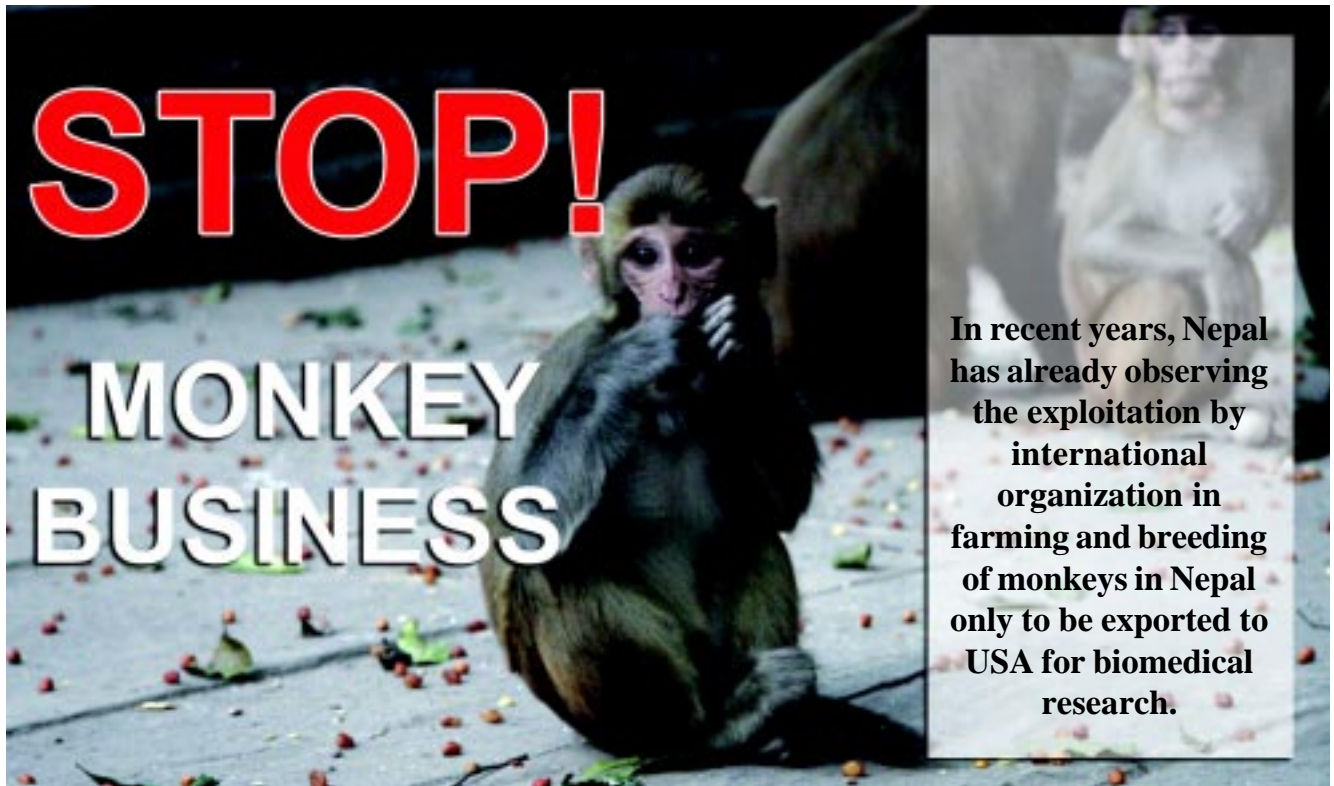


Wildlife Times

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In recent years, Nepal has already observing the exploitation by international organization in farming and breeding of monkeys in Nepal only to be exported to USA for biomedical research.

In recent years, different strategies have been sought for conservation of high valued species which contribute to not only biodiversity conservation but also provide economic opportunities to the local communities. Wildlife farming, is one such conservation strategy which has resulted in organizations exploiting wildlife farming for the means of biomedical research. In recent years, Nepal has already observing the exploitation by international organization in farming and breeding of monkeys in Nepal only to be exported to USA for biomedical research.

Rhesus Macaques (*Macaca mulatta*) or red monkey are an endemic species found in the Indian sub-continent. These highly evolved species have distinct physiological features which separates them from other monkey species. More so, Hindu's worship these animals believing it to be a reincarnation of Lord Hanuman and are found plentiful in many of cultural sites of Nepal.

However, their highly resemblance of biological and physiological features to humans has resulted in these species being exploited for biomedical research in the west for the development potential new vaccines and treatment of life-threatening diseases as AIDS and tuberculosis. But with declining number of Rhesus Macaques in US, American research centers exploit the loopholes in the conservation policies of underdeveloped countries as Nepal in exporting rhesus macaques for their research.

In recent years, the Rhesus Macaques of Nepal have been targeted by many such American research centers for medical research after the ban on export of the Indian Rhesus Macaques by India in 1978 which was as indicated

by the press statement handed out by Washington National Center Project in May 31, 2006. The press statement stated "Scientists investigating the genetic makeup of rhesus macaques monkeys, a key species used in biomedical research, have found the rhesus in Nepal may provide a suitable alternative to alleviate a critical shortage of laboratory animals used in work to develop vaccines against disease such as HIV/AIDS.... this is important because Indian-origin animals have been used for more than half a century in biomedical and behavioral research. Rhesus macaques have contributed to the discovery of vaccines to prevent diseases such as polio and yellow fever, and represent on of the most widely used primate models for AIDS-related research. India, however, banned the export of all macaques in 1978, thus leading to the current shortage."

As per IPPL News (September 2006, page 7 and December 2006, page 14) the American research center have already started exploiting the loophole in Nepal's conservation policy with the establishment of macaque collection centers in Nepal. The report affirms that two US government funded primate research facilities; the *Washington National Primate Center, Seattle (Washington)* and the *Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research, San Antonio (Texas)* are engaged in construction of two Nepalese rhesus macaques collection centers in Nepal in partnership with *Dr. Mukesh Chalise of Nepal Biodiversity Research Society (NBRS) in Lamatar, Lalitpur* and *Mr. Prabesh Man Shrestha of the National Bio-medical Research Center (NBRC) in Lele, Lalitpur* respectively.

In year 2003 Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation of then His Majesty's Government of Nepal announced to execute 3 different conservation policies through the Budget Speech of Financial Year 2059/060 of the Government. These policies included "Handover of Management of Park, Reserve or Conservation Area to NGO or other Institutions", "Wildlife Farming, Breeding and Research" and "Management of Domesticated Elephants" which were approved in 2003.8.15, 2003.8.27 and 2003.9.15 respectively.

However, these policies have now come under serious attack from the various conservation organizations and stakeholders who have raised doubt over the manner in which they were hurriedly approved as well as why no effort was made by the Ministry on consultation with relevant organization involved in this sector. The policies are premature and inadequate for its implementation and do not meet its intended objectives of reaching to the poor and addressing their livelihoods.

In addition, the arrogant behavior of MFSC Secretary who tried to get policy approved hastily, his misbehavior against INGO official and respected professionals during workshops who criticized these policies and even his inability to defend these policies is disturbing. Moreso, his continued endorsement of this policy during the 18th Warden Conference held in Shivapuri National Park on May 28, 2002 and during 19th Warden Conference held in Chitwan National Park while completely abandoning suggestions and recommendations to the policy is bewildering.

This controversy has resulted in many speculations including a serious allegation that these policies might have come under the influence from the top politicians and bureaucrats with each of these three policies having its own purpose by some individual(s) and institution(s). It was speculated that first policy was influenced by then King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation because the Trust during the Royal regime who had shown interest on managing the Shivapuri National Park. However, they were unable to proceed because of the lack of policy or law in existence to manage national park by KMTNC. This resulted in prompt action by the Ministry and the 5th amendment of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation 2029 was brought through Ordinance in 2062/9/17 and lasted for about six months. KMTNC had also prepared management plans for Shivapuri, Rara and Shey Phoksundo National Park after getting letter of interest from the Department of National Park except for Parsa Wildlife Reserve.

Similarly, the second policy was more on grounds to make profit from the prospective animal business which now can be clearly outlined by the controversial monkey export issue. The third policy was influenced by businessman engaged in hotel business in Chitwan for the prospect of profiting from elephant farming.

Now the question arises, are these policies legal? At the beginning, then law officer of the Ministry used to argue that there is no need for amendment in the Act as it has been endorsed through the budget speech. (He was promoted with the Secretary's blessing). Then, a new law officer who recently joined the Ministry stated that National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act needs to be amended to execute the policy which resulted in the Royal ordinance providing a legal base for three new policies.

In conclusion, we seriously hope that the responsible individuals who occupy the most honourable position in the Ministry and Government make policies for *the conservation* of Nepal's rich biodiversity and not by bureaucrats who only see this precious and unique wildlife as an opportunity to earn few extra dollars. We hope that the government makes serious effort to review these three conservation policies for the betterment of wildlife conservation in Nepal.

editorial

Stop!.....

In March 10, 2007 a news article in the Kathmandu Post stated that according to Dr Rupak Khadka such breeding and research centers have already caught 80 rhesus monkeys and have received permission to collect a total of 300 healthy rhesus monkeys while DNWPC is paid NRs 25,000 (US\$ 370) for a pair.

However, there is growing resentment amongst conservationist and environmentalist on captive farming of macaques in Nepal. In 2060/1/3, a news article in a Nepali daily the Annapurna Post stated that a renowned Belgium journalist and animal right activist Lucy De Vries submitted a petition with more than 500 signatures to the Director General of DNPWC to stop such export of monkeys for biomedical research. The article also stated that the Wildlife farming policy fails to address the export of third generation of captive-bred macaques.

Similarly, prominent conservation organizations have joined hands with the world's leading animal welfare agencies and biologists to oppose the breeding and exporting of Nepalese monkeys for biomedical research in America. Besides protest programs including placing protest banners at major road intersection, a petition calling on Nepal to cancel its plans to establish laboratories using rhesus macaques' monkey and their export. More than campaign has been able to gather more than 1200 signatures representing people from 21 nations.

The campaigners strongly request the Nepalese government to demonstrate its commitment to enlightened and ethical research practices by halting (breeding facilities for) biomedical research on Nepalese monkeys and implement legislation to prevent such developments from reoccurring.

Macaques farming, breeding and Research Projects in Nepal

Washington University (USA) and Natural History Society (NEPAL) later Nepal Biodiversity Research Society (NBRS)



A macaques breeding center being built by NBRS in Lamatar, Lalitpur with support from WU.

In 2001, Dr Chalise of NHS and Dr Kyes of the Washington National Primate Research Centre (WNPRC), Washington University signed an agreement to farm, breed and research macaques. The National Institute of Health (Grant RR-00166), supported by the government of USA, provided financial assistance to the project.

In September 2003, a month after the wildlife farming policy was enacted, Dr Mukesh Chalise established the Nepal Biodiversity Research Society (NBRS), and the agreement to establish the macaque farming and breeding facility was formally signed between NBRS and WNPRC. The facility is to be established at Lamatar, Lalitpur district. They have requested for the capture of 250-300 wild macaques as the founder population. In a 2006 Washington University press statement, Dr

Randalle Kyes is quoted as saying that "The objective of this international program is to research on prime diseases of Nepal such as HIV AIDS, Tuberculosis, Hepatitis and Malaria in Nepal".

Southwest Foundation (USA) and National Biomedical Research Center (Nepal)



A macaques breeding center in Lele, Lalitpur constructed by Nepal Biomedical Reserch centre with funding from southwest Foundation, USA.

Another macaque farming and breeding facility has been established at Lele, Lalitpur district, by Mr. Prabesh Man Shrestha of the National Bio-medical Research Center (NBRC), established in 2005. The for-profit institute has been set up with funds from the Southwest Foundation (SWF), a biomedical research institute based in Texas, USA, which in turn is funded by the Institute of Health for Biomedical Research, USA. NBRC has permission from the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DPNCW), Nepal to capture 50 macaques as a founder population. Till date, 28 wild macaques from Dhading have been captured for the facility.

It is apparent that the National Institute of Health (NIH), USA, an integral part of the US Department of Health and Human Service has funded the macaque farming facilities

in Nepal through the Washington University and Southwest Foundation. In fiscal years 2004 Southwest received \$684,040 in 2005, \$704,010 and in 2006 it received \$ 673.756 from NIH for its monkey work in Nepal.



A Campaign for

COMPASSION

Lucia de Vries

When in 2003 I first heard the rumour that 'Nepalese monkeys are going to be exported to US labs' I thought it was one of those typical unsubstantiated Kathmandu Valley rumours. A Hindu country exporting an animal that is being revered as Hanuman? No way. Colleague Jiggy Gatton, an American animal welfare campaigner, had a different opinion: "I bet it's true. Sounds like typical US research institute policy", he argued. "Always looking for countries without proper animal welfare legislation, preferably suffering from political crisis, corruption and bad governance. Nepal is the perfect place for getting lab monkeys." We at the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty towards Animals Nepal (SPCAN) decided to take action if needed; for the time being however we had no idea when and where to start.

In June a write up appeared in the media. A team of American experts, together with a Nepalese counterpart, had darted and trapped more than 20 red mon-keys at Swoyambhu temple on the pretext that the monkeys had fallen ill mysteriously. Without informing the government nor treating the animals they took samples of blood and hair. SPCAN decided to write a protest letter to the newspapers. We suspected that the mysterious health camp had something to do with a greater scheme but could not prove anything.

Only in Spring 2004, the Year of the Monkey, things became clear: while the country was in chaos and the parliament had been dissolved, an ordinance was passed: the Wildlife Farming, Reproduction and Research Policy. Not only that, before anyone had time to protest, the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) had already granted licenses for farming and research of rhesus monkeys, snakes and vultures. It seemed the powerful US primate research lobby with its local counterpart had won before the battle had even begun.

The news spread like a wildfire in the national parks: it was rumoured that villagers could sell captured monkeys for US\$ 1000 to breeders. In Langtang some Buddhist

villagers wondered if it was ethical to sell wild animals which they consider to be sacred.

That was when the Monkey Business Campaign, now coordinated by Animal Nepal, became official. A campaign letter was developed and posted on gopetition.com. Write ups were sent to the Nepalese media, explaining what primate research actually entails. In press releases we argued that exporting monkeys would not, as the Nepalese counterpart argued, benefit the Nepalese people. We argued that selling monkeys was not exactly a humane and sustainable way to tackle crop raiding monkey menace in villages. We also argued that the chances of Nepalese monkeys to be used for the development of an AIDS vaccine were extremely small. It was much more likely that the US would use the monkeys for bioterrorism research; they would suffer terribly for the development of biological warfare agents. We explained that Nepal was not receiving credit for exporting monkeys – European countries increasingly move away from primate research while Asian countries such as India and Bangladesh banned primate export after they found out their monkeys were being used in gruesome radiation experiments.

In our write ups we further argued that primate experimentation is no longer the "gold standard" for study design as the results generally cannot be applied to humans. Last but not least we stated that monkeys are highly intelligent animals and maintain intricate social structures. Ethically, using monkeys in experiments that inflict mental and physical pain is unacceptable and unconscionable.

In Summer 2004, in the presence of TV cameras, we headed to the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation with over some 600 signatures. Despite the fact that we had made an appointment with the Minister we were not allowed inside the government building. Almost two hours later, when we finally managed to enter the Ministry, we were told that no official was able to meet us and accept the letter and signatures. We cut our losses and handed the materials



over to a peon, who promised they would end up at the right desk. Needless to say we never heard from the Ministry again.

By now two American research institutes and their Nepalese counterparts have been provided with a license to breed and export rhesus monkeys. At least fifty monkeys are behind bars in a Lele breeding centre. They are not likely to give up their money spinning schemes easily. But neither are we ready to quite. By now the campaign network consists out of seven other organisations: International Primate Protection League, PETA, Wildlife Watch Group, Kathmandu Animal Treatment Centre, Roots and Shoots Nepal and SPCAN. As a result of continuous media attention (thank you journalists out there!) the Nepalese public

increasingly has become aware of the issue. We receive many message, especially from youth, expressing anger and horror about Nepalese monkeys being used as research objects.

The movement to annul all ordinances which were passed during (or under the influence of) the royal regime already booked important successes. Truth, compassion and justice must prevail; the Wildlife Farming, Reproduction and Research Policy needs be annulled or revised. For the government not to loose its credibility this needs to be done soon. Otherwise Nepalese baby monkeys will be put in boxes and shipped off towards a very dark future indeed.

(Lucia de Vries is a journalist and animal welfare campaigner who has lived in Nepal since 1992.)

If you were a monkey, where would you rather be?



Please help us convince the U.S. National Institutes of Health to stop funding projects that will result in the capture, forced breeding, and export of Nepal's native monkeys to U.S. labs. We want Nepal's monkeys to stay in Nepal!

International Primate Protection League ♦ www.ippl.org

Protest Letter

Dibya Deo Bhatta,
Director General
Department of Forests
Babar Mahal, Kathmandu
Nepal

Dear Mr Bhatta:

8 January 2007

I have learned that Nepal is accelerating programmes that export monkeys to the United States and will allow US institutions to fund and operate primate breeding and experimentation centres in Nepal. This apparent reversal of a centuries-long commitment to the protection of monkeys is alarming. **On behalf of our more than 1.6 million members and supporters worldwide, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) respectfully asks that you immediately revoke the exportation and operation permits for these programmes.**

As a primatologist, I want to share some additional information with you about the tragic fates of imported primates in the US. Part of my job with PETA is to work on cases involving cruelty and abuse against primates. I assure you that the pain and suffering these animals endure are shocking and shameful.

- The work that US investigators do in Nepal is also problematic. A 14 September 2005 article in *The Himalayan Times* reported on an article by Kyes and colleagues.^[1] Reportedly, the proper government authorities were not notified that US investigators were in the country and were not privy to their research plans. Statements from an interview with an official from Nepal's Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) indicated that the activities were not authorised, and it appears that no fees were paid and no Nepali permits were issued.
- The capture of monkeys at a temple is an activity with special cultural significance in Nepal, where there is a centuries-long tradition of appreciation and protection for monkeys. It is also significant because the National Park and Wildlife Conservation Act of Nepal provides clear limitations on scientific experiments that involve animals and their habitats.
- Once hidden behind the doors and walls of US laboratories, monkeys taken from Nepal will be housed alone in tiny steel cages. In addition to the pain and fear they will endure in experiments, they will suffer greatly from close confinement and isolation. Scientific reports indicate that 90 percent of monkeys in laboratories exhibit some form of psychopathology. Between 15 and 25 percent engage in self-mutilation. This is powerful evidence of the psychological trauma and suffering they endure. It would be reasonable to expect similar rates of psychopathology among primates stocked in the proposed Nepalese facilities.

All of Nepal's wild animals, including its primates, are national treasures. The value of these precious monkeys – as a source of national pride, an integral part of biodiversity and a component of Nepal's growing tourism industry – cannot be overstated. In short, the larger importance of monkeys for Nepal far exceeds any short-term monetary gain that might be realised through the commercialisation of primates.

The US' involvement in buying monkeys and establishing breeding centres differs significantly from the development of real scientific infrastructure or other capacity building that may be of interest to Nepal. Recent scientific reports in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* and *BMJ* have criticised the quality and usefulness of animal experiments, noting that they consistently fail to predict the safety and effectiveness of drugs in human beings.^{[2],[3]} Rather than developing systems around outdated and controversial primate experiments, Nepal may want to consider becoming an international centre of excellence in non-animal technologies such as computer modelling and *in vitro* technologies.

In addition to revoking export licenses to halt sales in 2007, we hope the Nepali government will consider a permanent ban on the exportation of primates. Doing so would give Nepal the opportunity to take a leading role in international wildlife-protection reforms. Last year, Mexico announced a federal ban on the importation and exportation of primates. We strongly urge Nepal to consider enacting similar legislation on behalf of its people and its natural heritage.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely yours,
Debra Durham, PhD
Primate Specialist

Vasectomy Performed on Monkeys

By Pratap Bista

HETAUDA, April 4, 2007 - A team of technicians from Lalitpur-based Nepal Bio Medical Research Center (NBMR) performed vasectomy on more than 12 male monkeys in Hetauda. The locals had requested the NBMR team who were present in the area catching 'red' species, to sterilize the monkeys. According to the medical expert team, NBMR had received permission from the Government to catch five monkeys having paid NRs 25,000 for each monkey to National Reserve and Wildlife Department.

Dr Rupak Khadka, the veterinarian of the team stated that the vasectomy was performed on one dozen monkeys until Wednesday. He also clarified that the procedure was performed upon request from the locals to check the population growth of these species.

The team members have caught around 40 simians from the premises of Bhutandevi temple and from the forest near the Institute of Forestry Education in Hetauda municipality-10. NBMR members estimated that the area is a habitat of around 300 monkeys. After trapping monkeys inside iron cages, the technicians injected the simians to unconsciousness and performed permanent vasectomy on them. The team's original purpose behind capturing the monkeys is to test the animals to come up with curative vaccines for lethal diseases like malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS.

Action sought on vaccine trial of monkeys

By Surendra Sharma

KATHMANDU, November 29, 2006- A major US-Nepal joint biomedical research venture has Nepalese rhesus monkeys at the heart of an alleged HIV and AIDS vaccine research debate. Three years ago, researchers from the US' Washington Primate Research Centre and Kathmandu-based Nepal Biodiversity Research Institute took sample of dead rhesus monkeys from a famous Buddha Stupa in the Nepalese capital, Kathmandu. And last year, the US and Nepalese primate researchers got 50 monkeys from the Department of National Parks and shifted them into a captive breeding centre on the outskirts of the city, at Lele village. There, researchers say, an HIV and AIDS vaccine trial is currently underway.

Although government officials say they say they have allowed private individuals and enterprises to start keeping and breeding, certain common species of wildlife like rhesus monkeys, included some protected ones, they say it's illegal to export wildlife or their organs abroad. "It is true that people have started purchasing and raising wildlife species," Mohan Wagle, spokesperson at the Ministry of Forest said. "But it's illegal to export wildlife."

"We want such researches to happen only at the national level." But Nepal's renowned monkey expert, Dr Mukesh Chalise, who allegedly introduced Nepal's rhesus monkeys to US researchers, argues "such trials would make huge contributions to humanity in the long run." "The rhesus monkeys were proven ideal even for the polio and yellow fever vaccine trials." He dismisses charges that the primates are being illegally exported.

Worldwide Monkey Trade

Every year, thousands of monkeys are either imported or exported worldwide for purpose of biomedical research, scientific, educational, and entertainment as pets. In a recent study conducted by IPPL in September 2006, USA imported around 26,319 species of monkeys in 2005 which was an increment by around 40.32% compared to previous year. The figures also indicated that around 50% of the monkeys were imported for commercial purpose while 45% for biomedical research.

The study also illustrate that the in 2004 & 2005, 33 institutions were involved in the import of monkeys in USA among which Covance Research was shown to have imported a total of 20,075 i.e. 45% of the total monkeys imported. Meanwhile other biggest importers in the two year included Charles River (21%), Primate Products (8%), Rheno LLC (7%), SNLB USA (7%) and Worldwide Primates (3%).

However, among them these 32 institutions and organizations Rheno LLC, Worldwide Primates, CTBR Biological Research, Primates Products, Valley Biosystems, Covance Research, and New Iberia Research all showed significant increase in monkey imports in 2005 compared to 2004.

The study also illustrates that, every year there is a growing demand of monkeys in USA which has resulted in USA exploited loopholes in conservation policies of countries to import of monkeys. In 2004 & 2005, USA imported around 48% of the monkeys from China, followed by Mauritius (21%), Vietnam (16%) and Indonesia (9%). The study reveals that in 2005, USA imported monkeys from 6 new countries which included Brazil, Cambodia, The Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, and Tanzania.

In conclusion, the study clearly indicates the growing demand of monkeys in USA and the continued exploitation of conservation policies of third world countries as Nepal. Based on recent happening in the country, the American research centers with their Nepali counterparts have begun the process of exploiting Nepal's wildlife farming policy and stated the breeding and farming of Macaques for it to be exported in coming years. We sincerely hope that the respective government body will seriously consider the wildlife farming policy to avoid any sort of exploitation of Nepal's rich biodiversity.

APPEAL

Dear valued readers,

The 5th 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 organization on 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.

Wildlife Farming in Nepal

Legal and Policy Implications

Phanindra Gautam

Farming of wildlife is a new avenue for Nepal as the laws relating to wildlife protection are silent on it. The then His Majesty's Government came up with a policy of wildlife farming and farming of some wild species such as monkeys and birds has been begun. The Wildlife Farming, Reproduction and Research Working Policy, 2003 (wildlife farming policy) and the Domestic Elephants Management Policy, 2003 (elephant policy) are the major policy documents in this regard.

Conservation and sustainable use of wildlife thereby increasing the income and employment generation is the main objective of the wildlife policy. Referring to the 10th plan working policy of farming of wildlife of high value such as black buck, swamp deer, jarayo and bandel, the policy aims to promote private sector involvement in farming, reproduction and scientific research and studies on wildlife. The plan also aims to contribute in poverty alleviation in rural areas by linking farming, reproduction and scientific research and studies on wildlife to the increase in income and employment generation of local people.

Amongst the protected animals, crocodile, krishnasar, lophophorous, monal and chir have been categorised as animals that could be allowed for commercial farming and amongst other animals, ratuwa mriga, chittal, jarayo, monkey, laguna, bandel snake and all types of birds are prescribed for commercial farming under this policy. The policy requires for payment of revenues for getting farming permission and for making available seed animals.

The policy stipulates that only the F1 generation wildlife, not the seed animals as such, would be allowed to take outside the country for scientific studies and researches. In case a reproduction centre has been established in Nepal for biomedical research and there is no facility of sample test in Nepal, only the items such as blood and fur may be allowed to send to a foreign country for DNA analysis having obtained prior approval.

It seems that only biomedical studies and researches are the possible areas where the commercial farming may yield benefits. It is not practical to think that anyone

would farm wildlife for serving the greater interests of conservation.

The elephant policy has the objective of conserving the endangered species of elephant and to maximize the financial and environmental benefits of managing domestic elephants. The policy aims to confine the role of the government as controller, facilitator and regulator alone and to increase private sector involvement especially in promoting eco-tourism through better management of domesticated elephants.

Under Article 7(4) of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Flora and Fauna, 1973 (CITES), the second generation wildlife reproduced from the species in the Schedule 1 through the captive breeding method are deemed to fall in Schedule 2 and such species may be commercially be utilized having followed certain procedures. The wildlife farming policy might have been adopted having regard to the said provision.

No current laws of Nepal do provide anything with regard to farming of wildlife, whereas, their commercial utilization is totally outlawed. The laws relating to wildlife and natural resources are based on the philosophy of comprehensive control and ban by the state and public participation in conservation is a new thing in these laws. The policy could not supersede the legal provisions. By virtue of Section 9 of the Nepal Treaty Act, provisions of a treaty to which Nepal is a party are as valid as national law and in case of inconsistency between the two; the provision of the treaty has to prevail.

The wildlife policy could not have been properly implemented due to lack of law reform/formulation accordingly. Moreover, access to genetic resources and sharing of benefits arising out of them has become a critical issue of national concern as the law to that effect is in the process of making and some communities have, with the support from some conservation organizations, started documenting the genetic resources in their respective communities and it is very much important to give legal validity to these initiatives. The export of genetic materials must be regulated in such a manner that the benefits arising out of the commercialisation must equitably shared with the country of origin and the concerned community.

The policy on wildlife farming has to be implemented with the amendment in the National Parks and Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 and it must be harmonized with other laws such as laws on access to genetic materials. Without this legal back up, the policy declaration alone could not be implemented properly and the policy would be good for nothing.

Mr. gautam is a law Officer at Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation

"Nepal's monkeys are both sacred and beautiful creatures. They should not be exported to any country for research purposes, but should be allowed to live wild and free."

- Dr. Jane Goodall

