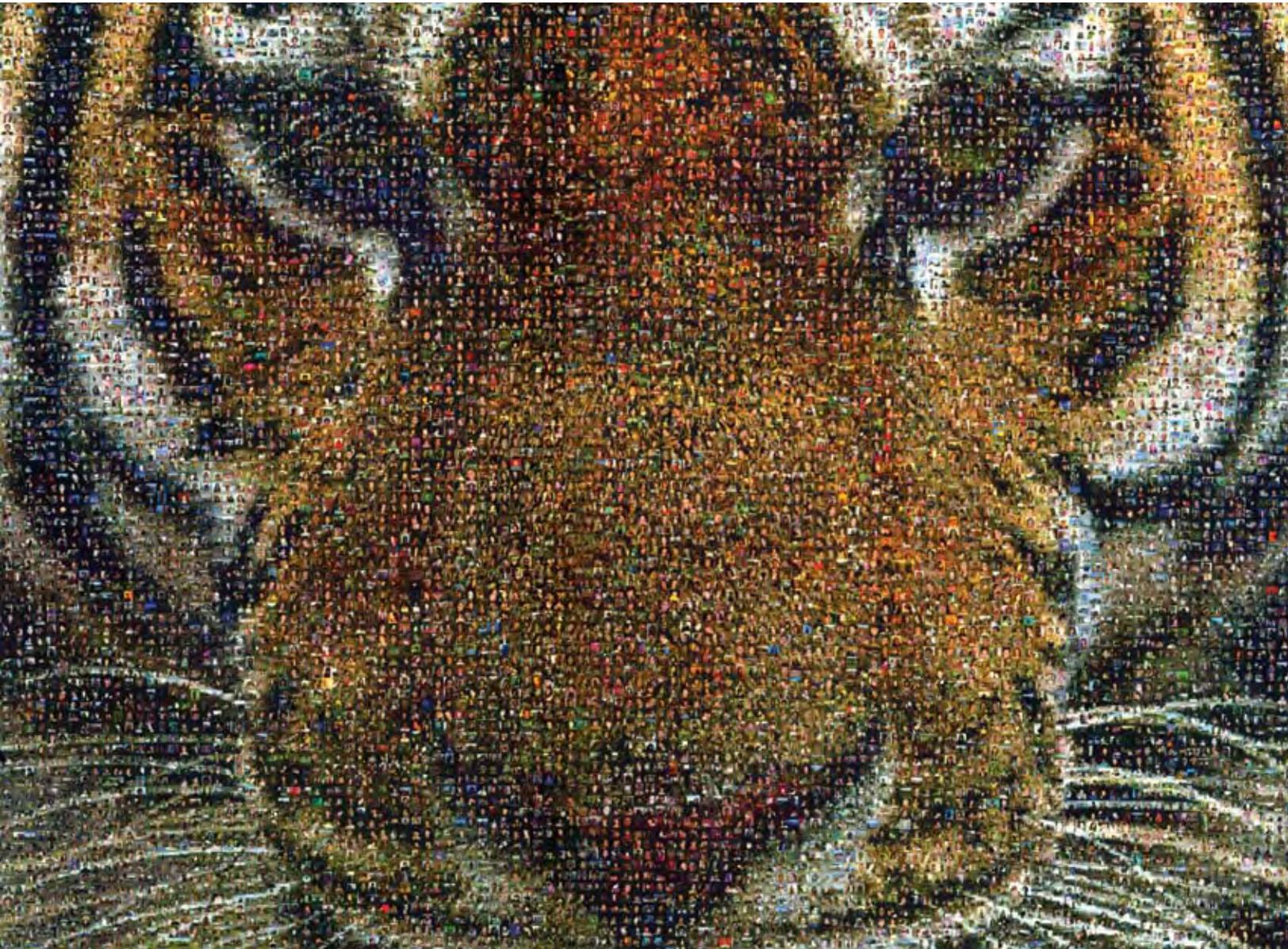




# WILDLIFE WATCH GROUP



ANNUAL REPORT 2007



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## FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK



I am delighted to present to you Wildlife Watch Group's (WWG) Annual Report 2007 which highlights our achievements and initiatives in alignment with our objectives i.e. preparation of an information bank of wildlife trade related data and the institutionalization of the organization.

Among of many achievements, the most successful and eventful was the study undertaken by WWG to assess the impact of conflict in the conservation efforts in the protected areas of Nepal with support from the Finnish Embassy. As a part of the study, WWG published two books "*Conflict and Conservation: Himalayan Biodiversity on the Brink*" and "*Cost of Conflict on Nepal's Conservation Effort*".

In September 2006, WWG also successfully organized an international workshop on "*International Conference in Conservation and Conflict*" in Kathmandu with the support from Embassy of Finland Kathmandu, WWF Nepal, IUCN Nepal and The Mountain Institute(TMI). The objective of the workshop was to share experiences about the negative impacts of armed conflict on the conservation of biodiversity among international communities and to promote strategies for mitigating impacts where possible, during and after conflict.

In 2006, WWG started a campaign to stop the trade of Nepalese Monkeys to US Labs and research centres. To generate awareness amongst public and government officials, a book "*Stop This Monkey Business*" was also published. Similarly, WWG also has taken initiatives to generate awareness about the Illegal Wildlife Trade in Nepal as well as participated in many workshops both national and

international to address issues of major concern related to wildlife conservation in Nepal.

I am also extremely pleased to inform you that in a view to generate more awareness on wildlife issues as well as ensure better information dissemination on wildlife issues in Nepal and its neighbouring countries, WWG has recently began the publication of a monthly newsletter "Wildlife Times". We are delighted to state that we have received great reviews and compliments of these trial issues and look forward to give continuity to the publication.

However, conservation sector suffered a huge blow in September 2006 when it lost 16 most prominent and leading conservationists including State Minister of Forest and Soil Conservation Honourable Minister Gopal Rai, in a tragic Helicopter Crash in Ghunsa, Taplejung. WWG lost some its closest friends.

Lastly, we express our sincere appreciation to IUCN-World Conservation Union and SSN (Species Survival Network) for granting us their Membership. We are also grateful to many of our partner organizations for their support throughout the year and look forward to continue working relationship in future. Particularly Dr. Shirley Macgreal, executive director of International Primate Protection League and Mr. Anil Manandhar, country representative of WWF Nepal Program.

**Mangal Man Shakya**  
**Chairman**  
**Wildlife Watch Group**

# ABOUT US

## Introduction

Wildlife Watch Group (WWG) is a non governmental, non political and non profit making organization registered with the Kathmandu District Administration Office under His Majesty's Government's NGO Registration Act on May 23, 2002.

## History

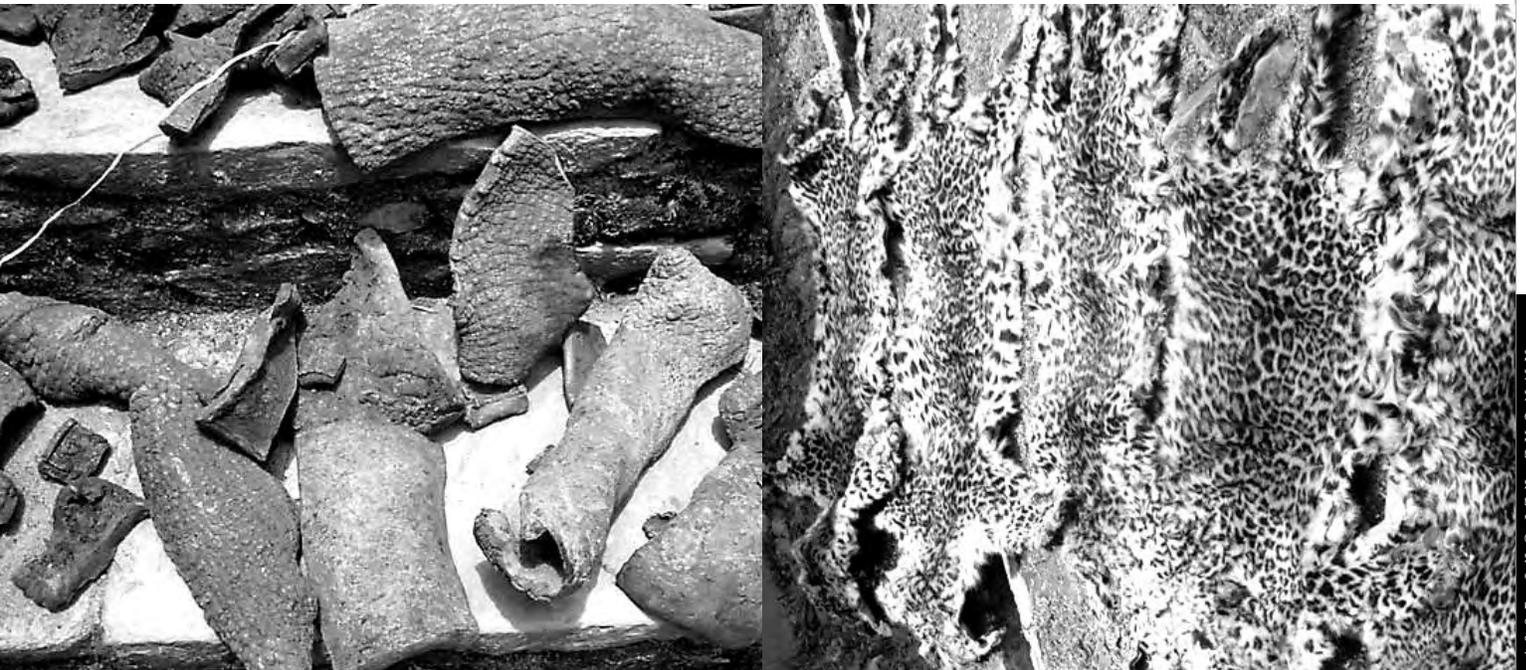
The Wildlife Watch Group, better known as WWG, was formed in 1993 by a small, informal group of members wishing to study and monitor wildlife protection. The team was coordinated by Mr. Hem Bahadur Bista and was succeeded by Mr. Mangal Man Shakya in 1996. Since its inception, WWG has been instrumental in alerting and educating the public on various issues concerning wildlife.

## Mission

It aims to design concept and bring out initiative programs on preservation of wildlife.

## Objective

- » To provide necessary information to the public about the importance of wildlife, to create awareness and to implement projects and programs with an aim of doing social service.
- » To carry out programs which minimize the possible negative effects on biodiversity due to the killing and illegal trade of wildlife.
- » To work, formulate programs and execute them in coordination with other national and international organizations having the same objectives for the realization of the goals of this organization.
- » To study and conduct research programs for the sustainable management of the natural resources
- » To organize or cause to organize seminars, workshops and conferences on issues related to the objectives of the organization, provide necessary trainings and carry out any other functions for the attainment of the goals.



# CONFLICT AND CONSERVATION

**The armed conflict in Nepal severely affected not only the livelihood of more than 80% of the agriculture based population but also halted and threatened the already endangered species of Nepal. Problems faced by the conservation sector included deforestation, rise in illegal hunting of endangered species, and closure of security posts within the protected areas.**



Hence, to understand the impact of armed conflict and its impact in conservation efforts in the protected areas, a six-month study was undertaken by WWG in 2006. As a part of the program, two major activities were undertaken; first, a research on the impact of the conflict on the protected areas of Nepal that was later published while second, an International Conference on Conservation in Conflict. The study was supported by the Finnish Embassy while the International Conference was supported by Finnish Embassy, WWF Nepal, IUCN Nepal and The Mountain Institute.

## Conflict and Conservation: research

In an effort to address the greater impacts of conflict on the protected areas of Nepal due to the Maoist insurgency, a six-month long extensive research was undertaken. The study was conducted

in two phase; the first phase included studies in Annapurna Conservation Area, Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve, Khaptad National Park, Langtang National Park and Makalu Barun National Park. The second phase of the study was conducted in Kanchenjunga Conservation Area, Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve, Manaslu Conservation Area, Parsa Wildlife Reserve, Rara National Park, Bardia National Park, Chitwan National Park, Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve, Sagarmatha National Park, Shey-Phoksundo National Park and Shivapuri National Park.

The study highlighted the damage to infrastructures, increase in illegal activities including deforestation and illegal hunting of endangered species, and declining security measures within the protected areas. The publication also highlighted on the impacts of armed conflict in Community Forestry and other forest sectors of Nepal. Besides the conservation sector, tourism, agriculture and national economy were also severely affective by the armed conflict.

Upon conclusion of the study, two publications; *"Conflict and conservation, Himalayan biodiversity on the Brink"* and *"Cost of Conflict on Nepal's Conservation Area"* were published. The publications was jointly released by Mr. Gopal Rai, Minister of State for Forest & Soil Conservation and Mr. Pauli Mustonen, Chargé d'Affaires, Embassy of Finland in presence of Dr. Mika Vehnäkäki, Adviser (Development and Conflicts) Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland on August 29, 2006.

## Speech of Dr. Mika Vehnämäki

*Adviser (Development and Conflicts) Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland delivered in the publication launching program.*

Honorable Minister of State for Forests and Soil Conservation, Mr Rai,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Guests  
Ladies and gentlemen,

I am honoured to be able to say a few words on behalf of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland on this important occasion of the launching of the books called *Conflict and Conservation* and *Cost of Conflict*. Let me first of all congratulate the Wildlife Watch Group of Nepal as well as the editors and authors of these volumes for their valuable and insightful contribution to the knowledge on the effects of the armed conflict in Nepal on the extremely fragile environment of this country in general and on the conservation efforts in specific areas in particular.

Finland's development policy aims at contributing to the eradication of extreme poverty in the world. Activities that help to achieve this goal include, for example, prevention of environmental threats as well as increasing worldwide security. Therefore, both the conflict prevention and transformation as well as environmental protection are key elements in the Finnish development policy.

In addition, Nepal is one of the eight long-term partner countries of Finland's development cooperation. It makes the equation complete: these books which combine the effects of conflict on the environmental protection in Nepal are therefore highly valuable and interesting for all our staff in the Ministry and the Embassy.

When I read about some of the impacts which the armed conflict had had on Nepal's conservation efforts, I could not have helped making a comparison to my former home country Uganda. In Uganda, there had been many armed conflicts in the country, the most serious one in Northern Uganda for the last twenty years. The effects of that



and all the other conflicts on the environment have been increased poaching and trade in endangered species, increased illegal logging and reduced forest cover, diminished biodiversity, compromised security of the natural park patrols and rangers, and negatively affected tourism revenues. What has happened to the local communities who have lived in the conflict-affected areas for centuries and who have always made their living out of the nature, has been even more dramatic.

Did those effects sound familiar? They are exactly the same as what the authors have reported from the conservation areas in Nepal. Conflict has always a heavy cost on the environment. Clearly we can see that the costs are the same no matter whether we are in Asia or Africa or anywhere in the world. Therefore, I can see how universal the information and message of these books are. That is the beauty of these volumes that they can show us how the nature suffers when an armed conflict is raging and prohibiting conservation efforts.

Let me once again congratulate you for this great achievement and wish you interesting reading.

Thank you.

# INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CONSERVATION IN CONFLICT

**With the objective to share experiences about the negative impacts of armed conflict on the conservation of biodiversity among international communities and to promote strategies for mitigating impacts where possible, during and after conflict, An International Conference on Conservation in Conflict was held on September 5-7, 2006 in Kathmandu. The conference was organized by Wildlife Watch Group (WWG) with assistance from Embassy of Finland, WWF Nepal, The Mountain Institute (TMI) and IUCN Nepal.**

The conference was inaugurated by Honourable State Minister for Forest and Soil Conservation Mr. Gopal Rai and Mr. Pauli Mustonen, Charge d'Affaires of Embassy of Finland to Nepal on September 5, 2006 in presence of Mr. Javed Jabbar, IUCN Vice-President. Mr. Mangal Man Shakya, Conference Director and Chairman of WWG chaired the Inaugural Ceremony.

The conference was attended by 22 international participants representing organizations from

18 countries and 44 different I/NGOs working in the field of biodiversity as well as concerned government institutions of Nepal. All the representatives presented a paper portraying the state of biodiversity conservation and measures taken; Nepal presented a case study entitled "*Cost of Conflict in Nepal's conservation effort*".

On the final day, Honorable Dr. Pushpa Raj Rajkarnikar, Member of National Planning Commission attended the workshop as a Chief Guest of Honor while Dr. Tirtha Bahadur Shrestha chaired the conference. A resolution was put forth by the participants and rightly named the *Kathmandu Declaration* which states "a just peace is essential for human's coexistence with nature and natural resources, but sometimes this coexistence is often seriously disrupted by armed conflict which increases poverty of vulnerable people and disrupts natural resources governance systems, finally resulting in environmental degradation henceforth there is an urgency for collective commitment to influence, encourage and assist government, policy makers, civil society, private sector, media, donors, and global agencies to understand and take major action to reduce the effects of armed conflict on the environment".



## Remarks on the conference by international participants



**Mr. Javed Jabbar, Vice President, IUCN**

I felicitate WWG for its very valuable work and wish its continued success in the days ahead..... Despite the fact that Nepal has had to undergo through very difficult period, these expressions of insights testify to the depth of commitment that the environmental movement has in this country.



**Dr. Arthur Mugisha, Uganda**

As time moves forward, natural resource decrease, population increase and subsequently, conflict increases. This conference has been organized at the right time, in supporting us conservationist and could be considered as the first step of long-term engagement in the sector conservation-in-conflict.



**Mr. Pauli Mustonen (late), Charge d' affaires, Embassy of Finland, Kathmandu**

The idea of this conference came about in the course of preparation of two books on the situation in Nepal. With the publication of these two volumes, we now have a complete picture on the effects of conflict on conservation efforts in each and every protected national park, conservation area, and wildlife and hunting reserve of Nepal.



**Prof. Rizah Hajdari, Kosovo**

The conference has been a good opportunity to share experience on different nature of conflict occurring in different parts of the world. More commitment has also been received in this sector.



**Ms. Judy Oglethorpe, WWF US**

Nepal is now at a key turning point in preparing for peace as arms are laid down, dialogue is taking place, and balance of power is under discussion. Environmental issues have been integrated into the new draft Constitution which is a major achievement



**Mr. Bernardo Peredo, Bolivia**

We are conservationists facing challenge. However, we are not alone. In similar conflict, similar approach could be taken by learning from other friends. We should take action to improve our goals. Concrete outcome need to be undertaken after this conference.



**Dr. Asif Zaidi, UNEP Afghanistan**

At the outset, on behalf of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), I would like to congratulate Wildlife Watch Group for organizing this international conference on conservation in conflict. The Government of Finland, the Mountain Institute, WWF and IUCN should be commended for their support in making this conference a reality. I also feel that this conference could not have been organized at a better time and at a more relevant venue



**Mr. Sadeequllah Ahmadzai, Afghanistan**

The conference has been a great platform to share different views and experiences. Learning has also been obtained on various aspects of conflict. This conference will be effective for conservation of biodiversity management.

# ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE

In an effort to highlight illegal wildlife trade in Nepal, WWG in partnership with WWF Nepal conducted a half-day workshop on "*Study of Illegal Wildlife Trade and Traders in Chitwan, Kathmandu and Rasuwa district*" at WWG premises on July 20, 2007. The objective of the workshop was to disseminate the study findings of a recent study undertaken by WWG titled "*Wildlife Trade and Traders in Chitwan, Kathmandu and Rasuwa*" as well as discuss strategies towards tackling illegal wildlife trade in Nepal.

Mr. Shyam Bajimaya-Chief Ecologist of DNPWC attended the workshop as a Chief Guest of Honour while Mr. Santosh Nepal, Director-TAL Program, WWF Nepal and Mr. Devendra Subedi, Superintendent of Police, Crime Branch-Kathmandu Metropolitan Police attended the workshop as Guest of Honour. Also present were prominent conservationist and representatives of conservation organization.

The study findings included;

- » Increased threat to endangered one horned rhinos of Nepal,
- » Presence of strong poacher network in Chitwan,
- » Greater and effective roles of I/NGO's in awareness generation against illegal hunting and trade of endangered wildlife in Chitwan
- » Increased illegal trade of wildlife parts in Kathmandu in major tourists hotspots, and
- » Increased evidence of Rasuwa district being used for transporting such illegal goods.

Chief Guest of Honour, Mr. Bajimaya stressed the need to correctly identify people involved in the trade while Mr. Subedi highlighted a need for coordinated effort of Nepal Police, government bodies and conservation organization towards minimizing/controlling illegal wildlife trade in Nepal. Meanwhile, Mr. Santosh Nepal, highlighted WWF Nepal's efforts to focus their program on illegal wildlife trade by undertaking initiatives to minimize the demand of such illegal products in the international markets besides conducting activities at local level to protect threaten species and their habitat as well as anti-poaching activities.

Some of the key issues and recommendation put forth during the discussion sessions included;

- » The need for strong control measures and punishment,
- » Establishment of reward system for informers,
- » Need for profiling well known poachers and traders for intelligence gathering purpose,
- » Greater human resource deployment for monitoring and investigation,
- » Reduction in political interference and influence,
- » Advocacy and campaigning activities for awareness generation, and
- » Establishment of Poachers Monitoring unit and Wildlife Crime Bureau for better monitoring and tracking of criminals.



# STOP MONKEY BUSINESS CAMPAIGN

Rhesus macaques (*Macaca mullata*) or red monkeys are an endemic species found in Indian sub-continent. These highly evolved species have distinct physiological features, which separates them from other monkey species. However, due their high resemblance of biological and physiological features to human these species have been exploited for biomedical research in the west for development of potential new vaccines and treatment of life threatening diseases like AIDS and tuberculosis. And with declining population of rhesus macaques in US, American Research Centres have started exploiting the loopholes in the conservation policies of underdeveloped countries like Nepal. After the ban on export of rhesus monkeys by India in 1978, rhesus macaques of Nepal have been targeted by many such American Research Centre for Medical Research purpose because of its high resemblance to Indian rhesus monkeys.

In August 27, 2003 when government passed the Wildlife Farming, Breeding and Research Policy, new doors opened for US laboratories and other commercial ventures preying on Nepal's wildlife. And in late 2003, Washington National Primate Research Centre and Nepal Biodiversity Research Society were granted permission to farm and breed monkeys in Nepal.

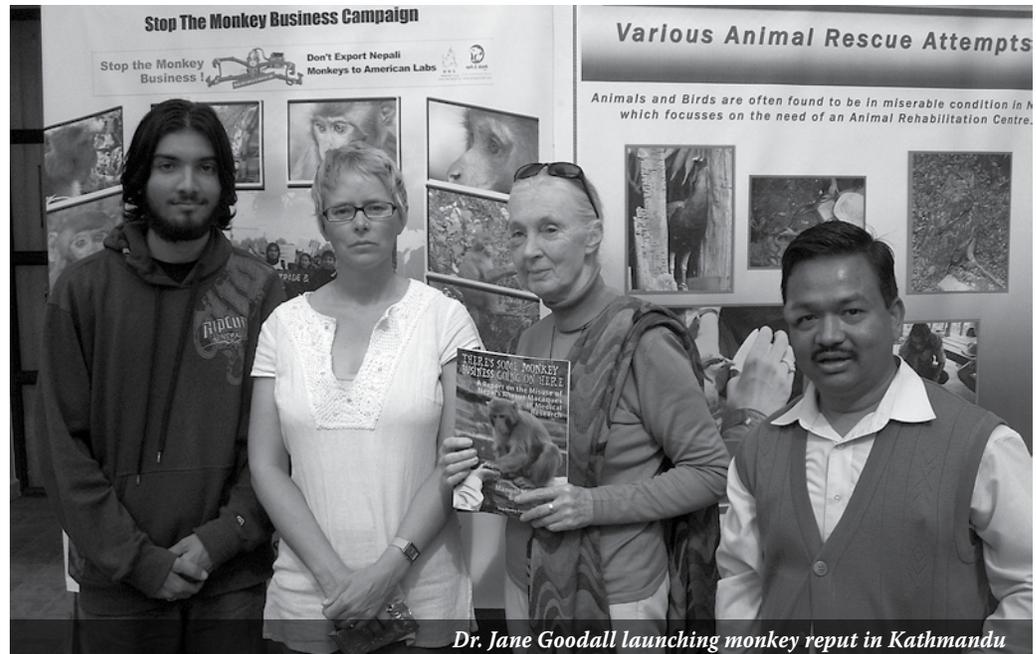


Hence, in an effort to oppose the farming and export of Nepalese rhesus monkeys to US primate centres, a coalition of eight national and international animal welfare organizations launched the "Stop Monkey Business Campaign" ([www/stop,onkeybusiness.org](http://www/stop,onkeybusiness.org)) in 2003. WWG, a watchdog focusing on conservation and wildlife issues joined the campaign in 2006 and has been undertaking several protest and awareness programs to oppose export and breeding of such monkeys.

## Protest program

The student organization "Roots and Shoots Nepal" organized a demonstration on February 10, 2007 and managed to collect over 4,000 signatures to stop the breeding and export of Nepalese monkeys. On January 30, 2007, WWG organized a protest program at Maitighar with banners showing slogans "Stop the Monkey Business!" and "Don't Export Nepali Monkeys to American Labs" and a cartoon of an unhappy monkey, in shackles and wired to a machine pleading "Please don't send us to US labs".





*Dr. Jane Goodall launching monkey report in Kathmandu*

More so, the *Stop Monkey Business Campaign* will continue to develop further campaign materials including a website, radio jingle, documentary, as well as conducting a survey of rhesus monkeys in Nepal to increase generation about this grave issue.

## International campaigns

About 1200 people from 21 nations signed a petition calling on Nepal to cancel its plans to establish laboratories using rhesus monkeys and to export monkeys. Animal Nepal and WWF 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.

## Stop export of Nepalese monkeys - Dr. Jane Goodall

Dr Jane Goodall, a world famous primatologist and UN Messenger of Peace during her visit to Kathmandu on November 6, 2007 endorsed the *Stop Monkey Business Campaign*, an initiative to end the export of rhesus monkeys to US primate research centres. During her Nepal visit, Dr Goodall, described as '*one of ten most influential women ever*', released '*There's some Monkey Business Going On Here*', a report by journalist duo Mangal Man Shakya and Lucia de Vries.

"The export of monkeys to the US really is a terrible issue", Dr Goodall said, "I visited a number of primate centres where monkeys are treated as objects. As if they don't feel pain and feelings and if they don't have a brain, just like we humans do."

Jane Goodall said it was 'unethical' to capture innocent animals and treat them in most 'inhuman' manner for drug testing, which is carried out in the name of medical science.

# GHARIAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM

**Very often, majority of our efforts are focused on conservation of endangered species as rhinos and tigers while others endangered species as gharials are often neglected. Hence, to address the urgent need to underline conservation with the aim to emphasize conservation of such species and discuss strategies towards its conservation, a half-day discussion program on “Gharial Conservation in Nepal” was organized in Kathmandu on June 25, 2007 by WWG, SOS Crocodiles (France) and WWF Nepal.**

The program was chaired by Mr. Shyam Bajimaya of DNPWC while Mrs. Laxmi Maskey wife of late Dr Tirtha Man Maskey was also invited as a special invitee. Other present included representatives from USAID, UNDP/GEF, Department of National Park and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), WWF Nepal, IUCN, NTNC, BISEP-ST and conservationists.

Mr. Antoine JOSEPH, Program Officer of SOS Crocodiles (France) presented a proposal developed by SOS Crocodiles on WWG and WWF Nepal on “*Gangatic Gharial (Gavialis gangeticus) Conservation in Nepal: Action Plan for Gharial Rescue in Nepal*”. In his presentation, Mr Antoine briefed about the status of gharials and obstacles faced for conservation of gharials in Nepal and explained that the objective of the proposed concept note was to contribute to conservation of the last wild population of gharial in partnership with local communities and partners of sustainable management of freshwater areas where gharial lives. The major component of the proposed program included:

- » Increasing scientific knowledge on gharial population and its habitat
- » Integrating favorable measures for gharial conservation in the management areas
- » Developing Ex situ conservation measures.
- » Awareness to the mass about gharial conservation, and

- » Contribution in international context of gharial Multi Task Force in reinforcement of gharial conservation for world biodiversity.

Mr. Mangal Man Shakya chairperson of WWG raised concern regarding the interest and focus of the donor community to protect only royal Bengal Tigers and One Horned Rhinoceros while investing minimal effort and resources in the protection of other endangered species like the gharials. He also mentioned some of the activities done by WWG i.e. establishment of Dr.Tirtha Man Maskey Center at WWG premise, Re-publication of Dr. Tirtha





Man Maskey's PHD thesis on Gharial sponsored by SOS Crocodiles, and publication of the biography on Dr Maskey written by Mrs Maskey in Nepali in September 2007.

Mr Shyam Bajimaya chair for the discussion session pointed that conservationists face challenges in securing financial resources for the protection of gharials and a census of gharial population in Nepal.

Some of the key comments raised and discussed in the workshop included:

- » Importance of detailed study on the status of gharial population, threat to its population and habitat and importance of raising awareness among the local communities,

- » Awareness generation among mass through media and other means about gharials and their status to ensure protection,
- » Regional Partnership with countries like India and Bhutan to ensure protection of the species and genetic variability of the species as well,
- » Highlighting policy issues, benefits to local stakeholders, partnership with local government bodies and defining their roles and responsibilities,
- » Establishment of Gharial Farming and harvesting their products a project integrated with livelihood of local people for income generation to local communities,
- » Establishment of gharial tourism package to generate revenues,
- » Setting up an institution/memorial fund for gharial conservation in the name of Late Dr. Tirtha Man Maskey as a respect and honor to his contribution towards gharial conservation-stressed by Dr. Ghana Shyam Gurung, Conservation program director at WWF Nepal, and
- » Strict regulation and authority towards conservation of gharials to control illegal trade and poaching.

The program was an immense success with invaluable inputs provided by the participants to ensure better approaches and strategies. Program finally urged conservationist to understand the need to educate and aware people for the protection of such key endangered species amongst the donor community.

# COMMISSION ON EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION (CEC) IUCN NEPAL



The Commission on Education and Communication, CEC, is one of the six Commissions on which IUCN draws expertise to fulfil its mission. CEC connects communication and education professionals for knowledge-sharing, learning and strategic advice. The Commission is a global, voluntary membership network with three working groups:

CEC is led by a Steering Committee and a Chair elected at the quadrennial IUCN World Conservation Congress, at which the Commission also receives its mandate.

CEC IUCN Nepal comprises of 17 members namely Mrs. Arzu Deuba, Mr. Astaman Kisee Maharjan, President of YAEF, Mr. Deepak Gajurel, member of NEFEJ, Mr. Hum Bahadur Gurung, Mr. Kedar Govinda Amatya of Department of Plant Resources, Mr. Mangal Man Shakya, Chairman of WWG, Mr. Prem Karmacharya of Sharda Secondary School, Dr. Sharda Devi Maharjan Faculty of education of Tribhuvan University, Ms. Sunita Malakar of National Center for Educational Development, Mr. Tirtha Koirala, Chief Producer of Kantipur Television, Mr. Ukesh Raj Bhujju, Director of Nepal Nature Dot Com Dr. Yagya Bahadur Karki, Dr. Madhav Bahadur Karki, Deputy Director General of ICIMOD, Rachana Shah, Conservation Education Officer, Nepal Trust For Nature Conservation, Geeta Shrestha, Executive chair person, Nature Nepal Action for Utility Resource and Education, Mr. Narayan Kaji Shrestha advisor of WATCH and Mr. Bhakta Lal Upadhaya, chairperson of APEC.

CEC priorities in Nepal are to work with the convention particularly in advocacy for communication, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) and Education for sustainable

development (ESD). It also works with IUCN programs, members and commission to improve participatory approaches to empower groups and institutions to play their roles in conservation, sustainable and capacity development. It also supports IUCN to tailor its knowledge and experiences to develop leadership for sustainable development and aids in developing capacity for educating community and also urges IUCN in engaging and empowering people to change towards sustainability. It plans to move forward by developing a joint proposal on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) linking environmental education with new curriculum development and advocating and providing access to good practice, research and innovation. It further aims to promote strategic communication through training courses, practical tool development, publications, expert advice and advocacy efforts that influence practice, policy and governance in Nepal. It also aims to integrate education and communication aspects into national plans and policies of Nepal.



*Frits Hesselink, Prabha Budhathoki & Dr. Arzu R Dewba*

Dr. Arzu Deuba was elected as the focal point of the CEC IUCN Nepal with the role to coordinate the CEC during the meeting held at 17th October '2007. During the same meeting Dr. Maharjan was elected to lead the Environment Education sub-committee, to which Pr. Amatya and Mr. Karmacharya volunteered to become members. Mr. Mangal Shakya was elected to the lead communication, public information and awareness creation sub-committee to which Ms. Shrestha and Ms. Shah volunteered to become members while Dr. Karki was elected to become Advisor due to his experience and seniority. It was also decided that Mr. Shakya and Dr. Karki would take the lead for preparing two papers to be send to 2008 IUCN Congress in Barcelona based on real projects on behalf of CEC IUCN Nepal.

During the meeting, CEC IUCN Nepal members also decided on some of the priority areas in Nepal which it needs to focus which included supporting Environment Journalism School, revising environment educational curriculum in Nepal at all levels, ensuring that large infrastructure projects in Nepal meet all environmental standards, initiating a national communication programme with children and youth, identifying, designing and implementing public information programmes over media on environmental issues and health hazards, eliminating the use and/or promoting wise-use of plastic bags within Nepal's National Zoo Area and finally writing papers for presentation at Barcelona based on success stories of IUCN members and partners in Nepal.

According to the priority areas to focus, the members also proposed few activities to be done under CEC IUCN Nepal in the future which included establishment and launch of Environmental Journalism School, organizing two day National Workshop on Conflict and

Conservation, Monthly Interaction program on Burning Environmental Issues, a national workshop on biodiversity and women issues and a Campaign on health hazards and environmental awareness. Along with this the CEC also decided to initiate public education campaigns on important issues such as the hazards of living under/near high transmission lines; sanitation; conservation of historical heritage sites in Janakpur; Kathmandu's roads, increase in vehicles and the carrying capacity of roads; sound pollution, etc.

Another meeting of CEC IUCN Nepal was held on 29 November 2007 in Hotel Ambassador, Kathmandu, Nepal between IUCN CR, CEC Nepal members and Mr. Frits Hesselink, Former Chairperson of IUCN. Mr. Frits during the occasion shared key areas of his work with IUCN CEC at the global level and briefly highlighted the CEPA toolkit, its formation process, its utility and the working of the CEC at the IUCN Secretariat.

Based on inputs from Mr. Frits the CEC IUCN Nepal members discussed on prioritizing some key areas for their work in Nepal which included (a) Establishing a centre for excellence and environmental journalism school; (b) working on wetlands using CEPA toolkit; (c) highlighting the issue of conflict and conservation by advocacy with political parties on all sides; (d) initiating environmental activism for environmental leadership and resolution of issues; (e) working towards presentation of best practices from Nepal for Barcelona; (f) bringing international knowledge to Nepal's conservation efforts; (g) mapping Nepal programmes in collaboration with IUCN's Secretariat in Nepal to further IUCN mission. During the same meeting it was also decided that CEC IUCN Nepal would organize a secretariat and that secretariat would be located within the WWG office at Jwagal, Lalitpur.

# ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISM SCHOOL (EJS)

EJS is school established by WWG in collaboration with the School of Environmental Management and Sustainable Development (SchEMS) and in affiliation with Pokhara University and CEC-IUCN Nepal with a goal to produce Environmental Journalist with technical knowledge and expertise of environmental science as well as journalism so that environmental news and general articles about discoveries, insights and ideas concerning environmental issues and controversies are presented in a easily understandable and accessible form, which is also simultaneously interesting and accurate to read for general public.

EJS, Environmental Journalism School will soon run a Post Graduate Diploma Course on Environmental Journalism. Environmental Journalism is a subject with a rare blend of scientific knowledge and journalistic skills. This course will give due emphasis towards providing technical knowledge of environmental issues and well honed set of investigative skills to human capital working in Journalism sector so that general public will have an opportunity to get informed about the environment in an easy and accessible manner. Till date there are not such academic course specifically focused to write the environmental issues in the news papers and magazines. The vision for this course is “collaborative investigation” of the work by young enthusiastic group of people predominately interested in the environmental issues.

The specific objectives behind initiating PG Diploma program is:

- » To facilitate the reader gaining knowledge in the state of the environment around their vicinity,
  - » To develop News, articles, and other communication materials for dissemination in the society,
  - » To upgrade the quality and standards of writings, particularly, the materials for News, Magazines, Journals and other communication materials,
  - » To cater knowledgeable Environmental Reporters required in the field of Environmental information.
- The PG Diploma course will comprise of two semesters with 24 credit hours. The first semester of the course will deal with courses concerning general principles of Journalism and Environment, Environmental issues, policies and law. The Second semester of the course will deal with Environmental Journalism, Environmental Management Tools, Gaining Practical Skills and Investigative Researches. The End semester examination will be conducted by Pokhara University which will carry 50 Percent of the total marks and another 50 percent of the mark will be offered by the college as scores for internal assessment and mid-term examination. Candidates with minimum of a Bachelor Degree in any subjects or 10+2, IA, I. Sc, or any other form of intermediate level of education with a minimum three years of experience in Journalism is eligible to apply for the course.

- » To fulfil the need of Environmental Journalists who can contribute communicate environmental issues to interested people.



# AWARENESS PROGRAMS

## Launch of Wildlife 1

On the occasion of the World Environment Day on June 5, 2007, Wildlife1 issued a press release informing the launch of a new initiative project online named as Wildlife1 to conserve the threatening endangered wildlife species acknowledging the importance of such sustainable wildlife resource base in conservation of biodiversity.

Wildlife 1 have launched this online project with an objective to protect endangered species in Asia through education and transparency which are keys towards changing public and political attitudes, so that communities and individuals earn their livelihood without destroying finite resources. The project will increase awareness of depletion of Asian wildlife by poaching and trading and establish an online monitoring and reporting network. The program using powerful photographic imagery and factual reportage will work towards

- » Providing a document of wildlife use extraction and trade.
- » Acting as a clearing house for further additional relevant material and as medium for public participation;



- » Expanding the wildlife information for national institute and NGOs
- » Advocating solutions to the complex social, economic and security issues involved in international wildlife trade
- » Influencing government policy towards wildlife and environment
- » Promoting the enforcement of conservation policy and increase support for existing conservation program.
- » Providing online forum for public interaction and reporting wildlife crime and other relevant information on wildlife trade and use in the region through the website.



## Wildlife Times Newsletter

In an effort for better information dissemination on wildlife and conservation issues in Nepal and its neighbouring countries, WWG has began the publication of a monthly newsletter "Wildlife Times". The eight page newsletter has been published as trials and we are pleased to receive wonderful support and reviews of this publication. We aim to give continuity to the newsletter as well as increase the news content in future.

## Presentations

### Talk Program organized by Rotary Club of Kathmandu Mid -Town

At the program organized by Rotary Club of Kathmandu Mid Town on April 27, 2007, chairman of WWG (Wildlife Watch Program), Mr. Mangal Man Shakya delivered a short presentation on the ongoing wild animal trade, poaching and killings in the country. He spoke about current status of wild animal trade and poaching in the country, measures that should be taken to prevent such illegal trade and poaching going on in the country and summarized few activities done by the organization to prevent such animal trading and exploitation.

## Interview

On January 2008, the Chairman of WWG, Mr. Mangal Man Shakya gave an interview to Reuters TV, Kantipur TV and Nepal FM about rhino killing in Chitwan.

## Rhino poacher should not be freed

*Kathmandu, Sept 22, 2007*

Wildlife Watch Group is seriously attentive towards the decision made by cabinet, Government of Nepal to free nine poachers who were involved in killing rhinoceros and selling its horn. The cabinet of Government of Nepal had made decision on 28th August 2006 to free the poachers waiving their remaining term of sentences on the occasion of people's sovereignty day.

It is a matter of serious objection to waive the remaining term of sentences of the inmates involved in such critical case of trading of rhino horn even without informing Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation and other concerned organizations in the present situation of extinction of rhinoceros.

The Wildlife Watch Group has come to a conclusion that the government might have made such decision in pressure of gangs who take advantage of the present transitional period of the country. This kind of activities of the Government to free such inmates serially enhances the mentality of the illegal traders as

well as encourages poachers. Can government or concerned officials guarantee that the freed prisoners will not involve in such activities in future? Are the officials who recommended waiving the due sentences are ready to endure the punishment? If not, then they should halt making such decision.

Therefore the Watch Group stipulates the government to withdraw the decision immediately and urge not to make such decision in future which arouses the criminal mentality.



## WORKSHOPS

### Call for Amendment of Wildlife Policies

Mr. Mangal Man Shakya, Chairman of WWG participated in the consultation workshop "Amendment of Wildlife Policies of Nepal" jointly organized by Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) and WWF Nepal. The objective of the workshop was to find gaps in the existing law and policies on wildlife conservation and protected areas management. More than 50 participants from the government, non governmental organizations, stakeholders and experts were present in the meeting.

During the workshop, many recommendations to amend or change the policies and laws related to wildlife conservation which will prove to be a useful tool to the government while formulating new policies and laws on conservation of wildlife and management of protected areas was put forth by representatives of various conservation organization. Mr Phanindra Gautam, Legal Officer, Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation presented the issues found in the NPWCA and other policies on wildlife conservation and assured that a new legislation for wildlife conservation will be formulated with wider consultation. On the occasion, Mr Shyam Bajimaya, Director General, a.i., DNPWC also stated the need to formulate new policy considering the current political and social scenarios and added that participatory approach should be followed during the drafting process.

It is expected that the new policy will address the discrepancies in the existing laws and policies and provide effective provisions to control poaching and illegal wildlife trade that has been the major challenge for conservation in the country.

### Forces for Sustainability Report of The First Peace and Sustainability Session: A Conference

Chairman of WWG Mr Mangal Man Shakya attended a conference on Forces for Sustainability Report of the First Peace and Sustainability Session: A Conference was held from 14-15 March 2007 in the Peace Palace in The Hague, Netherlands. The conference was organized and sponsored by The Institute for Environmental Security, IUCN-The World Conservation Union, CEESP-The IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy, and The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Shakya gave a presentation on "Turning Rebels into Conservationist; the Case of Nepal" on which he described the armed conflict in Nepal due to Maoist Insurgency, and its impact on people, industries, economy, tourism and the conservation effort. He also highlighted the rapid in swing in infrastructures destruction including National Park offices, guard post, headquarters and abandoning of post by the security staff, which led to increase in poaching and other illegal activities like trade of herbs and animal product. He also spoke about the International Conference, which was organized to discuss the situation of Nepal due to conflict and the result of it, the Kathmandu Declaration.

### International Tiger Symposium held in Kathmandu

The **International Tiger Symposium (ITS)** organized by Global Tiger Forum and hosted by DNPWC in cooperation with national and international conservation partners on April 16-20



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GLOBAL TIGER FORUM (GTF),  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND  
INTERNATIONAL TIGER SYMPOSIUM,  
KATHMANDU 16-20 APRIL 2007



was attended by Mr. Mangal Man Shakya, Chairman of WWG. The objective of the symposium was to bring together experts of tiger conservation from all around the world, where the tiger habitats are found, to find some concrete and cooperative solutions to save the endangered species from being extinct and to sort out obstacles and find better means for conservation of tigers.

## Paradigm Shift Meeting

The four-day conference supported by UNEP, bringing together PA managers, conservationist and lead scientists from 13 South and east Asian countries was held. The members of organizing committee were Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation, DNPWC, ICIMOD, IUCN, WWC, IUCN/WCPA South Asia and the participating country included Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Laos, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam. The workshop was attended by WWG Chairman Mr Mangal Man Shakya.

## Regional Conservation Forum

The 4<sup>th</sup> IUCN Asia Regional Conservation Forum organized by the Government of Nepal and World Conservation Union (IUCN) was held in Kathmandu, Nepal from 10-14 September, 2006. The main agenda of the forum was to generate meaningful dialogue on critical conservation and development issues in the region as well as their possible solutions with special emphasis placed on the impact of emerging socio-economic trends in the region during the 21st century. The highlights of the events was the presentation of the proposed IUCN Asia Inter sessional Program for the next quadrennium (2009 - 2012) and strategies for addressing key regional issues such as climate change, energy and environmental security.

The forum was attended by over 400 representatives from IUCN's membership, commissions, secretariat and council in Asia with major stakeholders, including those belonging to the donor community and private sector from as many as 30 Asian countries participated in the Forum. WWG, a recent IUCN member participated in the workshop.

## Night Guided Zoo Program organised by NNC-IUCN

A National Guided Zoo Program was organized by NNC-IUCN (Nepal National Committee of IUCN Members) for the delegates of IUCN Regional Conservation Forum on Tuesday, September 11, 2007 at Central Zoo, Lalitpur. The program consisted of a Dinner Program followed by a Night Guided Zoo Tour.

## Pro-Poor Sustainable Tourism in Nepal (PPST)-Lesson Learned and the Way Forward-workshop

WWG participated in a workshop Pro-Poor Sustainable Tourism in Nepal (PPST)-Lesson Learned and the Way Forward-workshop participated organized by Eco Himal, with the support of SNV Nepal and IUCN Nepal to share lessons learned and experience gained from PPST initiatives implemented in Nepal. The main objective of the workshop was to bring together tourism professionals, government officials, development practitioners and academics involved in the field of Pro-Poor Sustainable Tourism in Nepal to share and disseminate experiences and learning gained by development agencies (national and international) and the private sector from developing and implementing PPST initiatives in Nepal. The workshop also aims to consolidate lessons learned from implementing such practices and identify good practices on pro-poor sustainable approaches in tourism and discuss use the insights or knowledge gained in future work in order to increase net benefits for the poor from tourism.



*IUCN DG Ms. Julia Marton-Lefevre with Nepal IUCN members during Asia Regional Conservation Form in Kathmandu*

# INTERVIEW WITH JOHN Q ADAMS, JR.

*South Asia Regional Environmental Officer  
U.S. Embassy, Kathmandu, Nepal*

Mr. Adams is a Foreign Service Officer in the U.S. Department of State. Prior to his arrival in Kathmandu in October 2006, Mr. Adams held overseas assignments at Embassies in Bangkok, Thailand; Bucharest, Romania; and Baku, Azerbaijan. In 2001, he worked as Department of State Fellow in the Office of U.S. Senator Paul Wellstone. Mr. Adams received degrees from Harvard and Colombia Universities and has worked primarily in economic affairs. He is married and has two children.

**WWG: Would you tell little bit about office of regional hub of environment affaires and its country specific program in Nepal?**

The Regional Environment Office (REO) is a small office based in Kathmandu consisting of three people responsible for tracking South Asian environmental issues. This task requires us to travel within the subcontinent and discuss

environmental issues with government officials, NGOs, and others. We keep Washington informed on environmental developments in the region and suggest policy options. Our efforts contribute to projects, workshops, and regional meetings on environmental issues. We have also assisted the government of Nepal to join international environmental partnerships and to gain access to U.S. environmental expertise.

**WWG: How you see impact on Nepal's biodiversity due to armed conflict in Nepal?**

Armed conflict has had a detrimental impact on Nepal's biodiversity. During the decade-long armed conflict, the number of poaching incidents soared and resulted in the loss of many one-horned rhinoceros. I note that you mentioned this impact in detail in Wildlife Watch Group's book "Conflict and Conservation."

**WWG: It seems that most donor countries and organizations in Nepal focus too much on building the peace process while completely undermining environmental concerns, what's your response?**

Peace is fundamental to conservation. Without peace and security, it becomes very difficult to sustain conservation efforts.

**WWG: How can Nepal can be part of CAWT (Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking)?**

CAWT is a partnership consisting of countries and international organizations that are active in the fight against illegal trade in wildlife. We are hoping that Nepal, which is critically important to the preservation of biodiversity in South Asia, can join other nations in the region in an initiative to create a network of countries committed to working together to fight this illegal trade.



**WWG: What's your impression of the impact of Nepal's local conservation organizations on conserving biodiversity and sustaining livelihood?**

There are many competent and active conservation organizations in Nepal that are doing excellent work. I am particularly impressed by the Community Forestry User Groups (CFUG) that manage almost one-third of the country's forests. I understand that there are more than 15,000 registered CFUGs in Nepal.

**WWG: Nepal is heading toward constituent assembly elections and environmental issues are completely sidelined under the shadow of political issues. Is this your observation?**

The public's attention has shifted naturally to the constitutional assembly since this is a crucial time in Nepal's move towards peace, prosperity, and democracy, but conservation activities continue and remain important to the country's future.

**WWG: In the beginning of this year the US Embassy has announced a major support program to combat illegal wildlife trade, particularly rhino poaching and horn trade in Nepal. What is present status of this announcement?**

The previous U.S. Ambassador visited Chitwan National Park in February 2007 to convey our serious interest in wildlife preservation. The visit provided an opportunity to learn more about rhino poaching and to underscore the important work that the U.S. is supporting through the Terai Arc Landscape Project.

The United States is also supporting efforts to conserve the rhinos, tigers, and elephants in South Asia through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's three major conservation funds: the Rhino Conservation Fund, the Tiger Conservation Fund, and the Elephant Conservation Fund. This year, a local organization, Wildlife Conservation Nepal, which has been very active in combating

rhino poaching and trade in rhino horns, received a grant from these funds.

**WWG: How does the U.S. Government view Nepal's efforts to conserve biodiversity, its shortcomings and success?**

We believe Nepal is a leader in conservation in the region, given its success in promoting community forestry and people-based biodiversity conservation initiatives.

We encourage Nepal to be vigilant against trans-boundary traffickers in wildlife and other contraband items; and to strengthen efforts to apprehend and prosecute traffickers who undermine Nepal's biodiversity.

**WWG: There is widespread reporting that the cantonments to house Maoist militia in different parts of the country are built in community forest areas without consulting user groups of those areas, and without environmental impact assessments to select camp sites. What are your comments?**

It is unfortunate if cantonments are adversely affecting the environment. When the cantonments role in the peace process is complete and the facilities are closed, remediation efforts may be required.

**WWG: How much in resources does the U.S. government spend annually to support Nepal's environmental management efforts?**

A number of U.S. Government agencies support Nepal in the environmental management sector including the U.S. Agency for International Development, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Institute of Health, the National Science Foundation, the United States Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, as well as the U.S. Department of State. I think it is fair to say that U.S. government support for Nepal's environmental management efforts is broad and sustained.

# NETWORKING

## SOS Crocodiles

*A Memorandum of Understanding signed between WWG and SOS crocodiles*

We **WWG** a Nepalese NGO and **SOS crocodile** a French association working in Nepal for crocodile conservation signed a memorandum of understanding under the responsibility of the chairman of WWG and president of SOS Crocodile on July 16, 2007, establishing a working relationship or agreement between two organization to undertake mutually desirable program activities like research, data sharing, capacity building population awareness, fund raising and management in Gharial Conservation Project in Nepal. The main goal of this agreement is to assist Government of Nepal to further the cause of in-situ and ex-situ conservation of gharial in Nepal and develop an effective and sustainable mechanism to implement activities for ex-situ and in-situ conservation of gharials in Nepal. This MOU will be effective for 5 years beginning on the date of signature.

The responsibility of the signatory parties includes facilitating each other to ensure if all activities for ex-situ and in-situ conservation of the crocodile is implemented in coordination with the government department, providing facilities for report distribution and conferences for people awareness through WWG/Dr Maskey Resources centre, jointly developing proposals and programs in coordination with the government including the larger and broader issues of gharial conservation in Nepal, coordinating with international academia, other organization and individuals to conduct research and data collection on the ecology and behavior of the crocodile in Nepal facilitating information sharing and lesson learning on the in-situ and ex-situ conservation of the gharial, jointly searching funds for activities favoring gharial conservation, providing technical support to all activities related to gharial conservation and strengthening the capacity of the Gharial/Crocodile Breeding Centre in Nepal in gharial breeding ,releasing ,monitoring research and population awareness and finally

communicating on regular basis to strengthen coordination between the two organization.

## Snow Leopard Conservancy

A memorandum of Understanding was signed between **WWG** a non governmental, non profit making organization dedicated to protection and conservation of Wildlife and The **Snow Leopard Conservancy (SLC)** a non governmental organization registered in United States of America for researching and demonstrating innovative grassroots measures which lead local people to become effective stewards of the endangered snow leopard, its prey and its habitat for one year (from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2007 to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2008) on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2007. Mr. Nagendra Budhathoki, Country Representative of SLC introduced WWG about SLC and its activities. SLC did not have a separate office in Nepal and since the common interest of both the organization was same SLC became desirous to share space with WWG. Hence a MoU was signed between the two organizations, WWG on its part agreeing to provide space for Country Representative of SLC to work.

## WWG a member of Species Survival Network (SSN)

On August 2007, WWG was appointed as a member of The Species Survival Network (SSN). The Species Survival Network (SSN) is an international coalition of organizations committed to the promotion, enhancement and strict enforcement of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Through scientific and legal research, education and advocacy, the SSN is working to prevent over-exploitation of animals and plants due to international trade. The Network strongly believes that such trade can occur or be possible only when evidence positively demonstrates that survival of the species, subspecies or populations and their role in the ecosystems in which they

occur will not be detrimentally affected by trade and when trade in live animals minimizes the risk of injury, damage to health or cruel treatment. The species must always receive the benefit of the doubt if available evidence is uncertain

There are many organization in the world working for monitoring wildlife trade and poaching like Animal Protection Institute in US/CA, Animal Welfare Institute in US Animal Defenders International (UK), Japan Wildlife Conservation Society (JP), Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (UK), Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society (DE), Wildlife Trust of India (IN), Wildlife Protection Society of India (IN), HSI Australia. But WWG is only one non governmental organization working for the monitoring of wildlife trade and poaching in Nepal.

## WWG an IUCN member

In the world conservation union, IUCN recently concluded 67<sup>th</sup> council meeting in Gland, Switzerland. WWG has been admitted to IUCN as member organization with an official letter to WWG chairman Mangal Man Shakya signed by Jane Ganeau, acting head of membership relations and governance of IUCN world headquarters. In Nepal, WWG is 14<sup>th</sup> member organization of IUCN. Currently there is one state member, one INGO member and 12 NGO IUCN members in Nepal. The World Conservation Union with mission to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure equitable and sustainable use of natural resources, is the world's largest and most important conservation network. The Union brings together 83 States, 110 government agencies, more than 800 non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and some 10,000 scientists and experts from 181 countries in a unique worldwide partnership.

## Dr. Tirtha Man Maskey Wildlife Centre

On September 23, 2006, in an unfortunate and tragic helicopter crash in Gunsu, Taplejung, Nepal lost some of its most prominent figures in the field of conservation including the brilliant Dr Tirtha Man Maskey, an individual who was deeply immersed in conservation of flora and fauna of Nepal. To commemorate this tragic loss of a leading conservation hero and to honor his work and dedication to environment conservation WWG has established a *Dr Tirtha Man Maskey Wildlife Centre* at its premises. The objectives behind the establishment of Dr Tirtha Man Maskey Wildlife Centre are:

- » Building a Resource centre for illegal wildlife trade and biodiversity conservation
- » Recording history of conservation paradigm shift for future reference

- » To continue the effort of Dr Maskey in conserving gharials in Nepal and region where these animals are found
- » Giving Award and fellowships to conservationist and individual that have contributed remarkably for wildlife conservation and finally
- » Publishing and popularizing Dr Maskey's works.

The centre comprises various range of books related to not just wildlife but overall environment conservation. Besides publications, articles, papers and research work of Dr. T.M Maskey, the library also comprises different research work, study report, thesis, papers, articles, and publications related to wildlife and environment conservation of various national and international conservationist and conservation organization around the world.



# CONSERVATION MARTYRS

On Saturday, September 23, 2006 twenty four persons aboard including high officials of Government of Nepal, Diplomat and Conservationists passed away when the Helicopter crashed in Taplejung district of Eastern Himalayan region of Nepal. The persons aboard were on the return trip from the handing-over ceremony for the Kanchenjunga Conservation Area. The deceased included the Advisory Committee of recently concluded International Conference on Conservation in Conflict, Mr. Pauli Mustonen, Chargé d' Affairs of Embassy of Finland, Dr. Chandra P. Gurung, Country Representative of WWF Nepal, Dr. Tirtha Man Maskey, AsRSG Co-Chair of South Asia, Dr. Damodar Prashad Parajuli, Secretary, Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation, and the Guest Invitee; participants of the Int'l Conference Ms. Jennifer Headley Coordinator of WWF UK (Canadian), Yeshi Chhoden Lama of WWF Nepal, Dr. Bijnan Acharya, Program Development Specialist of USAID, Mr. Hem Raj Bhandari, media person from Nepal Television during the conference, Mr. Mingma Norbu Sherpa who supported and inspired WWG during informal group and for its institutionalization and Mr. Gopal Rai, State Minister of Forest and Soil Conservation who has always supported WWG's program.

## Memorial Service held at Maitighar Mandala

AS per Hindu custom, a 13<sup>th</sup> Day Memorial Service of the conservationist deceased due to Helicopter crash in Kanchenjunga Conservation Area in Taplejung district was held in Kathmandu at Maitighar Mandala by lighting candles. WWG, Environmental Camp for Conservation Awareness (ECCA), IUCN Nepal, Nepalese Federation of Forest Resource User Group (NEFUG) and Nepal National Committee-IUCN had organized the program declaring the deceased as "Conservation Martyr". Family members, friends, colleagues and general public in hundreds had gathered and participated to lit candles in the memory of the deceased. Booklets containing brief biography of the deceased conservation heroes had also been published.

Also on marking the 45<sup>th</sup> day of the tragedy, WWF Nepal, IUCN Nepal, Wildlife Watch Group and The Mountain Institute organized a memorial program at the Russian Cultural Centre in Kathmandu with an objective to commemorate the way the conservationist lived to inspire a new generation of young conservationists and to take forward the vision of the conservation champions. In the program, attended by partner organizations, officials of Nepal Government, conservationists, and bereaved friends, four future activities were introduced i.e. dedicated display spaces, a memorial book, a conservation learning centre and a conservation project. A commitment forms (available on the websites of the four organizations) that solicits support was also distributed. Appreciating the presence, organizers said that, success of the projects depended on everyone working together and generous support from the government, international organizations, families, friends and well wishers.



*Memorial service at Maitighar Mandala*

## Proposal for Declaration of National Conservation Day

Marking the occasion of the first year anniversary of the unforgettable tragedy a chopper crash at Ghunsa, Kanchanjunga, when we lost several of towering conservation leader, a proposal was submitted to Honorable Minister Mr. Dev Prasad Gurung, Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation, Government of Nepal by the conservation community (ICIMOD, IUCN Nepal, National Trust for Nature Conservation, The Mountain Institute, WWF Nepal, Wildlife Watch Group) to officially declare **September 23** annually as a "**National Conservation Day**" in honour of the conservation martyr and to commemorate their contribution. The main objective of this day would be to remember and honour the conservation heroes, advance their legacy and encourage and recognize conservationist from all walk of life.

On this day, a national level award will be awarded to honour outstanding individual or organization and their exemplary contribution in conservation each year, also a memorial scholarship and award will be granted in recognition of excellence in biodiversity conservation.

To sustain the objective a consortium of conservation organization would be established together with the Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation, Government of Nepal and member secretary whose portfolio would be taken up on rotational basis with consensus of the member institution to raise funds for scholarships granted and launch other initiative in the name of the conservation heroes in the year to come.

## Remembering the heroes

On 23 September '07, WWF Nepal, The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, IUCN – The World Conservation Union, National Trust for Nature Conservation, Wildlife Conservation Nepal, The Mountain Institute and Wildlife Watch Group jointly celebrated Conservation Day in memory of the Conservation Heroes who lost their lives in the

tragic helicopter accident on 23 September 2006 at Ghunsa, Kangchenjunga.

The celebrations that brought back the vivid memories of the conservation heroes who had dedicated their lives to conservation started with lighting of lamps by the family members and ended with a strong commitment for conservation by eco-club students.

On the occasion "**Abraham Conservation Awards**", "**Matthew Preece and Yeshe Choden Lama Young Conservation Leader Awards**" and "**WWF Media in Conservation Awards**" were awarded to individuals and organizations that played key roles in conservation. Also "**Nepal Conservation Memorial Scholarships**", "**Mingma Sherpa Memorial Scholarships**", "**Jillian Bowling Schlaepfer and Jennifer Headley Memorial Scholarships**" were awarded to four meritorious students.

Honouring the importance of the day, Ramsar Convention Secretariat declared four high altitude wetlands in Nepal as Ramsar Sites. Also Kangchenjunga Conservation Area Management Council (KCAMC) declared the crash site and surrounding area as "**Sacred Natural Site**" which was announced by Chairperson of KCAMC, Tseten Dandu Sherpa at the ceremony.

Tirtha Raj Sharma, Secretary at the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, Carter Roberts, the president and CEO of WWF US, James Leape, the Director General of WWF International, and family members addressed the gathering, remembering and honouring the life and achievements of the conservation heroes.



## WILDLIFE EVENTS

### Wild Birds confiscated, killed and buried

On Wednesday midnight, Central Animal Quarantine office (CAQO) killed and buried 254 rare species of wild birds smuggled from Pakistan at the premises of the Tribhuvan International Airport in the name of keeping possibility of Avian Influenza at bay. The variety of birds belonging to parrot families believed to be of African origin were brought to Kathmandu in Pakistan International airlines no. PK 268 in four cages with tag numbers 0124PK39-58-42, 0124PK39-58-43, 0124PK39-58-44 and 0124PK39-58-45 as possession of Ahned Shaikh Wahee at 3:00 pm. The illegal imports of the rare birds were passed by the customs office when they were caught by the District Forest Officers in the Airport; however the owner managed to escape the scene.

Many animal welfare organizations have objected and protested towards the gruesome killing of the birds in the name of avian flue ad raised suspicion towards government in letting the smuggler escape. In defense the CAQO chief veterinarian Dr. Balaram Thapa said that they had to destroy the birds as government had prohibited import of any living or dead birds from Pakistan in fear of the bird Flu and the birds were destroyed after long discussion and verbal agreement among the government official. Further he adds that according to Animal Health and Animal Service Act 2055 one should have government approval before importing live animals from foreign countries and International Animal Health Certificate from the country of origin which makes the country of origin responsible in case of epidemic outburst and also according to National park and Wildlife Conservation Act 2029 the importer must bring CITES (Convention of International Trade of Endangered Species) certificates from the origin country when importing such endangered wild animals and these birds didn't have such documents.

Department of National Park and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) wrote to the chief of custom office at TIA asking to hand over the illegal birds and make necessary procedure but it was not handed over to DNPWC. The planning officer at DNPWC Tikaram Adhikari said that the birds should have been sent to the importer's country immediately according to CITES agreement, he says further acknowledging the danger of bird flu that the birds should have been handed to DNPWC for identification and formal quarantine. He adds the birds were worth tens of million dollars and the smugglers wanted to export them to other countries.

District Forest Officer Madhav Acharya also raised a severe objection to destroying the birds in haste staying there in the night till 2:00 am in the morning, and said that the custom officer did not help in arresting the importer, and hence raised a serious suspicion over birds being destroyed waking up all night without their presence and letting the smuggler escape. He comments further that it also destroyed the possibility of breaking the nexus of bird smugglers.

Conservationist and experts of Birds Today also condemned killing of the rare birds in haste, suspecting involvement of smugglers in the incident.

RK Shrestha, Director of central zoo talking to Himalayan times said that it was a great loss disposing such treasure, even though he had not seen the bird species, he believed the birds were fine gift of nature and one should protect them. Further he said that DNPWC was the responsible organization and its expert should have been given the access to possess, examine and decide about them. He even volunteered to give space in the zoo for necessary observation.

Rajendra Narasingh Suwal a bird expert and managing director of Nepal Nature Dot Com

*continue to pg. 32*

# VISITS AND MEETINGS

*Different personalities from various organizations have visited WWG office during the year:*

## **June 26, 2007**

Sugahiko Sugimoto  
AIUEO Circle Association Japan

## **November 17, 2007**

Former chair of CEC IUCN Mr. Frits Hesselink. He was at in the Kathmandu to address the CEC IUCN Nepal members meeting called by its focal point Dr. Arzu R Deuba.

## **July 2007**

Director General a.i. of Department of National parks and Wildlife Conservation, Mr Shyam Bajimaya.

## **June 18 2007**

Mr. Jerker Thunberg  
Manager, National Forest program Facility, FAO Italy

## **November 2006**

Eeva Maijala of Finland Embassy visited WWG on. During her visit Eeva Maijala obtained information regarding Finland Embassy and WWG cooperation.

## **October 31, 2006**

Col (Rtd) Mr. B S Pundir, Administration and Finance Manager Brooke Hospital for Animals (India)

## **September 20, 2006**

Ms. Tegan W Blaine, Director of Regional Environment Office for South Asia at US Embassy in Kathmandu.

## **Meeting Nikhat Sattar -IUCN Asia**

On October 26, 2007, WWG hosted a meeting with Ms. Nikhat Sattar Cluster Group Head -IUCN Asia. Chairman of WWG, Mr. Mangal Man Shakya briefed the activities of WWG in the past including the International Conference on Conservation in Conflict as well as the upcoming activities of WWG including

the establishment of Environmental Journalism School with affiliation with Pokhara University. Mr Shakya also urged the participation of IUCN in the EJS and requested for an IUCN representative in the management committee of EJS. Ms Sattar will initiate dialogues with the Dutch Ambassador in India (responsible for Nepal) for exploring funding opportunity for WWG while she will discuss with IUCN system about IUCN's engagement in the management committee of EJS.

## **Meeting with Kari Karanko Finland Charge D' Affaires**

On February 26, 2007, Chairman of WWG, Mr. Mangal Man Shakya held a meeting with Kari Karanko Finland Charge de affaires. During the meeting WWG chairman briefed about WWG and Finland embassy cooperation during late charge de affaires Pauli Mustonen's tenure and presented the audit report of the projects implemented during the period. Rauni Haapamaki of Finland Embassy was also present during the meeting.

## **Meeting with Danish Ambassador**

On 26 July 2007, Chairman of WWG Mr. Mangal Man Shakya met the Danish Ambassador Mr Finn Thilsted at the embassy in Lazimpat. Secretary Dr. Suman Suvedi and executive member AL Joshi of WWG were also present during the meeting. The WWG chairman briefed about the ongoing WWG programs.

## **NOE' Conservation**

The French biodiversity conservation organization Noe' Conservation's director Dr. Antoine Cadi visited in WWG in May 2006 to discuss in status of gharial conservation in Nepal. During the visit the organizations agreed to explorer jointly the scope of work on Gharial conservation in Nepal.

# WWG ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE

## New Executive and General Members

### **Chairman: Mangal Man Shakya**

Mangal Man Shakya is probably the first journalist specializing in wildlife in the country. In 1993, he began writing on the wildlife trade, inspired by a well-placed bureaucrat in the Ministry of Forests. At that time, Nepali newspapers rarely covered issues relating to wildlife trade. In 1996, he coordinated an informal group called the Wildlife Watch Group to motivate young journalists to write more on wildlife issues. As a result, wildlife issues have become a major issue in the mainstream media. Over the last seven years wildlife issues have been afforded unprecedented coverage. In 1993, he won Nepal's Best Environmental Journalist Award, and in 2002 he was one of the four recipients of the International Green Pen Award, from the Asia Pacific region.

**Vice-chairman: Bigyan Pradhan** used to work for the King Mahendra Japan Trust as Program Director. He is a conservationist, turned businessman, now based in Kathmandu.

**Secretary: Dr. Suman Subedi** is involved as a Lecturer at Tri-Chandra Multiple Campus, Tribhuvan University and has been involved in several training, workshop and seminars. She has also been involved as Assistant Research Officer in National History Museum, Tribhuvan University. She has also been awarded with Mahendra Vidya Bhusan (grade Ka) by Ministry of education.

**Treasurer: Lal Tamang** is an eco-tourism promoter. He is also heavily involved in social organizations. He was executive member of the Kathmandu Environmental Education Project (KEEP) and operates a trekking company.

## Executive Members:

**Laxmi Badan Maskey** is a coordinator of Dr. TM Maskey centre at WWG and author of recently published book "Tiger Warden".

**Amrit Lal Joshi** used to work in government of Nepal ministry of forest and soil conservation for more than two decades overseeing various programs and projects. He later resigned from the ministry and joined FAO headquarter in Rome, Italy. From FAO he came back to Kathmandu as technical advisor of Danish government funded natural resource project. He is widely known as the initiator of community forestry in Nepal.

**Sanjay Ghimire** is a television journalist. He is a reporter with Channel Nepal, a cable television channel popular in Nepal as well as overseas. Mr. Ghimire now based in USA.

## General Members

**Anil Chitrakar:** Anil Chitrakar is an expert in the field of environment. Mr. Chitrakar is an environmentalist who has been contributing



*US Regional Environment Hub Official at WWG*

significantly to the preservation of the environment. He is also a creative writer.

**Krishna Shrestha:** Krishna Shrestha has been working for the Gorkhapatra, Nepal's oldest vernacular daily, for over 25 years. He was the recipient of the Abraham Conservation Award in 1995 in recognition of the reports he published on wildlife-related issues in the daily. Mr. Shrestha is a founder member of WWG.

**Yeera Pradhan** is a Journalist associated with Nepal Travel Trade reporter and also served in different NGOs as volunteer.

**Shalu Adhikari:** She is a conservationist currently working as Lecturer for BSc and Msc environment student of Kathmandu University, Dhulikhel and College of Applied science, Satdobato. She has been involved as a women development officer at The King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation, Biodiversity Conservation Centre, Tiger/Rhino Conservation Project, Sauraha, Chitwan and as Environmentalist at Mahila Bikash Pratisthan, Naxal, Kathmandu

**Ubraj Regmi** is a conservationist at department of national parks and wildlife conservation and worked in various national parks as conservation officer. Currently he is in Makalu Barun National Park.

**Razen Manandhar:** He is a Senior Correspondent of The Himalayan Times an International Media Network of Nepal. He reports mainly on politics, water resources, environment and social issues.

**Damodar Khadka:** He is a Journalist turned wildlife researcher based in Canada.

**Kumud Shrestha:** He is a Volunteer Coordinator of National Initiative for Forest Certification in Nepal. He is also engaged in various forestry and natural resource management activities as an independent consultant.

**Sidhartha Shakya:** Sidhartha Shakya is a creative video journalist. He was involved with Channel Nepal as a cameraman. These days he devotes his time to freelance video journalism.

**Bijaya Lal Shrestha** is a senior journalist with *The Rising Nepal*, a leading National daily, published in English.

**Suresh Manandhar** is the Editor of the *Sandhya Times*, a Nepal Bhasa daily published from Kathmandu. He is a prolific writer, poet and play writer. Recently, he has focused his pen on writing about wildlife trade, and his investigative write-ups have become classic.

**Rabin Sayami** is ace illustrator of the country. His strokes - be it political satire, development woes or complex conservation issues - directly hit the reader. He is equally famous as a brilliant graphic designer of conservation reports and books.

**Dhurba Madhikarmi** is a journalist associated with Radio Nepal and vernacular weekly newspaper and one of leading contemporary literary figure in Nepal

**Ram Prit Yadav** was born in Tenwapatti VDC in Siraha district eastern Terai region of Nepal in 1942. Mr. Ram Prit Yadav is an extraordinarily dedicated conservationist. During his 32 years of civil service in the ministry of forest and soil conservation, he had spent around twenty-five years only in Chitwan National Park as ranger, assistant warden, warden and chief warden

## Staff/volunteers that have provided their service in WWG in the past:

Some of staffs and volunteers of WWG that have provided their valuable assistance and service in the operations and running of the organization in the past includes

### Staff Members

Shrijana Shakya  
Kripa Maharjan  
Ganga Lal Shrestha  
Esha Manandhar (Intern)

### Previous Staffs

**Mr Shree Kumar Maharjan**  
(Program Officer)

from December 2007 to June 2007

**Mr Ang Pasang Rai**

(Program Officer)

from November 2, 2006 to November 17, 2006

**Mr Lal Tamang**

(Consultant Cum Accountant)

from June 2003 to September 2006

**Ms Bipana Manandhar**

(Program Coordinator)

from August 2005 to April 2007

**Ms Rajani Karmacharya**

(Administration Coordinator)

from November 2003 to May 2005

**Mr Ramesh Shrestha**

(Office Supporter)

from August, 2003 to September 2003

## WWG shifts Office

From 14<sup>th</sup> April' 2007, WWG has shifted its office venue from Ecce House Jwagal, Lalitpur to a new location.

## Auditing & Financial Report

An auditing of the two projects of WWG was performed in accordance with Nepal Standards on Auditing (NSA). Embassy of Finland had supported and funded two projects of Wildlife Watch Group. The two projects supported by the Embassy included International Conference on Conflict and Conservation and Conflict and Conservation. The first project entitled International Conference on Conflict and Conservation was an international conference organised for reviewing the situation of wildlife in National parks and wildlife reserves of Nepal with the objective to attract attention of international wildlife journalist and to spread general awareness while the project entitled Conflict and Conservation was organised to study the effect of conflict on wildlife in eleven National Parks of Nepal, to raise awareness and finally publishing 1000 copies of the book containing the outcomes of the result.

The objectives of the audit done by Chartered accountants KB Chitrakar and Co in accordance with Nepal Standards on Auditing (NSA) was to

- » To check if the fund accountability statements for the project contracted with the embassy was presented fairly in all material respects, revenues received, cost incurred and commodities and technical assistance obtained from the embassy during the periods of the project.

- » To evaluate and obtain sufficient understanding of internal control, access control risk, and identifying reportable condition including material internal control weaknesses and to perform test to determine if the recipient had complied in all respect with agreement terms, applicable laws and regulation related to program.

Within the auditing program a meeting was organised between the embassy and WWG officials. A proper examination of the documents supporting fund receipt and disbursement was conducted, a proper understanding and review of the accounting, administrative and internal control systems was also performed. The contracts, pertinent documents, work plan and other applicable rules and regulation was reviewed, and a appropriate test on transaction presented in Fund Accountability Statements was done, appropriate audit steps and procedures was taken to detect errors, the effectiveness of controls applied by management was tested to ensure its compliance with laws, regulation and agreement terms, and finally resolutions of past audit recommendation was also reviewed under the auditing program.

# PARTNER HIGHLIGHT



## Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation

[www.dnpwc.gov.np](http://www.dnpwc.gov.np)

The overall goal of the Department is to conserve and manage the rich and diverse biological diversity of Nepal with much emphasis on wildlife and protected areas. The primary objectives of the Department are to conserve the country's major representative ecosystems, unique natural and cultural heritage, and give protection to the valuable and endangered wildlife species. It also encourages scientific research for the preservation of wild genetic diversity.



## IUCN Nepal

[www.iucnnepal.org](http://www.iucnnepal.org)

IUCN-The World Conservation Union was created in 1948. IUCN brings together 82 States, 112 government agencies, 850 plus I/NGOs, and some 10,000 scientists and experts from over 180 countries in a unique worldwide partnership and it works globally to enhance ecosystem conditions and the well-being of people. IUCN began work in Nepal in the 1960s, assisting early government efforts at conservation. Nepal became a state member of IUCN in 1973, and the Nepal Country Office was officially established in 1995.



## The International Primate Protection League

[www.ippl.org](http://www.ippl.org)

The International Primate Protection League was founded in 1973, and, since this time, has been working continuously for the well-being of primates. IPPL has Field Representatives in 31 countries. Its Advisory Board is composed of experts from the fields of zoology, anthropology, medicine, biology, veterinary medicine, and

psychology. Many IPPL officers have lived for long periods with primates in their natural habitats.

In countries where primates live, IPPL's Field Representatives work to create and preserve national parks and sanctuaries, and for bans on primate hunting, trapping, and local and international trade.



## Wildlife Trust of India

[www.wti.org.in](http://www.wti.org.in)

Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) was formed in November 1998 in response to the rapidly deteriorating condition of wildlife in India. WTI is a registered charity in India (under Section 12A of the Income Tax Act, 1961). It has as its express purpose the provision of rapid aid to wildlife in times of crisis.

Its principal concerns are crisis management and the provision of quick, efficient aid to those areas that require it the most. In the longer term it hopes to achieve, through proactive reforms, an atmosphere conducive to conserving India's wildlife and its habitat.



## WWF Nepal

[www.wwfnepal.org](http://www.wwfnepal.org)

World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) was established in 1961 by a group of scientists, naturalists and business and political leaders as an international fundraising organization that would collaborate with existing conservation groups to bring substantial financial support to worldwide conservation efforts. It is dedicated to protecting the world's wildlife and wild lands. The largest privately supported international conservation organization in the world, WWF has more than 1million members in the U.S. alone.

Since its inception in 1961, the WWF has invested in over 13,100 projects in 157 countries. The WWF directs its conservation efforts toward three global goals: protecting endangered species, saving endangered species and addressing global threats. Today, WWF is the leading privately supported international conservation organization in the world.



## The Species Survival Network (SSN)

[www.ssn.org](http://www.ssn.org)

The Species Survival Network (SSN), founded in 1992, is an international coalition of over eighty non-governmental organizations (NGOs) committed to the promotion, enhancement, and strict enforcement of the Convention on

International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Through scientific and legal research, education and advocacy, the SSN is working to prevent over-exploitation of animals and plants due to international trade.



## Wildlife Conservation Nepal

[www.wcn.org.np](http://www.wcn.org.np)

Wildlife Conservation Nepal, a non-governmental organization registered with the Government of Nepal, is not for profit organization. It was established with a view to protect and conserve natural heritage and disseminate information on environment and wildlife issues.

*continue from pg. 26*

said that no one should promote illegal import of birds and Commission of investigation of Abuse of Authority should take necessary action in the incident as responsible authority failed to do its duty, and let the smuggler escape.

The Chairman of Wildlife Watch Group has also demanded that there should be a high level investigation as it was not only the matter of killing the birds but also saving the smugglers.

Seven conservation organizations have raised objection issuing an appeal over killing of the birds without letting the experts examine and identify the species.

## Memorandum to Forest and Soil Conservation Minister Matrika Yadav

A memorandum was submitted to Minister Matrika Yadav to draw and focus attention of government towards the conservation of Natural and Cultural Heritage during interim period besides the election. The memorandum presented some of the policies

that should be issued in order to conserve natural and cultural heritage. The policies mentioned in the memorandum included issuing of CITES Act to prevent and control illicit trade and poaching of wildlife which otherwise might increase during transitional period.

## Parliament Committee Discussion

On January 10, 2007 a parliamentary committee meeting was held in the environment conservation Committee of House of Representative to discuss on the rhino poaching scenario of Nepal. This was the first time in Nepal's parliamentary history that rhino poaching drew attention of parliamentarians. The participants in the meeting included the state minister of forest and soil conservation Dilendra Prasad Badu, lawmakers, and around two dozen conservationists representing NGOs and INGOs. On behalf WWG, the chairman Mr Mangal Man Shakya attended the meeting.





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## Wildlife Watch Group

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