



Wildlife Nepal



Department of National Parks & Wildlife Conservation

Newsletter

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Celebration of World Wetland Day 2017 (2073)

With the theme for 2017 “Wetlands for Disaster Risk Reduction”, World Wetland Day was celebrated in Nepal on 2 February 2017 in order to raise public awareness on the vital role of healthy wetlands in reducing the impacts of extreme events such as floods, droughts and landslides on communities, and to help in building resilience. The program organized by Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) was inaugurated by the chief guest Honorable Minister of Forests and Soil Conservation Shankar Bhandari. The chief guest expressed that wetland should be conserved and managed for reducing disaster risk. Sustainable and wise use of wetland resources is beneficial to enhance livelihood of people and community and emphasized that the planned programs should reflect such values.

The special guest of the program, Mr. Prakash Mathema, Secretary of Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (MoFSC) highlighted that wetland are multidimensional and is also a trans-boundary matter, therefore, all the

concerned institutions should have active participation and contribution for the conservation and balanced management of wetlands. Similarly other guests, namely, Dr. Swoyambhu Man Amatya, representing former Secretaries; Mr. Bijay Raj Poudel, Director General of Department of Soil Conservation and Watershed Management, on behalf of all heads of departments; Mr. Bishwo Nath Upreti, representing former Director Generals; and Mr. Gobinda Gajurel on behalf of conservation partner organization, highlighted on the importance of wetland area. Mr. Man Bahadur Khadka, Director General of DNPWC and the chair of the program committed that the department will always play significant role in wetland conservation and management and expressed his gratitude to all the guests and participants for their presence in the program.

Furthermore, various activities and programs were carried out on the occasion of World Wetland Day 2017. An inter-school essay competition on “Wetlands for Disaster Risk Reduction” was organized and the first five winners



were awarded by the Honorable Minister on the occasion. Additionally, he launched two books, namely Status, distribution and conservation threats of Ganges river dolphins in Nepal, and Birds of Banke National Park. He also inaugurated the hoarding board which reflected the importance of wetland within *Ban Parisar*, Babarmahal, Kathmandu. To raise public awareness on wetland conservation, a green rally was organized from *Ban Parisar-Maitighar Mandala- Bijuli Bazar* and back to *Ban Parisar, Babarmahal*. Students and teachers of various schools and colleges as well as officials of government and non-governmental organizations and journalists participated in the rally.

Second Steering Committee meeting of Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection (GSLEP) Program

Nepal is one of the 12 countries in the world where snow leopards are found. With the goal to conserve the Himalayan ecosystem where rare snow leopard inhabits and for the management of their food availability, Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection (GSLEP) program was formed with countries where the species is found. The second meeting of steering committee was conducted on 20th January, 2017 which was inaugurated by Honorable Prime Minister Puspa Kamal Dahal (Prachanda). He launched the Snow Leopard Conservation Action Plan for Nepal (2017-2021) which was prepared for the conservation of snow leopard in Nepal.



Pre-planning workshop for fiscal year 2074/75

The pre-planning workshop for fiscal year 2074/75 and the first quarterly progress report sharing of fiscal year 2073/74 was conducted from 19 to 21 January 2017.

The formal program was inaugurated by Mr. Man Bahadur Khadka, Director General of DNPWC. Representatives of National Planning Commission, Ministry of Finance, and Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation highlighted the planning guidelines in relation to budget and program planning. On the basis of those guidelines, and policies and action plan of DNPWC, the department and its subordinate offices prepared and presented the budget and programs of their respective areas and in-depth discussions were held on those plans.



In addition, on the last day of the workshop, Monitoring and Evaluation section of DNPWC presented the first quarterly progress of the programs carried in ongoing fiscal year 2073/74 and discussions were held on it.

Briefing to Honorable State Minister of Forests and Soil Conservation

Honorable State Minister of MoFSC, Dirgha Raj Bhat, was briefed about the present activities of DNPWC on 2 December 2016. On the occasion, Hon. State Minister said that officials are the permanent government and therefore should work with high morale in conservation sector. Mr. Pem Narayan Kandel, officiating Secretary of MoFSC had participated on

the program. Mr. Man Bahadur Khadka, Director General of DNPWC delivered a welcome speech while Mr. Gopal Prasad Bhattarai, Deputy Director General of DNPWC gave an informative overview on the establishment of DNPWC, its objectives, achievements, key issues and challenges and the opportunities of the department.

Interaction Program with Forest Officials of Bangladesh

An interaction program between an exposure visit team from Bangladesh which was led by Conservator of Department of Forest of Bangladesh; and officials of DNPWC was held at the office of DNPWC, Babarmahal on 15 December 2016. Mr. Man Bahadur Khadka, Director General of DNPWC welcomed the team and gave an overview on the initiatives taken by department and achievement on biodiversity conservation. His presentation was followed by the open discussion in context to biodiversity conservation.



Inauguration of National Zoological Park, Suryabinayak Bhaktapur Office

Department of National Parks and Wildlife conservation (DNPWC) organized the opening program of National Zoological Park, Suryabinayak, Bhaktapur Office on 13 January, 2017. The program was inaugurated by chief guest Dr. Krishna Chandra Poudel, Secretary of Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (MoFSC). He mentioned that establishment of national zoological park will bring solution to the issues on animal welfare together with local communities and committed to take necessary steps required working closely with Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs). Further, he informed that, out of the total land area of the park i.e. 245.169 hectares, 14.2 hectares has been allocated for Wildlife Rescue Centre. Representing the Chairperson of CFUGs, Mr. Bishwo Ram Thapa committed to provide support for the operation of national zoological



park. He further emphasized that program under this operation shall provide employment opportunities to the local communities. Mr. Gopal Prakash Bhattarai, Deputy Director General of DNPWC, Babarmahal delivered welcome speech and highlighted on the importance of national

zoological park. Mr. Man Bahadur Khadka, Director General of DNPWC, in his closing remarks, added that the management plans of the zoological park shall be developed and implemented with consensus of the local people and with consideration of their demands.

Welcome to newly appointed Director General

According to the ministerial level decision of Government of Nepal on 17 November 2017, Mr. Man Bahadur Khadka, Regional Director, Eastern Regional Forests Directorate was appointed as Director General of Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC). The department organized the welcome program for newly appointed Director General.

Mr. Gopal Prasad Bhattra, Deputy Director General of DNPWC delivered welcome speech and expressed warm wishes for his successful tenure. He further gave an overview of the department. Mr. Khadka, in his speech, pointed that this department has been able to establish its identity in the world in the sector of conservation and commits to set new heights with the help of all the employees of the department.



Visit to Sagarmatha and Makalu-Barun National park by Honorable Minister of Forests and Soil Conservation

Honorable Minister with his team visited the office of Sagarmatha National Park at Namche and Lukla area within the buffer zone. The Chief Conservation Officer of Sagarmatha National Park gave an overview on the present situation of conservation and management of National Park.

Hon. Minister and the team also visited Mera peak Base villages engaged in tourism services within the buffer zone area of Makalu Barun National Park. Interactive discussion with those involved in tourism business was carried on in Lukla which addressed existing problems in relation to tourism service operation and its possible solution in Mera Peak area.

Celebration of Third National Day of Community Based Anti Poaching Youth Awareness Campaign and World Wildlife Day 2017

With the theme of “Listen to the young voices”, Third National Day of Community Based Anti Poaching Youth Awareness Campaign and World Wildlife Day, 2017 was celebrated at the premises of Shuklaphanta National Park office on 3rd March, 2017. On this special occasion, Hon. State Minister of Forests and Soil Conservation, Dirgha Raj Bhatt, inaugurated the signboard of Shuklaphanta National Park Office, 2017.

Chief guest Hon. State Minister Mr. Dirgha Raj Bhatt and Special guest Mr. Man Bahadur Khadka, Director General of Department of National Parks and Wildlife

Conservation, expressed the importance of conservation of wildlife, plants and biodiversity; and importance and role of local communities in controlling wildlife crimes and poaching. On the occasion, Chaliya, Sakhiya, Deuda and some other cultural dances and local practices were also performed. Furthermore, Mr. Gyanendra Poudel, Joint Secretary of MoFSC; Mr. Sudhir Koirala, Regional Director, Far Western Regional Forests Directorate, and other officials from government and non-government sectors as well as representatives of political parties and user groups also participated on the auspicious event.



Visit to Chitwan National Park by Honorable Vice President

Honorable Vice President Nanda Kishor Pun visited Chitwan National Park on 10 February, 2017. He signed on the Conservation Information board (Chautari) placed at Kasara of Chitwan National Park and showed his commitment in conservation sector.

Natural death of Rhino

A male rhino, ID No. 21009, trans-located from Chitwan National Park to Babai Valley was found dead near the bank of Babai River in Dhanushe area of Babai Valley on 19 February 2017. The GPS location noted for the spot was 0562879/3139313. Since the Satellite Radio collar of the rhino was not functioning, a patrol from Soth Khola Post was sent for monitoring on 1 March 2017 and the dead body was found.

A nearly one month old male rhino calf died by tripping over into a hole formed by the fallen tree. The dead body was found in GPS location N27°34'48" in Jhille area, South of Barahijungle Resort in Chitwan National park. Since the horn was not developed the calf's dead body was buried in the same area.

Trans-location of wild buffalo

A total of 15 wild buffaloes, 12 from Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve and 3 from Central Zoo, were trans-located in Padampur area of Chitwan National Park. Among those, 12 individuals were female while remaining 3 were male. CNP allocated 30 hectare area with enclosure (special area with fencing) in old Padampur area for these wild buffaloes. The enclosure consists of grassland, trees and water bodies and ensures safety of the translocated animals from possible attacks of other animals.

Chinese Team visit Chitwan National Park

Government of Nepal has decided to gift two pairs of one-horned rhino to China government. Therefore, a Chinese ministerial team visited Chitwan National Park to look at the status and habitat of the rhinos on 4 to 6 January 2017. Both party cooperation and support was discussed with the team.

Human Wildlife Conflict Incidents

A motorbike hit spotted deer in the Ameni road section near Kuwabhar of East-West Highway passing through Bardia National Park on 21 January 2017. The deer died with severe injury in the abdomen. Bishnu Bhakta Rawal, resident of Tikapur-9, Kailali also died on the accident spot.

Bijay Pariyar, also known as Amrit, was killed in an elephant attack on 7 March 2017. He was a resident of Babai Municipality -3, Bardiya National park. Musaharu Yadav from western part of Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve,

Kushaha-4, Sunsari district was lost his life in an attack of wild buffalo. Yadav's dead body was found in Uttar Bufferzone area which is about 200 meter east from Tetarigachi post of the reserve on 21 November 2016.

Saraswoti Basnet of Beldadi Municipality-3, Kanchanpur was injured by rhino attack in Bichuwasphata of Shuklaphanta National Park on 29 December 2016. Rhino attacked and injured Buddhinath Aryal, a resident of Buddhanagar, Meghauri-9, Chitwan National Park on 18 December 2016.

Chitwan National Park celebrated thousand days of zero rhino poaching

CNP reported no rhino deaths from poachers since 3 May 2014 to 23 January 2017 and therefore, the Park Authority and Nepal Army deployed for protection of Chitwan National Park (Shree Jung Gan) celebrated 1000 days of zero rhino poaching. Hon. Minister of Forests and Soil Conservation Shankar Bhandari inaugurated the hoarding board with the picture of one-horned rhino and titled as "1000 days of zero rhino poaching" in dam side of Sauraha in the eastern sector of national park. Furthermore, the similar picture was also inaugurated in the premises of Jung Gan on the same day. On the occasion, Hon. Minister expressed the opportunity of amendment of act in order to enforce strict law against illegal hunting and poaching of wild animals. Before to this occasion, Chitwan National Park has celebrated 450 and 440 days of zero rhino poaching in 2011 and 2013 respectively. This was possible due to the joint effort of the park, security forces, community and conservation partners working tirelessly to combat the illegal wildlife poaching.

Pangolin released in its natural habitat

A pangolin was found in the lawn of Chandrakala Buda in Rajkanda, Taranga VDC-1, Surkhet district within area of Bardia National Park on 1 January 2017. The pangolin was brought to the office of Bardia National park and after the necessary treatment; it was released in its natural habitat in Chigkaiya area.

Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve declared as a National Park

According to National Park and Wildlife Reserve Act 2029, article 3 of sub article (1) and (2), Government of Nepal declared Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve as Shuklaphanta National Park. On the occasion of Third National Day of Community based anti poaching control youth awareness campaign and World Wildlife Day, 2017, on 3rd March 2017, Hon. State Minister of Forests and Soil Conservation, Dirgha Raj Bhatt, inaugurated the signboard of Shuklaphanta National Park Office, 2017.

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