



for a living planet®

WWF Nepal ANNUAL REPORT 2005-06



WWF is the largest and most experienced independent global conservation organization with almost five million supporters and a network active in more than 90 countries and the International Secretariat at Gland, Switzerland. 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's Mission is 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; and
- Reducing pollution and wasteful consumption

To guide the organization in achieving this mission, WWF has identified five globally important issues to which it can apply effort and support. These are:

- the conservation of **forest**, **freshwater**, and **marine** ecosystems
- the preservation of flagship **species** of special concern
- protecting nature from **climate change**.

Country Representative's Message

Looking back at the past 12 months, WWF Nepal faced numerous challenges that taught us to innovate and work together to save our species, forests, freshwater and combat climate change. We learned valuable lessons along the way that will surely enrich our future conservation efforts in Nepal.

Conservation is about people and April 2006 brought about a resurgence of hope for Nepal. The restrictions in movement and project activities in several project sites eased with the slow but sure return to peace. This meant that we could approach our conservation work with renewed zeal. Through the conflict and in the new climate of peace, the most important asset to our work has been partnerships from the grassroots to the policy makers.

This created a synergy that propelled conservation in Nepal through one of the most difficult periods. We were able to adapt to the changes thanks to the support and participation of our partners. From the Terai Arc Landscape to the mountains, our work succeeded in a great measure due to strong partnerships that included local community groups, government bodies, I/NGOs, donors, and committed individuals.

People working together to save nature is the cornerstone of our organization and this fiscal year, I am happy to report that the TAL Implementation Plan was prepared and endorsed under the leadership of the Government of Nepal with several other partners. It will serve as a valuable guideline for future programs and projects in the landscape. We signed important grant agreements with the Department of Forests and the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation. There were public hearings and audits of our projects that

promoted transparency and trust. People benefited through the initiation of a micro-hydro project in Sagarmatha National Park with the support of Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Association. Climate change research was enhanced by the installation of an Automatic Weather Station at Ngozumpa Glacier, Khumbu. We also sought global expertise to help Nepal on issues ranging from receding glaciers to human-elephant conflict.

WWF Nepal worked with national park staff and community-based anti-poaching operations to nab notorious rhino poachers. We have also increased our support to the larger and more pressing issue of illegal wildlife trade. We are working on building the capacity of law enforcement and judicial officials with processes and procedures regarding wildlife criminals and national legislation pertaining to CITES.

An organization is only as good as the people who are committed to its cause and WWF Nepal staff, both in the field and in Kathmandu, did a tremendous job in getting conservation results this past year. From what we've accomplished to the ambitious plans for the future, we remain motivated *for a living planet*.



Anil Manandhar
Country Representative



Acronyms

AIN	Association of International Non-government Organizations	KCA	Kangchenjunga Conservation Area
BDS-MaPs	Business Development Services-Marketing, Production and Service	KCAP	Kangchenjunga Conservation Area Project
BNP	Bardia National Park	KCAMC	Kangchenjunga Conservation Area Management Council
BZCFUGs	Buffer Zone Community Forest User Groups	MAPs	Medicinal and Aromatic Plants
BZMCs	Buffer Zone Management Committees	MFSC	Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation
BZUC	Buffer Zone User Committee	MOEST	Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology
CBAPO	Community Based Anti-poaching Operation	MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
CBO	Community Based Organization	NEFEJ	Nepal Forum for Environmental Journalists
CCNN	Climate Change Network Nepal	NFE	Non-formal Education
CNP	Chitwan National Park	NGO	Non Government Organization
COP	Conference of Parties	NMCP	Northern Mountains Conservation Project
CFUGs	Community Forest User Groups	NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Products
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora	NTNC	Nepal Trust for Nature Conservation
DFO	District Forest Office	PPI	People and Plants Initiative
DNPWC	Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation	SAGUN	Strengthened Actions for Governance and Utilization of Natural Resources
DOF	Department of Forest	SCAFP	Sagarmatha Community Agro-forestry Project
DRM	Development Research and Monitoring	SEA	Strategic Environment Assessment
GIS	Geographic Information System	SEJ	Society of Environmental Journalists
GLOF	Glacier Lake Outburst Flood	SHL	Sacred Himalayan Landscape
GON	Government of Nepal	SLA	Sustainable Livelihoods Approach
HAW	High Altitude Wetland	SNP	Sagarmatha National Park
ICDP	Integrated Conservation and Development Program	SNV	Netherlands Development Organization
ICIMOD	International Center for Integrated Mountain Development	SWR	Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve
ICS	Improved Cooking Stoves	TAL	Terai Arc Landscape
IEE	Initial Environment Examination	UNDP	United Nations Development Program
IUCN	The World Conservation Union	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
KAAA	Kaadoorie Agriculture Aid Association	VDC	Village Development Committee
		WTLBP	Western Terai Landscape Building Program



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WWF in Nepal

Although Nepal comprises only 0.9 per cent of the global terrestrial area, it has a rich diversity of flora and fauna. Nepal also faces formidable conservation challenges such as deforestation, poverty, wildlife poaching, and a rapidly growing human population.

WWF's work in Nepal began with the conservation of Greater One-horned Rhinoceros and Bengal tigers in the late 1960s. Since then, we have supported Nepal's conservation efforts, changing with the strategic new directions in the conservation policies of the Government of Nepal. From the early emphasis on species preservation, research and capacity building of managers for the effective management of protected areas, WWF Nepal's focus has evolved to include species, forests, freshwater conservation, and lobbying for issues relating to climate change, while dealing with the issues of sustainable livelihoods of local people to benefit conservation.

In recent years, WWF Nepal has supported the Government of Nepal in adopting and promoting a

landscape-level approach to conservation for the long-term survival of large terrestrial wildlife and cohabitant species.

In 1993, an agreement with the government of Nepal led to the establishment of the WWF Nepal Program Office in Kathmandu to coordinate and monitor our projects in the country.

Where We Work

IN THE LOWLANDS

Nepal's Terai belt is a fertile stretch of agricultural land in southern Nepal. It also forms part of the alluvial Gangetic plain. Only the western and far-western Nepal still retains portions of what was once a vast expanse of forest cover popularly known as *Char Kose Jhari*. The protected areas and adjoining forests is home to globally threatened wildlife species such as the Asian elephant, Greater One-horned Rhinoceros, Bengal tiger, Gangetic dolphin, Swamp deer, Gharial crocodile, Hispid hare, Bengal florican, Greater hornbill, and the Sarus crane. The Terai still retains about 68 per

cent of the remaining forests of the country.

The Terai Arc Landscape (TAL) Program is a joint initiative of WWF and the Government of Nepal. The program involves partner organizations, donors agencies, stakeholders, community based organizations and local people.

IN THE MOUNTAINS

Situated on the southern slopes of the central Himalayas, 86 per cent of Nepal is hills and high mountains. The mid-hills have the greatest diversity of ecosystems and species with nearly 32 per cent of the country's forests.

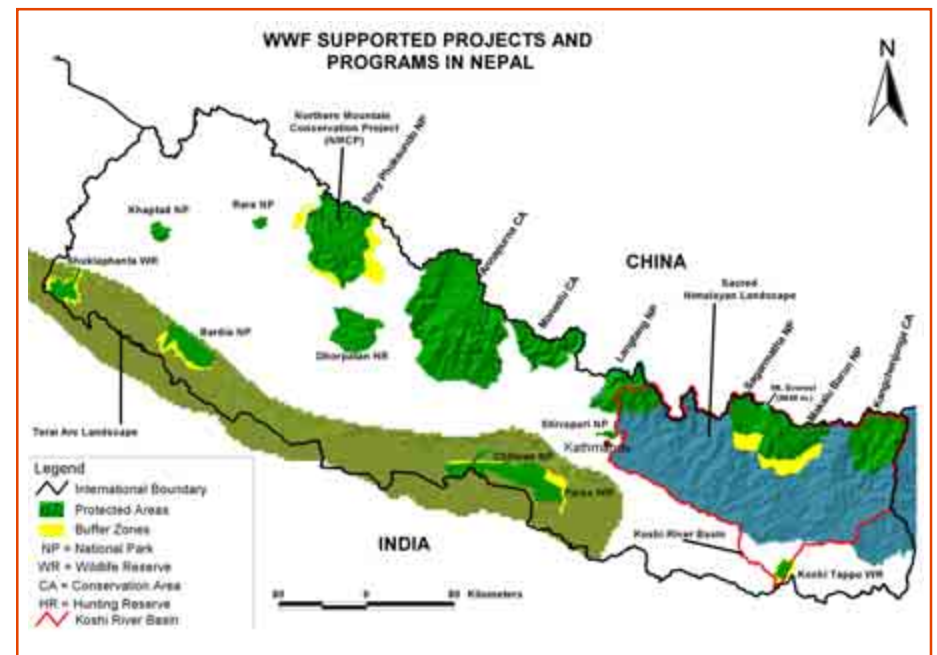
WWF currently implements projects in the following mountainous biodiversity hotspots: Kangchenjunga Conservation Area Project (KCAP), Northern Mountains Conservation Project (NMCP), and Sagarmatha Community Agro-forestry Project (SCFAP). In conjunction with the Government of Nepal and partner organizations, WWF has also envisioned a program in the Sacred

Himalayan Landscape which extends from Langtang National Park in central Nepal through Kangchenjunga region in Darjeeling and Sikkim of India to Toorsa Strict Reserve in Bhutan.

ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Nepal is among the most vulnerable countries to the impacts of climate change due to a fragile ecosystem, poverty, slow economic growth and lack of climate change adaptation resources. WWF Nepal initiated the climate change program in 2003 with a focus on impact research, policy and advocacy, adaptation, energy and raising awareness at national and international arena.

An important initiative is the regional glacier project that generates primary data on glacier retreat and its link with climate change. The Climate Witness Project puts a human face on the global problem of climate change. The Climate Change program coordinates the Climate Change Network Nepal (CCNN), an informal network of nine I/NGOs, and actively lobbies for national climate change policies and



We work in close partnership with

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

Our work is funded by foundations, governments, aid agencies and individual donors. Our financial transactions are internally audited and are open to public auditing.

awareness, while extending technical support to the government.

ON FRESHWATER

WWF works globally with partner organizations to conserve rivers and wetlands by reducing 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 in October 2004 with the long-term vision of conserving and sustainably managing Himalayan water towers and freshwater habitats in the country to benefit people and nature.

Our main focus lies in policy advocacy in safeguarding freshwater resources, institutional coordination and strengthening, conservation education on freshwater issues, wetland conservation in TAL-Nepal and SHL-Nepal, the implementation of Integrated River Basin Management, conservation of freshwater species like the Gangetic river dolphin, and addressing the issues regarding the use of pesticides and fertilizer in agriculture.

A Return to Peace

The April Revolution or Jana Andolan II brought about the restoration of a much awaited peace to Nepal. The laying of down arms by both sides allowed for attention to focus once more on conservation.

More than a decade of conflict had taken a toll on the country. Conservation too bore the brunt. Till April, most of WWF initiated project sites around protected areas, activities in buffer zones and the adjoining forested areas were affected by the deterioration in the law and order situation and the restriction imposed on people's mobility. The national focus to combat insurgency, political instability, and the ensuing atmosphere of uncertainty had pushed conservation activities in the back seat.

The violence had gradually shifted from rural to urban areas, which resulted in constant closures 'bandhs' and blockades that restricted the mobility of field staff, hampered regular coordination, interaction, supervision and monitoring works. The removal of armed soldiers from guard posts within the protected areas and the destruction of physical structures of the posts combined with threats of ambush and booby traps made traveling difficult in and around protected areas. This resulted in reduced patrolling and sweeping operations which, in turn, gave rise to poaching and illegal trade in wildlife and their products.





On several occasions, our field staff in the Terai were held up by sudden blockades and failed to reach destinations and meet deadlines. Two of our field staff once had to spend a night in a small village because of a rebel attack on a nearby Nepal Army barrack. Given the tight security situation in the project sites, staff usually faced a hard time explaining the purpose of their travel.

Due to restriction imposed by the rebels, staff members in the mountain areas had to operate from district headquarters most of the time. In the absence of direct contact and interaction with local communities of the project sites, they had to hire local resource persons. For many training and capacity building programs, the participants were invited from remote villages who were mostly select individuals or community representatives. Due to this, key community members living away from district head quarters could not avail of the benefits of the training programs.

LOOKING FORWARD

Though the impact of the decade long insurgency on conservation is yet to be fully assessed, in the new climate of peace WWF Nepal has adopted strategies to be more flexible and build trust by continuing to provide funding to win support of local residents and focus on issues of local livelihoods, strengthening coordination and collaboration among partners and invigorating communication. WWF Nepal also believes in reconciling long-term sustainable practice with immediate demands on natural resources and promoting transparency and good governance in planning, budgeting and financial transaction.



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Terai Arc Landscape Program

The 49,500 km² of the Terai Arc Landscape starts from Nepal's Bagmati River in the east to India's Yamuna River in the west, encompassing 11 transborder protected areas of Nepal and India. The landscape covers a network of protected areas, forests, agricultural land, settlements and water bodies along the Indo-Nepal border. TAL Nepal stretches from Bagmati River in the east to Mahakali River in the west. It covers an area of 22,199 km² covering part or whole of 14 districts in the Terai.

The Terai Arc Landscape (TAL) Program was jointly implemented by the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, Department of Forests and WWF Nepal from 2001. This year, the program completed the first phase of five years. The focus of the program was on (i) sustainable forest management, (ii) species and ecosystem conservation, (iii) sustainable development, (iv) institutional strengthening and coordination, and, (v) education and awareness. Major highlights of this

year under each theme are presented in the following sections.

SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

The Terai Arc Landscape - Nepal has 75 per cent of the remaining lowland forests in Nepal. The remaining sub-tropical forest in the TAL, previously known as *Char Kose Jhadi* is important for its ecological services and economic value. One of the major ecological functions of this remaining forest is to maintain linkages with the network of protected areas and serve as dispersal corridors for wild animals.

The Terai forests are in various stages of degradation due to anthropogenic factors. Illegal harvesting, forest land conversion, frequent fire, over grazing are a few of the major threats of sustainable forest management. Therefore, the TAL Program has directed its efforts towards protecting, managing and restoring the forest in collaboration with the District Forest Offices and local communities.

VISION

A globally unique landscape where biodiversity is conserved, ecological integrity is safeguarded and sustainable livelihoods of it people are secured.

GOAL

To conserve the biodiversity, forests, soils and watersheds of the Terai and Churia Hills in order to ensure the ecological, economic, and socio-cultural integrity of the region.

Community forestry is an important institutional vehicle for restoring degraded forest and checking further degradation of forests. In this fiscal year, TAL supported hand over of 1,870 ha of community forests to 31 Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs) and also supported 12 CFUGs to amend operational plans to manage 2,250 ha of community forests. Institutional capacity of CFUGs is critically important for sustainable forest management. Thus, the program emphasized institutionalization and capacity development of CFUGs. For this purpose 1,275 office bearers of CFUGs and Buffer Zone institutions were provided with various trainings on sustainable forest management and organizational development. Altogether 82 CFUGs and Buffer Zone institutions' office management practices were enhanced through logistic supports for establishing and operating offices.

Alternative energy schemes, especially biogas plants and Improved Cooking Stoves (ICS) were promoted aiming at reducing pressure on forest for fuel wood. Biogas plants with attached toilet are very popular among the local

communities. During this fiscal year, the program supported installation of 1,134 such plants. The majority of beneficiaries of toilet-biogas plant installation support were *Dalits* (2.3%) and indigenous nationalities (54%). Biogas plants and ICS promoted over a five-year period in the critical areas of the TAL Nepal has a cumulative effective in saving more than 18,000 metric tones of fuelwood annually. In addition, biogas has come within the reach of poor households through sustainable financing mechanism at the community level. Micro-finance schemes for biogas plant were successfully piloted in six sites of the TAL. The best practices, successes, lessons and experience from the piloting of micro-finance schemes for biogas plant promotion will be replicated throughout the project sites in the TAL-Nepal in the future.

Local communities are actively involved in the restoration of degraded forests through plantations in fallow land and degraded areas. The efforts of CFUGs to establish plantations on 321 ha degraded and fallow lands were supported. Likewise, in order to

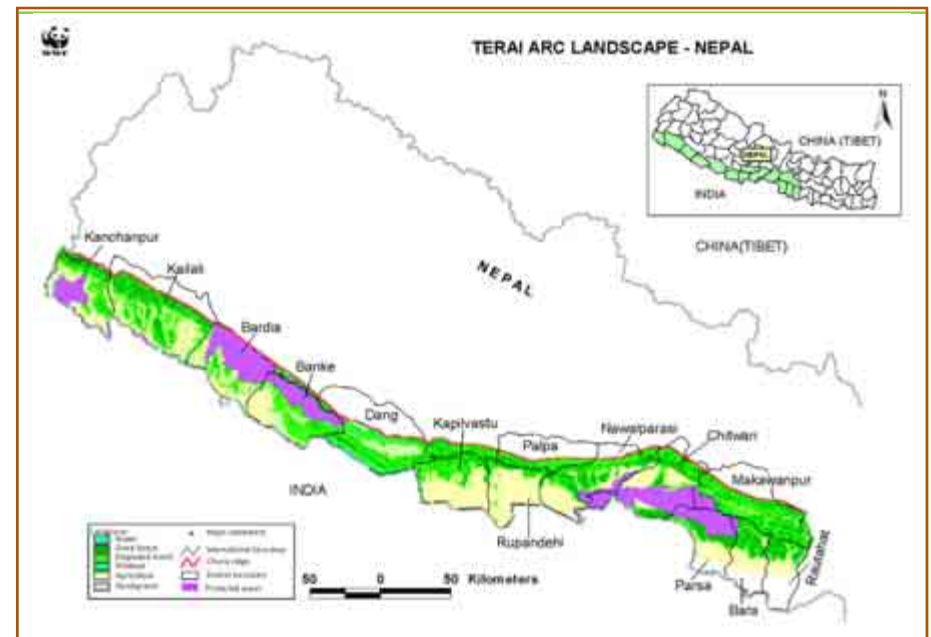
control overgrazing on forest and thereby promote natural regeneration in degraded forest patches, local communities were helped in the construction of trenches and installation of fences. Nearly 10,000 ha of degraded forests were brought under restoration by preventing overgrazing and promoting natural regeneration.

Since this year, the program embarked on promotion of collaborative forest management in Kanchanpur, Kailali

and Bardia districts in collaboration with the Netherlands Development Organization in Nepal (SNV Nepal). For this purpose District Forest Coordination Committees, a district level apex body of stakeholders were formed and institutionalized.

SPECIES AND ECOSYSTEM CONSERVATION

Species and ecosystem conservation is one of the major focuses of the TAL Program. Interventions were targeted at the management of the population



of large mammals, their habitat including the prey base. Loss of habitat due to degradation or invasion of alien species, poaching, increased human wildlife conflicts are identified as the major threat for the conservation of species in their habitats. The grasslands in the protected areas of Terai are decreasing at a rapid rate. All grasslands outside protected areas have been converted to other uses. The loss has a direct negative impact on the number of ungulates, which eventually have an impact on carnivores like tigers in the Terai forest ecosystem. Therefore, one of the major activities under TAL is the management of grassland in the protected areas. The management of total 500 Ha of grassland in Parsa Wildlife Reserve, Chitwan National Park, Bardia National Park and Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve with the support of the program has increased the concentration of ungulates in the managed grasslands. Likewise, new waterholes were constructed and existing 10 waterholes were renovated in the four protected areas in TAL to enhance the water availability to the wild animals. Similarly, knowledge

sharing on the management and control of invasive species was also organized for the park staff to help reduce the threats of invasive species in the ecosystem.

Monitoring of tiger, rhino and ungulates is one of the key activities under wildlife monitoring. Camera trapping was used to estimate total tiger populations in Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve and Bardia National Park. Similarly, tiger monitoring work was conducted at Khata and Basanta, two critical biological corridors, to assess habitat occupancy.

The program also monitored ungulates, studied their density and habitat occupancy in all four lowlands protected areas with the objective of obtaining information on the prey abundance in different habitat types, distribution pattern of prey species and the effect of human-induced activities on prey abundance in biological corridors and the core areas.

The other research activities carried out during the year include the monitoring of swamp deer in

Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve, rhino monitoring at Bardia National Park and Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve and habitat assessment in Chitwan National Park.

In an effort to reduce poaching of endangered species and deter illegal wildlife trade, the TAL Program stepped up anti-poaching drives by conducting a total of 85 sweeping operations in Chitwan National Park, Bardia National Park and Parsa Wildlife Reserve. This resulted in the arrest of 111 poachers and their accomplices. Community-based anti-poaching operations (CBAPOs) were also active in monitoring wildlife, generating awareness of the

importance of biodiversity conservation in local communities, and preventing against forest encroachment. This fiscal year, they removed 238 households from encroaching on forests.

The anti-poaching operations conducted by local communities in Khata found that poachers from Nepal and India used traps and poison to kill the animal, particularly the tiger. The major problems associated with effective anti-poaching were a reduction of guard posts, the high international demand for wildlife parts, inadequate funding for effective mobility of anti-poaching groups, and operation of an informants' network on wildlife crime.





SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The lesson learned over the years regarding sustainable development is that income generating activities must be institutionalized. The TAL Program initiated the formation of 31 income generation groups in the buffer zone of Chitwan National Park, Bardia National Park, Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve and New Padampur to encourage income generation activities and sustainable management of funds. The groups also monitored the delivery of activities and their impact on local livelihoods and conservation. The income generating activities benefits 340 households comprising special target group and indigenous communities.

The project conducted training programs on off-farm income

generation activities such as sewing and cutting, house wiring, bamboo crafting, plumbing and general mechanics to community members comprising disadvantaged groups, indigenous groups and others in the buffer zones of Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve, Chitwan National Park, Khata corridor and New Padampur in Chitwan. A total of 139 marginalized households of New Padampur also were trained in vegetable farming.

TAL provided support for small irrigation schemes such as construction of canals, deep boring, shallow pump and *Dhikki* pump in the buffer zone of Bardia National Park and Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve, and New Padampur. This scheme will irrigate 180 ha of land and benefit more than 513 households.

Since local resource persons are technical service providers at the village level, TAL Program conducted various training programs to enhance their skill and capacity. To promote NTFP, the TAL Program provided support for seedlings, skill development training to farmers on cultivation, sustainable harvesting from the wild, processing, value addition, and storage and marketing. These NTFPs species are generally unpalatable to wildlife but are of commercial value. TAL coordinated the installation of a steam distillation plant at Kareliya, the buffer zone of Bardia National Park to extract essential oil from aromatic plants. The program is conducting well being ranking at group levels to identify the potential sites for interventions.

Similarly, an inventory of natural resource bases was conducted to identify the diversity the yield of NTFPs, especially *bel*, *bet* and *kakai*. The inventory was conducted during the year and involved 10 community forest user groups in Khata. A microfinance scheme was conducted involving 23 income

generation groups to implement revolving funds for micro-credit services for income generating activities. Moreover, TAL also organized market exposure visits for 70 individuals and facilitated trade movement of NTFPs worth NRs. 69,86,100, to benefit 1,750 households.

The community services carried out during the year included support for the construction and maintenance of 10 local schools that helped 12,003 students, support for the construction and maintenance of 62 bridges, 3 culvert and hume pipes to the communities living in the buffer zone of Bardia National Park, Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve and New Padampur. A total of 27,145 local residents benefited from the work. The gravelling of 14,750 m long road is helping more than 22,094 villagers.

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING AND COORDINATION

The TAL Program conducted several trainings to enhance the capacity of partner agencies. This included formal and informal training for government staff, skill training to the community

group members and informal and formal education to the women and other adult members of the community.

External evaluation of TAL Phase I was conducted during this period. This evaluation has recommended further targeting to poor and marginalized communities and focus on sustainability issues. Also of significance was the Government of Nepal endorsement of the TAL Implementation Plan (2004-2014).

Capacity assessment of CBOs was initiated in order to make program intervention more systematic and scientific. At the field level 100 per cent target of capacity development activities such as training was

achieved and 99 per cent allocated budget was spent. The activities relating to institutional strengthening and coordination carried out during the year were: experience sharing on biodiversity conservation, development of sustainable livelihood strategies; forest management training for 244 local residents, and organizational development and management training for 460 members of executive body of community based organizations. The other activities were capacity assessment of 284 community based organizations, logistic support for office management of user committees and financial and public auditing to encourage transparency and good governance in CBOs. Likewise, several coordination works were conducted to enhance partnerships with key governmental departments, NGOs and donors working in the Terai Arc Landscape.

EDUCATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Raising awareness of local communities and capacity building of community based organizations and institutions are a significant component of the TAL Program.

During the year, 37 new Eco Clubs were formed and the existing 135 in the buffer zones of the protected areas were encouraged to raise conservation awareness, build capacity to monitor biodiversity, and share experiences among 23,350 members. Stationary and office materials were provided to 51 Eco Clubs, including the new ones.

Eco Club members were also mobilized to celebrate Wildlife Week, Biodiversity Day, and World Environment Day with by organizing clean up activities, bird watching, essay competitions etc. The TAL Program also organized interaction programs on biodiversity conservation and good governance on effective community participation, transparency and accountability for project related activities. *Kael Pahura*, the TAL quarterly newsletter, was published and widely disseminated to highlight achievements, lessons learned, and success stories of the fiscal year.

CONSTRAINTS AND LESSONS LEARNED

The critical security situation, regular blockades and strikes were major

constraints in the smooth operation of the TAL program in the field up to third quarter of this fiscal year. This severely constrained mobility of field staff for field level planning and monitoring. However, most of the activities implemented directly through CBO partners progressed smoothly. The program developed and adopted strategy for managing conservation program in conflict. The strategy mainly included conflict sensitive planning and implementation.

Policy disputes severely constrained the promotion of Collaborative Forest Management (CFM) in the 3 western districts of TAL. However, the TAL Program carefully carried out frequent stakeholder consultations and built consensus among user in favor of CFM.

Implementation of some activities requires specialized skill and knowledge. However, technical support to the projects as well as to communities was not adequate. The program has emphasized partnership and collaboration with specialized institutions for providing technical support to implementation.





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SACRED HIMALAYAN LANDSCAPE

A Himalayan landscape where the biological and cultural treasures of the world's highest sacred mountains and deepest valleys are safeguarded while people's rights over resources are ensured and livelihoods of mountain people are enhanced and sustained.

WWF in the Mountains

Located in the central Himalayas, Nepal's biodiversity is a reflection of its unique geographical position and altitudinal and climatic variations. The country's highlands are relatively less diverse in flora and fauna but they are endowed with large number of endemic species.

Eleven of the country's 16 protected areas are located in the high-mountains and mid-hills. These mountain protected areas also include three of WWF's Global 200 Ecoregions.

The fragile mountain ecosystems are easily affected by habitat degradation and unsustainable harvesting of natural resources, particularly non-timber forest products (NTFPs). Mountains are also bear the impact and effect of climate change.

SACRED HIMALAYAN LANDSCAPE

The Sacred Himalayan Landscape (SHL) was conceived by biodiversity experts and policy makers at a regional forum in Kathmandu in 1999 when they identified key areas in the eastern

Himalaya as priority areas for conservation. The SHL extends from Langtang National Park in central Nepal through the Kangchenjunga Complex that extends to Sikkim and Darjeeling in India to Toorsa Strict Nature Reserve in western Bhutan.

The SHL is globally significant both biologically, in terms of genetic, species and ecosystem diversity and endemism of global importance, and includes two of the Global 200 Ecoregions (Eastern Himalayan Broadleaf and Conifer Forest and Eastern Himalayan Alpine Meadows). In addition to the species-related features of biodiversity, the SHL also contributes significantly in terms of ecological processes and services and is important repository of water towers, glaciers, headwaters and source of major Himalayan Rivers. The SHL is also rich in cultural diversity. For centuries the ethnic and indigenous groups of this region have contributed to biodiversity conservation through their cultural, ecological, agricultural and ethno-botanical knowledge and practices.

Sagarmatha Community Agro-Forestry Project

Jointly implemented by the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation and WWF Nepal in Sagarmatha National Park (SNP) and its buffer zone in 1996, the project site is spread over 1423 km² and covers 1,450 households in three village development committees (VDCs).

SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

The important work carried out during the fiscal year include the formation, institutionalization and strengthening of community forest user groups (CFUGs) and enhancement of their network. The project also assisted in preparing

operation plans for four new buffer zone CFUGs that contained a simple inventory of biological resources. Through the project, training was conducted on scientific management of community forests and the preparation of a forest inventory.

The meeting of Community Forestry Coordination Committee (CFCC) held on 6 December 2005 in Lukla discussed ways to integrate conservation activities among various user groups, enhance coordination with SNP and its buffer zone, and manage the flow and utilization of fund. Project staff monitored and assessed activities of buffer zone CFUGs and provided support for the sustainable management of their forests. Each of the CFUGs were provided with field equipment to facilitate surveillance, that will complement the works of anti-poaching units in the future.

Apart from providing 34,781 seedlings to the buffer zone CFUGs, the project with support from communities planted 12,520 seedlings of different species in private forests. The project also conducted a research on the traditional *Shinginawa* system in the Khumbu region. The research highlighted the role local Sherpa communities in SNP have in managing their forests in a sustainable manner through *Shinginawa*, or forest guards, for centuries.

To promote alternative energy in a region where forest resources is scarce, the project supported the installation of seven newly designed fuel efficient stoves in three VDCs in the buffer zone of SNP. The micro-hydro project implemented through SCAFP with the support of Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Association (KAAA) at TokTok will draw water from Ghatte Khola and generate 70 KW of electricity to benefit 100 households, two Gompas and a number of hotels and lodges.



Tengboche Monastery, SNP

SPECIES CONSERVATION

WWF Nepal provided financial and technical support to establish an exhibition center at Namche that displays 70 species of medicinal plants found in the region, the medicines prepared from them and provides various information on them. The centre also sells medicines prepared by the *Amchis*, traditional healers.

The project provided support for the habitat management of red pandas and a bird sanctuary. Habitat management partially succeeded in controlling cattle grazing and extraction of *Arundinaria* shoot from red panda areas. Effective management of the bird sanctuary and the promotion of eco-tourism are likely to enhance local income generation.

The community-based anti-poaching units (CBAPUs) set up with the support of the project in Chaurikharka VDC actively patrolled the habitats of musk deer and red panda in SNP and the buffer zone areas. The Kongde CBAPU recovered more than 50 ft³ of illegal timber from the community

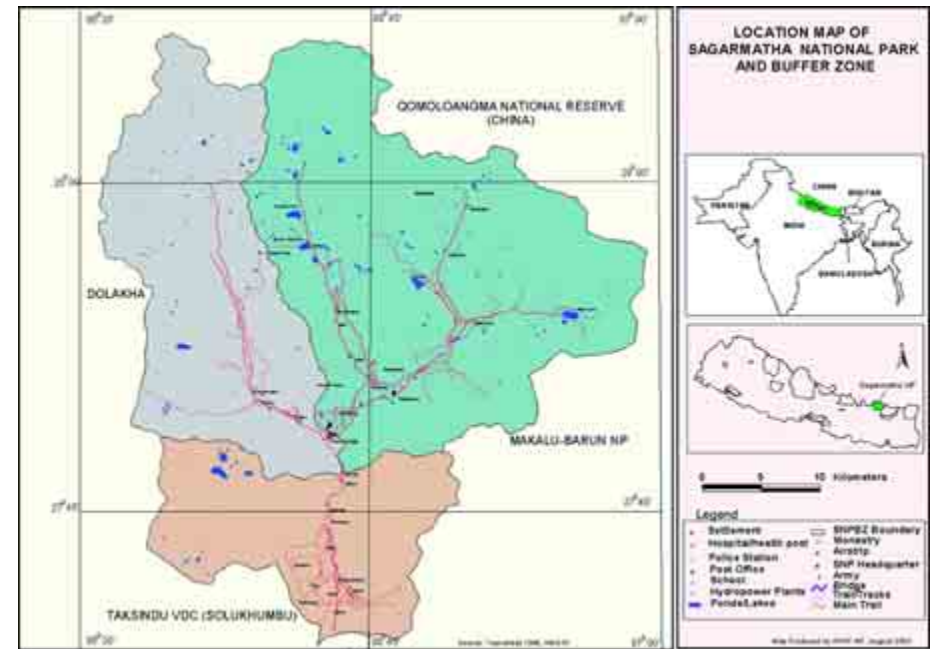
forest. A workshop organized on June 2006 gave the local surveillance team an opportunity to share experiences with representatives from Kangchenjunga Conservation Area (KCA) on anti-poaching activities. Apart from providing field gear and monitoring equipment such as binoculars and digital cameras to park staff and buffer zone CBAPUs, the project also supported four teams of park staff to monitor musk deer habitats.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The project gave material to build 16 greenhouses, encouraging the local residents of Khumbiyulha BZUGs to grow fresh vegetables for sale local hotels and lodges to generate a substantial income. The support for the transportation of 10 metal poles to replace wooden poles or *Chhottars* has helped save trees.

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING AND COORDINATION

After a series of local level consultation meeting with major stakeholders, the management plan and operational



guideline for the SNPBZ was prepared. The plan includes general procedures of service procurement from the park, planning and implementation procedures, public auditing and hearing and the prioritization of activities in line with the approved buffer zone management plan for the next five years.

SCAFP organized coordination meetings at different levels to

strengthen linkages between the Himalayan Trust, Tourism for Rural Poverty Alleviation Program, and Sagarmatha Pollution Control Committee to understand each other's activities and priorities.

Other activities related to institutionalization and capacity building of buffer zone institutions, orientation on good governance, training on account keeping, project monitoring

and evaluation, and report writing. Likewise, the project provided support to four Women Awareness Groups in Chaurikharka VDC for the preparation of their constitutions and revision of operational plans for the next five years.



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EDUCATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING

To create general awareness on the importance of biodiversity found in SNP, community management of local forest resources, issues of local livelihoods and the landscape level conservation approach, the project created a network of Eco Clubs on the occasion of the World Environment Day, 5 June 2006. The Eco Club network has a total of 180 students and 24 teachers from 12 different schools.

Environment Day was celebrated with an exhibition displaying the products that were locally prepared using eco-friendly materials by Eco Club members. The products delivered



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messages for environmental protection. Apart from organizing community awareness campaigns in their respective communities, the Eco Clubs organized awareness campaigns on the importance of musk deer conservation. With the support of the project, the Khumbu Area Eco Club Network committee comprising 12 Eco Clubs (13 teachers and 17 students) joined hands with park staff and five representatives from partner organizations and conducted a clean up campaign at Everest Base Camp from 29 March to 4 April, and removed 588 kg of degradable and non-degradable waste.

In schools, the project has carried out activities to bring in youth and children into realizing importance of conservation. The project has established an endowment fund to award stipend for 25 local girl students. It also supported the Eco Club network to publish the "*Sagarmatha Eco Kosheli*" that carries conservation messages to generate interest in school children in natural resources conservation.

CLIMATE CHANGE

In order to document climate witness stories, the project supported local people to study, collect and collate climate witness stories from the hard hit areas by GLOFs such as the riverbanks of Bhoté Koshi, Imja and Dhudh Koshi rivers. Likewise, fact sheets were published to disseminate information on the status of glacier and Glacial lakes.

CONSTRAINTS AND LESSONS LEARNED

Although seasonal out-migration of local people caused a slow down in project activities, most of the targeted activities were carried out successfully during the year. As in the past, local residents had little time to participate in project activities during the peak tourist season. This suggests that implementation of project activities is more efficient if they do not coincide with the arrival of tourists in the project area. Since local people's participation measures the success of the project, activities should be carried out when people have time to spare, which is after the busy tourist period.

Kangchenjunga Conservation Area Project

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

SUSTAINABLE FOREST AND ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT

The project handed over 16 CFUGs to local communities, out of which one is entirely managed by women. These forests cover 47,772 Ha of land and 891 households in Lelep, Tapethok and Olangchung Gola VDCs.



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The fencing of plantation area around Ghunsa Lower Secondary School using local material has not only saved plants from domestic livestock but also provided income generating opportunities to locals. And the 500m stone wall-fence in Yangma, which is the highest settlement area in KCA, prevents blue sheep from entering and destroying crops. The project's support of 234 metal poles for the local community to use for prayer flags saved at least 500 trees.

Around 30,000 saplings were distributed from old stock after the Maoists imposed production of new saplings. Due to the unfavorable situation, the project managers handed over nursery management responsibility to three mother groups. In addition to this responsibility, the Shrinkhala mother group and Eco Club members of Dudh Pokhari planted 7,500 saplings.

Five improved metal cooking stoves received from KAAA were distributed to high altitude herders. These improved metal cooking stoves are expected to reduce biotic pressure on high altitude forests and meadows. After verifying suitability of these cooking stoves to local conditions, more stoves will be installed in the high altitude settlement areas in coming years. Preliminary study shows it has already reduced 25 per cent demand in firewood.

The other important activities in KCAP include the formation of village electrification committee for the construction of a micro-hydro scheme in Lungthung of Lelep VDC-5, a survey of Yamphudin micro-hydro scheme with the potential of producing 8 KW of electricity, the replacement of a faulty turbine at the micro-hydro plant at Gola, and setting up of two kerosene depots in Yamphudin and Ghunsa.

local women are benefiting from the service. The increasing demand for other small day-care centers shows the popularity of the centre.

The demands by insurgents for cash contribution made some Mother Groups suspend the saving and credit program, but other groups continued with the scheme. The project office made a provision of issuing entry permits to trekkers visiting KCA. A total of only 175 foreigners visited KCA during the fiscal year and the drop in the number of visitors has impacted local incomes.

The Lepchung drinking water scheme implemented with the support of the project benefits 21 households, while the repair of Phalay drinking water system is benefiting another 22 households. The construction and maintenance of 1,200m trail at Jaubari Bhir directly benefits 111 local residents and foreign trekkers.

The other major activities of the year include the construction of two suspension bridges over Thakpa and

Menthungwa River, construction of 20 toilets, a Health Post and an irrigation canal, which benefit 50 poor households of Lelep. The construction of 37 greenhouses has encouraged local women and poor households to grow off-season vegetables.

The field research carried out with the objective of establishing an inventory of NTFPs and documenting ethnobotanical knowledge of local communities has enhanced local youths' capacity to conduct independent inventories. Apart from conducting feasibility study for NTFP enterprises and establishing a fund of NRs 10,00,000 to promote the enterprises, the major training conducted during the year was on the operation of cooperatives, enterprise development, and sustainable livelihoods. This year, locals produced 50 liters of Seabuckthorn juice worth NRs 12,500.

In a bid to promote local products, carpets, hard cheese, Seabuckthorn juice, cardamom, *chairaito*, *kutki*,

bikhma, *dhupi* etc were exhibited at a fair organized in Biratnagar in March 2006. Support has also been provided to a cooperative shop in Ghanlung. A research study on Yarchagumba (*Cordyceps sinensis*) in Ghunsa and Gyabla/ Lungthung sector identified trade value, quality and abundance of the species.

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING AND COORDINATION

In order to ensure institutional strengthening and maintain coordination, the KCA Management Council (KCAMC) met four times

during the year and made decisions on working modalities for project activities, renewal of KCAMC as an NGO, auditing of project accounts, and the resumption of stalled project activities due to insurgency.





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Yarchagumba research in Ghunsa

The project also contributed substantially into the handover process of community forests to local user groups, improvement of trans-border relations to curb illegal trade in protected species, preparation of the KCA management guidelines and programs for the next fiscal year.

The other important activities carried out during the year include project support provided to register Himali Conservation Forum as an NGO, district level interaction with visiting human rights activists and members of civil society, horticulture training for nursery *naikes*, and a training program on organizational

management. The project also joined hands with Taplejung Journalists' Federation, Amnesty Taplejung and SEJ Nepal and made an appeal to concerned parties to make a favorable environment for the resumption of project activities.

EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

The project continued its support to diligent local girl students to complete their school education by providing stipend through local mother groups. While most of the mother groups provided stipend to deserving girl students, some groups had to postpone it due to insurgents' increasing demand for contribution.

The project published the third and fourth issues of "*Kangchenjunga Upahaar*" and a brochure in Nepali and disseminated them widely. As part of awareness campaign, the brochure published in collaboration with Federation of Nepali Journalists -Taplejung, gives information on the endangered species found in KCA such as snow leopard, red panda, Himalayan black bear and musk deer. Likewise, 289 local inhabitants including 195 women, participated in a three-day workshop on mass awareness on gender sensitive conservation and development.

As part of awareness campaign, the project celebrated the Environment Day on 5 June by organizing clean-up activities and plantation in school compound, and debate and essay competition on environmental issues. As for Eco Clubs, the number has gone up to a total of 14 in KCA. A network of Eco Clubs has also been made to make their activities more coordinated and effective.

POLICY AND ADVOCACY

The Project Executive Committee meeting held on 27 July 2005 discussed the yearly progress of the fiscal year 2004-005 and outlined next year's activities. Orientation programs from 3-4 June 2006 in KCA underlined the importance of conservation in the Sacred Himalayan Landscape and indigenous people's relation to nature conservation.

CONSTRAINTS AND LESSONS LEARNED

The security situation and the restriction imposed by the insurgents on project activities were the foremost constraints in the effective implementation of targeted activities during the fiscal year.

A major lesson learned in difficult security situations was the need for a different working modality such as mobilization of community-based organizations, local resource persons and district level NGOs for specific project activities.

Northern Mountains Conservation Project

Implemented in collaboration with the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, the Northern Mountains Conservation Project (NMCP) aims to conserve the biodiversity of Shey Phoksundo National Park (SPNP) and to improve the socio-economic conditions of local communities living within the national park and its buffer zone.

A representative of unique trans-Himalayan ecosystem, SPNP is home to a mountain flagship species, the snow leopard, and prey populations including the musk deer, blue sheep and Tibetan wolf. The national park is endowed with rare, endangered and endemic medicinal plants. For its unique natural, social and cultural diversity the national park has been proposed as a World Heritage Site.

To reduce growing pressure on forest and pasture resources from livestock grazing, wildlife poaching, illegal and unsustainable harvesting practices of NTFPs, WWF implemented NMCP in 1996.

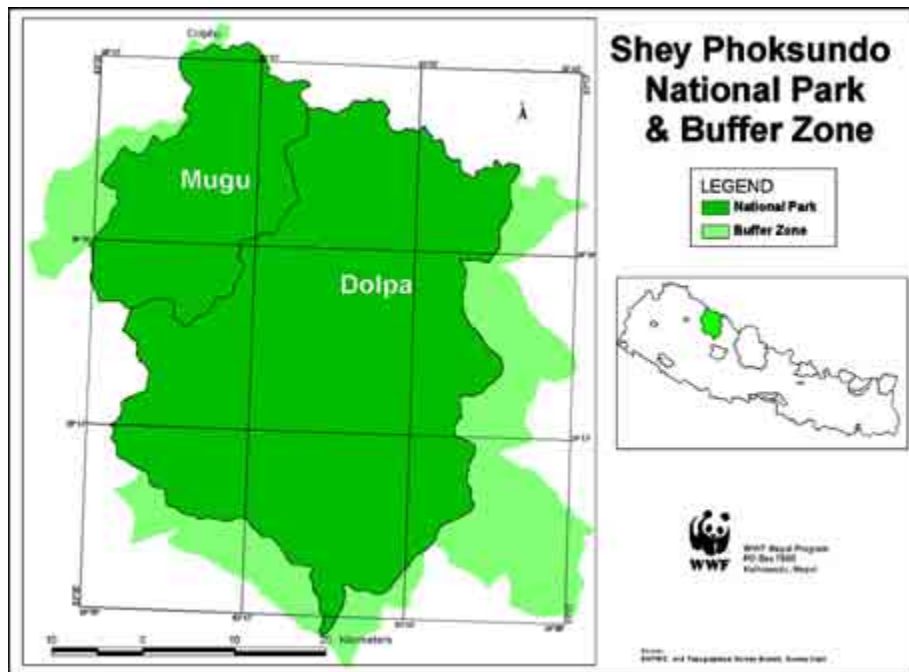
FORESTS

CFUGs and BZUGs members planted 2,810 seedlings in 6.50 Ha of areas during the fiscal year. Salix species that are suitable to Dolpo was planted. Altogether 332 households will benefit from the plantation. NMCP handed over the Galligad nursery to various committees for its long-term sustainable management in line with the project's phase-out plan. The project is providing technical and financial support to produce seedlings with community's initiative and involvement in the nursery at Tripurakot VDC.

To make local CBOs more competent in managing their natural resources and carrying out community development activities in an effective way, NMCP conducted various capacity enhancement training, workshops and study tours for community members. The training ranged from community forest management and inventory preparation to saving and credit scheme; and from awareness on the local governance act to the use of GIS/GPS.

In the forest resource scarce areas of NMCP, the project introduced and installed fuel efficient improved cooking stoves to reduce firewood consumption, improve family health and decrease women's household work. During the fiscal year, it distributed a total of 372 sets of improved cooking stoves (ICS) to different households of different VDCs at a subsidized rate. The project also installed 100 back boilers for water heating.





Home solar system equipments that were distributed in previous years have not only reduced consumption of *diyalo* for lighting but has also helped to improve local health by minimizing respiratory ailments. Villagers can now work at night and children can use the solar light to do their homework in the evening.

SPECIES

As part of snow leopard conservation program, NMCP invited the secretary of CFUG of Khata (from TAL) to share his experiences of community-based anti-poaching operations with the members of CBOs of Dolpo. Apart from sharing his experience, he related the problems, issues and success and failures of community-based approaches to deter wildlife crimes.

With the objective of deterring wildlife poaching, illegal harvesting and collection of medicinal plants, the mobilization of Eco Club members and sister groups yielded positive results. This activity also succeeded in arresting unscrupulous individuals involved in tree felling. The patrolling conducted by the Snow Leopard Conservation Committee (SLCC) removed and destroyed several traps and snares intended for wildlife. The project has been supporting research on snow leopard in SPNP. A preliminary snow leopard-transect monitoring survey has shown snow leopard abundance at 5-7 per 100 km².

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The two Traditional Health Care Centers set up by NMCP at Phoksundo and Dho Tarap are operating in full swing and providing basic health care services to local people. These centres also collect and process medicinal and aromatic plants to make traditional medicines. To make the activities more transparent and accountable, public hearing and

auditing was conducted. A two-day workshop among the Amchis discussed ways to strengthen their network in Dolpa and the institutionalization and sustainability of Amchi hospitals.

The project organized training on kitchen gardens for local women with the objective of developing at least one female kitchen gardener in one village. The local women are using the skills acquired in the training to produce vegetables from the seeds distributed to them. NMCP supported the building of a one-room building, which is being used by the Himali Sister Group for group work in Maddhu village at Tripurakot VDC.

As part of education and capacity building program, NMCP encouraged non-formal and governance literacy classes. Ninety eight local women and two Dalit men benefited from the program conducted with the objective of generating literacy activities and dealing with issues such as equal place and role for women in community meetings and decision making



air pics © WWF Nepal

processes, equal wages, women's rights and protection against discrimination and harassment to women.

The other activities carried out during the fiscal year include training on good governance, support for nature conservation at Eco Club - Dunai, leadership training for local women and conflict management training for community-based organizations to settle differences. Likewise, an advanced training on fittings and maintenance of home solar system

and back boiler were also organized for rangers and project motivators.

Apart from the regular publication of *Phoksumdo*, information on vision, objectives and activities of Strengthening Action for Governance in Utilization of Natural Resources (SAGUN) Program in Dolpo was disseminated through NMCP notebooks.

As part exit strategy of NMCP, several local and central level meetings were organized.

CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

Though there was little improvement in the security situation in the later part of the fiscal year, the deteriorated security situation in most part of the fiscal year hampered project activities relating to biodiversity conservation and community development. Moreover, the situation directly affected monitoring works of the project.

The working situation improved gradually after the insurgents withdrew restriction imposed on three VDCs. The field staff kept low profile and built good relationship with the local community,

while practicing good governance, maintaining transparency and mobilizing the members of CBOs. However, most of the works concentrated in Dunai, the district headquarter. As the security situation improved, the remaining SAGUN work will continue to be implemented in the previously restricted VDCs.

The important lessons learned during the year was that implementation of field-based activities through CBOs is more effective, particularly in difficult security situations. The project also recognized the need to mobilize the local community for need-based activities such as micro-hydro electricity.



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PROGRAM VISION (50 YEARS):

Nepal's people, biodiversity, ecosystem, watersheds and Himalayan water towers are safeguarded from climate change impacts.

PROGRAM GOAL:

By 2014, the vulnerabilities of biodiversity, ecosystems and people to climate change impacts in Nepal are mainstreamed in the national development planning process and adaptation strategies are implemented to address and reduce the impact of climate change.

Climate Change Program

Climate change is not just about rising temperature, it means more than that. Ecoregions will become wetter, drier and stormier. They will also become subject to greater climatic variability and a dramatically increased incidence of catastrophic weather events. Scientists grimly acknowledge climate change as the most serious threat for the future - threat not only for the environment but an overall threat to humanity.

Nepal is among the most vulnerable countries to the impacts of climate change due to our fragile ecosystem, poverty, slow economic growth, and lack of adaptation resources. Climate change is still not a priority in the national planning process because of an information gap and a low level of awareness among key stakeholders.

In 2003, WWF Nepal initiated the Climate Change Program with major focus on following themes a) climate change impact research b) international negotiations c) climate change adaptation work d)

awareness raising and d) alternative energy. We initiated a regional glacier project that aims to generate primary data on glacier retreat and its link with climate change. This research-oriented glacier project highlights the impacts of climate change in the Koshi river system that leads to the Ganges river basin. Similarly, another regional project that focuses on building national capacities in negotiation forums such as United Nations' Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) brings stakeholders from Asia Pacific region to unify the voices of vulnerable nations. This project is being implemented in Nepal, Indonesia, Tuvalu and Cook Island.

Likewise, WWF Nepal's Climate Witness Project tries to put a human face to the global problem of climate change. Climate witnesses from the high Himalayas share their experiences on how climate change impacted their lives.

The climate change and energy program also coordinates an informal network of nine

organizations (I/NGOs) known as the Climate Change Network Nepal (CCNN). The network actively lobbies for national climate change policies and awareness issues, and extends its technical support to the government. The program has also successfully reached urban youth through awareness campaigns and media outreach.

One of the important achievements of the fiscal year was the formation of a regional platform of Least Developed

countries (LDC), Small Island Development State (SIDS), and Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries to highlight the common issues at the 11th Conference of Parties (COP) at Montreal, 2005.

This year, the installation of an Automatic Weather Station (AWS) at the Ngozumpa Glacier was completed. At 4,850 m the glacier

Ngozumpa is the longest glaciers in Nepal. The AWS is being operated together with Department of Hydrology and Meteorology, Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology, Government of Nepal.

On the awareness front, the program reached a wider audience. Norbu Sherpa, WWF Nepal's Climate Witness, represented vulnerable communities in the Climate Witness

Symposium at Tokyo, Japan in October 2005. Norbu shared local stories of devastation and impacts caused by glacier lake outburst flood. At the national level, a school awareness program was successfully conducted which reached more than 1,500 young students.

The activities of the year also include the regional meeting on the expansion of Himalayan Glaciers and River Project and the capacity building of government institutions.





Freshwater Program

Freshwater provides valuable services and plays an important role in our lives. Important freshwater services include food, drinking water, building materials, nutrient recycling and flood control. WWF's Global Freshwater target is to ensure healthy environmental processes in 590 river Ecoregions and protect 250 million Ha of representative habitats worldwide, while managing them in a sustainable way by 2010.

In the Eastern Himalayan Ecoregion Complex, the target is to establish and manage populations of focal species as meta-populations, and maintain and restore ecological processes in four catchment areas by 2010.

Globally, WWF and its partner organizations has not only successfully led to improved management of freshwater resources, but also significantly contributed to the improvement of livelihoods of poor local communities. In developing countries, proper functioning of freshwater ecosystems has a proportionately greater impact on the livelihoods,

health and security of the poor. A WWF report on Freshwater and Poverty Reduction has demonstrated that freshwater conservation and poverty reduction can and often do go hand in hand.

In view of the increasing pressure on the country's water resources, WWF Nepal has joined hands with partner organizations to consolidate efforts and safeguard the country's freshwater resources to conserve biodiversity dependent on it and enhance the livelihoods of local people.

The freshwater initiative is relatively new and it is being integrated in WWF's Terai and mountain programs. After the endorsement of National Water Plan 2005 by the Government of Nepal, WWF Nepal built a new partnership with the Water and Energy Commission Secretariat (WECS), a Government apex body for water resources and the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) for the initiation of Koshi River Basin Management as prioritized by the Plan for basin wise management of water resources.

VISION:

Himalayan water towers and freshwater habitats in Nepal are conserved and sustainably managed to benefit people and nature.

GOAL:

By 2011, WWF Nepal will champion the conservation and management of wetlands and ecological processes are maintained and restored through conservation efforts.

Our work on Ghodaghodi Lake system, one of four Ramsar Sites in Nepal, is focused on biodiversity conservation by addressing the issues of livelihoods of local communities at the grassroots level, which is being implemented together with the Government of Nepal through the TAL program. The CBAPO formed by TAL is mobilized in cooperation with Ghodaghodi Area Conservation and Awareness Forum (GACAF) to monitor the activities in the lake. In a short time period remarkable successes are achieved in the field. Some poachers voluntarily handed over their fishing equipments to CBAPO team, which was also successful in removing the illegal settlement from the immediate periphery of Ghodaghodi lake. In order to manage and improve the existing

crocodile habitat, a sand bank of 60m² north-west of Ghodaghodi Lake is developed. The success of this activity was immediately reflected as fresh foot prints of crocodiles were found by local volunteers who regularly monitored the sand bank.

A scientific study was conducted to find out minimum estimated population of Gangetic river dolphins in Geruwa and Mohana branch of Karnali River within TAL Nepal. The research confirm that 4 individuals were found in a stretch of 37.15km north from Kothiaghat of Geruwa River and 9-12 individuals were found in a stretch of 16.02km west from Kothiaghat of Mohana river. The study also analyzed threats and issues for conservation of river dolphins in Karnali River. The major threats identified are intensive fishing, river bank erosion, pollution due to anthropogenic activities and motorboat transportation. The research was documented and the information was disseminated through a Asia Regional Dolphin Meeting in May 2006 in Kathmandu organized by WWF Nepal.



WWF Nepal supported the Government of Nepal for the assessment of 7 High Altitude Wetlands (HAWs) in Gokyo, Gosainkunda, Singjima, Phokshumdo, Rara, Paanch pokhari and Kyangin valley using the Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS) as a baseline for data collection. RIS of 4 significant HAWs at Gokyo, Rara, Phoksundo and Gosainkunda were prepared and the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) has reviewed the document. It is to be submitted to the Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation for approval before proposing it for declaration by the Ramsar Bureau.

A series of two workshops on HAWs were conducted to update various partners and disseminate the result of the study. The proceeding of the first workshop conducted jointly with Foundation of Ecosystem Management, a local NGO, has been published. The second workshop was conducted jointly with DoF and DNPWC to disseminate information on 4 HAWs and information sharing on RAMSAR COP9. The result of the studies were also disseminated through fact sheets.

The cultural and religious significance of four HAWs: Salpa, Mai Pokhari, Gosainkunda and Paanch Pokhari, were also conducted to integrate traditional knowledge and beliefs in conservation.



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Sustainable Livelihoods

The lesson learned from nearly four decades of conservation is active and meaningful participation of communities in conservation will not be sustained if we cannot help the people meet their daily subsistence needs. As a conservation organization, our effort towards this end must come from within a defined conservation framework.

Our prime target people for livelihoods benefits are those whose subsistence activities are threats to conservation, those directly dependent on biodiversity resource for minimum subsistence needs, increase coping capacity and access other basic needs (e.g. quality education, improved health and sanitation services, improved toilets and safe drinking water, infrastructural services).

One of the recommended strategies we adopted was mainstreaming the sustainable livelihoods approach in conservation planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Besides this, the aim of building users capacity is understanding the livelihoods complexity, its linkages to biodiversity resources, institutionalize livelihoods monitoring at local user groups/committee, to ensure inclusion of

disadvantages and socially excluded people's concern, and sensitize the conservation and livelihoods linkages framework that WWF developed and conceptualized in its inception period.

Our major focus in the last year was building users groups' capacity, assessment of changes in livelihoods using the Sustainable Livelihoods Approach (SLA), communicating our respective effort to the wider community, joint program development with partners, and institutionalizing sustainable livelihoods monitoring at the local level. The major improvement in livelihoods efforts are as follows:

SLA CAPACITY BUILDING:

The strengths of SLA capacity building training is to build capacity mainstreaming tools, understand and monitor livelihoods changes and generates information that WWF aimed to achieve. It is practically learning and action in nature where people can realize the changes and demonstrate their insight feelings. About 110 people comprising more than 60 per cent dalits, women and indigenous from different user groups, committee and council in mountain and Terai benefited.

**LIVELIHOODS ASSETS
CHANGE MONITORING:**

The major achievement of the past fiscal year was conceptualizing the monitoring of livelihoods changes together with local users according pre-defined biological and livelihoods outcome indicators that are already part of the TAL and mountain program logical framework monitoring plans. To ensure that all people benefited, social differentials such as caste, ethnicity, gender, and household wellbeing strata were taken into account. This ensured the magnitude of groups benefited and targeted our conservation efforts generating

livelihoods opportunity among those who are in the national priority and targeted in poverty reduction strategy paper (PRSP-10th Plan). This effort addresses different dimensions and roots of poverty that defined in PRSP-10th Plan like income, human and social exclusion, marginalization and powerlessness. WWF Nepal linked this achievement as a contribution to the national and global poverty reduction policy.

This fiscal year was the first time that WWF Nepal used the SLA framework to assess the asset-change based on local beneficiary perceptions analysis

which was found to be very effective, less time consuming and close to ground reality. It was developed with local users based on DFID/UK monitoring of the SLA framework.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO NATIONAL PRIORITY (PRSP-10th PLAN):

WWF Nepal is addressing people's livelihoods issues within the conservation framework while taking into account the PRSP-10th Plan. Conservation interventions provide substantial opportunities for locals to improve their livelihoods. Interventions are built on livelihoods resources issues, strategies, and vulnerability that negatively impact livelihoods and add pressure on natural resources. During the planning process, with feedback and local user consultation, the number of socially differentiated groups households and persons benefited, and monitoring was also determined.

Interventions focus on income generation to reduce poverty; community services to improve and enhance basic health, education, infrastructures to increase/enhance

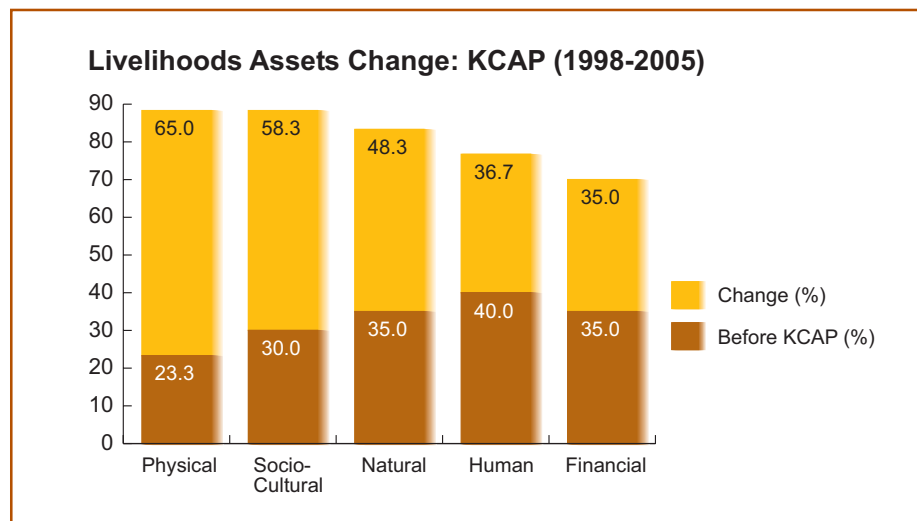
equitable and improved access; and capacity building, raising awareness, governance to ensure social inclusion and empowerment for meaningful participation in biodiversity resource management and benefit sharing.

To monitor WWF Nepal's contribution to community, target groups, PRSP goals, we collected and compiled disaggregated data. The project monitoring logical framework document defined these indicators with a conservation and livelihoods theme.

In WWF project areas, more than 8,000 HHs directly benefit from income generating activities and about 25,000 HHs benefit from improved community services. Almost 400 persons, more than 35 per cent women, gain from direct livelihoods related capacity building activities.

SOCIAL INCLUSION:

There is a majority of indigenous nationalities especially in the Sacred Himalaya Landscape and Dalits in the NMCP compared to the Terai Arc Landscapes, which is more heterogeneous. WWF realized that





high value NTFP harvesting, marketing and processing. Their culture of hospitality and food processing technology contributed to the promotion of mountain tourism. WWF Nepal's recent plans and future actions are built on these local strengths.

In the Terai, dalits benefit from use of fallow land within and around community forests. With aid from low-interest micro-credit facilities, rattan, stone-fruits (Bel) and other high value NTFPs plantation and harvesting generated direct income benefits. This activity increased their coping capacity as well as transformed into meeting other subsistence needs to create sustainable livelihoods in the long-term perspective.

without ensuring inclusion in sharing livelihoods benefits together with the conservation program, we would not have the active, meaningful and leading participation of local communities within all key positions in user committees, groups and councils.

In the Sacred Himalayan Landscape, local indigenous people are involved in

NEPALI SLA STRATEGY DOCUMENT:

The Sustainable Livelihoods Mainstreaming Strategy document was published in Nepali in order to reach a wider audience, making our conservation and livelihoods links transparent and comprehensive. This was at the frequent demand of local partners and communities.

LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS:

WWF Nepal currently works with more than 1,300 natural resource management based local CBOs and civil society organizations. The challenge is to mainstream the SLA to address conservation and livelihoods challenges in their local programs. Mobilizing those CBOs and building their capacity will be part of WWF Nepal's future partnership interventions.

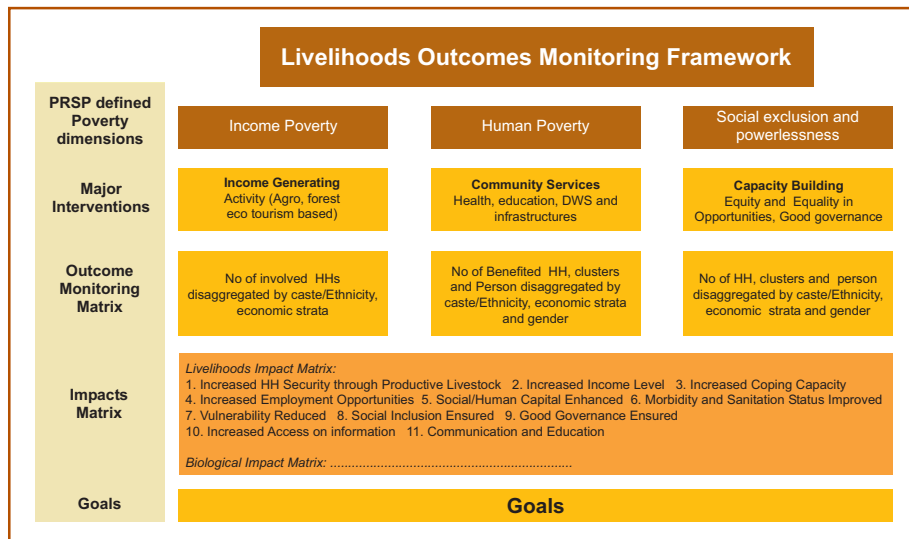
MAINSTREAMING:

SLA was integrated into the Freshwater Program at WWF Nepal during this fiscal year. Identification of potential wetlands and its beneficiary, magnitude of the affected HHs, and resources were estimated. The development of a project document to address the people through benefits of wetland conservation is under

process. Involvement and contribution to the Freshwater Program will be a future priority.

FUTURE CHALLENGES:

It has been a critical year for sustainable livelihoods and conservation. The number of internally displaced people to the Terai Arc Landscape has increased along with the rapid departure of local youths from the mountain. This has given rise to pressure and conflict with local users groups and negatively impacted forests. Meanwhile, local user committees face additional pressure in addressing challenges and threats in those landscapes. These challenges make a conservation organization like WWF reevaluate our interventions. The emerging conflict on consumption, sharing, and ownership of resources keep local people from meeting their subsistence needs. WWF Nepal will have to address additional livelihoods subsistence needs of internally displaced, landless, freed kamaiyas, and in-migrants. The magnitude of contributions to the National and Global Priority (PRSP/MDG) must be scaled up. And lastly, for effective conservation to continue, we must encourage the institutionalization of biological and livelihoods change monitoring capacity at local user level.





Development, Research and Monitoring

As a science-based organization, WWF puts special emphasis on development, monitoring and research. In the past fiscal year, we made important strides in assessing biodiversity conservation efforts, adding to our database of endangered species and other critical parameters, and forging new partnerships. Major work in the past fiscal year included:

RAPPAM:

In coordination with the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, we were able to assess the overall management effectiveness of all 16 protected areas of Nepal using the Rapid Assessment and Prioritization of Protected Areas Management (RAPPAM) methodology.

The Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (Feb 2004) produced a very tangible, target driven programme of work on

protected areas. Each party must now evaluate their protected areas and protected areas systems and implement key recommendations before 2010. The RAPPAM assessment is an important step in meeting Nepal's commitment to the CBD.

The principal objective of such an exercise is to improve conservation of protected areas through effective management - both for individual sites and protected areas systems. The findings of the evaluation can be used to help managers improve on-going management, to influence policy, to improve accountability, and to raise awareness.

A report on the RAPPAM has been published which includes the findings, recommendations and next steps. This report is believed to contribute to the effectiveness of protected areas management in Nepal.



TAL EVALUATION:

The Terai Arc Landscape (TAL) Program began implementation in July 2001, learning from the Bardia Integrated Conservation Program and replicating some of the practices. However, TAL moved beyond the purview of site-based conservation (one protected and its buffer zone) to a more holistic landscape level. At the end of 2005, the TAL program completed its first phase of implementation. A mid-term evaluation was carried out to assess and analyze the impact of investments made in TAL over the past five years.

The evaluation was carried out by a team of independent experts: Dr. Pitambar Sharma - Team Leader

(regional planner), Dr. Tirtha Bahadur Shrestha (Biologist) and Dr. Hari Krishna Upadhyay (Livelihoods Expert). The evaluation found the achievements in the first phase of implementation satisfactory and highlighted some of the major achievements made in the restoration of the critical areas and species conservation. The recommendations from the evaluation will be incorporated in the second phase project document for TAL.

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM:

Action research grants were provided to 11 students from various institutions that carried out research in conservation and sustainable livelihoods in our working areas. Their findings will help WWF fine tune its activities in the field while extending important support to students to complete their dissertations towards the fulfillment of their academic degrees.

WWF CENTRAL DATABASE SYSTEM:

New technological advances allow us to store and share data through a

central database system. Currently maintained in the Access platform, we are upgrading to a system that allows more use by field staff. A web-based interactive central database system is being developed that will allow easy access to all staff and customize reports. GIS maps are now available in WWF Nepal Internal Portal which can be downloaded from the Central Database Server. The maps are categorized according to WWF Program. Digital copies of WWF publications and annual technical reports are also available on the Internal Portal. Photographs have been archived in a Photo Database System, accessible to all WWF staff on the Local Intranet. Similarly, an Employee Database has been created that consists of the employee personal profile and other relevant information.

TERAI WILDLIFE AT THE GLANCE:

Wildlife monitoring, with a focus on flagship species like tigers, ungulates, rhinos, and Bengal floricans was carried out in the Terai Arc Landscape. Tiger monitoring was

conducted in Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve for two consecutive winters and photographic evidence of 22 tigers puts the population estimate at 27 breeding tigers. Prey monitoring showed high abundance of tiger prey species in protected areas and the corridors. Habitat occupancy of tigers showed 38 per cent of forest use by tigers in the Khata forest corridor. Photographic evidence from the corridor forest shows use by tigers and rhinos. A sweeping operation was carried out in the Babai River floodplain inside Bardia National Park showed an alarming decline in rhino population.

A grassland succession study was carried out in Old Padampur in Chitwan National Park. Based on the comparative analysis of vegetation structure parameters and changes in composition, Old Padampur grassland was identified to be in Ecesis stage of succession. This suggested the grassland is still in its early developmental stage of succession and showed high prominence of *Saccharum spontaneum*.

GIS:

Grassland Change and Mapping in Terai Protected Areas to analyze the changes in grassland coverage in four protected areas of Terai Arc Landscape between 2001 and 2005 has been completed. Key findings were that the annual rate of grassland decrease and loss to other land uses was higher in Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve with 0.19 per cent.

Major mapping was completed for the Sacred Himalayan Landscape and Koshi River Basin with the aim of support in the design of future programs.

MONITORING:

The regular monitoring of the project performance was conducted in order to assess efficiency and effectiveness, and recommend corrective measures. Based on the findings of the monitoring and lessons learnt in the previous year, the logical frameworks of the programs were revised along with the monitoring plan.

NETWORK STANDARD:

WWF Nepal made an effort to adhere

with the new network standards. To this effect WWF revised its half yearly and annual reporting format as prescribed by the network standard. The logical framework approach and monitoring plans have been well adopted for all projects of WWF. This will also be followed for the new programs in development.

LEARNING AND ADAPTING:

After the introduction of adaptive management in the projects last year, it has been an integral part of the project cycle management. As this was the first time that Adaptive management schedule (AMS) for WWF projects were prepared and followed, there were some challenges. The lessons learned will be incorporated into preparations for the upcoming fiscal year. Half yearly and annual review meetings were conducted in order to reflect on what went well and why, similarly, the shortcomings of the projects were identified and strategies to overcome those shortcomings were designed and implemented. Programs have been able to share success stories from the field with wider audiences.

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NEW PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS:

Collaboration with research organizations like the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Center for Wildlife Studies was made with Dr Ullas Karanth and his team to analyze tiger data and methodical design for camera trap research work. An effort has been made to publicize a joint paper with WWF and DNPWC, the latter being the first author.

MOU WITH KATHMANDU UNIVERSITY AND EVK2CNR:

WWF has always realized the importance of partnership with academic institutions and research organizations to support its conservation work. In this regard, a memorandum of understanding was signed with Kathmandu University and

EVK2CNR, an Italy-based research organization. The partnership with Kathmandu University will capitalize the comparative advantages of two institutions in conducting long-term wildlife research and capacity building programs. The partnership with EVK2CNR will focus more on research activities related to snow leopard in the Sagarmatha region.

Endorsement of Rhino Action Plan The Greater One-horned Rhinoceros Conservation Action Plan (2006-2011), prepared by team lead by Shyam Bajimaya with the support of WWF Nepal over three years ago, was finally endorsed by Government of Nepal, Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation in July 2006. This is a part of the greater effort by the government to conserve the most enduring emblem of Nepal's rich biological heritage.



Communication and Conservation Education

WWF Nepal's communications, education and outreach programs seek to engage and encourage participation in biodiversity conservation and sustainable development from a local to a global perspective. Communications and conservation education builds on awareness to enable people to act from a better understanding of the importance of biodiversity conservation and sustainable development in Nepal.

WWF Nepal is committed to taking conservation forward through partnerships from the local to the global. They include those who work on the ground, CBOs and the Government of Nepal to the WWF network, international government aid agencies and individual donors.

Communications and education continued to be an integral part of all the projects and programs at WWF Nepal. At the local level, WWF Nepal, together with

various partners, initiated and promoted awareness and capacity building programs among local people to conserve Nepal's biological diversity in a way that is ecologically viable, economically beneficial and socially equitable. We also sought to reinforce our credibility as an organization that works for conservation and environment protection.

COMMUNICATIONS:

The main communication activities in WWF Nepal involve both print and the electronic media and include proactive media relations work. The communications program was successful in highlighting conservation issues of national and local importance through the features service, newsletters, reporting and other publications; establishing a presence on radio, television, and online; and developing a core group of media people who are sensitized to environment and development concerns.

In the past fiscal year, we strengthened institutional links and partnerships. We worked with national media houses like Kantipur Publications and Himalmedia in raising awareness. On the international level, WWF Nepal's work in climate change was featured in an international documentary made for Al Jazeera. To reach out to the biggest audience, we expanded our radio services making *Bhuparidhi* in the Terai Arc Landscape a weekly program and introducing "We are the world: *hamro sansaar hamrai haathma*" a conservation radio program in Kathmandu through the valley-based Hits FM.

Innovative outreach projects to promote conservation awareness and



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call for action among target groups were initiated. This year, several nationally renowned TV stars participated in a traveling street theatre show against rhino poaching in Chitwan National Park to mark World Environment Day. Over 5,000 people watched the play, which was covered by local TV stations. Sugarika KC, Miss Nepal 2005, was WWF Nepal's second Conservation Ambassador. She was a regular contributor to the Kathmandu-based weekly radio program. In addition, she attended WWF programs and participated in several outreach activities, including a special field visit to Chitwan during World Environment Day 2006 where she spoke to large masses on rhino conservation.



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Sugarika also was a welcome and popular part of the Water Day activities when WWF Nepal together with volunteers urged Kathmandu dwellers to save water. She also joined in the school level climate change awareness campaign by giving several talks on the issue to young students.

WWF Nepal improved communications resources by digitizing the best selection from our collection of slides and photographs. New and fresh exhibition material was developed. An audio-video was created and the publication database was updated. Our website wwfnepal.org received a makeover and is now being hosted by WWF

International. The Content Management System allows for easy updates that has removed the need and expense of a local webmaster.

Based on the WWF Brand, we have implemented the guidelines in our internal and external communications materials, as well as the working environment. Together with human resources, the office has been branded with our corporate colors and every effort is being made to be 'green'. The WWF Brand presentation was adapted for Nepal and all new staff were briefed on the bigger WWF picture and how we maintain and contribute to a global image. The Communications Unit continues to be the focal point for branding.

EDUCATION:

Conservation education has been a crucial component for the success of WWF Nepal's conservation endeavours because of our strong conviction that conservation education is a process that will ultimately help people to reach their fullest potential for conservation and sustainable development. The ongoing conservation education programs are designed for the school children, teachers, community members and general public in order to enhance their decision capability for conservation and sustainable development. The purpose of conservation education is to achieve increased people's participation in conservation of biological diversity and sustainable development by bringing



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attitudinal and behavioral changes through enhancing knowledge and capacity thereby strengthening their decision capability.

WWF Nepal and its conservation partners jointly implement school-based environmental education programs through the formation of Eco Clubs, which are independent groups of students that work collectively to support conservation of their natural and cultural heritage. Awareness and extension programs are organized at the local level. Non-formal education and capacity building programs are implemented in project areas to improve literacy and create

conservation awareness, especially among women. The education of girls in the project areas with the Girls Students Stipend aims at the long-term empowerment of women through education.

The focus for the conservation education programs for the fiscal year 06 was the integration of conservation education programs in the priority programs; sustainable forest management, species and ecosystem conservation, climate change and freshwater. The improvement in the quality of environment education in schools as part of strengthening Eco Clubs in the project areas of WWF

Nepal was also an important area of our intervention. In the last fiscal year, the School Level Climate Change Awareness Campaign sought to include climate change as a complement to the school curriculum. School teachers were invited to be part of a workshop to determine the most effective way to support their teaching of this complex subject.

In the WWF Nepal field projects, various education activities were successfully carried out. Children continued to benefit from Eco Clubs and by providing stipend to the deserving, needy students and those children who are victims of or affected by human/wildlife conflict.

Eco Clubs have been formed and strengthened in WWF Nepal project and program sites to enhance conservation education among school children with a total of 301 Eco Clubs throughout the nation. These Eco Clubs are affiliated to 9 Eco Club Networks in the respective districts that help in coordinating the clubs and



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keeping them active. Thirty-seven new Eco Clubs were formed in TAL during the FY 2005/2006 to enhance conservation education programs in schools among school, in total there are 160 Eco Clubs in TAL. Similarly, one new Eco Club each was formed in SCAFP and KCAP, bringing the total number of new Eco Clubs formed during the fiscal year to 39. Eco Clubs and networks were mobilized for extension of conservation awareness among students, their families and villages. These Eco Clubs and networks were supported for carrying out extra-curricular activities to generate conservation awareness. Exposure tours, training, orientation and interaction activities were organized to enhance understanding of students on conservation issues and to build their capacities for managing Eco Clubs.

A few highlights from the Eco Club activities carried out in the Terai Arc Landscape in the past fiscal year include the protection of the plantation site supported by Hollywood celebrities

during the MTV Trippin' Program in November 2004, waste management and biodiversity conservation programs for their communities. The Eco Club Network of Nawalparasi organized 550 members in a conservation rally of about 6 km on the occasion of World Wetland Day. In the mountains, Eco Club students and teachers initiated an Everest Clean-up campaign from Lukla to Everest base Camp. Eco Club members throughout the SCAFP painted signposts and rock paintings on the importance of musk deer conservation. In Kangchenjunga, the newly formed Pathivara Eco Club Network Committee organized a plantation program whereby around 600 rhododendron saplings of different species were planted in land is owned by Pathivara Devi Darshan Committee and is envisioned as a Rhododendron Park for conservation and recreation. Eco Clubs in NMCP led four anti-poaching campaigns in Phoksundo, Raha, and Tripurakot VDC in March-April 2006. In total, 56 members participated in the program whose main objective was to control illegal activities

in the forest like poaching, illegal harvesting, and destruction of nets and traps used for poaching. Dozens of nets and poison sticks were collected and destroyed. In Kathmandu, a total of 1,500 students from 25 private and public schools of Kathmandu valley learned about climate change and its impacts through an awareness program from October 2005 to June 2006 organized by WWF Nepal and Clean Energy Nepal with support from the British Embassy. Both students and teachers found the program innovative and a useful. The teachers, recognizing the importance of teaching climate change, said it was extremely important and should be incorporated into the school curriculum. Following the success of the school level climate change awareness program, Clean Energy Nepal and WWF Nepal will begin another awareness program targeted at college students from August 2006.

Several education and communication materials were developed in English

and Nepali. This is critical for the target audiences to recall conservation issues. Environmental awareness programs were frequently organized on important conservation days like World Environment Day, World Wetland Day, Wildlife Week, etc. The Communication and Education strategies remained in their draft form as the final review would follow the overall WWF Nepal Strategic Plan (2006-2011).



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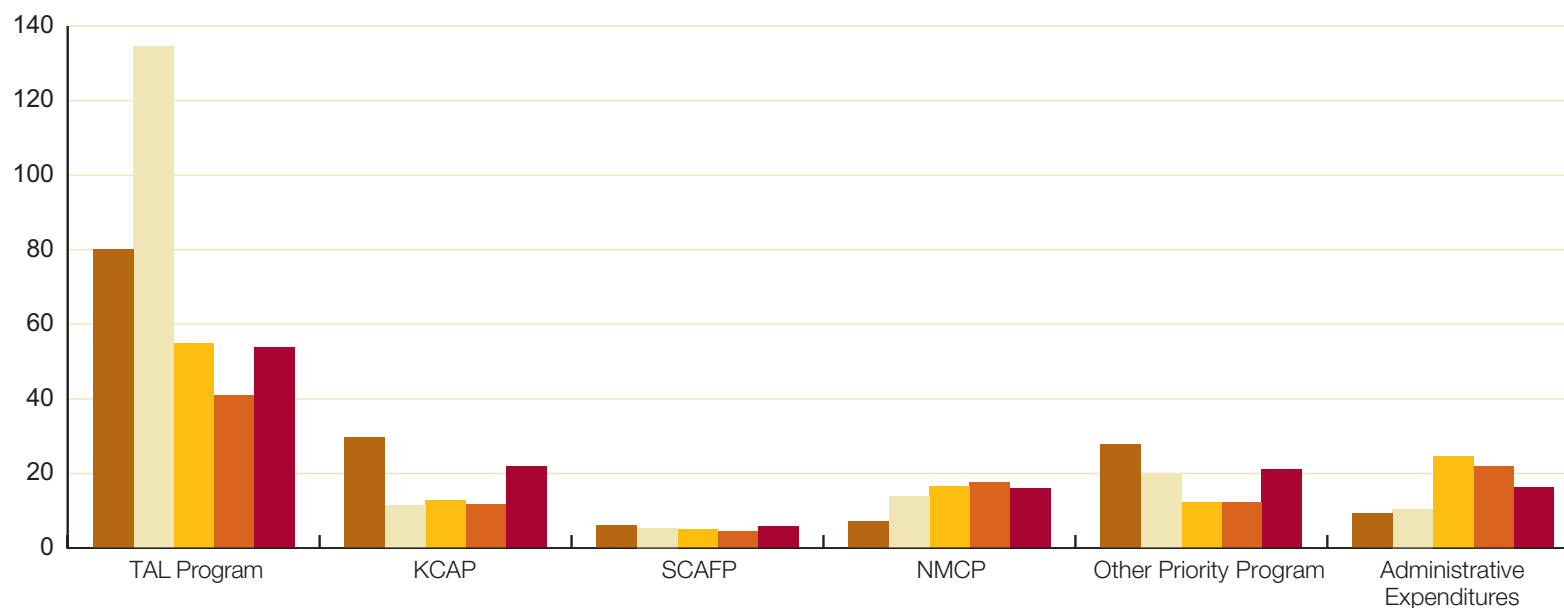
Financial Overview

WWF NEPAL AUDITED STATEMENTS OF EXPENDITURE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2001-02 TO 2005-06

Figures in NRs

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
Terai Arc Landscape Program	53,814,324	40,845,915	54,884,679	134,605,465	80,095,870
Sacred Himalayan Landscape Program	27,553,208	15,985,624	17,745,777	16,843,313	35,768,187
i) Kangchenjunga Conservation Area Project	21,825,096	11,592,223	12,772,069	11,442,380	29,669,889
ii) Sagarmatha Community Agro Forestry Project	5,728,112	4,393,401	4,973,708	5,400,933	6,098,298
Northern Mountain Conservation Project	16,074,704	17,589,025	16,413,198	13,937,434	7,127,246
Other Priority Program	21,006,135	12,288,053	12,118,447	19,642,577	27,780,443
Administrative Expenditure	16,256,192	22,000,167	24,519,353	10,499,923	9,366,330
Total Expenditure	118,629,859	91,119,759	109,268,256	181,591,278	160,138,076

WWF's fiscal year ends on 30th June



Highlights

JULY 2005

MOU with Kathmandu University

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between WWF Nepal and Kathmandu University to use the resources of both organizations efficiently and effectively in order to promote conservation education and research.

Student's fund for Beauty

Students from kindergarten to Grade 4 at Wendy House School, Kathmandu, donated funds raised by making and selling paper bags to promote environmental friendly materials to Beauty, the orphan rhino in Kasara. The students handed the money over to the Buffer Zone Management Committee, CNP to sponsor Beauty's food.

Alternative Incomes

WWF Nepal supported the construction of two fish ponds for 113 households of Bote and Mushars in Amaltari.

NTFP Promotion

More than 40 farmers attended the training programs in the cultivation of *Kurilo*, *Pipla*, *Aswagandha*, *Kalmegh*, *Palmarosa*, *Lemongrass*, etc in Khata corridor, Bardia through the TAL Program.

Himalayan Glacier Project

A two-day Regional Workshop on Himalayan Glacier Project was held in Kathmandu to explore the possibilities of scaling up the existing Himalayan Glacier Project into a larger regional project that integrates the Climate Change and Freshwater programs. The workshop, organized by WWF Nepal on 20-21 July 2005, was attended by representatives from WWF offices in Nepal, India, China, Pakistan, International, Australia, UK, and the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology and the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology.

Public Hearing on TAL

The annual program review meeting and public hearing session was held on 9 July 2005 at Thakurdwara, Bardia. The meeting was organized by the Protected Areas and Buffer Zone office of the Terai Arc Landscape Program at Thakurdwara and was attended by diverse stakeholders representing community members, executives of the implementing CBOs/NGOs, local journalists and government officials.

Support from the British Embassy

On 28 July 2005, an agreement was signed between The British Embassy and WWF Nepal for a project "Raising awareness on Climate Change among Eco Clubs in Kathmandu Valley" for the period of one year effective from 1 August 2005.

AUGUST 2005

Signing of Grant Agreements

Five separate grant agreements amounting US\$ 1,754,039 signed between WWF Nepal Program, DNPWC and DOF on 15 August 2005 to support biodiversity conservation and sustainable community development in WWF project sites

Conservation Education

Conservation Education session held for Miss Nepal - 2005 contestants, which included a presentation by Dr Chandra Gurung and a briefing from WWF Nepal's first Conservation Ambassador Payal Shakya, Miss Nepal 2004.

Signing of WTLCP

The implementation document signed for the Western Terai Landscape Complex Project (WTLCP), an eight-year program for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, by Anandaram Regmi, Joint Secretary of Ministry of Finance, Dr Damodar Prasad Parajuli, Joint Secretary of Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, and Ghulam Isaczai, Deputy Resident Representative of UNDP, on 31 August

Highlights

SEPTEMBER 2005

Donor Briefing

A team from WWF Nepal had a meeting with KAAA, a donor partner involved in the infrastructure and community development activities and in alternative energy programs mountain projects, at their office in Pokhara on 12 September 2005.

Micro-financing for Biogas

A workshop on micro-financing biogas plants at Dhangadhi on 6 September 2005 was attended by community members with representatives from Winrock International, BSP and WWF NP. Rajendra Gurung, Program Officer - TAL, facilitated the workshop. The establishment of biogas plants through micro-financing in selected areas was decided.

Planning workshop

The Climate Change Program organized a half-day "Planning Workshop for Climate Change Awareness Raising Program" on 18 September 2005 for Eco Club teachers of 25 schools. The main objective was to identify possible and effective school level activities for students in raising awareness on climate change impacts and other issues.

OCTOBER 2005

High Altitude Wetlands in Nepal

An inventory of at least seven priority wetlands in Nepal being prepared and a workshop was organized by WWF Nepal in coordination with Forum for Ecosystem Management to share information and recommend future initiatives

Gangetic Dolphins in Nepal

WWF Nepal's dolphin research team caught an elusive Gangetic dolphin on camera. The study centered on Karnali River and tributaries in TAL-Nepal

Top Tiger Experts in Nepal

Dr John Seidensticker and Dr Mahendra Shrestha of Save the Tiger Fund visited the Terai Arc Landscape to observe and assess STF-supported activities in Nepal. They were also exploring new ways of strengthening ongoing partnerships to conserve tigers more effectively in Nepal

AWS for Everest

WWF Nepal Program presented an Automatic Weather Station (AWS) to the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM), Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology of HMG/N on 5 October 2005. A tripartite agreement between the

DHM, WWF Nepal and the Society of Hydrology and Meteorology - Nepal (SOHAM) was also signed for research on the regional Himalayan Glacier and River Project

NOVEMBER 2005

Micro Hydro in Sagarmatha National Park

Nearly US\$ 200,000 committed by KAAA to WWF Nepal for the Ghatte Micro Hydro project in Sagarmatha National Park Buffer Zone on 10 November. Its 70 KW capacity will benefit more than 87 households when completed in September 2006.

AWS Installed in Nguzumpa Glacier

by a team from WWF Nepal, DHM and MOEST to collect important data for the Himalayan Glacier and River Project

DECEMBER 2005

International Mountain Day

11 December was celebrated by Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation together with partners like Nepal Tourism Board, TRPAP, KMTNC, ICIMOD, IUCN, TMI and WWF Nepal with the theme of "Sustainable Tourism for Poverty Alleviation in Mountain Areas".

Exposure to Enterprise

Farmers and entrepreneurs from the Terai went on an exposure tour to Barabanki, Masouli and Lucknow in India from 31 December 2005 to 3 January 2006 to see the potential of non-timber forest products and high value crop linkages. The tour was sponsored by the TAL Program.

Help for Anti-poaching

A radio communication set has been installed in Chitwan National Park through the funding support of TAL Program to better communications for anti-poaching operations. The communication set is fully functional and covers almost a third of the park. All the repeater stations are backed by solar energy systems. It will tremendously help in undertaking anti-poaching operations effectively. Likewise, it will also be instrumental in managing the national parks.

JANUARY 2006

Inauguration of School Building

Dr. Tirtha Man Maskey, Director General - Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), inaugurated a building of Janajyoti Secondary School, Shivapur Bakuwa in the Buffer Zone of the BNP, Bardia on 2 January 2006. The two additional classrooms were added to accommodate the increasing number of students. The locals contributed more than 50 per cent to the

cost of construction and the TAL Program also provided financial support.

MoU with Clean Energy Nepal

WWF Nepal signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Kathmandu-based NGO Clean Energy Nepal (CEN) to formalize their joint work on energy and climate change on 30 January 2006.

FEBRUARY 2006

World Wetlands Day

A day-long programme themed "In the face of poverty, wetlands are lifelines," was held in the capital to mark World Wetlands Day on 2 February 2006. It was jointly supported by DNPWC, DOF, WWF Nepal, KMTNC, NTB, Forum for Eco System Management, IUCN and UNDP along with other NGOs. On the occasion, WWF Nepal released factsheets on four High Altitude Wetlands.

Putting it into action

The TAL Implementation Plan (2004-2014) was handed over to the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation at a ceremony attended by government line agencies, I/NGOs, donors and supporters of the largest conservation undertaking in the history of His Majesty's Government of Nepal on 16 February 2006.

MARCH 2006

Teaching Climate Change

A two-day workshop was organized to discuss a "Teacher's Manual: Teaching Climate Change at School" for Eco Clubs and environment school-teachers from Kathmandu valley on 9-10 March. Although the current environmental education has certain content on climate change, there is no direct link to the issue in both grade 8 and 9 curricula.

New training methods at CNP

A week-long program for mahuts of national parks and private elephant holders arranged by the DNPWC and TAL Program took place at the Elephant Breeding Center at Sauraha, Chitwan. A follow-up session will be scheduled in the future with the support of Finland.

A helping hand

The staff of WWF Nepal contributed NRs 23,500 with an additional NRs 6,000 from WWF Finland to the Early Childhood Development Centre (ECDC) run by three Nepali women on 23 March 2006. The ECDC is a non-profit organization that runs a day childcare centre for the children of female prisoners in a Kathmandu jail.

Highlights

Smugglers Arrested

The CBAPO in Bhajani confiscated 15 logs of sal from four people who had cut the trees illegally from the Choutara Community Forest User Group area. The timber smugglers were reported to the District Forest Officer and local ranger.

MoU with Ev-K²-CNR

WWF Nepal and the Ev-K²-CNR Committee joined hands to undertake wildlife research and monitoring activities of the snow leopard and prey species in Sagarmatha National Park. The Memorandum of Understanding was signed by Dr Chandra Gurung and Agostino Da Polenza, President of Ev-K²-CNR Committee on 24 March 2006.

CR Visits New Padampur

Dr. Chandra Gurung, Country Representative of WWF Nepal visited New Padampur area on 29 March 2006. He was accompanied by Dr. Tirtha Man Maskey, Co-chair, IUCN Asian Rhino Specialist Group, Mr. Tikaram Adhikari, Chief Warden, RCNP and Santosh Nepal, Shubash Lohani and Purna Kunwar from WWF Nepal. Dr. Gurung inaugurated the newly built building of Bhimodaya Madhyamik Vidhyalaya and praised the contribution made by the people and mentioned that WWF will continue its support in the community based conservation initiatives in the area.

World Water Day Celebrated

World Water Day 2006 was marked by a special person-to-person awareness activity in Kathmandu by WWF Nepal in partnership with Friends of the Bagmati on 22 March 2006. The international theme for this World Water Day was "water and culture". A postcard was printed as a handout.

APRIL 2006

Wildlife Week (14-20 April 2006)

Celebrating Nepal's rich biodiversity in a week dedicated to raising awareness and encouraging the participation of young people in conservation, WWF Nepal planned activities in Kathmandu and in the project sites. Unfortunately, they have to be postponed because of political unrest in the country. The closing ceremony was held on 4 May 2006. Several WWF Nepal communications materials were released on the occasion.

MAY 2006

Nepali Climate Witness goes international

Norbu Sherpa, the WWF's Climate Witness from Nepal, was featured extensively in an important new documentary. The documentary is being produced by Television Trust for the Environment (TVE) for the news-channel Al Jazeera International. Tanya

Peterson, Head of Television, WWF International, Nick Turner of Television Trust for the Environment and Aarati Gurung, Climate Change Programme went to Ghat to film Norbu from 21-26 May 2006.

To the mountains

Donald Clark, Mission Director, USAID visited the Northern Mountain Conservation Project (NMCP) to observe ongoing project work in Dolpa in May 2006. The NMCP staff provided valuable briefings and accompanied him. Yeshe Choden Lama, Senior Program Officer- Mountain, was deputized from Kathmandu.

River dolphins under threat

Six months of field research conducted by WWF along Nepal's longer river, the Karnali, shows that river dolphin populations are stagnant and remain more endangered than ever. The WWF Nepal study Status, distribution and conservation threats of Ganges River dolphins in the Karnali River, Nepal is based on research conducted on river dolphins in the Karnali River system in the western lowland of Nepal from July 2005 to February 2006.

CBAPO orientation in SCAFP

A team of resource persons for CBAPO from the TAL Program and participants from Kangchenjunga Conservation Area Project (KCA) traveled to

Sagarmatha for an orientation and training in Lukla. The training was also attended by CBAPO members from Sagarmatha National Park.

JUNE 2005

Conservation Ambassador in CNP

On the occasion of World Environment Day 2006, a team from WWF including Sugarika KC, Conservation Ambassador and Miss Nepal 2006, went to Chitwan National Park to promote an anti-poaching street theatre program. The team was accompanied by a Kathmandu-based journalist and received coverage in the local and national media.

SHL Workshop in Taplejung

The mountain unit together with two consultants from National Environmental Coalition of Indigenous Nationalities (NECIN) visited Taplejung, KCA from 31 May to 7 June 2006. The objective of the visit was to organize and participate in two workshops: 1) Sacred Himalayan Landscape Strategic Plan consultation workshop and 2) Awareness raising workshop on relationship between indigenous peoples and Convention on Biological Diversity.

Media Training

A half-day media training workshop featuring tips on how to handle the different forms of media and being a good communicator was organized by the Communications & Education Unit on 9 June 2006. Staff were briefed on the Rapid Response Kit and handed t-shirts with the WWF logo for field/interview usage. The workshop also included an on-camera presentation skills training by the Institute of Television Films and the Performing Arts.

WWF Nepal in the news

On World Environment Day, 5 June 2006, a full page special featuring conservation articles and success stories was published in Kantipur, a popular vernacular daily. The articles covered climate change, success stories from the TAL and NMCP, an interview with Conservation ambassador Sugarika KC, Miss Nepal 2006, and news about the declining Gangetic dolphins in the Karnali.

Reaching out

As part of World Environment Day celebrations, WWF Nepal participated in a 3-day exhibition. Recent editions of the newsletter were distributed along with handouts on WWF Nepal.

Dolphin Awareness

A Dolphin Awareness Program was conducted to share findings of the research carried out by WWF Nepal on river dolphins and raise awareness among locals between 12-16 June at Thakurdwara, Kothaighat, Khata and Bhajani of the lower Karnali River basin.

Working with people

Indigenous peoples and their relationship to conservation were in focus during a two-day workshop organized by WWF Nepal and the National Federation of Indigenous Nationalities (NEFIN) on 29-30 June 2006. "Raising Indigenous Peoples' Awareness about Implementation of the CBD and Framing WWF Nepal's Working Areas and Approaches on IPs" was attended by representatives of indigenous communities and organizations from across the country, representative government agencies, I/NGOs, intellectuals and academicians, and individuals working in environment and natural resources management.

Acknowledgements

WWF Nepal acknowledges with gratitude the support received from the following partners, donors and supporters:

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs-Finland; The British Embassy; The American Embassy; The Embassy of Finland; The Embassy of Pakistan; Royal Netherlands Embassy (New Delhi)

United Nation's Development Program (UNDP); US Agency for International Development (USAID); DGIS/Netherlands Development Organization (SNV); Department for International Development (DFID); Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA); Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA); European Commission (EC); UK-Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs-Darwin Initiative; US Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS)

The Macarthur Foundation; The Baber Ali Foundation; Save the Tiger Fund (STF); Johnson & Johnson; University of Zurich; IUCN Regional Office (Thailand); Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Association (KAAA); Kadoorie Charitable Fund; Vaidya's Organization of Industries and Trading Houses (VOITH); SOS Crocodile

Jim Ottaway; Late Hendrik J Schure; Dr Croucher, Singer Rankin; Cherie Bremer-Camp; Dr Ted Tai-Sen Lin; Victor and Caroline Adams; Dr Judith and Michael Brown; 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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Nepal Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC); Resources Himalaya Foundation; 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); Kathmandu University; Tribhuvan University (TU); Himalayan Amchi Association (HAA); Nepalnature.com; Wildlife Watch Group; Bird Conservation Nepal; Hits FM 91.2; National Environmental Coalition of Indigenous Nationalities (NECIN); Women Entrepreneurship Association, Nepal (WEAN); Ethnobotanical Society of Nepal (ESON); BDS-MaPs; International Development Enterprises Nepal (IDE)

WWF Nepal would like to express special thanks to: Community Based Organizations; Nepali media organizations; Forest Users Coordination Committees; Community Forest User's Groups, Buffer Zone User's 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

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WWF's Mission is 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;
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