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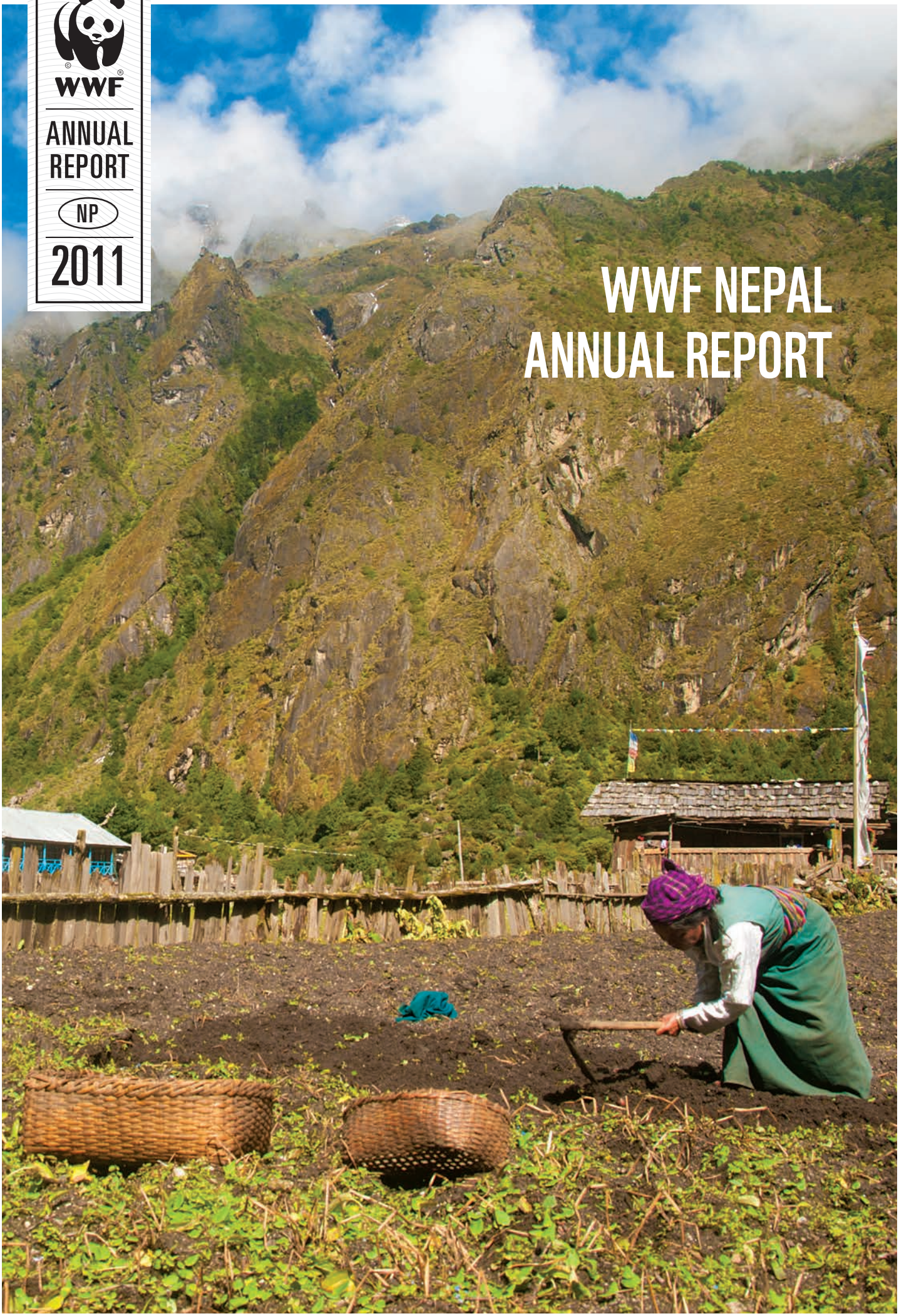
WWF NEPAL ANNUAL REPORT



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Prepared by WWF Nepal

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MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE

A conducive policy environment is key to the success of any conservation endeavour.

Despite these successes, it is not yet time to rest on our laurels of the past. New challenges still await us and so do new opportunities; and WWF-Nepal now strides into a new year with the hope of sharing newer successes with you, for a living planet.

WWF-Nepal turned 18 this fiscal year and I take pride in sharing with you some of the key conservation wins for Nepal over the past year. These achievements reflect the potential of collaborative working, both nationally and on a trans-boundary level, and I would like to thank the Government of Nepal, partner conservation agencies, community-based organizations and the local communities that we work with for joining hands in building on the successes of conservation interventions in Nepal.

A conducive policy environment is key to the success of any conservation endeavour. At the national level, prime institutional mechanisms such as the National Tiger Conservation Committee, Wildlife Crime Control Coordination Committee and Wildlife Crime Control Bureau are now in place to strengthen tiger protection measures and curb poaching and illegal wildlife trade. This has been complemented by partnerships with the governments of China and India to address biodiversity conservation and illegal wildlife trade at the trans-boundary level, and the establishment of the Secretariat of the South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN) in Nepal as a coordinated regional response to combat illegal poaching and trafficking.

Forests are at the heart of WWF-Nepal's conservation priorities where the effort is to build ecological integrity and provide a host of ecological services and benefits to local communities in a sustainable manner. Restoration of over 1,600ha of barren land and degraded forests and the handover of over 4,000ha of forests to Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs) in the Terai Arc Landscape (TAL) and Sacred Himalayan Landscape (SHL) were clear big wins in this regard. Likewise, over 100,000ha of major forests in the corridor areas were declared as Protection Forests together with the gazettement of Banke National Park.

Given that one of the biggest impacts of climate change is on water resources, water-based adaptation was continued in Dudhkoshi sub-basin under the National Water Plan. Many households in the area are benefitting today through the promotion of water-smart communities which has helped provide water even during times of scarcity for their homes and for vegetable farming.

Considering the link between biodiversity conservation and livelihoods of rural communities dependent on natural resource, WWF-Nepal's sustainable livelihoods program helped further improve the well-being of communities in TAL and SHL. Income generation activities (IGAs) benefited thousands of people in SHL and TAL through the promotion of agriculture and off-farm based activities. In TAL alone, the cooperatives and Community Forest Coordination Committees were able to mobilise funds of over USD 250,000 for IGAs.

Carbon financing and the sale of carbon credits were introduced as innovative sustainable financing mechanisms for Nepal. Through the use of biogas, 7,500 households in TAL received funds from the sale of the first vintage of carbon credits under the Gold Standard Biogas VER Project upon successful completion of the construction of the first phase of the project. The use of biogas and improved cooking stoves also helped save nearly 8,000 metric tons of fuelwood.

Improved rhino protection measures and management of habitat helped lead to a surge in rhino populations, with the National Rhino Census conducted in April 2011 revealing a count of 534 rhinos in Nepal, marking an increase of 99 rhinos (22.7%) from the 435 recorded in 2008.

Cutting edge science was introduced to aid tiger monitoring efforts through the country's first collaring of a wild tiger with a GPS-enabled (GPS PLUS GLOBALSTAR-3) satellite collar. Similarly, Management Information System Technology (MIST) was introduced in Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve and Chitwan National park to help in patrolling efforts. Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) was also piloted successfully to establish Tier III level data on the forest carbon stock for TAL through the partnership with Forest Resource Assessment-Government of Nepal and Arbonaut, Finland.

Despite these successes, it is not yet time to rest on our laurels of the past. New challenges still await us and so do new opportunities; and WWF-Nepal now strides into a new year with the hope of sharing newer successes with you, for a living planet.

Anil Manandhar

Country Representative

WWF IN NEPAL

WWF-Nepal's Mission is to stop the degradation of Nepal's natural environment, and to build a future in which people live in harmony with nature

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 campaigns to highlight and demonstrate solutions to crucial environmental problems.

WWF started working in Nepal from 1967 when it launched a rhino conservation program in Chitwan. To keep up with the evolving face of conservation and the environmental movement, WWF's focus evolved from its localized efforts in conservation of single species in the 1960s, integrated conservation and development approach in the 1990s, to a new horizon of landscape level conservation encompassing national, regional and global scales of complexity in the early 2000s.

WWF's work in Nepal is focussed in the Terai Arc Landscape (TAL) and Sacred Himalayan Landscape (SHL), including Koshi River Basin. WWF-Nepal works to conserve flagship and priority key species, forests, freshwater, and to mitigate the pervasive threat of climate change to communities, species and their habitats. The effective delivery of conservation results under the above four thematic areas are supported by crosscutting programs on policy and advocacy, sustainable livelihoods, communications, and education.

In Nepal, WWF works closely with Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation through the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) and Department of Forests (DoF), Ministry of Environment, Water and Energy Commission Secretariat (WECS), Ministry of Land Reform and Management and National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC). Besides the national priority areas, WWF-Nepal also works in conservation issues of regional and trans-boundary importance.

VISION

WWF-Nepal envisions a prosperous Nepal with a society possessing an ethic of stewardship and responsibility towards nature.

By 2050 Nepal will have:

- Conserved biodiversity and the natural processes that sustain it in the Global 200 Ecoregions within Nepal.
- Established social and economic development patterns that assure the sustainable and equitable provision of natural goods and services, improving livelihoods and quality of life for current and future generations.
- Eliminated or mitigated critical threats to species, habitats, and ecological processes that derive from climate change, over exploitation of resources, unsustainable consumption, and pollution.

MISSION

WWF-Nepal's Mission is to stop the degradation of Nepal's natural environment, and to build a future in which people live in harmony with nature by:

- Conserving biological diversity
- Ensuring the sustainable use of renewable natural resources
- Reducing pollution and wasteful consumption
- Securing sustainable livelihoods

GOAL

By 2015 WWF-Nepal shall conserve at least 3 priority landscapes within the Global 200 Ecoregions by:

- Reducing threats to species, habitat and ecological processes
- Improving the livelihoods of local people

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FORESTS

Restoring forests serves the vital purpose of enhancing forest functionality

Forest and Pastureland Restoration

Restoring forests serves the vital purpose of enhancing forest functionality i.e. the goods, services and ecological processes that forests can provide at the broader landscape level as opposed to solely promoting increased tree cover at a particular location. The restoration approach of WWF-Nepal makes use of plantation and natural forest regeneration.

1,600HA
OF BARREN LAND AND DEGRADED FORESTS WERE RESTORED

During this fiscal year, over 1,600ha of barren land and degraded forests were restored in TAL and SHL; this included approximately 600ha in Kangchenjunga Conservation Area(KCA) and Langtang National Park Buffer Zone (LNPBZ), and approximately 1,000ha in corridor and bottleneck areas of TAL. In TAL, 91.5ha of grassland and nine waterholes were also managed and restored through the removal of invasive species such as Mikenia, Lantena and Water hyacinth. 108,000 seedlings were also planted in Lumbini on the ocassion of Earth Hour 2011.

Forest nurseries were also established in Kailali and Dang districts, Chitwan and Parsa Wildlife Reserve Buffer Zone which produced 100,000 seedlings of various timber and NTFPs respectively to aid forest restoration. Similarly, in SHL, three multipurpose nurseries were run in KCA and 16,700 seedlings were planted to aid forest restoration.

Forest and Pastureland Management

The major factors contributing to effective forest management have been the community forestry program which is led by Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs) outside protected areas and community-based forest conservation in conservation areas managed by the local communities. This program has greatly increased community ownership of forests in the landscapes, as a result of which forests are better protected and local communities have increased access to and control over forest resources.

1,371
BIOGAS PLANTS

1,075
IMPROVED COOKING STOVES WERE INSTALLED

Over 4,000ha of forests were handed over to CFUGs in TAL and SHL this fiscal year; this included 2,500ha of forests which were handed over to 18 CFUGs and 2 BZUGs in TAL, and 1,527 ha of forests which were handed over to 15 CFUGs in Langtang National Park and Buffer Zone (LNPBZ) of SHL. Prior to the handover, the CFUGs were provided support for preparing constitutions and forest operational plans. Moreover, approximately 9,000ha of alpine pastureland was brought under community management system in SHL together with the operationalization of a site-based pastureland management plan. To assist in the sustainability of the operations of the CFUGs, various capacity building programs on natural resource management, participatory planning and conducting forest inventory were provided to the members of the CFUGs.

In order to reduce human pressure on forests, corridors, bottlenecks and buffer zones, a total of 1,371 biogas plants and 1,075 Improved Cooking Stoves (ICS) were installed this fiscal year which contributed to saving 7,669 metric tons of fuelwood. Between 2001 and 2011, 7,493 biogas plants and 12,246 ICS were installed which helped save over 227,835 metric tons of fuel wood. The biogas program was financed by cooperatives through a revolving fund amounting to over USD 600,000.

Forest fires are responsible for destroying substantial areas of forests. With global warming in effect, the country has witnessed exceeding number of forest fires and TAL and SHL are no exceptions. In order to strengthen the knowledge and skills of the community to combat forest fires, WWF-Nepal organised several capacity building programs in the landscapes where members of different community-based organizations were oriented on the causes and effects of forest fire, and different measures to preventand control forest fires. In TAL, over 200 members of Basanta, Bhajani, Amauri and Narti Community Forest Coordination Committees participated in such capacity building programs. In SHL, eight community-based firefighting groups in SHL were formed, trained and supported for the prevention, preparedness and control of forest fire. An emergency fund was also established to control forest fire in seven Conservation Area Users Committees (CAUC) of KCA.

Forest Protection

WWF-Nepal works with the government to conserve prime forest areas as Protection Forests. Community access to forest resources is relativily low in these areas allowing for sustainable management of forests and wildlife conservation.

Over 111,000ha of major forests in the corridor areas of Basanta, Khata, Barandabhar, Laljhadi and Mohana were declared as Protection Forests by the government while the process of their gazettement and preparation of management plans are underway.

BANKE NATIONAL PARK GAZETTED WITH A CORE AREA OF 55,000HA

In this fiscal year, in an effort to conserve tiger habitats, Banke National Park was gazetted with a core area of 55,000ha and a buffer zone of 34,400 ha. Similarly, an area of 18,000ha was extended in the buffer zone of Bardia National Park. A park office was established in Banke National Park while its baseline survey was conducted and draft management plan developed. Similarly, a management committee, user committees and user groups, and Community Based Anti-Poaching Units were formed in the new buffer zones of Banke National park and Bardia National Park.

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COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP IN KANGCHENJUNGA

The Kangchenjunga Conservation Area Management Council (KCAMC) was formed in 2003 by the local community of Kangchenjunga Conservation Area (KCA). KCA was handed over to KCAMC by the government in 2006, with the Council being the first community-based organization in Nepal to be handed substantial legal rights and authority over a conservation area. Since 2006, KCAMC and its affiliated bodies have been implementing conservation and sustainable development activities in line with the KCA Management Plan (2006-2011) under the financial and technical support of the Kangchenjunga Conservation Area Program established by the Government of Nepal with the support of WWF-Nepal. KCAMC will be provided full management responsibilities of KCA after 2014.

With financial sustainability being a major factor for KCAMC to successfully manage KCA, the Council has over the years initiated several programs and developed important networks to help fund its programs. While tourism revenue is one such source of funds, the harvesting of Kutki (a mountain herb) is expected to provide additional funds in the future.

KCAMC has also made significant strides in strengthening its network and links with potential donor agencies. KCAMC was selected as a partner of the Poverty Alleviation Fund (a World Bank-supported project of Government of Nepal) in 2010 for a period of four years. Over USD 250,000 has been leveraged by KCA through the Poverty Alleviation Fund. Moreover, a memorandum of understanding was signed between KCAMC and MIT Solutions (a US-based consultancy service) in 2011 whereby MIT Solutions will help build and strengthen fundraising capacities of KCAMC.

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SPECIES

Rhino populations in Nepal increased by 22.7% which underscores the potential of collaborative working for species conservation

Anti-Poaching Operations

Community-Based Anti-Poaching Operation (CBAPO) units are community-led youth groups who work on a voluntary basis to safeguard corridors, bottlenecks, core areas and buffer zones from poaching and unsustainable harvesting of timber and NTFPs/MAPs. CBAPO units engage in community awareness programs on biodiversity conservation and undertake patrolling on a regular basis. In TAL, 74 new CBAPO units were formed this fiscal year bringing up the cumulative figure to 378. Likewise, in SHL, 26 CBAPO units and six Snow Leopard Conservation Committees (SLCCs) were strengthened and mobilized.

REDUCED RHINO POACHING BY 90%

In TAL, Protected Areas (PAs) were supported for mobilising 32 informants around the protected areas to collect information regarding poaching and illegal wildlife trade. The PAs were also supported for conducting sweeping and camping operations inside the National Parks and Wildlife Reserves. These vigilant exercises helped reduce rhino poaching by 90% as compared to 2010 and also reduced other illegal activities inside the park. With the concerted efforts of the enforcement agencies 1,177 offenders including 51 rhino poachers and 7 tiger poachers (skin traders) were arrested. Similarly in SHL, 65 snares (for musk deer/birds), a musk deer trap (approximately 2 km long), a local gun and six skins (four of musk deer and two of red panda) were confiscated while two poachers/traders were apprehended.

Piloting State-of-the-art Technology to Monitor Tigers

Cutting edge science was introduced by WWF-Nepal to aid tiger monitoring efforts through the country's first collaring of a wild tiger with a GPS-enabled (GPS PLUS GLOBALSTAR-3) satellite collar. The wild tiger, Namobuddha, was initially captured in 2010 in Chitwan following which, in January 2011, it was fitted with the collar and translocated to its new home in Bardia National Park. Authorities at WWF-Nepal and Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) monitored the movements of Namobuddha successfully for a period of three months using central GPS data transmitted by the collar and a field-based VHF (Very High Frequency) tracking and High-Resolution Monitoring (HRM) system.

Rhino Conservation

A National Rhino Census was conducted in April 2011 which revealed a count of 534 rhinos in Nepal, marking an increase of 99 rhinos (22.7%) from the 435 recorded in 2008. This comprised of 503 rhinos in Chitwan National Park, 24 rhinos in Bardia National Park and 7 rhinos in Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve. These numbers reflected the success of conservation efforts and were a result of improved rhino protection measures and management of habitat.

Using ID-based technology, profiles of 120 rhinos in Chitwan National Park, 19 in Bardia National Park and six in Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve were established and continuously monitored. Presently seven rhinos have been GPS-collared and tracked to acquire in-depth understanding on impacts of the invasive species, Mikania micrantha, on rhino ecology and behaviour.

Snow Leopard Conservation

The Snow leopard Conservation Plan (2006-2015) of Nepal was revised incorporating contemporary threats such as climate change. A regional workshop on snow leopard was organised in Kathmandu with participants from the trans-boundary countries of Bhutan, China, India and Nepal. The conservation status of and threats to snow leopards in the region were analyzed and an action plan developed for improved conservation of this flagship species.

21% INCREASE OF GHARIAL POPULATION

Gharial Conservation

Gharial population survey was conducted in 2011 in Rapti, Narayani, Babai, Karnali and Koshi rivers in TAL. The survey estimated a total of 102 gharials in Nepal with an overall increment of 21% as compared to 2008 data. Likewise, habitat of gharials was also assessed in terms of water quality, habitat parameters, prey-base availability and disturbance parameters. The results indicated that there were minimal signs of pollution in the habitat of gharials.

Preparations are underway for the development of the Gharial Conservation Action Plan for Nepal. Key emphasis will be on research and protection of gharials in the wild, joint patrolling of rivers by the park rangers and the local community, river protection and alternative livelihood opportunities to curb the existing threats to gharials.

As a part of the ex-situ conservation measures, two gharial breeding pools were also designed and are under construction in Kasara in Chitwan National Park.

Implementation of MIST

Management Information System Technology (MIST) in was introduced Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve and Chitwan National Park in TAL as a convenient and robust tool for tracking the effectiveness of park management on a wide range of subjects including ecology, park protection and tourism. MIST is presently being implemented by eight posts in Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve and 17 posts in Chitwan National Park. This technology has aided in keeping track of wildlife species, illegal activities inside the park, efficiency of the patrol staffs and taking immediate managerial decisions and actions.

REDUCED RETALIATORY KILLING BY HERDERS

Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation

Human-Elephant Conflict (HEC) mitigation measures were initiated in Madi valley in TAL to address the rising incidences of loss of human life, crop and property. Kunkie training was given to 12 elephant handlers and three elephants in Chitwan National Park. One mobile squad was formed at the park level while 56 anti-depredation squads were formed at the village level. These squads were also supported with capacity building programs and field gear. A solar fence of 11km was installed in Lothar Buffer Zone considering the rising issues of HEC in the area.

In SHL, Livestock Insurance Scheme (LIS) was strengthened in KCA and LNPBZ benefiting about 550 households. The scheme is expected to reduce retaliatory killing by the herders by compensating them for the loss of livestock killed by snow leopards. A human-wildlife conflict (HWC) mitigation scheme was implemented in KCA to address the issues of human casualties/injuries, livestock depredation and crop damage. Moreover, cultivation of deterrent NTFPs such as Swertia was initiated in LNPBZ as a means of HWC mitigation.

Vulture Conservation

The TAL program successfully replicated the community-based vulture conservation program and integrated an old-age home for livestock in Lamahi bottleneck. This not only proved instrumental in encouraging the communities living near important vulture habitats to conserve them but also helped conserve about 1,000ha of forests. A sustainable mechanism for vulture conservation was also initiated through the establishment of an endowment fund of USD 7,857 and 250 members associated with the vulture conservation centre as 'Friends of Nature'.

RHINO COUNT

Data from the three-week National Rhino Census in Nepal reflected an increase in the population of the greater one-horned rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros Unicornis*).

The census conducted in April 2011 identified 534 rhinos in Nepal, marking an increase of 99 rhinos from the 435 recorded in the last census in 2008. Of that total, 503 rhinos were recorded in Chitwan National Park (an increase of 95 rhinos), 24 in Bardia National Park (an increase of two rhinos) and seven in Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve (an increase of two rhinos). These numbers reflect the success of conservation efforts for this species and are a result of improved rhino protection measures and management of habitat.

The rhino counting was conducted simultaneously in Chitwan National Park, Bardia National Park and Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve of Nepal's Terai Arc Landscape, and was a combined effort of the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation of the Government of Nepal, WWF Nepal and the National Trust for Nature Conservation.

Habitat loss and poaching are the immediate threats facing rhinos in Nepal. Habitat loss is a key concern as human populations rise and forests are degraded or destroyed. Likewise, the demand for rhino horns, used in traditional Asian medicine to treat a variety of ailments, is a key driver for poaching of the species. Although international trade in rhino horn is banned under CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora) and although some traditional medical practitioners are using alternatives to rhino horn, the demand for horn remains high.

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CLIMATE CHANGE & ENERGY

Carbon financing is an opportunity to establish sustainable financing mechanisms and provide innovative solutions to address climate change through renewable energy.

Engaging for a Global Deal on Climate Change

WWF-Nepal actively engaged with the Global Climate and Energy Initiative (GCEI) to contribute to adaptation and REDD+ issues in the UNFCCC process. WWF-Nepal works with both the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation as key partners. WWF-Nepal supported the Government to draft the Climate Change Policy and the National REDD+ strategy. WWF-Nepal will be further supporting the Government to develop a low carbon development strategy and implement NAPA and REDD+ in Nepal.

FOREST CARBON PROGRAM BEING SCALED UP

REDD+ Readiness

WWF-Nepal completed the assessment for establishing the forest carbon stock baseline for TAL this year. In addition to the forest carbon baseline study, a socio-economic survey was also carried out followed by an analysis of an appropriate benefit-sharing mechanism. According to the assessment, the high forest carbon stock was found inside the protected areas followed by community forests and government-managed forests. Given the projected net change in deforestation from 0.19 to 0.13% within a span of 40 years, the net saving in forests was 54,000ha; this could sequestrate about 12 million tons of CO2 equivalent. WWF-Nepal is also up-scaling forest carbon work in the mountains (SHL) based on the success in TAL.

Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) was piloted successfully in collaboration with the Forest Resource Assessment-Government of Nepal and Arbonaut, Finland to establish a Tier III level data on the forest carbon stock for TAL this fiscal year. 10% of the total area was laser-scanned in blocks of 50sq.m. The LiDAR data is currently being processed in Finland by Arbonaut and will be made available in the coming fiscal year. WWF-Nepal plans to develop a Project Design Document (PDD) with the Government of Nepal as the project proponent using the Voluntary Carbon Standard (VCS) methodology.

13,606 TONS OF CO_2 EQUIVALENT VERIFIED

Carbon Financing

The construction of biogas plants of the first phase of the Gold Standard Biogas VER Project, which started from 2007, was completed this fiscal year. The number of beneficiaries was 7,500 households. Apart from the benefits of using biogas, the beneficiaries also received funds from the sale of the first vintage of carbon credits. The second verification was also completed which verified 13,606 tons of CO2 equivalent following the first verification last year which had verified 12,125 tons of C02 eq. The verifications will continue for the next seven years followed by the second and third period of verifications. Carbon financing is an opportunity to establish sustainable financing mechanisms and provide innovative solutions to address climate change through renewable energy.

Climate Change Visitor Centre

A Climate Change Visitor Centre was established in Jibjibe in Rasuwa this year. The visitor center has information on climate change, its impacts especially on the Himalayas, adaptation initiatives undertaken as well as other relevant climate change documents. The main objective of the visitor centre is to facilitate information exchange on climate change and enhance the knowledge at local level. The visitor centre was inaugurated by Minister of Environment, Honourable Sunil Babu Manandhar. He suggested linking the visitor centre with the Climate Knowledge Management Centre at the national level which is managed by the Ministry of Environment.

Climate Adaptation Actions implemented on the ground

The Farmer School, an initiative of Langtang National Park and Buffer Zone Support Project (LNPBZ-SP) and WWF-Nepal, is a forum for local farmers to discuss, interact and experiment on different topics related to farming and agricultural practices that are adapted to the effects of climate change. In the school, a trained resource person takes the lead in organising the learning and sharing sessions. This year, farmers' school on Sustainable Rice Intensification (SRI) technology was organised for the first time in Bhorley village of Rasuwa in Langtang. At the school, the farmers gained new insights to this technology on rice production through which rice harvests have proved to be more productive while consuming less water.

47 CONSERVATION PONDS WERE CONSTRUCTED IN THE BUFFER ZONE

Conservation ponds were promoted by WWF-Nepal and LNPBZ-SP in Langtang Buffer Zone as a solution to the water scarcity in the region. Till date, 47 conservation ponds were constructed in the buffer zone. Climate change has a direct impact on the availability of water for local communities in the mountain region which in turn affects agriculture, the mainstay of the communities in this region. Through the conservation ponds, water is stored during the rainy season (a pond can hold up to 8,000 litres of water) and then used judiciously during the drier months.

Weather stations were established by LNPBZ-SP with the support of WWF-Nepal to help increase the level of understanding on the hydrometeorological sector and disseminate information on climate change to the local community. The weather stations are managed by Eco Clubs whose members measure rainfall amounts, maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity on a daily basis. This year, two more weather stations were installed in Bhalaya Danda and Syabrubesi of Rasuwa district. The first three weather stations were installed in Dhaibung, Bhorley and Ramche villages of Rasuwa in 2008.

Local adaptation plans were developed for the first time by four VDCs – Laharepauwa, Syabru, Ramche and Bhorley – in order to build sustainability in the adaptation initiatives of the local communities. In Nepal, remote and isolated communities in the Himalayan region cope with the impacts of climate change on a day-to-day basis at both the ecological and community level. Agriculture, the mainstay of majority of the people in this region, is an area that is affected the most by climate vulnerabilities which has a direct impact on people's livelihoods. The local adaptation plans are expected to enable communities to understand climate vulnerability and its impact on their livelihoods, and help them design appropriate adaptation programs and strategies to cope with such vulnerabilities.

CARBON FINANCING

Today 7,500 biogas stoves in Nepal are saving 617 acres of forests annually, which is 33,000 tons of fuel wood saved. Each stove eliminates four metric tons of CO2 equivalents annually. Biogas stoves, in effect, have been vital for reforestation and forest protection in the Terai Arc Landscape, which is home to about 7 million people and also some majestic species such as tigers, rhinos and elephants.

Biogas provides a valuable cooking source for many homes in the Terai Arc Landscape of Nepal. While 60% of the population here still relies on firewood for cooking, biogas is slowly replacing this traditional practice in many homes.

Use of biogas has been a life-changing experience for many people in the terai, especially women. It has brought with it health benefits as women are no longer stuck in unhealthy smoke-filled kitchens. They also no longer have to search for firewood from wood debris or cut down trees or branches in nearby forests. While this time saved can instead be spent on other productive avenues such as enterprise development or community service, women are also less at risk from the dangers involved in getting into the forests for collecting firewood.

And the benefits do not end here; the construction of biogas plants of the first phase of the Gold Standard Biogas VER Project, which started from 2007, was completed this year which verified 13,606 tons of CO2 equivalent (the first verification last year had verified 12,125 tons of Co2 equivalent). The beneficiaries of the project received funds from the sale of the first vintage of carbon credits. This innovative method of carbon financing is an opportunity to establish sustainable financing mechanisms and provide innovative solutions to address climate change through renewable energy.

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FRESHWATER

Ecosystem-based and water-focused vulnerability assessment, 'Flowing Forward', was successfully conducted in Indrawati sub-basin for the first time

Institutional Building

Four Integrated Resource Management Committees (IRMCs) were established in Indrawati sub-basin. The IRMCs are the local institutions envisioned by the National Water Plan (2005) to plan and implement Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) activities in their respective catchments.

In order to strengthen the capacities of the IRMCs, various training programs were conducted for their members on diverse topics including accounting, office management, vegetable farming, improved agriculture technologies, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and IWRM.

The River Basin Office of Koshi Basin located in Biratnagar was also provided with institutional support for data and information management. The office functions under the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM).

Environmental Assessments

Ecosystem-based and water-focused vulnerability assessment, 'Flowing Forward', was successfully conducted in Indrawati sub-basin for the first time in Nepal. The assessment covered the vulnerabilities of the Indrawati sub-basin under the climate change and development scenarios. Adaptation strategies were developed on the basis of this assessment.

Water Poverty Mapping was conducted in Indrawati sub-basin to identify the areas that are poor in terms of five key components of water (resources, access, capacity, use and environment). Water Poverty Index (WPI) and the Water Poverty Maps of Indrawati sub-basin were prepared. WPI of Indrawati sub-basin was found to be 52.5; with highest WPI of 62.5 in Ichhok VDC and lowest WPI of 40.5 in Nawalpur VDC. Lower WPI indicates that the area is water-poor and that its water management systems need to be enhanced.

A comprehensive baseline survey was conducted in Indrawati sub-basin and data on socio-economy, water use status, and institutions and governance were established. The baseline data will be used to monitor changes in the same over time so as to aid program strategy formulation. Similarly, a study on bird diversity was also conducted in Indrawati sub-basin; 219 bird species of 44 families were recorded from the study of which 41 were water-dependent and 140 forest-dependent species. In addition, indigenous knowledge and traditional practices on water and bio-resources/ biodiversity was studied and documented in Indrawati sub basin for their promotion to conserve the watershed and natural resources.

16
WATER SMART COMMUNITIES WERE ESTABLISHED

Promotion of Water Smart Communities

16 Water Smart Communities were established and promoted in Indrawati sub-basin benefitting 464 households. Alternative livelihood options were promoted in Indrawati sub-basin through the provision of capacity building programs for about 800 local farmers on vegetable farming, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), goat keeping and NTFPs. In addition, farming of Asparagus, a high value crop, was demonstrated in the selected catchment areas.

42 Water Smart Communities were promoted in Dudhkoshi sub-basin to provide irrigation facilities to 26ha of rain-fed which benefitted 350 households. Local users in Dudhkoshi sub-basin used water smart technologies to grow vegetables; income of NRs. 1,260,000 (USD 18000) was generated from the sale of the vegetables. Likewise, two enterprise development groups were mobilized for the promotion of bio-briquettes in Dudhkoshi sub-basin to help reduce pressure on forest resources for firewood.

20 WATER COLLECTION TANKS MANAGED

Conservation Initiatives

Conservation activities were conducted in 41 spring sources in Dudhkoshi sub-basin benefitting 350 households. 20 water collection tanks were managed for drinking and irrigation purposes which are expected to benefit over 3,000 local users. 18ha of degraded areas in Dudhkoshi sub-basin were also conserved through the plantation of trees and fodder grass.

Waste Management

Waste management technologies (incinerator, Eco-San toilets and soak pits) were demonstrated and necessary skills provided to the local stakeholders in Gokyo. Clean-up and orientation programs were conducted for the downstream communities of Gokyo for proper waste disposal and monitoring. The religious festival of Janai Purnima at Gosaikunda, which brought together over 20,000 pilgrims, was successfully managed by mobilizing local NGOs, Eco clubs, and Park and Army personnel to help in clean-up activities at the Gosaikunda lake during and after the festival.

Policy

The Koshi River Basin Management Strategic Plan (2011-2021) was endorsed by the Government of Nepal. Likewise, a position paper titled "Water Resources of Nepal in the Context of Climate Change" was published and launched on the occasion of Nepal National Water Week. The position paper was prepared by the Water and Energy Commission Secretariat (WECS) with the support of WWF.

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WATER SMART COMMUNITIES

Pankhukhola catchment area in Okhaldhunga district of western Nepal is a drought-prone zone. Water scarcity is an acute problem in the area and the local communities depend on rain water for farming. During winter, the local people used to eat vegetables which were stored and dried after the monsoon harvests since vegetable farming was practically impossible during the dry winter season. Given the limited earning potential from farming, many local people also had to migrate from their village in search of employment.

Things have changed for the better today in Pankhukhola, thanks to the support of the Dudhkoshi sub-basin project and the Pankhukhola Integrated Resource Management Committee (IRMC) in Okhaldhunga.

The project and the IRMC have initiated programs related to the conservation, management and proper use of water resources. Local communities and users under the IRMC are today members of 24 'water smart communities' which have helped them adapt with erratic rainfall patterns, decreasing water tables, drying up spring sources, increasing drought and shifting crop cycles. The local users also manage 16 spring sources in the catchment area.

In each water smart community, the local communities construct and manage one conservation pond. Water collected in the conservation ponds is used for irrigating farmlands even during for the winter. The conservation ponds are also matched with sets of micro-irrigation systems (drip and sprinklers) which today provide irrigation facilities to about 20ha of rain-fed farmland and benefit 200 households.

Through the water smart communities, the local people are now able to cultivate vegetables adequate for their own needs as well as to sell in the local market. A farmer today earns anywhere between Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 40,000 annually through such sale of vegetables. There is now work in the fields for everyone and people do not have to leave their villages in search of greener pastures.

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SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

Cooperatives are at the heart of the sustainable livelihoods program of WWF-Nepal who help finance alternative energy and income generation activities for the local communities

USD 300,000 MOBILIZED BY COOPERATIVES

Income Generation Activities

Income Generation Activities (IGAs) were aligned with micro credit schemes of cooperatives to ensure the sustainability of livelihood programs. In TAL, community-managed cooperatives mobilized about USD 300,000 to finance IGAs of 2,194 households on forest-, agriculture- and non-farm-based enterprises. Revenues of about USD 1.5 million were generated from the marketing of NTFPs (such as Chiraita, Mentha and Chamomile) alone in TAL and SHL.

Enterprise Development

In TAL, an elephant dung paper enterprise was established in Mirgakunja Buffer Zone of Chitwan National Park. What was once considered waste is now being used in this thriving enterprise which employs local youth who produce and sell a variety of eco-friendly paper products such as notebooks, decorative items, greeting cards and wrapping paper. In addition, aloe vera cultivation was initiated while the market potential of bamboo crafts was explored to help initiate this enterprise in Chitwan. Similarly, in SHL, NTFP-based enterprises such as Love apple (*Paris pollyphylla*), wintergreen (*Gaultheria fragrantissima*), Juniper and Rhododendron lowndesii were supported.

Ecotourism

Recognizing the win-win situations that can be created for nature conservation and sustainable tourism development, several ecotourism programs were supported to help provide local communities with alternate livelihoods means. In SHL, a red panda eco-trail was developed at Gyabla (Kangchenjunga Conservation Area) and Thulosyabru (Langtang National Park Buffer Zone) to help attract tourist flows. Capacity building programs on homestays and souvenir goods were also organized for the local communities in Langtang National Park Buffer Zone. In TAL, homestay programs were initiated in Suketal of Dovan VDC and Dalla Gaun of Suryapatuwa VDC in Bardia. About 800 people have already visited the homestay in Dalla with income of about USD 5,000 generated from the same.

IMPROVED ACCESS TO HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES

Population, Health and Environment

The Population, Health and Environment (PHE) project was replicated in Chitwan and Kailali districts and scaled up in Dang, Bardia and Kailali districts. The major focus of the project is on sexual and reproductive health to address the issue of population growth in buffer zones, corridors and bottlenecks. This project aims to benefit households by providing access to health and family planning services, building awareness on population, health and environment through Non Formal Education (NFE) and Behavior Change Communication (BCC) classes and enhancing capacity of the local CBOs through periodic trainings, orientations and workshops. Over 1,700 BCC and NFE sessions were conducted for adolescent males and females while PHE lessons are being taught in 21 schools. CFCC Gadhawa conducted four health camps in remote areas with support of health post and sub health posts which benefitted over 300 people, mostly women. Support was also provided to install 40 hand pumps in 520 households, train 13 LRPs on water quality testing, and build toilets in 86 households.

WWF-Nepal "Sustainable Livelihoods Mainstreaming Strategy" 2011

The Sustainable Livelihoods Strategy 2011 was developed with the aim of enhancing the understanding of the linkage between conservation and livelihoods and to mainstream livelihoods and social issues in key conservation themes – Forests, Species, Freshwater and Climate Change. The strategy document outlines the major areas of scope to address the root causes, threats and drivers that affect the achievement of the twin conservation and livelihoods goals. The document also describes the expected major areas of change and broader impacts that will be brought about after mainstreaming the sustainable livelihoods strategy, and recommends a monitoring process to measure the efficiency and effectiveness of the strategy and change in wellbeing of the community.

PARTICIPATION OF THE LOCAL PEOPLE BEING ENCOURAGED

Institutionalization of Livelihoods and Good Governance Change Monitoring (LGCM) Process

The Livelihoods and Good Governance Change Monitoring (LGCM) manual was developed for the purpose of supporting the implementation of the Community Forest Development Guideline-2065 which was developed by the Department of Forests, Government of Nepal. The manual is aimed at institutionalizing the LGCM process in Community Forest Coordination Committees in TAL so as to monitor changes in people's livelihoods and their capacity to cope with vulnerabilities at the local level. The LGCM process also encourages the participation of the local people in the implementation of good governance practices, and promotes equitable distribution of resources and representation of marginalized groups.

WWF Gender and Social Policy-2011

WWF-Nepal is a core member of the Social Development for Global Conservation Team (SD4C) and the Asia Pacific Regional Team. This global team formulated a policy paper, Gender and Social Policy-2011, with inputs from WWF-Nepal on gender and social inclusion issues. Through the policy paper, WWF-Nepal will be integrating these issues within its conservation program strategy so as to bring synergy in the role of women and men in conservation.

HOMESTAY PROGRAM

On 1 March 2011, the people of Dalla village opened their homes to visitors by pioneering the homestay corridor program. This program is an innovative concept in conservation which blends ecotourism and sustainable forest management whereby local communities receive a direct benefit from protecting their forests – if it was for sustenance living in the past, in the present it is about complementary benefits, with tourism incomes being one of them.

Accommodation is presently being provided by 17 households of the village. Each household also uses biogas for cooking purposes. At the homestay, visitors can experience, in a most authentic form, the Tharu way of life and take guided tours in the adjoining community forest which is now a transitory home to numerous species including rhinos. They can also learn more about the biodiversity of the area and the conservation efforts of the local community during the jungle tours as well as at the village where orientation sessions are organised by the local experts.

About 800 people have already visited the homestay programme which has helped bring in incomes of Rs. 300,000 for the village within the first six months of its operation.

Dalla village is located in Khata Corridor of Bardia National Park in far-western Nepal. With the help of the Terai Arc Landscape programme, the Khata Corridor was successfully developed over time to serve as an important conduit for mega species such as tigers, rhinos and elephants to roam freely in the forests between Nepal and India. The people of Khata, in effect, have demonstrated remarkable stewardship in protecting their forests – their staff of life – by sustainable managing its resources for food, fodder and fuelwood.

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WILDLIFE TRADE

A conducive policy environment is key to curbing wildlife crimes and illegal wildlife trade

68 POACHERS ARRESTED IN THE TERAI ARC LANDSCAPE

Enforcement Success

Enforcement agencies under the Protected Areas, District Forest office (DFO) and Nepal Police were highly effective in curbing poaching and controlling illegal wildlife trade. Over 60 rhino poachers/traders and four tiger poachers/traders were arrested in Chitwan National Park while four tiger poachers were arrested in Bardia National Park. Likewise, two poachers with two snow leopard skins were arrested in Marpha of Mustang district; this was the first case of arrest of snow leopard poachers in Nepal. No incidences of rhino poaching were reported from Bardia National Park and Chitwan National Park while zero poaching of tigers was reported from Chitwan National Park. Rhino poaching in Chitwan National Park was reduced by 90% in this reporting period and was the lowest compared to the data of the last 10 years.

Construction/Maintenance of Patrolling Posts

Most of the guard posts within the national parks were constructed during the establishment of the parks for security personnel to patrol the park areas to protect wildlife and other park resources. Many of the posts were, however, damaged and destroyed during the Nepalese insurgency. The structures were in a poor condition and some of the posts did not even have access to safe drinking water. Considering the need to have the necessary infrastructure in place, six new Anti-Poaching Posts (APPs) were constructed in Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve, Bardia National Park and Chitwan National Park while the existing APPs in Chitwan National Park and Bardia National Park were maintained.

NATIONAL TIGER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE, NEPAL ESTABLISHED

Institutional Mechanisms

Various institutional mechanisms were set up to strengthen tiger and other wildlife protection measures in Nepal. The National Tiger Conservation Committee, Nepal was formed under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister of Nepal in order to address wildlife issues at the higher political level. The Government of Nepal also formed the Wildlife Crime Control Coordination Committee in order to strengthen cooperation and coordination among inter-government agencies for wildlife conservation and curbing wildlife crimes. The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB), represented by all the enforcement agencies, was also established for the effective enforcement to curb wildlife crime. Similarly, South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN) was established as a coordinated regional response with its Secretariat in Kathmandu to combat illegal poaching and trafficking.

Legal Guideline for Wildlife Cases

The Legal Prosecution Guideline for enforcement agencies was approved by the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation and widely circulated to the enforcement agencies handling wildlife cases. Lack of knowledge on legal procedures and required legal documentation was a major problem for the prosecuting authorities, mainly the park and forest officials; earlier, the accused would be set free from the court or receive only minimal punishments for their crimes. The Legal Prosecution Guideline was prepared to help the enforcement agencies to make wildlife crime cases stronger and prescribe appropriate punishments for crimes.

POLICY AND ADVOCACY

Support to Parliamentary Committee on Natural Resources and Means

Working as an expert in the Parliamentary Committee on Natural Resources and Means, WWF provided support for the development of key reports which are a milestone in the conservation history of Nepal. These reports cover various contemporary issues including the forest destruction in Chure, Rhino conservation, and pollution of drinking water in Kathmandu by stone quarries among others. In addition, a comprehensive report on energy crisis was also developed by the Committee. The proposition and direction provided by these reports have formed the fundamental basis for change in policy and practice in the country. The impact of the report findings included widespread awareness on these issues, conducting environmental assessment prior to extraction of sand and gravel by District Development Committees, and amendment in the existing policy and institutional mechanism among others.

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES TO BE SUSTAINED THROUGH NATIONAL LAND USE POLICY

Support towards Formulation of National Land Use Policy

Based on the five-year MoU signed with the Ministry of Land Reform and Management, a draft national land use policy was developed and is presently under consultation. To form the basis for the development of national land use policy, several interaction meetings on land use policy were conducted across the country while specific studies and surveys were also conducted covering the entire country. WWF has been supporting the process from its onset and is a member in the national steering committee and executive committee of the national land use policy formulation team. The land use policy is considered to form a basis for sustainable land use planning, enhancing land productivity and conservation of ecosystem services.

Policy Engagements

WWF supported the historic declaration of protection forests in four biological corridors across Churia and Terai region of TAL. The critical biological corridors (Mohana, Khata, Basanta and Barandabhar) have received a special portfolio in the landscape and the protection of these corridors is better ensured now. In addition to the declaration, WWF supported the formation of relevant by-laws for the management of the protection forests. WWF is also working closely with the Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation for the development of a National Forest Strategy. It has also been part of development of the Three-Year Plan Approach Paper for National Planning Commission (2010/11 - 2012/13). Similarly, WWF in the leadership of Department of Forests worked towards developing a national forest fire strategy for Nepal. The government also endorsed the National Climate Change Policy that was drafted last year with the support of WWF.

TRANS-BOUNDARY RELATIONS STRENGTHENED WITH INDIA AND CHINA

Regional and Trans-boundary Cooperation

WWF supported the establishment of South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN) and Wildlife Crime Control Bureau for enhancing regional and national enforcement operations. On the bilateral fronts, WWF supported local-level trans-boundary meetings with India and China and a national level meeting with India. The meeting brought about the resolution on issues of curbing poaching, and controlling illegal wildlife trade and smuggling of timber and NTFPs, joint biodiversity monitoring, and fighting trans-boundary forest fires.

Expanded Institutional Partnerships

New partnerships were developed with Trade Union Solidarity Centre of Finland (SASK) and Stockholm Environment Institute- Asia (SEI Asia). WWF has started working with the Nepalese trade unions to address the issues of conservation and social development while SEI and WWF are working to understand the planning process on community forestry in the six regional countries of South Asia.

HIGH PROFILE EXCHANGE VISITS

A high profile exchange visit to Namibia was organized with the aim of initiating an exchange visit program and sharing of best practices in conservation between Namibia and Nepal. The team was led by the Chairperson of Parliamentary Committee on Natural Resources and Means. Other members of the team included members of parliament, secretaries and high governmental officials from Nepal and senior staff members from WWF-US and WWF-Nepal. As a result of this visit, staff exchange between Nepal and Namibia has already started. The parliamentary team from Namibia is expected to come to Nepal in the winter of 2012.

A study tour was also organized in Indonesia to study the land use practice there and draw a parallel with the ongoing land use policy development process in Nepal. The study team was led by the then-secretary of the Ministry of Land Reform and Management.

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CONSERVATION EDUCATION & COMMUNICATIONS

The Year of the Tiger campaign put tigers at the forefront of national debate and action.

SAVE THE WILD TIGER AND SAVE SO MUCH MORE

Year of the Tiger Campaign

The Year of the Tiger campaign put tigers at the forefront of national debate and action. An awareness program was organized in Kathmandu to mark World Tiger Day where WWF-Nepal partnered, for the first time, with six major department stores and malls to raise awareness among people on tiger conservation.

WWF-Nepal appointed two Youth Tiger Ambassadors from Nepal – Kabita Kunwar and Pradeep Rijal – to participate in the International Youth Tiger Conservation Forum in Vladivostok, Russia in November 2010. They inaugurated the Tiger Trail on Sportivnaya Queue in Vladivostok. Kabita Kunwar was also selected as the youth delegate to present the youth's appeal to the different Heads of State participating in the International Tiger Forum in St. Petersburg, Russia.

The Government of Nepal issued 2 million Year of the Tiger Postal Stamps incorporating the WWF logo. Given the massive reach of the stamps, the message of tiger conservation could spread to hitherto unreached populations.

Youth's Hope for Future Environment Campaign

A campaign titled 'Youths' Hopes for Future Environment and Pledges for Actions for Better Environment' was organised in Kathmandu. Under the campaign, more than 150 youth participated in the Bagmati Zone School-level Art Competition. A Students' Conservation Conference and Exhibition was subsequently organized on the occasion of World Environment Day where 62 select artworks (22 by Finnish youth and 40 by Nepali youth) were showcased. The art exhibition was also organized in Kavrepalanchowk and Sindhupalchowk districts of Indrawati Sub Basin Project area.

2nd National Conservation Day

The second National Conservation Day was celebrated with the theme "Save the Wild Tiger and save so much more" in Kathmandu. WWF-Nepal felicitated leading organizations and individuals who excelled in biodiversity conservation in Nepal through the annual WWF Conservation Awards and Memorial Scholarship programs. The WWF Conservation Awards were awarded to six individuals and three organizations while the Memorial Scholarships were awarded to eight individuals. The program concluded with a play "Stripes of Wild: A Tiger's Call for Action" in keeping with the theme of the day and in celebration of the Year of the Tiger.

Earth Hour 2011

Earth Hour was celebrated in Nepal on 26 March 2011 amidst a collage of lights, music and commitments towards sustainable actions for the environment. Events were simultaneously organized in Boudhanath Stupa in Kathmandu and the Sacred Garden in Lumbini. The Government of Nepal formally announced its Earth Hour pledge to celebrate 2011 as Plant Holiday. Similarly, as an Earth Hour pledge,

Lumbini Development Trust announced the plantation of 108,000 saplings in Lumbini Garden, declaration of Lumbini Core Garden as a non-smoking and plastic-free zone, and switching towards energy efficient lights (CFL) in all monasteries within the Garden complex.

RESPONSIBLE TOURISM PROMOTED IN THE HIMALAYAS

Green Hiker Campaign

The Green Hiker campaign was successfully launched in Nepal in partnership with Nepal Tourism Board (NTB). The Green Hiker campaign is a WWF initiative to conserve the Himalayan high altitude wetlands, founded under its 'Saving Wetlands Sky-High! program. Targeted primarily at tourists and tour operators, the campaign is an awareness drive to promote responsible tourism in the high altitude areas. Tourism is a strong revenue generator for Nepal and its communities, with Nepal's natural riches being the major attraction for tourists. To sustain tourism and tourist flows, protection of the natural habitat is an imperative, hence this campaign to encourage tourists to undertake environment- friendly actions and contribute to local economies while travelling through this fragile eco-region. Merchandising, interpersonal communications and events will be the major tools used in this campaign.

Formal and Non-formal Conservation Education

The curriculum on conservation education was developed for primary schools in partnership with District Education Office and Federation of Community Forest Users Nepal (FECOFUN) and was initiated in corridors and bottlenecks in 2010. During 2011, conservation education in the formal school curriculum was streamlined in 281 schools through eight resource centres of Kanchanpur, Chitwan and Kailali districts. Similarly, 16 non-formal education classes on conservation were conducted for about 400 women.

22 ECO CLUBS FORMED IN INDRAWATI SUB BASIN

Conservation Awareness in SHL

22 Eco Clubs were formed and institutionalized in Indrawati sub basin. Awareness programs were conducted in Indrawati and Dudhkoshi sub basins mobilizing the Eco Clubs, IRMCs and local users. Wetlands day, Water day and Environment day were celebrated with different awareness raising activities in both sub basins. The religious festival of Janai Purnima in Gosaikunda, which brought together over 20,000 pilgrims, was managed by mobilizing local NGOs, Eco Clubs along with park and army personnel. The Gosaikunda Information Centre was established as a community learning centre which demonstrated botanical species and different information including religious and cultural aspects of the Gosaikunda Lake to motivate the communities and visitors on conserving the ecosystem of the area and also to promote eco-tourism.

Conservation Awareness in TAL

WWF-Nepal supported a Surkhet-based NGO, Environment Conservation Forum (ECF), to implement various community awareness programs for controlling wildlife poaching in the newly declared buffer zone of Bardia National Park. A key output of such programs was the handover of 41 guns by the local community of Lakhaparajul VDC to the authorities of Bardia National Park. Likewise, various other awareness programs utilising radio, outdoor media and interpersonal communications were organized with the help of ECF. Similarly, separate awareness programs were organized related to species conservation namely gharials, rhinos and tigers in Chitwan and Nawalparasi districts.

Eco Club Day was celebrated on 14 February by Eco Club across TAL under the leadership of partner NGO, SENSE-Nepal. Rallies and competitions (essays, drawing and folk song) were organized on the day to involve the local community in the awareness programs.

GREEN HIKER-GREEN PLANET

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and WWF-Nepal organized the Green Hiker Green Planet campaign on April 18-21, 2011, to highlight the impact of global climate change on the Himalayas. The campaign, which included a trek in the Langtang region, brought together 20 individuals from a variety of sectors — including representatives from USAID, WWF, government, civil society and media — to increase awareness and spur joint action on climate change advocacy and preparedness. The campaign was part of USAID/Nepal's 60th anniversary and WWF's 50th anniversary commemoration.

The trekkers started in Dhunche, hiked through Thulo Syabru and Jibjibe, and ended in Trisuli covering a total distance of about 120km. The team observed first-hand the impact of climate change on Nepali communities, saw community initiatives to adapt to climate change, and discussed key conservation challenges and achievements. The participants interacted with the local communities on issues such as tourism, livelihoods, species conservation, climate adaptation techniques, community seed banks, farmer school, and water-smart communities. The trekkers also ensured that the principles of responsible tourism were adhered to throughout the trek, with key emphasis on the 'leave no trace' policy, support to local economies and respect for nature and wildlife.

The trek culminated with a press conference to commemorate Earth Day on April 22, 2011. The conference highlighted the resolve of each participant to carry forward the message of climate change and its impact on the ecosystem and people's livelihoods in their respective fields.

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WWF'S INTERNATIONAL & REGIONAL PROGRAMS

LIVING HIMALAYAS NETWORK INITIATIVE

WWF's work in Nepal is part of Living Himalayas – WWF's Global Initiative, which aims to bring the three governments of Bhutan, India and Nepal together to effectively manage and conserve the natural resources in the face of Climate Change for the sake of their unique people, their exceptional wildlife and their breath-taking environment. Combining connectivity and regional solutions, the initiative views the ecoregion as a single unit and not a series of fragmented landscapes in separate countries. Wildlife trade, landscape management and development issues will be treated regionally, bringing people, government and industry together in the three countries and developing plans that straddle borders and landscapes.

Vision

A harmonious mosaic of healthy, vibrant landscapes providing plentiful resources for people while giving wildlife space and securing the ecological and cultural treasures of the Himalayas.

Goals

By 2020:

- Ecosystem integrity and climate resilience of critical freshwater systems in the Eastern Himalayas are secured in the context of hydropower development.
- Ecosystem contiguity and ecological connectivity of the Living Himalayas secured in a mosaic of ~5 million hectares of high conservation value forests, grasslands and wetlands.
- Populations of iconic and threatened species thrive in the Eastern Himalayas.

TIGER NETWORK INITIATIVE

The tiger is iconic of Asia's natural heritage and ecological integrity, and has wide cultural esteem. Unfortunately, due to extensive habitat loss and intensive poaching for their body parts, tiger populations across the range have shrunk alarmingly over the past five decades. Today tigers occupy a mere 7% of their historic range. WWF, recognizing that a wider paradigm shift is required if Asia's top predator is to survive the next decade and beyond, is working to protect the tiger through its ambitious network-wide Tiger Initiative. The Tiger NI team proposes a bold plan to galvanize political will and take action to double the number of wild tigers by the year 2020, focusing on 13 tiger landscapes.

Vision

Tigers will thrive in viable wild populations in priority landscapes, and in restored, interconnected habitats, secure from threats to their survival and coexisting with local communities.

Goal

The wild tiger population increase to at least 6,000 by 2020, through conservation in 13 priority landscapes.

Action plan

WWF's Tiger NI is dedicated to developing and applying this shift by focusing on key, strategic areas - places and policy - to recover wild tiger populations over the next decade.

The Tiger NI includes WWF offices in 11 tiger range countries; namely India, Nepal, Bhutan, China, Thailand, Malaysia, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia, and Russia.

ASIAN RHINO AND ELEPHANT ACTION STRATEGY

Asian elephants and all four Asian rhino species are amongst the most endangered large mammals in the world and their numbers are falling at some of the critical bio diversity sites. WWF is doing its best to halt this trend and initiated a suite of conservation activities for these important species under a comprehensive program dubbed AREAS (Asian Rhino and Elephant Action Strategy) and based the regional HQ in WWF-Nepal Program since the year 2000. The overall objective is that the WWF AREAS program is instrumental in achieving conservation results through interventions by WWF and interventions of partner organizations (Governments, NGOs, and other stakeholders) so that Asian elephant and rhino populations are viable in adequate habitats in 2020. It will do so by enhancing institutional capacity of WWF and partners through technical and policy support to contribute to the survival of viable populations of Asian Elephants, Greater One-horned, Sumatran and Javan Rhinos in the wild. The program will also monitor at the regional level to measure the impact of WWF investments for the conservation of these four species of Asian pachyderms. In Nepal, the AREAS program has been working closely with WWF and it's partner organizations in developing and implementing the conservation Action Plans for rhinos and elephants. In this reporting period the program has provided support to initiate an ID based monitoring of rhinos, radio tracking of rhinos to look at the impact of invasive weeds in their habitat and to implement best practices for the treatment of tuberculosis in captive elephants used by the DNPWC and the tourist industry. In addition, the program works closely with WWF-Nepal staff on the issue of combating illegal trade in rhino and elephant parts.

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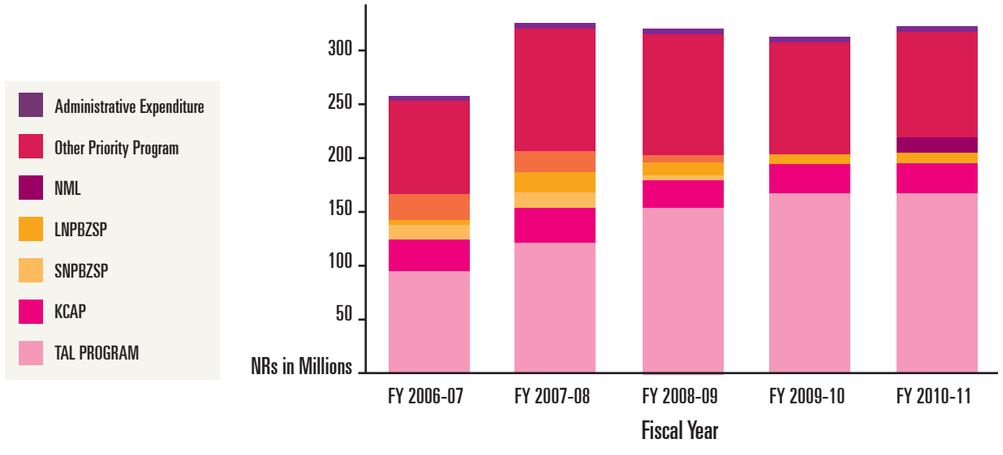
WWF NEPAL
FINANCIALS

For Fiscal Year
2006-07 to 2010-11

Financial Year	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
1 Terai Arc Landscape Program	103,915,144	82,577,019	127,741,435	163,835,343	177,043,595
2 Sacred Himalayan Landscape Program	44,952,814	51,093,390	71,091,329	45,507,929	55,021,658
i. Kangchenjunga Conservation Area Project	30,422,835	47,245,923	34,288,539	28,464,039	28,930,309
ii. Sagarmatha National Park and Bufferzone Support Project	14,529,979	7,000,770	16,605,976	2,915,374	1,244,850
iii. Langtang National Park and Bufferzone Support Project	6,140,576	12,084,408	20,196,814	14,128,516	8,848,717
iv. Indrawati Sub-basin Project	-	-	-	-	15,997,782
3 Northern Mountain Landscape	7,127,246	27,132,605	21,863,255	9,920,795	-
4 Other Priority Program	70,631,330	92,385,983	123,257,952	118,141,612	107,826,219
5 Administrative Expenditure	18,470,716	*-809388.84	8,262,798	9,756,793	9,075,579
Total Expenditure [1+2+3+4+5]	**245,097,252**	**252,379,608**	**262,347,968**	**347,162,471**	**348,967,051**

Figures in NRs
* Excluding Head Quarter Expense
WWF's fiscal year ends on 30th June

WWF Nepal Audited Financial Overview



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• WWF US; WWF UK; WWF Finland; WWF International; WWF Netherlands; WWF New Zealand; WWF France; WWF Germany; WWF Sweden; WWF Australia; WWF Asian Rhinos and Elephant Action Strategy; WWF's Living Himalayas Network Initiative and WWF's Tiger Network Initiative; WWF China; WWF Indonesia; WWF South Pacific; WWF India and Ms. Nancy Abraham.

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• National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC); Nepal Army; Nepal Police; Wildlife Conservation Nepal; Federation of Community Forestry Users, Nepal (FECOFUN); Society of Hydrology and Meteorology - Nepal (SOHAM); Dolphin Conservation Society; Environmental Camps for Conservation Awareness (ECCA); Nepal Forum for Environmental Journalists (NEFEJ); Society of Environmental Journalists (SEJ); Clean Energy Nepal (CEN); Pro Public; Biogas Sector Partnership Nepal (BSP); Tribhuvan University (TU); Kathmandu University; Institute of Forestry, Himalayan Amchi Association (HAA); Nepalnature.com; Wildlife Watch Group; Bird Conservation Nepal; National Environmental Coalition of Indigenous Nationalities (NECIN); Ethnobotanical Society of Nepal (ESON); Wildlife Conservation Nepal (WCN).

WWF-Nepal would like to express special thanks to: Community Based Organizations; Nepali Media Houses; Community Forest Coordination Committees; Community Forest User Groups, Buffer Zone User Group; Buffer Zone User Committees; Buffer Zone Management Committees; Eco Club Networks; Eco Clubs; Ghodaghodi Area Conservation and Awareness Forum; Kangchenjunga Conservation Area Management Council; Nepal Red Cross Society; Mother Groups; Youth Clubs; District Development Committees (DDCs); Village Development Committees (VDCs); Women Awareness Groups and local communities all over Nepal.

1961

WWF was founded in 1961

+ 100

WWF is in over 100 countries, on 5 continents

+ 5M

WWF has over 5 million supporters

+ 5,000

WWF has over 5,000 staff worldwide

Why we are here

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

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