Kangchenjunga Golden Jubilee Celebration

On the occasion of Mt. Kangchenjunga Golden Jubilee celebration, a seminar on "Adventure Tourism, Conservation and Development in Kangchenjunga" was organized by Nepal Mountaineering Association on 25 May 2005 in partnership with ICIMOD, TMI, IUCN, TRAPAP and WWF NP. The program was participated by more than 50 participants representing different organizations and international delegates including the first summiteers of Mt. Kangchenjunga - George Band, Tony Streather and Norman Hardie. Representatives of TRAPAP, IUCN, ICIMOD and TMI Tibet Program made presentations on conservation and development work and sacredness of Kangchenjunga Region. Program Manager of Kangchenjunga Conservation Area Project (KCAP) Ang Phuri Sherpa made a presentation on Conserving Gift to the Earth, Kangchenjunga Conservation Area. The summiteers also made a slide presentation of their experiences of Mt. Kangchenjunga first summit. After the presentation, two new publications - Birds of Kangchenjunga Conservation Area and Kangchenjunga Conservation Area Project, A Retrospective (1998-2005) were released by Mr George Band and Dr Harka Gurung respectively. In the evening session, all known summiteers of Kangchenjunga were felicitated by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Paras Bir Bikram Shah Dev.
Realizing the need of awareness on rhino conservation among the people living around protected areas, WWF Nepal Program organized a week long 'Save the Rhino Campaign' in Royal Chitwan National Park (RCNP) from 22 to 28 May 2005. Started on the occasion of the International Biodiversity Day, the campaign had the theme "Ustai Prani Ustai Pida, Milera Jogaun Ek Singe Gainda" (Same creature, same agony, let’s save the one-horned rhino). The campaign was successful in involving people from diverse walks of life: from celebrities to farmers and journalists to school children and businesspersons. Lok Dohori (folk song), field visits for media persons within the park, interactions among various stakeholders including the media, speech competition among school children with the theme ‘Rhino Conservation leads to secure future,’ cultural program featuring songs and dances on rhino conservation theme, door to door awareness campaign targeting the local people and other activities were organized during the campaign. Large number of local people, school children, journalists and other stakeholders enthusiastically took part in the various campaign activities. Addressing the inaugural program, Chief Warden of RCNP Shiv Raj Bhatta stressed on the need of concerted efforts for rhino conservation. Dr Sarala Khaling of WWF Nepal Program, interacting with the media, highlighted on the immediate need for detailed research on various aspects of rhino conservation such as biological reasons behind the decreasing number of rhinos.

WWF Nepal Program’s first Conservation Ambassador Miss Nepal 2004 Payal Shakya stressed on the importance of the youth and their role and responsibility towards the conservation of one horned rhinoceros.

**Lok Dohari Competition**

Participants singing Lok dohari (folk song) with a rhino conservation theme at the competition held on the inaugural day of the week long Save the Rhino Campaign on 22 May 2005 at Meghauli, Chitwan.

**Inter School Speech Competition**

First prize winner Dinesh Bashyal reciting speech on rhino conservation during the inter school speech competition. The competition was organized at Saraswati High School in Amaltari sector of RCNP.

**Door to Door awareness program**

The door to door awareness program reached above 300 community members including men, women and children of the Majhi, Bote, Mushahar communities and the flood victims in Amaltari area of RCNP. The main objective of the door to door campaign was to highlight on the stakes and contribution of these two ethnic groups in rhino conservation.
More than 250 BZUC members participated in the interaction programs held at Kasara, Sauraha, Nawalparasi and Madi sectors. BZUCs from each sectors showed commitments to focus their future activities on rhino conservation by allocating the BZUC’s budget for habitat management, conservation education/awareness through the Eco Clubs and other youth groups such as the Youth Anti Poaching Awareness Campaign.

Mr Mohan Chaudhari from Mrigakunja Users Committee stood first in the Run for the Rhino competition. He completed the 4 km run in 12 minutes among the 41 participants.

A week long Save the Rhino Campaign concluded on 28 May 2005 with the prize and certificates distribution to the winners and participants of various competitions. The representative of the BZUCs and BZUGs appreciated the awareness campaign for being able to reach local communities extensively.

Lawyers, scientists and campaigners from several countries including Australia, India, USA and Nepal had a meeting on Climate Science and Justice in London. The meeting, participated by Climate Change staff of WWF USA, Germany, UK and Nepal, focused on the Climate Change Science, its impacts as well as making the legal case of the impacts.

WWF Nepal Program, together with Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM) and Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology (MOEST) is undertaking Climate Change impact research on the glacier environment. As per the plan, DHM officers had been to Ngozumpa and Khumbu glacier and its surrounding areas to select the site for the equipment installation. WWF Nepal Program is providing Automatic Weather Station (AWS) and Hydrometric Station (HS) to DHM which will be installed in the field for monitoring glacier, glacier fluctuation and generating data for climate change impact analysis.

As WWF Nepal program has already initiated working on freshwater issues, river basin management is going to be one of the focus areas. To support the future directions on river basin management, Freshwater Officer Neera Shrestha Pradhan attended a Training Workshop in River Basin Management and Organizations in Sri Lanka organized by NARBO, the Network of Asian River Basin Organizations.
On 19 May 2005, WWF Nepal Program celebrated its 12th Anniversary on its office premises. The celebration started with the well wishes from various WWF Networks, partners and supporters, recorded in a video cassette. Country Representative Dr Chandra Gurung handed over awards and certificates to the winners of various titles. Program Officer Shubash Lohani won the Employee of the Year award. Likewise, Project Support Officer Sunil Mani Dahal, Director of F&A Prashant Singh, GIS Officer Gokarna Jung Thapa and Director of DRM unit Dr Sarala Khaling won the titles of Best Team Player - 2005, Gift of the Gab Award - 2005, Congeniality Award - 2005 and The Busy-Bee Award - 2005 respectively. Similarly, cash awards were given to Ms Corona Ranjit, Mr Ishwor Shrestha and Mr Hira Kaji Manandhar, who have served WWF Nepal Program Office for more than a decade. WWF Nepal Program’s first Conservation Ambassador Miss Nepal 2004 Payal Shakya performed a dance as a guest appearance which was then followed by the Talent Hunt Contest. Communication Assistant Anec Tamang won the title - Talent of the Year 2005.

Similarly, Conservation Program Director Anil Manandhar joined the field team in TAL to celebrate the anniversary where around 50 community members also participated. Project Co-Manager of TAL DNPWC Tilak Dhakal was honored with the Walked the Extra Mile - 2005 award.

Kangchenjunga Conservation Area Project, A Retrospective, 1998-2005
The Kangchenjunga Conservation Area Project, A Retrospective, 1998-2005, is an important and timely document that reflects the commitments made and results achieved through community based integrated conservation and development project during the past seven years.

Birds of Kangchenjunga Conservation Area
This field guide on Birds of Kangchenjunga provides all the confirmed bird records from Kangchenjunga Conservation Area. A total of 280 species of birds including residents and migrants have been listed. These bird records at Kangchenjunga represent 40 bird families of the world.

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