

Wildlife Times



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Editorial

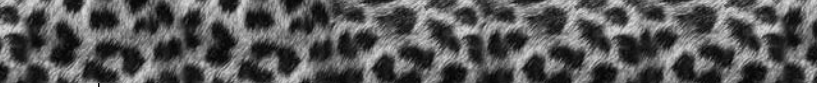
Thank you Minister!

The 18 December 2009 will be marked in the conservation movement of Nepal as an important date as in this date the government of Nepal set freed 36 monkeys in the wild in Shivapuri- Nagarjuna National Park. This is strong message to home and abroad that the present government of Nepal and its forest minister Mr. Deepak Bohara is firmly committed to stop monkey business. Thank you Mr. Minister!

It is learnt that government will gradually release all monkeys kept in Lele breeding centre in the wild. For some of monkeys, release will be simple. For a few it may take a while if they have been captives for a long time. We can hope they will be very happy back in again nature.

Lele Monkey breeding centre operated by Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research USA, lobbying hard to export monkeys to their lab in Texas. Southwest has a Biosafety Level 4 lab and works with biological warfare agents such as Ebola and Lassa. The experimentation protocols are ghastly and inevitably fatal. So it is WWG's opinion that the minister had made the right decision keeping Nepal out of this dirty business.

Unfortunately several Asian nations are getting bullied into setting up Primate Facilities and exporting animals. Many years ago US interests got the Government of Bangladesh to sign a monkey export deal involving over 70,000 monkeys but Bangladesh conservationists and animal protectors got this plan cancelled. The US threatened to cut off aid but Bangladesh stood firm and the export ban is still in place. India also banned monkey exports after learning the poor animals were being used in radiation experiments in preparation for the neutron bomb.



Nepal Government released 36 monkeys to wild!

23 January, Lalitpur, Nepal



In a bid to fully nullify the previous decision regarding monkey farming, the government of Nepal decided to return the royalties collected from monkey breeding centers and freed 36 monkeys to natural environment. This was revealed by director general of Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Mr. Gopal Upadhaya, who was speaking on the occasion of painting workshop and exhibition titled: Let Monkeys be allowed to live in wild and free on 23 January 2010.

It is learnt government of Nepal on 18 December (2009) freed 36 monkeys (30 adults and 6 babies) in Nagarjuna area of Shivapuri-Nagarjuna National Park situated in 12 km north of Kathmandu city brought from Lele monkey breeding centre. These monkeys were set free after remaining around three years in captivity in the centre. According to Shivapuri-Nagarjuna National Park

officials the monkeys are doing fine and no problem in roaming again in wild and free. The Shivapuri-Nagarjuna national park is regarded as one of nation's prime habitat of rhesus monkey.

Speaking on the same occasion Mr. Gills-Henry Garault, French Ambassador for Nepal affirmed on his belief in wildlife conservation especially on Primate Protection and against experiments done in the labs. He applauded WWG for successful campaign and expressed his congratulation. He also liked the idea of involving artists which was a completely new idea and was happy to be part of such an event.

WWG Chairman Mr. Mangal Man Shakya gave brief outline of three years of stop monkey business campaign (2006-2009) that resulted in government's decision to stop monkey breeding centre at Lele, Lalitpur. He also informed

WWG is soon bringing out the book based on the campaign for the awareness raising purpose. He thanked IPPL and its chairperson Dr. Shirley McGreal for her continuous support to the campaign. As a climax of campaign, WWG and IPPL hoist the stop monkey business banner at the top of the world's highest mount Everest on 19 June 2009 and on 29 July 2009 a framed photograph of this historic expedition was handed over to Nepal's minister of forest and soil conservation hon' Mr. Deepak Bohara who in less than a month later issued a formal notice to shut down the monkey breeding centre in Lele, Lalitpur which had been lobbying hard to export monkey in USA labs.

Mr. Krishna Manandhar, senior artist of Nepal, on behalf of all the artist society expressed his happiness to be part of Stop the Monkey business campaign through art.

Let monkeys be allowed to live in wild and free! The painting workshop and exhibition

Saturday, 23 January 2010

Pulchowk, Lalitpur, Nepal



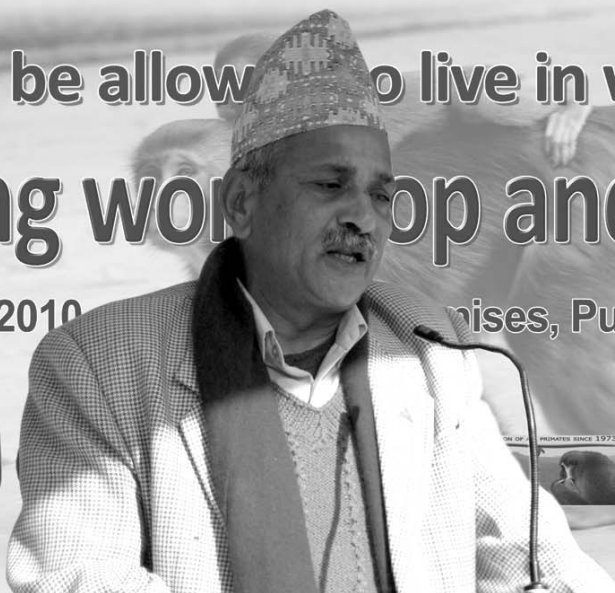
Ambassador H.E. Gilles-Henry Garault

Let monkeys be allowed to live in wild and free! The painting workshop and exhibition

Saturday, 23 January 2010, Prithvi Narayan Mandap, Pulchowk, Lalitpur, Nepal



BATAS
ORGANISATION



Director General Mr. Gopal Upadhaya

Wildlife Watch Group has organized this program along with CECIUCN (commission on Communication and Education of the World Conservation Union), BATAS Organization, IPPL (International Primate Protection League), Prerana Organization, Natural History Museum and NEFUG (Nepalese Federation of Forests Users Group).

Seventeen contemporary artists participated during painting workshop. The canvas for the painting was handed over to the artists by Mr. Gopal Upadhaya, Director General of Department of National Park and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), Mangal Man Shakya, Chairman of WWG, Shankar Malla Thakuri, Chairman of NEFUG, chief of Natural History Museum Prof. Dr. Keshab Shrestha and Naresh Man Shrestha, General Manager of Batas organization.

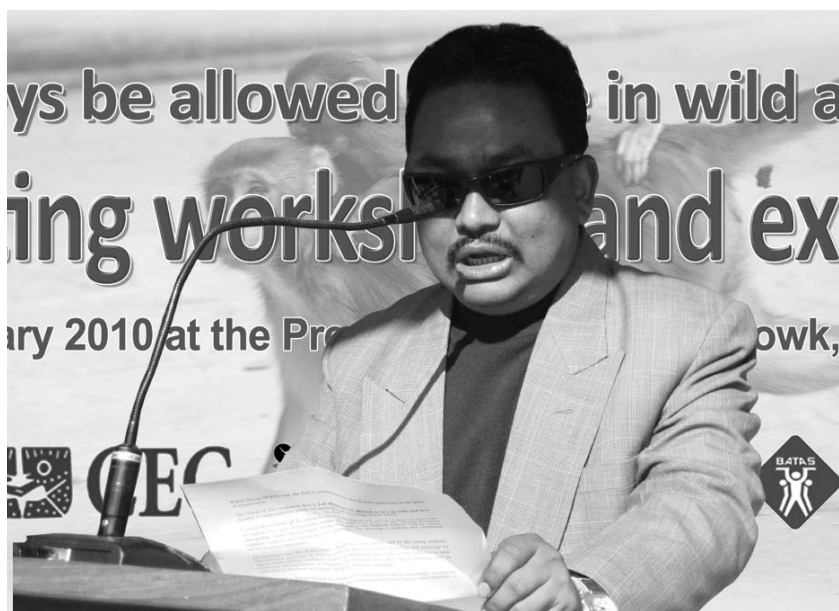
Twenty-two students studying in different schools from grade

2-5 came to participate in the painting competition held. The students were eager and enthusiastic about the drawing on monkey. The paintings drawn by the students were later judged by senior artists Shashi Bikram Shah, Krishna Manandhar, Kiran Manandhar, Bijay Thapa and Director General of DNPWC Mr. Gopal Upadhaya and the top three prizes along with three consolation prizes were given.

The paintings by the artists and the students will be exhibited inside and outside the country to raise awareness on importance of Monkey as wild and free.

Newly appointed program manager of IUCN Nepal Mr. Laxmi K Amatya was also present during the program.

WWG Chair Mr. Mangal Man Shakya



Conservation Archive 2



This is the continuation of the Conservation archive published in the Wildlife times in the earlier edition. This article contains two directives given by then HRH Gyanendra and two meetings which were headed under then HRH Gyanendra's chairmanship. In the minutes and directives written between year 1973 and 1974, discussions were primarily focused on establishment of national parks and wildlife reserves. Some of the important observations and discussions made by the panel were reviewing the agreement between His Majesty Government and Tiger Tops, especially regarding the control to run business in Chitwan area and to further it in Sauraha area. The meetings held also discussed to indicate the acceptance of the membership of 1001, A Nature Trust. Under the Operation Tiger, it was agreed

that due to presence of two UN experts in Nepal, any technicians from India will not be required for the time being and the Project Operation Tiger is best done through the WWF and the IUCN. We can clearly see at that time also, there was interference from India, which we can clearly see in the memo from Karan Singh, India. The panel also worked to include Yeti on the list of fully protected animal. It was also agreed upon that Nepal will seek for State Membership of IUCN and for that, Draft tipping and letter to Director General was to be submitted before the next meeting. Under the directive given by then HRH Gyanendra, one of the agenda included to ask for Reaction from Agriculture Department on Rhesus monkey and Parrot to capture and export them as agricultural pests. The then formed panel also worked to raise public awareness for conservation programme. These were few of the agendas that were planned and agreed upon between the year 1973 and 1974.

Directives given by HRH Prince Gyanendra on 18th Baisakh 2030 (1973.4.30) to the three-man committee

The directive was given for the establishment of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Programmes in Nepal.

Committee Members:

Conservationist B.B.Basnet, Development Officer, C.C.F. Office Bishwa N.Uprety, National Parks and Wildlife Officer

Hemanta R.Mishra, National Parks and Wildlife Officer

1. 1001; A Nature Trust: What benefit will Nepal derive if HRH Prince Gyanendra becomes a member.
2. Tappu Wildlife Reserve: Finalization of the existing plan (Gupta and Mishra specify details on roads, buildings and their costs).
3. Sagarmatha National Park: Detail plan (somewhat similar to Tappu) for the establishment of a National Park. The following were the main points:
 - a. Boundary detail: Winter migration to be considered.
 - b. Involvement of local people in conservation programme i.e. can we employ them as staff of the park.
 - c. Commercial utilization of the area.
 - d. Description of animals and their habitat in that area.
 - e. Development works.
 - f. Detail map of the area.
 - g. Cost and budget.
 - h. Any other points as necessary.
4. Implementation of the seven points as specified in HRH Prince Bernhard's report.
5. Existing setup of the Wildlife unit (HMG), future plans for expansions indicating staffs and also to produce it in a chart form.
6. Publicity schemes for making the public aware and educated on conservation programmes.
7. Gazetting Royal Chitwan NP, completion of regulations and to submit an English version of the National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act (2029).
8. Staff fulfillment and their training.
9. Report on Langtang.
10. Submit a detail plan on all the proposed national park and wildlife reserve.
11. Check with finance secretary about the WWF coinage.
12. Reviewing the agreement between HMG and Tiger Tops, especially concerning the monopoly to run business in Chitwan area and its expansion in Sauraha area.

13. Mishra to go to Khumbu for investigation in field about the proposed Park. The following directives

were ordered by HRH Prince Gyanendra at the meeting of Wildlife Conservation Committee

held on 26th and 27th Ashar 2030 (10th and 11th July, 1973).

On the points raised by HRH Prince Himalaya with HRH Prince Gyanendra on Wednesday June 27, 1973, the following course of action was adopted:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>a. Acquisition of land in Chitwan for Wildlife conservation will be re-considered later on.</p> | <p>National Park and Tappu wildlife reserve to be brought at the time of conference.</p> | <p>b. The system of recruitment of the staff.</p> |
| <p>b. After the wildlife survey and ecological study of the Far Western mountain region, Mustang and Chharkabhot region, Manang area and Machhapuchhre region, decisions will be taken for wildlife conservation and National Parks Development.</p> | <p>3. To prepare a briefing on the last WWF conference.</p> | <p>c. Their salaries, pension, rations, clothing, arm and ammunition.</p> |
| <p>2. A letter regarding the acceptance of invitation by HRH Prince Gyanendra to attain the world conference of WWF is to be drafted by this section including the following points.</p> | <p>4. To submit the comprehensive plan of the proposed Sagarmatha National Park in the coming Thursday 4th of Shrawan 2030 including its objective of Nature Conservation and its utilization for the purpose of recreation and also to prescribe the management and development work based on those objectives.</p> | <p>d. How to fulfill the technical staffs</p> |
| <p>a. acceptance of the invitation to join the conference,</p> | <p>5. To prepare a chart of the proposed organization of wildlife section showing different stages in different colors.</p> | <p>e. Mobilization of the staffs.</p> |
| <p>b. to indicate the acceptance of the membership of 1001 A Nature Trust,</p> | <p>6. To prepare a 10 yrs plan for development of National park and Reserves particularly keeping in mind the following points.</p> | <p>f. To think of the new rules to change for better.</p> |
| <p>c. to point out in which capacity HRH should join the conference,</p> | <p>a. To convert this section to an independent Department.</p> | <p>7. Reply to Detrich Schaff of the approval for the study of swamp deer in Shukla phanta.</p> |
| <p>d. Also to indicate that the proposals for Sagarmatha</p> | | <p>8. To prepare a map showing existing Royal Hunting Reserve forest and proposed Wildlife Reserves and National Parks.</p> |
| | | <p>9. The idea of Royal Hunting Reserve should be avoided while managing Hunting Reserves.
4th meeting held at Royal palace under the guidance of HRH Prince Gyanendra On Shrawan 4th 2030 (2030/4/4/5)</p> |

Actions(Based on the directives of the 3rd meeting):

1. A draft letter to HRH Prince Bernhard was submitted.
2. A brief note on the 2nd WWF International Congress London 1970; and the hand book on the proceedings of the congress were submitted.
3. Preliminary report on Sagarmatha (Mt. Everest) National Park was submitted for the kind perusal of His Royal Highness.
- ii. Though it is agreed that there should be cooperation between the countries on the Indian Sub-Continent on Wildlife conservation; it was agreed in the meeting that all activities concerned with the protection of tiger particularly Project Operation Tiger is best done through the WWF and the IUCN.
- e. To follow up the completion procedure of the "Regulations" so that the Royal Chitwan National Park can be gazetted by August. The draft is at present with the Law Ministry.
2. Literature on Wildlife: To submit to His Royal Highness, all available publications on wildlife ecology of Nepal: and to furnish the address of foreign wildlife journals.
5. Staff: A long discussion was generated on the problems of the proper organization of Wildlife activities in Nepal. Emphasis was given on the problem of establishing well qualified guards. Thus this particular reference to:
 - a. System of armed guard recruitment.
 - b. Stress at new recruitment instead of ex army men.
 - c. Create situations for promotions of hard working guards.
 - d. Stress that specified job is given to specified personnel, so that many responsibilities are not burdened to one particular staff.
 - e. Devise an effective system of mobilization of armed guards. Suggest means of communication.
 - f. The existing system of allocating salaries, equipments, rations, and

Discussions

1. The Tappu wildlife reserve: The suggestion that the land compensation cost should be heard by Koshi Project is an internal matter of HMG; and thus should be excluded from the report to the WWF. Detail justification on the proposal is required.
3. The FAO Wildlife Adviser: To submit to His Royal Highness a critical report on the works of Mr. J.H.Blower.
4. The National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act(2029):
 - a. To explain the reasons for the inclusion of CL.13 in the act.
 - b. To include Yeti on the list of fully protected list.
 - c. To provide provisions for the protection of fish and insects if necessary.
 - d. To review the "Fish Act" if any of the Fisheries Dept.
2. Conservation coinage issue: Since IUCN and HMG Mint. Dept. are dealing on this issue, this committee is to keep a regular track on this subject.
3. Operation Tiger (Memo from Karan Singh, India): It was agreed that:
 - i. Since two UN experts are at present in Nepal, any technicians from India will not be required for the time being.

staff welfare are to be reconsidered for better improvements.

g. Any other suggestions as to best utilize their capacity for the well being of wildlife and its habitat in Nepal.

6. The Royal Chitwan National Park: To submit a report within 2 weeks.

The meeting proceeded as per the agenda on 16th Falgun 2030 and the summary of the discussions is as follows:

1. Wildlife Conservation and National Parks Developments Committee:

a. There could be proper auditing system preferably by Auditor General Office.

b. There is no need of separate office system for the committee. The staffs of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Office shall work for the committee also.

c. Prior to final draft of the statute, comments from all concerned authorities will be sought within 14 days.

2. IUCN:

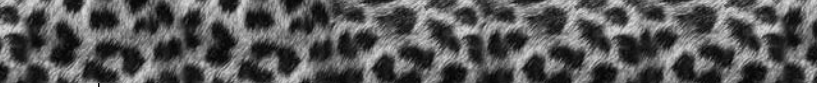
a. C.S.Thapa to correspond with Chris Savage for exact date of IUCN Coinage issue.

b. Nepal will seek for State Membership of IUCN. Draft tipping and letter to Director General is to be submitted in the next meeting.

3. Report on Recruitment and Training of Armed Guards to be submitted in the next meeting.

4. Ask for Reaction from Agriculture Department on Rhesus monkey and Parrot to capture and export as agricultural pests.

5. After discussing on proposed agreement, it was decided that a Final Draft of Tiger Tops agreement will be submitted in the Next meeting.



Yes We Can!

Hemanta R. Mishra





Hemanta R. Mishra is one of the well known conservationist of Nepal and lover of nature and wildlife. He has written many articles and write-ups to aware people about the wildlife conservation. This article is an extraction of his speech during Kathmandu Global Tiger Workshop on 27 October 2009

“In 1994 – Time Magazine – one of the world’s most prestigious international weekly predicted, that the tiger was “Doomed.” Asia Week and the Far Eastern Economic review were not far behind in forecasting the fate of the tiger. Back in the late 1980s, we were told that wild tiger would be extinct by the end of the 20th Century.

Yet, tigers are still around us. They survived the prophesy of the pundits of doom and gloom, proving that the Tiger – the world’s largest wildcat – is indeed a very resilient animal. Ironically, it was the Asia Week and


the Far Eastern Economic Review that went bankrupt and became extinct in the media markets.

However, the question we must ask is: Would the tiger have survived this far without the efforts of national governments and officials? Likewise, what would have been the fate of the tiger without the support of National and International NGOs, bilateral and multilateral donor agencies? How about the role of the private sector through tourism in demonstrating the value of the live tigers in generating revenue and creating jobs?

We are here to prove that doomsayers were wrong, we should not dismiss their dire predictions but look back and ask: Did our efforts of the last 40 years merely delay the inevitable. Are we only buying time? How long can we sustain the efforts to save the tiger in the 21st Century – a century of conflicts? A

century of dogged by food hunger and wood hunger. A century polarized by conflicting choices and priorities between the east and the west and the north and the south. A century driven by economic and infrastructure development at any cost to the society and to the environment. A century dogged by poaching, habitat destruction, and climate change. And above all a century that commenced with an unprecedented rate of consumption and illicit trade on tiger bones and tiger body parts.

Many of us have been often questioned: How long can we protect the tiger solely relying on conventional efforts based on governments, guards, and guns. Are they adequate to face the challenges of the 21st Century? Yet we can only dismiss the conventional methods of wildlife preservation at the tiger’s peril. The harrowing happenings in the tiger-land demonstrate that we



should mend but not end the conventional methods against poaching and habitat destruction.

The tiger is in a crisis now. And this is not the time to relax but to strengthen and enforce rigid protection, particularly anti-poaching and fighting against the illicit trans-boundary trade on tiger body parts – an act which the national government is better equipped than international NGOs. We must stop the bleeding of tiger numbers in the wild at any cost.

The prediction made by Chris packman, a British naturalist in the BBC, shocked us all. Known for his award winning films, he daringly predicted that it is a waste of time and resources to spend money on saving endangered species such as the Giant Panda and the Tiger that are destined to be extinct.

“I don’t think tigers are going to last another 15 years,” he declared shocking both friends and foes alike. “How can you conserve an animal that is worth more dead than alive.” he continued. “You can’t,” he added,

We can dismiss his words as the words of an attention grabbing telecaster. Or we can take up his words as a brash challenge. The choice is ours. Our choice is to prove him to be totally wrong by ensuring that the tigers are still around by 2025 and beyond. Can we do it? ‘Save the tiger Fund’ strongly believes that

saving the tiger is possible. However, we also believe that efforts of governments alone will not be enough. Governments also need help and long-term commitments from the global community by creating a sustainable financing mechanism through public-private sector- NGO partnership. More importantly, we believe that the tigers can be brought back from the brink of extinction if we can garner and build upon the political will to save the tiger. Yes, indeed we can prove that people like Packman are wrong.

Although not as surprising as the Packman shock, I also got jolted by a new pundit of the “use it or lose it” paradigm.

“The best way to save any endangered species is to eat them,” said John F. Stossel, the co-anchor of the America’s ABC News 20/20 on a special program on saving tigers aired in May 2009. Stossel, a writer, an author and an investigative journalist said that the ability of Americans to be able to buy bison burgers in the supermarket proves that the best option for saving wild tigers is to promote, and curtail Asians to eat farmed tiger meat or drink tiger bone wine. He too argued that private owners should be encouraged to raise and sell tigers for human consumption. What do I think about his statement? I will say he is wrong.

Comparing tigers to the bison is akin to comparing apples not only to oranges – but comparing a cat with a rat. Though we know that Stossel was talking total nonsense and that tiger farming has not stopped poaching of wild tiger, people like Stossel are using tiger faming to promote an ideology – a dangerous and an unethical ideology. Therefore, we need to face the challenges emerging from tiger farming head-on, with an agenda based and not rhetoric but on reality.

Twenty years ago, many of us had assembled in Minneapolis to deliberate on best options to save the tiger. There was a general consensus that good science is fundamental to develop good strategies and good management plans to save the tiger. Many of us believe that saving the tiger is not science like physics or chemistry, but akin to politics, it is an art – an art of the possible. The art of the possible is not possible without generating a political will. The current debate on Climate Change in the United States and elsewhere demonstrate that good science alone is not enough. The solution needs good politics. Thus, we must commend the World Bank in recognizing the needs for a political will and the need to involve key politicians and key decision makers, to save the tiger; and to move forward with a Global Tiger Summit next year in Russia.

Decades ago when we were young, wild, and idealistic, my good friend John Sidensticker - one of the founders of the Nepal Smithsonian Tiger Ecology Project in Chitwan asked me three questions as we were planning to launch the Smithsonian Nepal Tiger Ecology Project: First, how can we help tigers and humans to live as good neighbors? Second, how can we make a living wild tiger more valuable than a dead tiger to the local people and the governments who own the real estate designated as tiger sanctuaries? Third, how can we make tiger conservation not a barrier but a catalyst to reduce poverty and bring about a betterment of human life in the tiger countries?

As I continue to search for answers to John's pointed questions, I have learned a basic lesson. Designing a right plan is not good enough. Doing the smart thing is what is needed to deliver results on the ground. Being smart means linking the survival of the tiger with human welfare. After all, saving tiger preserves forests



that reduces and sequestered carbon and helps fight climate change. Saving the tiger also saves soil and water – a lifeline of humanity. Saving the tigers saves a wide array of biodiversity. The smart thing dictates that we fight for our cause holistically with war-quality mentality. Saving the tiger is a kind of a war, a war where we have won some battles and lost a few battles. But the war continues. It is a war on

poverty and hunger. Indeed, it is a war on population growth and lack of opportunities to make a decent living. Above all, it is a war on ignorance, and a war on our inability to understand the social, cultural, economical, and ethical values that drives the tiger countries.

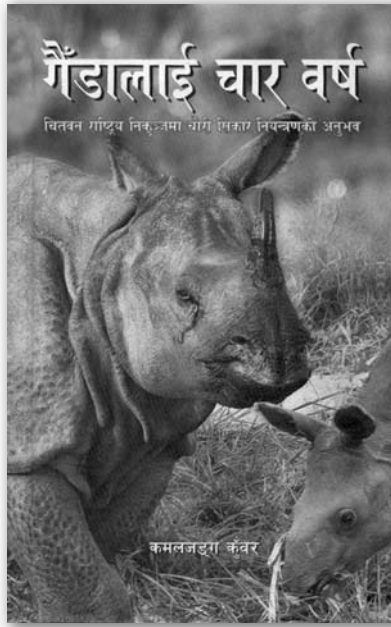
The big question is: Can we win this war? To steal a few words from the American President Barack Obama, my answer is: Yes – We Can.”

Four years to the Rhino (Gaidalai chaar barsa)

Rabi Chitrakar

Rhinoceros unicornis, commonly known as the Greater one horned rhinoceros has been one of the greatest success stories in rhino conservation with strict protection from Indian and Nepalese wildlife authorities. Once abundant, the greater one horned rhinoceros are now battling for their survival due to heavy poaching and destruction of suitable habitats. The total numbers of the rhino were recovered in Indian sub continent is from under 200 earlier in the 20th Century to around 2500. With the increase in the use of modern firearms, the farfetched value of rhinoceros horn, and the superstitious beliefs put on the miraculous power of the blood, urine and other parts have exerted incredible pressure on the survival of the Rhinoceros and other wild animals as well.

In Nepal, the enormous reduction in rhino populace is primarily ascribed to the disappearance of most of the alluvial plain grasslands and massive poaching for its commercially valued horns. The government argued that the increase in poaching is due to removal of security forces during the conflict with Maoist rebels, from national



parks and reserves areas. But conservationists said poaching has risen dramatically since April 2005 when the government and the Maoists agreed to end the conflict. The government's effort for conserving rhinos through the establishment of CNP, implementation of buffer zone program and translocation of rhinos to other protected areas has remarkably improved the prospect of rhinos in Nepal. However, poaching has remained high and the success is precarious without continued and increased support for conservation efforts across the country.

In the context of the conservation of this species, the

book written by Mr. Kamal Jung Kunwar is milestone as it clearly and confidently mentions the issues, concerns of the poaching and the procedures of anti-poaching and conservation practices in the country. He has been success to unveil the illegal network that kills rhinoceros for horn and other part to sell in international market. He mentioned that the identifying of marketing channel and functioning mechanism of illegal network is very difficult, challenging and highly risky as it is linked with livelihood of some inhabitant, medicine for traditional healer, luxury for rich people. In anti poaching process the reliability of the information has many doubts. It leads to the waste of time, resources and credibility of individual and institution as well.

He also shared the experiences of team spirit and motivation mechanism of operation against poacher. And how misunderstanding arises and impedes the harmony among the team members. At the mean time, he also mentioned the difficulty to make on the spot decision and endorsement of higher authority. The flexibility and rigidity both should be applied during making the

decision especially during the field it demonstrate the leadership to the team to accomplish the task. During field, though he has given up drinking alcohol and smoking, he accepted the offer for the sake of duty and may be for cultural value and norms.

He also briefed how the conflict between the local inhabitants and government body in management of Buffer Zone project create pressure on the livelihood of propel and Rhinos. Local inhabitants directly kill rhinos without applying other means to chase the Rhino to protect their standing crops and the properties. It is because of added value of the horn and other part of Rhinos in the illegal trade. He has been success to identify that the linkage and network of among local grassroots individuals to central level higher authority such as vegetable vender, health worker, political figures and higher authority in this illegal trade.

In this book he also clearly explains the ecosystem that exists in Chitwan National Park. He has been successful to put a clear cut scenario of the situation he faced when he was asked to provide some logs that was lying in the wetland for roofing school building. Similarly, he presented the result of the negligence (Darting of the tiger) that affects life of cub (baby tiger).

From the book, in general I came to know that Rhino is listed as one of the rare species of mega herbivores in the world. It is a cornerstone species and acts the role of

flagship species in ecosystem and banned all the international trade of rhino and their products. This species is large, heavy, solitary and nocturnal, fond of wallowing and living on clay. The buffer zone management program has been implementing back in Chitwan National park since long time. Due to inadequate awareness level, neither local community are able to understand the theme of the program and know the legal procedures to obtain their rights, nor the enough initiatives have been rendered to educate, empower and involve buffer zone people towards the conservation. Along with these circumstances, woes of buffer zone people are further compounded when rhinos make forays into their standing crops and damage properties. This tendency has only increased resentment of buffer zone people culminate into antagonism against wild lives.

The book is successful in providing the information on serious concern & issues of rhino Poaching conservation. The aphrodisiac qualities and demand of rhino horn in the world market resulted serious threat to this species. Many legends and beliefs are attached to this animal and its horn was generally believed to have peculiar medical virtues. The beliefs connected with the rhinos are prevalent in varying forms. Although poaching was stopped in the park in early 70's to 80's, the poaching rushes forward again. The poachers became familiar with the park patrolling system. Numbers of rhinos were killed

in the Chitwan valley. A timely decision was made to form Anti-poaching units and to provide rewards to the informants for controlling and combating particularly rhino poaching. The anti-poaching measure was effective to minimize the poaching.

Rapid growth of human population has resulted to the gradual elimination of many large mammals from their traditional range as their prime habitat is disturbed and loss. We have been observing an enormous loss on wildlife prosperity particularly large mammals due to habitat deteriorating. The conversion of forestland into other land use has constricted and fragmented wildlife habitat eventually threatening the life support system of many species. Furthermore, the small patches of alluvial plains in those areas face a danger that could change the course of vegetation succession to a climax condition unsuitable for large mammals like rhino. Therefore, Terai protected areas can provide shelter to rhinoceros in the long-term if such areas are left undisturbed from increasing human interference and unplanned development programs.

Considering his rigorous and meticulous worked toward conservation of Rhino species as warden of Chitwan National Park and advocate, awareness rising and lobbying of ecosystem the importance, he was acknowledged with a prestigious International Award of Abraham Conservation in 2004.



Celebration after fall of Beast

*Milan Pariyar/ Naya Patrika
Doti, 10 January*

The local people of Doti Headquarter celebrated after the death of a bear. The bear had been terrorizing the village for nearly two months before the bear was killed.

The bear was hunted down Saturday (9 January) night by the police force with help from villagers. The bear was terrorizing Thapala, Uditola, Pakaari, Dhanigau, Punnagau and Bagthata villages since two months.

The bear of five quintal was killed in Silgadhi Municipality in Thapala after which local villagers rejoiced and

celebration was held in honor of all the police who circled the market. The bear was brought down by police after 8 round firing when the bear was looking for a prey.

The bear had killed more than dozens cattle. The bear used to eat the cattle in the shed at daylight as well creating menace in the whole region. The victims reported to the Central District Office who published public notice. The prize of Rs. 25000 was offered to those who killed the menacing bear. The District Office also enforced ten police for the same.

Large number of spectators was present after the death of the bear which had threatened the village.

Unique tradition: Snake as a Dowry

People are frightened by snake because they are venomous but in certain culture that exist in Nepal, snake is considered as part of family and nowadays, these people are worried due to lack of snakes in the region.

Snake Charmers live a wandering existence, visiting towns and villages on market days and during festivals. Snake charming is the practice of apparently hypnotizing a snake by simply playing an instrument. A typical performance may also include handling the snakes or performing other seemingly dangerous acts, as well as other street performance staples, like juggling and sleight of hand. The most popular species are those native to the snake charmer's home region, typically various kinds of cobras, though vipers and other types are also used.

In Jitpur, Doti these snake charmers give snake as dowry during their daughter's marriage as a part of a tradition. In this culture, snake is gifted to the groom as a symbol of their approval and appreciation to the union. But in this season, there is absence of snakes due



to which snake charmers are agonized.

If the husband dies or leaves, the female members themselves go and wander with their snakes. The male members leave their houses from the age of 10 to wander in various parts of India and Nepal where this system is very popular. Since snake is considered to be a form of God, people donate money in the belief that their wishes will be fulfilled and to make God happy.

In cold weather, it is difficult to find snakes. The snakes are abundant in Chaitra and Baisakh and even though many snake charmers are bitten by the snakes, they feel that snakes are their identity and their means of livelihood.

India rejects World Bank aid for tiger conservation

Aarti Dhar

NEW DELHI: The Union Ministry of Environment and Forests on January 6 decided

not to accept the World Bank's aid for the tiger conservation programme.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority, chaired by Minister of State for Environment and Forests Jairam Ramesh.

Though Mr. Ramesh was keen on accepting the aid, conservationists were against the move. "Personally, I was very keen that the World Bank provides us with funds, at least for ensuring livelihood for villagers living on the fringes of the tiger reserves, so that they do not try to return to their original habitat. But because of the reservations of wildlife experts and officials, I have shunned the plans. In a nutshell, no aid from the World Bank,"



he told reporters at a function here.

The aid was to be given for improving the livelihood security in some States. Though Mr. Ramesh refused to explain the reasons for rejection, participants of the meeting cited the World Bank's "record" in implementing eco-projects in protected areas.

Bittu Sahgal said the World Bank's aid came with conditions; all the contracts would go to U.S. consultants. "What advice the Americans could offer us when they finished off their carnivores," he wondered. "Our experience with development projects has not been too good."

Tiger expert Belinda Wright alleged the World Bank was unable to inspire confidence in its conservation programme taken up in the past, as its eco-development projects had adversely affected tiger habitats.

"We should not allow the World Bank to get involved in our tiger project. We have sufficient money and resources. The experience with the Bank has not been very encouraging," said a senior official.

"Why do we need the help of the Bank, which has ripped apart our natural resources by supporting projects for dams and mining at the cost of conservation," asked P. K. Sen, conservationist and former director of Project Tiger.



Nepal police save Musk Deer

22 December 2009, Manang

A young female Musk Deer was seen in the Chame Village in Annapurna Conservation Area. The lost Musk deer was found by the Police. The Musk deer was immediately taken under custody by the police and was safely taken to the District Police Office perimeter after which ACAP (Annapurna Conservation Area Project) was informed. The deer had lost the way from the conservation area.

C.M.C members (Conservation Management Committee) are responsible and related for this kind of issues and other valued public. At



the attendance of DSP Nal Prasad Uppadhyay, Inspector Bharat Bahadur B.k, the representatives of ACAP, CMC and the public, the Musk Deer was released near a safe jungle. The deer was female and pregnant.

APPEAL

Dear valued readers,

The 17th issue of the Wildlife Times is in your hands. It is our small effort to raise various issues related with wildlife conservation. Please help us include the activities from your group or organizations of wildlife conservation by sending us the concerned information. We would love to find any suggestion and criticism. Please feel free to leave your feedback at info@citesnepal.org. We also seek support from your organization to continue this Wildlife Times. We look forward to your queries, comments and support.

