noticeable changes have been found in transparency practices, recording and reporting with social auditing, ratification of income and expenditure through general assembly meeting, changes in role in key position occupied by women and marginalized groups, capacity to leverage and dialogue with other CBOs and civil society, lobbying capacity with people are some significant changes.

In Dovan an increase in community access to market, economic empowerment, and crop and strategy diverfication,

income diversication have been found. Further, the assessment outcomes indicated the changes in children education behavior. They have started staying late night due to the installation of micro hydro facility. Use of electronic and other domestic appliance and micro irrigation during day time and end use of energy are some other key changes and opportunity. Almost fifty percent of households have at least six month food sufficiency from their own earning. Another achievement is changing role of women, there is 40 per cent representation of women in CFCC and most of the CFUGs. Women now are engaging in economic and social management activities.

Capacity building on sustainable livelihoods mainstreaming

WWF has been providing Sustainable Livelihoods Mainstreaming Approach to key committee members since last four years. This year, capacity building trainings on Sustainable Livelihoods Mainstreaming were organized for bufferzone community forestry users groups in Lagtang, Dovan and New Padampur. The trainings' objectives were to improve skills and understanding of conservation and livelihoods linkages.

Scaling-up of Population Health and Environment (PHE) agenda in sites (Lamahi and Basanta)

A Population, Health and Environment Project (PHE project) focusing on people, their reproductive health needs, especially focusing on family planning and contributing to improve the quality of services delivery was implemented in Khata corridor. Based on the learning and practices, along with the community recommendation, the program has been replicated in another bottleneck site.

“Capacity building trainings on Sustainable Livelihoods Mainstreaming were organized for bufferzone community forestry users groups in Lagtang, Dovan and New Padampur. The trainings' objectives were to improve skills and understanding of conservation and livelihoods linkages.”

Development and Selection of Landscape level Social Condition Measures for Tarai Arc Landscape

WWF is committed to generate and maximize natural resource based opportunity to community people living in and around bottleneck, corridor, protected and buffer-zone of landscape through enhancing their skills, resource and opportunity diversification without increasing pressure on environment. To measure the changes at landscape level, with recommendation and involvement of WWF-US team, a standardized social condition indicator was developed based on national statistics and practices.



“ The Climate Witness films from Nepal were displayed in the exhibition organized by Dresden Museum, Germany. ”

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've achieved. Our communications aim at influencing the attitudes of people towards conservation and engaging and encouraging their participation in biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

The WWF Nepal website www.wwfnepal.org remained one of the highest traffic pullers and one window source of availing information about WWF Nepal and its activities. The site garnered more than average Google ranking throughout the year.

The refurbished WWF Resource Centre catered to the needs of many researchers, academicians and students throughout the year.

Events and exhibitions

The World Environment Day, World Water Day, World Wetlands Day, World Mountain Day and Wildlife Week were celebrated with partner organizations.

A “Snow Leopard Walk” was organized to aware the people about the endangered species on the occasion of 10th anniversary of Kangchenjunga Conservation Area. Valleywide essay contest was also organized to mark the day.

A “Climate Parade” was organized with the partner organizations in solidarity with the Global Climate Campaign that was held ahead of the Bali COP. Nepal's demonstration

was the largest among the countries which took to streets to show their concern on global climate change.

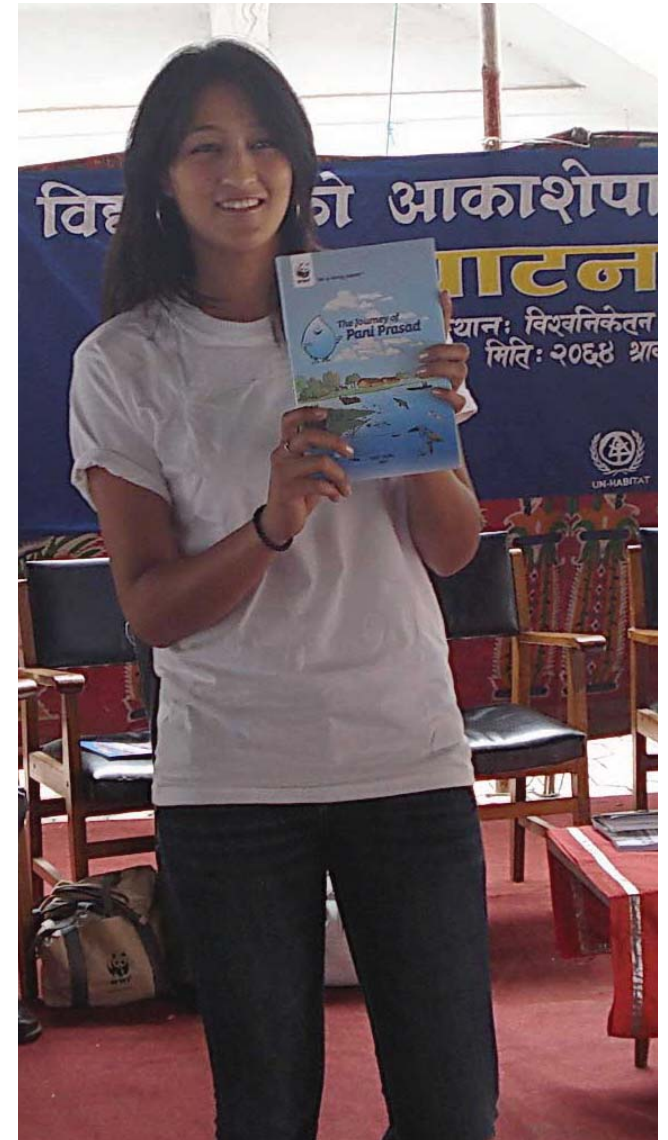
I-educate Program was launched officially this year. The program has been designed with the view to educate the school students on conservation - the program starts with describing biodiversity and at the end of the program the students design an eco-project of their own.

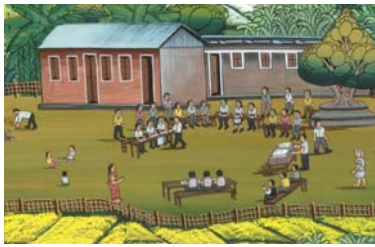
WWF's activities and publications were disseminated to a larger audience at exhibitions organized by Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology (MoEST), Central Zoo - National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC), and Nepal Tourism Board (NTB).

The Climate Witness films from Nepal were displayed in the exhibition organized by Dresden Museum, Germany. The videos of twelve WWF climate witnesses mixed with PCC scientists like Pachauri, Stefan Rahmstorf, politicians like Achim Steiner and Töpfer were displayed on 40 screens. The witnesses helped to give the exhibition the international picture of climate change.

Awareness raising through audio visual media

Our Effort - a 15 episode television programme on WWF activities, broadcast on Nepal Television 2 channel. The programme covered all the issues starting from the introduction of WWF to the field level programme implementation and covered the success stories from Chitwan and Nepalgunj offices. Special programmes were designed to aware the people on the rhino and tiger poaching and a poll was organized on wildlife week to know the people's perception on conservation.





“We are the world - Hamro sansar mamrai haathma”, the weekly radio programme on environmental issues was broadcast through Hits FM, a Kathmandu based radio station. The radio programme “Bhuparidhi”, highlighting the activities of Terai Landscape Program was broadcast through Kalika FM, Tinau FM, Bageshwori FM and Radio Nepal Surkhet. A series of PSAs were aired through Pratidhwani FM in Langtang area. The mega event Live Earth was brought live in Nepal in coordination with Hits FM.

“Protecting the God’s Pet - Saving Snow Leopard in the Himalayas”, a documentary based on the changing faces of the local conservationists, and passing on the tradition – from old generation to young generation, in order to save the endangered snow leopard. “Conservation Heroes”, a documentary both in Nepali and English to commemorate the life and achievements of the conservation heroes was unveiled on 23 September 2007, the anniversary of the tragic helicopter accident. Similarly, “Natural Herbs: Treasure of the Himalayas”, a documentary on the natural herbs found in the Sacred Himalayan Landscape and the initiation of ISSC-MAP for the sustainable management of these herbs and “Sajiv Graha” - a documentary on the climate change issues in Nepal were produced.

Two international film crews visited Nepal to film WWF activities this year. Nautilus Films from Germany captured the NTFP activities of WWF in Nepal. Whereas, Nordisk Films filmed the biogas activities in Lamhi and Chitwan. The ABC Television visited Nepal to cover a story on rhino census.

“A “Climate Parade” was organized with the partner organizations in solidarity with the Global Climate Campaign that was held ahead of the Bali COP.”



Conservation Ambassador engagement

Miss Nepal 2007, Sitashma Chand was appointed WWF Conservation Ambassador. She visited the rainwater harvesting sites at different places in the Kathmandu valley. She inaugurated the rainwater harvesting plant installed by WWF Nepal in Bishwo Niketan High School and also launched the book “The Journey of Pani Prasad”, which has been a hit among the school kids.

Sitashma also appeared in the appeal messages (Public Service Announcement) urging the people to help Department of Forests (DoF), Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) and WWF Nepal in controlling the rhino and tiger poaching.

A message from Sitashma telling people around the world to support the Earth Hour was filmed and sent to the Earth Hour organizers.

Media engagement

Trips of journalists to Chitwan and Kangchenjunga Conservation Area (KCA) was organized. They came up with the stories of Positive Learning Method of Elephant Training and the successes of KCA in the national dailies and monthly magazines.

A partnership was forged with National Forum of Photo Journalists (NFPJ). Analog cameras and lens were handed over to the group and the group announced to provide wildlife photographs to WWF Nepal annually.

CEPF



Investing in capacity-building for conservation

USD 364,500 awarded to researchers and NGOs in Nepal in 2008

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) is a global programme that provides grants to nongovernmental organizations and other private sector partners to protect critical ecosystems all over the world. The Fund is a joint programme of Conservation International, l'Agence Française de Développement, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and the World Bank.

Funding support is provided through large and small grants towards strengthening the role of civil society in biodiversity conservation.

In the Eastern Himalayas, WWF leads the regional team responsible for facilitating, coordinating and monitoring grants for CEPF-supported conservation projects in Nepal, Bhutan and northeast India.

“ Five NGOs received a total of USD 219,000 in large grants for projects in the Kangchenjunga-Singalila area, ranging from 3 months to 2 years in duration. ”

In Nepal, WWF coordinates CEPF grants in two landscapes – the Kangchenjunga Singalila Complex and the Terai Arc Landscape.

This year, five NGOs received a total of USD 219,000 in large grants for projects in the Kangchenjunga-Singalila area, ranging from 3 months to 2 years in duration. Projects that are

supported by the grants aim at the conservation of key plant species, the establishment of community-based anti-poaching areas, the promotion of local stewardship by community forest users for red panda conservation, identification of major issues in red panda conservation, and the promotion of coordinated community-based conservation in the transboundary area. Implementation of these projects started in October 2008.

Twenty-two proposals were received as applications for small grants, and a total of USD 145,500 has been awarded for twelve research projects. Grants were given towards:

- the estimation of snow leopard population in the Kangchenjunga Conservation Area;
- assessing bat diversity hotspots in the Kangchenjunga-Singalila Complex and Makalu region;
- assessing the distribution and status of turtles in the lowlands of Nepal with a focus on the Indian-eyed turtle;
- initiating a vulture restaurant in Gainda Tal, Lumbini;
- evaluating the status, distribution and habitat utilization of the Hispid hare in Bardia National Park;
- raising awareness in Morang for the conservation of the Ganges River Dolphin;
- conservation of the breeding population of Lesser Adjutant Stork in and around Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve;
- establishing community-based anti-poaching measures in the environs of Bardia National Park;
- setting up a vulture restaurant in Lamahi of Dang district;
- assessing gharial conservation initiatives in Chitwan National Park;
- integrating Amchis' traditional knowledge and practices for medicinal substitutes and conservation of threatened species; and
- assessing the status of small carnivores with a special focus on clouded leopard in the Makalu-Barun National Park.

The WWF Nepal Programme office hosts the CEPF regional team for the Eastern Himalayas. This team currently coordinates four large grants in Bhutan that have received a total of USD 326,000 in funding, six large grants in northeast India which have been awarded over USD 500,000 in total, eight small grants in Bhutan and fifteen small grants in India.

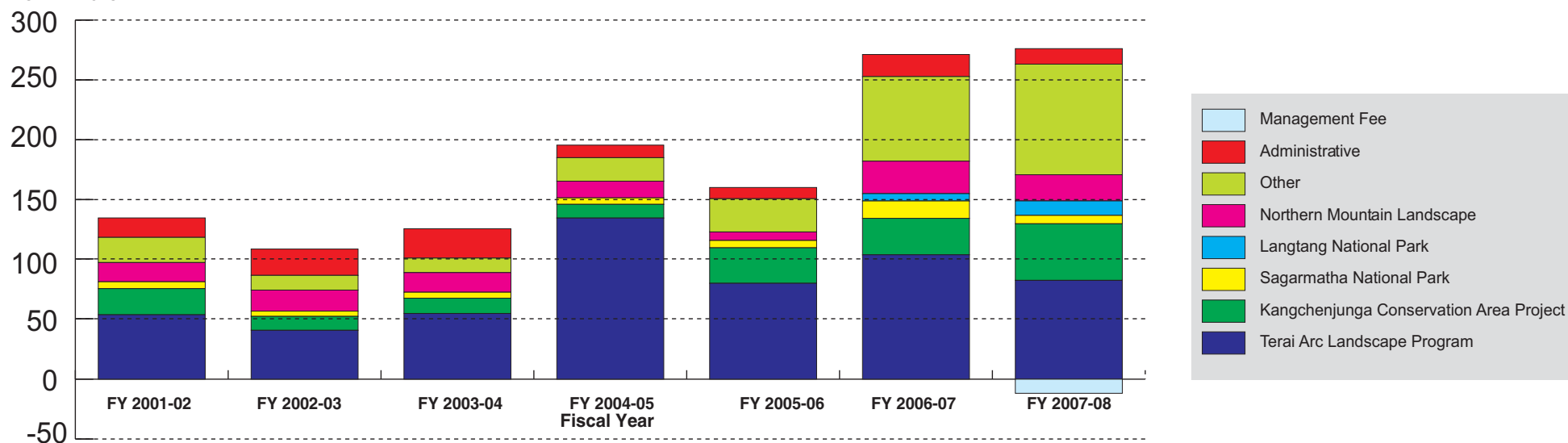
More information on all grants is available at www.panda.org/easternhimalayas/cepf.

Financial Overview

For Fiscal Year 2001-02 to 2007-08

Particulars	Total Amount FY 2001-02	Total Amount FY 2002-03	Total Amount FY 2003-04	Total Amount FY 2004-05	Total Amount FY 2005-06	Total Amount FY 2006-07	Total Amount FY 2007-08
(1) TERAJ ARC LANDSCAPE PROGRAM	53,814,324	40,845,915	54,884,679	134,605,465	80,095,870	103,915,144	82,577,019
(2) SACRED HIMALAYAN LANDSCAPE PROGRAM (i+ii+iii)	27,553,208	15,985,624	17,745,777	16,843,313	35,768,187	51,093,390	66,331,101
i) Kangchenjunga Conservation Area Project	21,825,096	11,592,223	12,772,069	11,442,380	29,669,889	30,422,835	47,245,923
ii) Sagarmatha National Park and Bufferzone Support Project	5,728,112	4,393,401	4,973,708	5,400,933	6,098,298	14,529,979	7,000,770
iii) Langtang National Park and Bufferzone Support Project	-	-	-	-	-	6,140,576	12,084,408
(3) NORTHERN MOUNTAIN LANDSCAPE	16,074,704	17,589,025	16,413,198	13,937,434	7,127,246	27,132,605	21,863,255
(4) OTHER PRIORITY PROGRAM	21,006,135	12,288,053	12,118,447	19,642,577	27,780,443	70,631,330	92,385,983
(5) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURE	16,256,192	22,000,167	24,519,353	10,499,923	9,366,330	18,470,716	12,968,572
(6) Management Fee	-	-	-	-	-	-	(13,777,961)
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (1+2+3+4+5+6)	134,704,563	108,708,784	125,681,453	195,528,712	160,138,076	271,243,186	262,347,968

NRs in millions



Highlights of 2007-2008

July 2007

Workshop on 'Tuberculosis in Elephants - Diagnosis and Treatment'

A workshop on "Disease Diagnosis and Treatment of Elephants" was jointly organized by Tribhuvan University – Institute of Agriculture and Animal Sciences (IAAS), Department of National Park and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), WWF –Asian Rhino and Elephant Action Strategy (AREAS), National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC), Elephant Care International and Tufts University at the Biodiversity Conservation Centre, Chitwan on 28-29 July 2007 with an objective of developing a standard protocol for treatment of infectious diseases including tuberculosis in captive elephants in Nepal.



October 2007

Micro Hydro Handover to Community

Chhargad micro hydro project was handed over to local user committee on 3 October 2007. The 35 KW capacity micro hydro will benefit 151 Households of Tripurakot Village Development Committee's wards 1, 2 and 3.

December 2007

WWF Finland's Head of Conservation in Chitwan

Jari Luukkonen, Head of Conservation, WWF Finland visited Chitwan National Park, its Buffer Zone and New Padampur on 16-17 December 2007.

Parade to raise awareness on climate change

More than 2000 students from schools and colleges, representatives from more than 20 organizations working on advocacy, conservation and environmental issues, and people from all walks of life participated in the climate parade organized on 8 December 2007. The rally was organized in solidarity with the demonstrations held throughout the world to coincide with the UN Climate Talks in Bali, Indonesia, from 3 to 14 December 2007.

July

Aug

Sep

Oct

Nov

Dec

September 2007

WWF-US President's Chitwan Visit

WWF-US President and CEO, Carter Roberts together with the Vice President, WWF-US and Country Representative of WWF Nepal visited Chitwan National Park, its buffer zone and surroundings during 18-22 September 2007.

Remembering, Honouring and Celebrating the Life and Achievements of Conservation Heroes

WWF Nepal, The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, IUCN – The World Conservation Union, National Trust for Nature Conservation, Wildlife Conservation Nepal, The Mountain Institute and Wildlife Watch Group jointly celebrated Conservation Day in memory of the Conservation Heroes who lost their lives in the tragic helicopter accident on 23 September 2006 at Ghunsa, Kangchenjunga.

Conservationists Awarded

WWF Nepal honoured nine individuals and organizations dedicated to conservation with Abraham Conservation Award, Matthew Preece and Yeshi Choden Lama Young Conservation Leaders Award and WWF Conservation in Media Award, in a ceremony to celebrate the life and achievements of Conservation Heroes.

Four High Altitude Wetlands declared Ramsar sites

Four high altitude wetlands in Nepal – Gokyo and associated lakes, Gosaikunda and associated lakes, Phoksundo Lake and Rara Lake have been designated new wetlands of international importance by the Switzerland based Ramsar Bureau.



Elephant Training through Positive Learning Method

Elephant training through positive learning method was organized at Khorsor on 14 December 2007. Twenty one elephant staff of Chitwan National Park, Bardia National Park, Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve, National Trust for Nature Conservation, Temple Tiger Hotel and three veterinary staff of CNP.

January 2008

Milestone partnership to incorporate conservation in curriculum

WWF Nepal signed a MoU with Curriculum Development Centre, Ministry of Education and Sports (MOES), Government of Nepal (GoN) on 8 January 2008 to incorporate issues of conservation starting with climate change issues in the national curriculum of grade one to ten.

March 2008

US Ambassador Visits Khata Corridor

On 27 March 2008, the US Ambassador to Nepal Her Excellency Ms. Nancy Powell paid visit to Khata corridor to observe field level activities run by CFCC Khata.

WWF's 10 years in Kangchenjunga Conservation Area

While poets from Taplejung cited poems, students in Kathmandu participated in a rally to raise awareness on conserving snow leopard as a part of celebrating WWF's ten years in Kangchenjunga Conservation Area.

May 2008

WWF-US team in Langtang

A team comprising of Tom Dillon, Senior-Vice President, Programs, WWF-US, John Lalumiere, Vice-President, Human Resources, WWF-US, Jon Miceler, Eastern Himalayan Managing Director, WWF-US, and WWF Nepal staff visited Langtang National Park and Buffer Zone Support Project from 8-10 May 2008.

Gaur count in Parsa Wildlife Reserve

A recent census has confirmed the presence of 37 gaurs (*Bos gaurus*) in the Parsa Wildlife Reserve (PWR). The census was conducted from 24-27 May 2008 by the PWR in coordination with the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, WWF Nepal – Terai Arc Landscape Program, Nepal Army and Buffer Zone Management Committee.

Huge haul of wildlife parts and antique items

The Metropolitan Police Crime Division, Hanuman Dhoka seized wildlife parts including tiger skins, leopard skins, chests with animal skins mounted on it, sofa cushion with animal skins, bear claws, tiger claws, jackal horn (as mentioned by police), snow leopard skin, red panda skin, python skin, skulls and antique items like statues, temple buttress, thangkass and many more items, from rented house of a US citizen Ian Baker on 18 May 2008.

Jan

Feb

Mar

Apr

May

February 2008

South Asian Nations Pledge Cooperation on Rampant Wildlife Trade

All eight South Asian nations agreed to step up cooperation in addressing wildlife trade problems in the area in a workshop held in Kathmandu on 31 January - 1 February 2008.

The region, home to such rare and prized species as tigers, Asiatic lions, snow leopards, Asian elephants and one-horned rhinoceroses, is recognized as one of the prime targets of international organized wildlife crime networks.

April 2008

WWF supports Sagarmatha National Park Buffer Zone Management Committee

WWF Nepal signed a grant agreement with Sagarmatha National Park Buffer Zone Management Committee (SNPBZ MC) on 15 April 2008 to support community based biodiversity conservation and sustainable development initiatives. Out of the total grant of NRs. 12.5 million, NRs. 11.9 million will support towards constructing 35 kW Chhuserma micro hydro scheme directly benefiting 58 households. It is being jointly financed by WWF Nepal, Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Association, SNPBZ MC and the local communities.

100 per cent electrification in Upper Dolpa

Under the Northern Mountain Conservation Project, 251 solar sets and 135 smokeless metal stoves were distributed to beneficiaries of the Shey Phoksundo National Park and Buffer Zone area of Upper Dolpa on the 24 March 2008 at Dunai, Dolpa resulting into hundred per cent electrification in Upper Dolpa region. The project funded by KCF (Kadoorie Charitable Foundation) and WWF Nepal with a partial community stake.



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Nancy Abraham WWF US; WWF UK; WWF Finland; WWF Netherlands; WWF New Zealand; WWF France; WWF Germany; WWF Sweden; WWF Asian Rhinos and Elephant Action Strategy and WWF Tiger Program; WWF International; WWF China; WWF Indonesia; WWF South Pacific; WWF India

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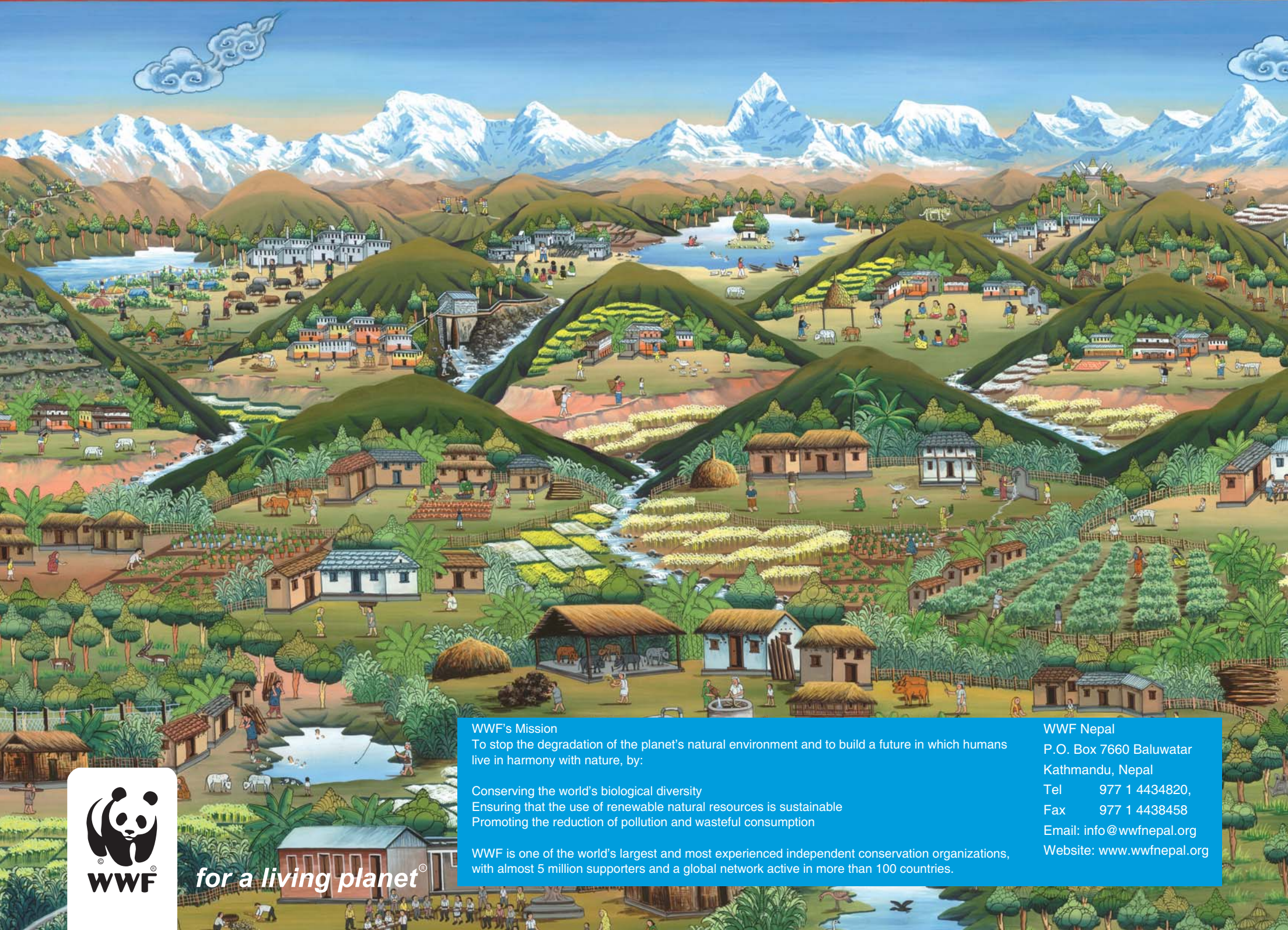
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WWF's Mission

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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