

# Blue Bull

नीलगाई



## Hariyo Ban Program



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### Illustrations

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## Morphology and Structure

Blue Bull (*Boselaphus tragocamelus* Pallas, 1766) also known as Nilgai, is the largest antelope in Nepal. Adult male has a dark grey-blue coat, female and calf are sandy brown. Both female and male have a white bib and grow small dark colored horns. Horn of adult male is longer than female and grows upto 20 cm. The under parts of male and female is dark blue grey to black and white to dirty white in color, respectively. Adult male and female Nilgai weigh between 180 to 240 kg and 120 to 220 kg, respectively. The head-body length is about 170 to 200 cm whereas tail length is 30 to 50 cm. Female and male can be easily distinguished by the color of the body and horns.

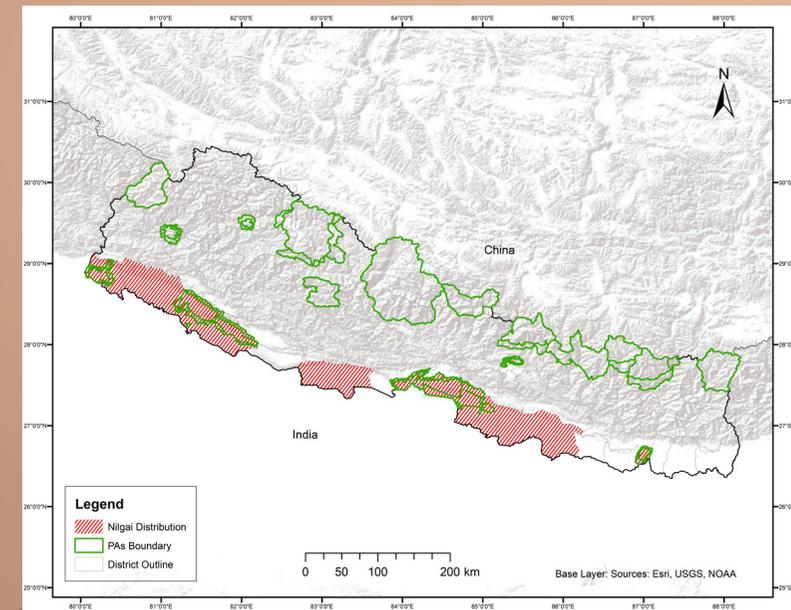
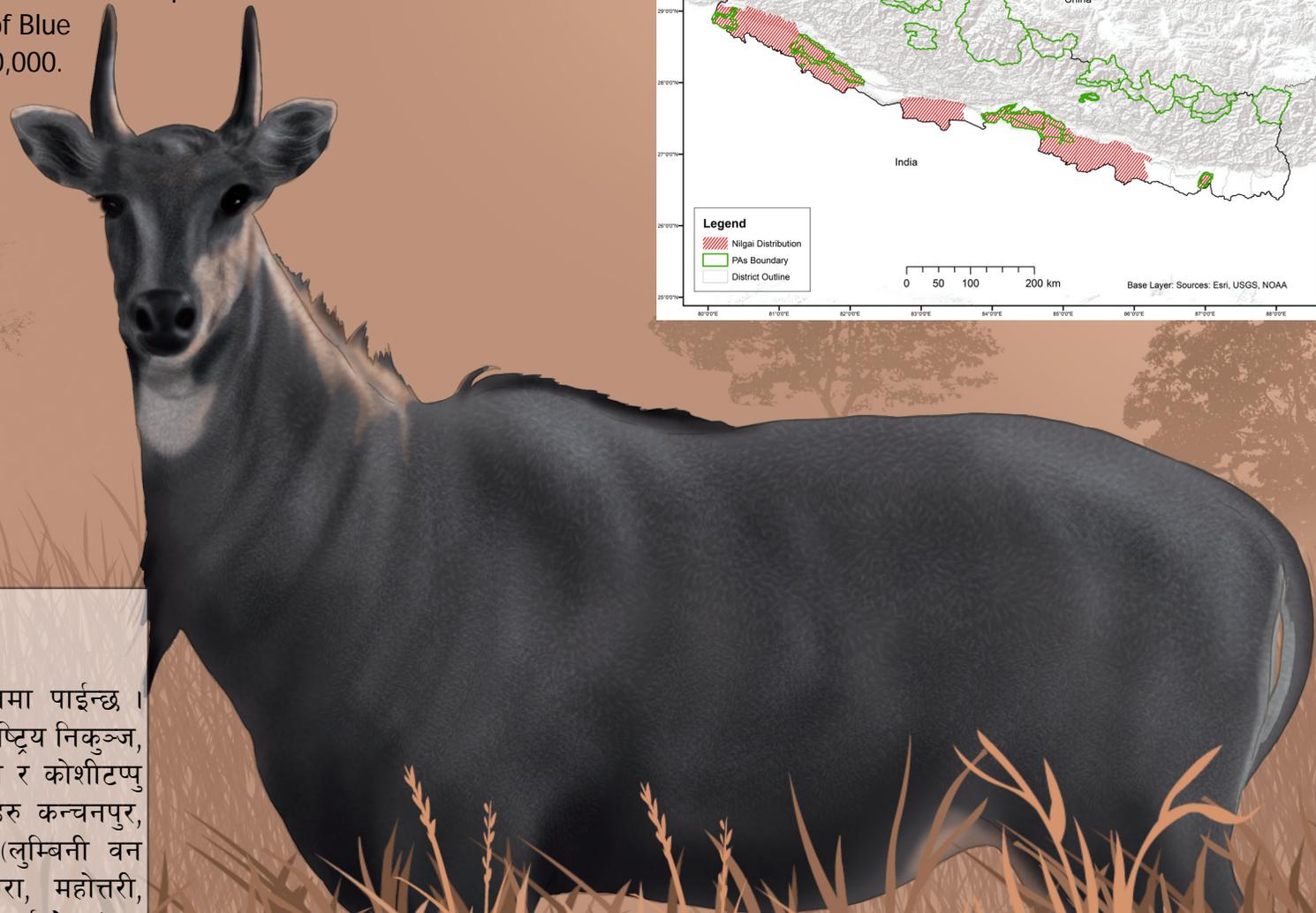
## शारीरिक बनावट

नीलगाई नेपालको सबैभन्दा ठुलो एन्टिलोप प्रजाति हो । वयस्क भालेको शरीरको रंग खैरो-निलो हुन्छ भने पोथी र बच्चाको रंग फुस्रो-खैरो हुन्छ । भाले पोथी दुबैको घाँटी सेतो हुनुका साथै दुबैको सानो र गाढा रंगको सिङ्ग पनि हुन्छ । भाले नीलगाईको तल्लो भाग गाढा निलो-खैरो हुन्छ र पोथीको भने सेतो र मैलो सेतो रंगको हुन्छ । पोथीको भन्दा भालेको सिङ्ग ठूलो हुन्छ र १६-२० से.मी. सम्म लामो हुन्छ । दुवै भाले र पोथी नीलगाईको तौल क्रमश १८०-२४० के.जी. र १२०-२२० के.जी. सम्म हुन्छ । एउटा वयस्क नीलगाईको लम्बाई १७०-२०० से.मी. हुन्छ भने पुच्छरको लम्बाई ३०-५० से.मी. हुन्छ । पोथी र भालेलाई सिङ्गको आकार र शरीरको रंगको आधारमा सजिलै छुट्याउन सकिन्छ ।



## Distribution and Population

Blue Bull is found in Nepal, India and Pakistan. In Nepal, Blue Bull is found in Shuklaphanta National Park, Bardia National Park, Chitwan National Park, Parsa National Park and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve and also occurs in the adjoining districts of Kanchanpur, Kailali, Bardia, Banke, Kapilvastu, Rupandehi (Lumbini forests), Parasi, Nawalpur, Parsa, Rautahat, Bara, Mahottari, Sarlahi and Dhanusha. Global population of Blue Bull is estimated between 70,000 and 100,000. In Nepal the population of Blue Bull is estimated to be between 289 and 324.



### भौगोलिक बिस्तार र सङ्ख्या

विश्वमा नीलगाई नेपाल, भारत र पाकिस्तानमा पाईन्छ । नीलगाई शुक्लाफाँटा राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्ज, बर्दिया राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्ज, चितवन राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्ज, पर्सा राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्ज र कोशीटप्पु वन्यजन्तु आरक्षमा पाईन्छ । यसबाहेक यिनीहरु कन्चनपुर, कैलाली, बर्दिया, बाँके, कपिलवस्तु, रुपन्देही (लुम्बिनी वन क्षेत्र), नपरासी, नवलपुर, पर्सा, रौतहट, बारा, महोत्तरी, सर्लाही, धनुषासम्म पाईन्छन् । विश्वमा नीलगाईको संख्या ७०,००० देखि १००,००० सम्म र नेपालमा २८९ देखि ३२४ रहेको अनुमान गरिएको छ ।

## Habitat

Blue Bull lives in light wooded forest, wooded grassland, scrub areas and agricultural areas and human settlements. Blue Bull usually avoids dense forests.

## बासस्थान

नीलगाई बाक्लो जंगलमा भन्दा पातलो रुख भएको घाँसेमैदान, जंगलमा अनि चौरमा बस्न मन पराउँछ। यो खेतवारी तथा मानव बस्ति नजिक पनि बस्न रुचाउँछ।



## Feeding Behaviour

Blue Bull is herbivore animal and feeds on various types of grasses, leaves, herbs, shrubs, buds, flowers, seeds and fruits, agricultural crops and drinks water regularly during the hot season but can go 2 to 4 days without water in cold weather.

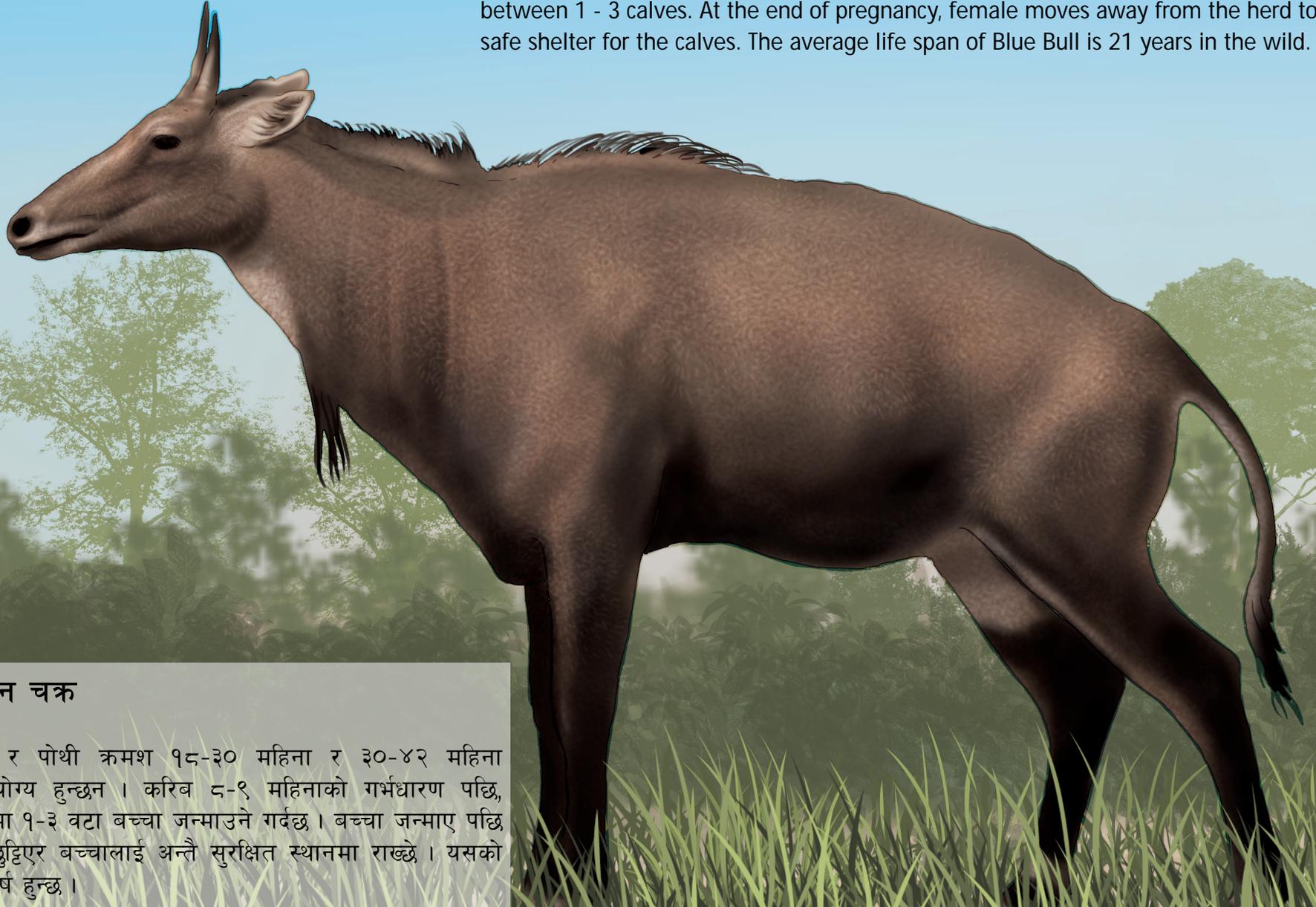


## आहार व्यवहार

नीलगाई शाकाहारी जीव हो । यसको मुख्य आहारा घाँस, पात, फूल, फलफूल आदि हुन । यसले खेतीबालीहरु पनि अत्यधिक रुचाउने गर्दछ । गर्मी मौसममा यसले प्रशस्त पानी पिउने गर्दछ भने हिउँदमा (चिसो मौसम) यो पानीबिना नै २-४ दिन बाँच्न सक्दछ ।

## Reproduction and Lifecycle

Female Blue Bull gets matured at the age of 18 to 30 months while male matures at the age of 30 to 42 months. After the gestation period of 8 to 9 months, female can give birth between 1 - 3 calves. At the end of pregnancy, female moves away from the herd to find a safe shelter for the calves. The average life span of Blue Bull is 21 years in the wild.



### प्रजनन र जीवन चक्र

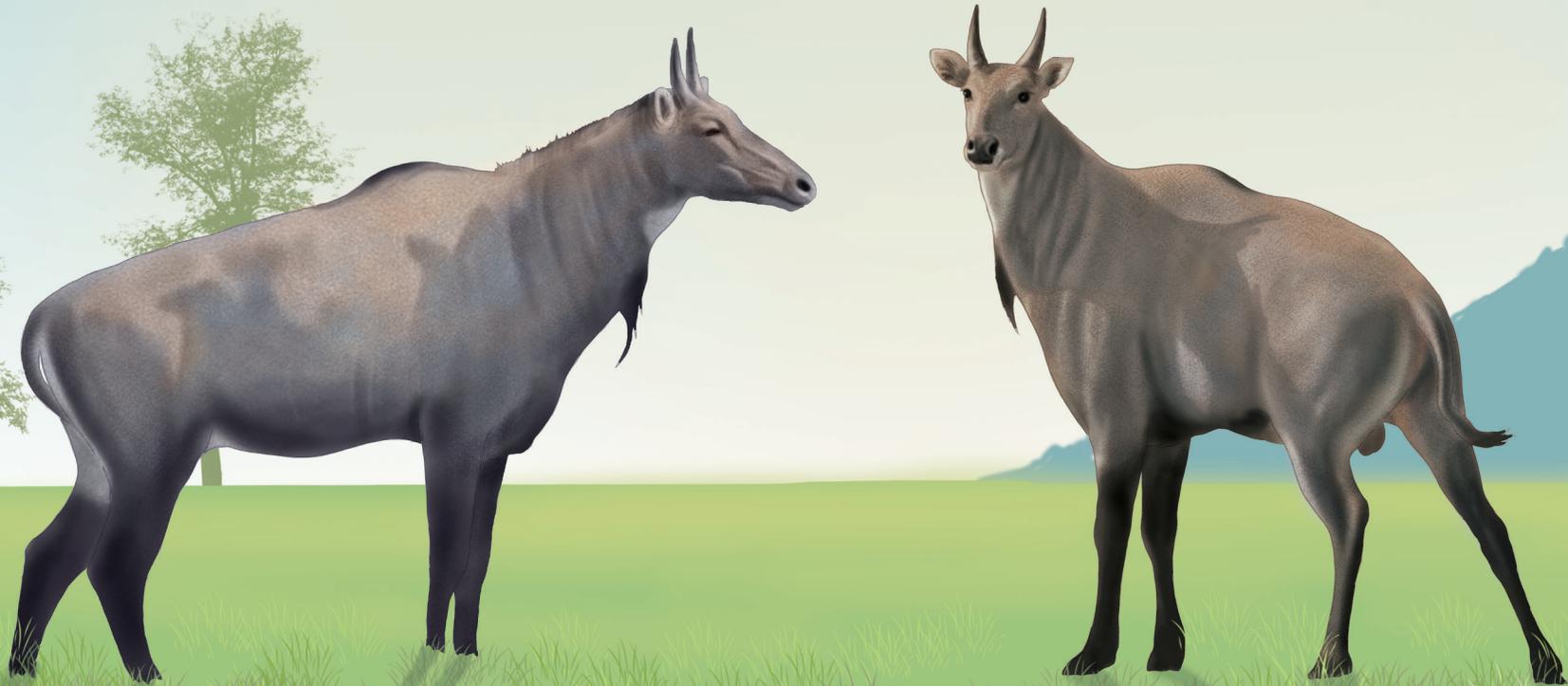
नीलगाईको भाले र पोथी क्रमश १८-३० महिना र ३०-४२ महिना पुगेपछि प्रजनन योग्य हुन्छन । करिब ८-९ महिनाको गर्भधारण पछि, पोथीले एक पटकमा १-३ वटा बच्चा जन्माउने गर्दछ । बच्चा जन्माए पछि पोथी बथानबाट छुट्टिएर बच्चालाई अन्तै सुरक्षित स्थानमा राख्छे । यसको औसत आयु २१ वर्ष हुन्छ ।

## Social Behaviour

Blue Bull is a diurnal and social animal. Generally, they are found in small herds of 4 to 20 individuals, but can form large groups of 20 to 100 individuals. However, adult male is also seen alone wandering widely at old ages.

## सामाजिक व्यवहार

नीलगाई प्रायः दिनमा सक्रिय रहने सामाजिक प्राणी हो । साधारणतया यिनीहरु ४-२० वटाको बथानमा बस्छन् तर कहिले काँही २०-१०० वटा सम्मको ठुलो समूह बनाएर पनि बस्छन् । भालेहरु बुढो भएपछि, ठुलो क्षेत्रमा एकलै विचरण गर्ने गरेको पाईन्छ ।



## Threats

Blue Bull is seldom killed or injured in retaliation in response to crop raiding. The major threat to this species is habitat loss and degradation due to human encroachment, clearing of forest for agriculture and over-grazing of livestock in their habitats.

## चुनौतिहरु

नीलगाईको संरक्षणका मुख्य चुनौतिहरुमा बासस्थान विनाश र क्षयीकरण हुन् । अत्यधिक खेतीवाली खाएको प्रतिशोधमा मार्ने वा घाइते बनाउने घटनाहरु कमै मात्र घट्ने गर्दछन् ।



## Conservation and Legal Status

The Blue Bull is globally categorized as Least Concern and nationally categorized as Vulnerable by the IUCN Red List Assessment while it is not yet listed in CITES Appendix. Blue Bull is not categorized under Protected List of Species in Nepal, but the Sub-section 3 and 6 of Section 26 of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1973 A.D. (2029 B.S.), protects all the wild animals within protected areas, and based on that provision, harming or killing of the Blue Bull is a punishable crime with the penalty of NPR 20,000-50,000 or imprisonment of 6 months to 1 years or both.



### संरक्षण र कानुनी व्यवस्था

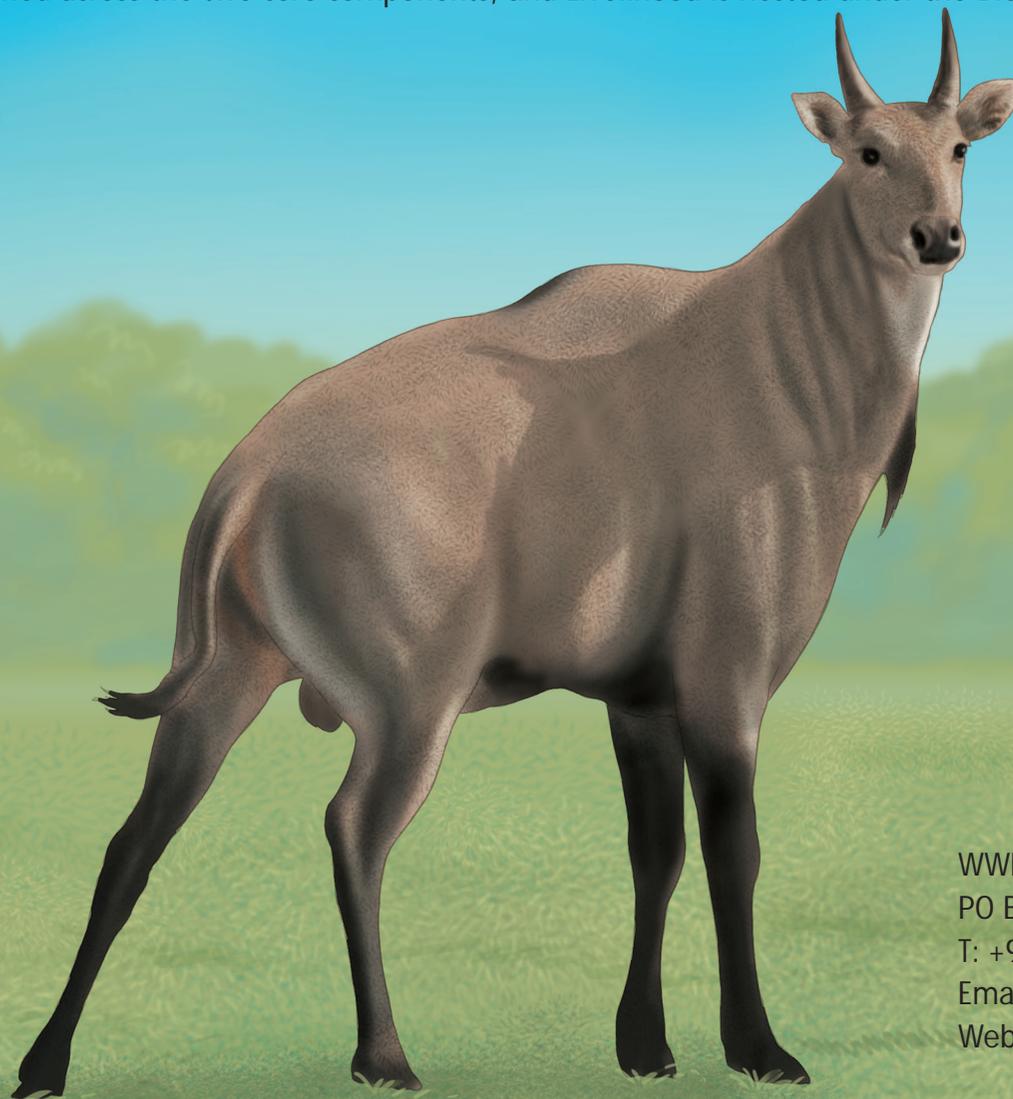
विश्वव्यापी रूपमा नीलगाईलाई आइयुसिएन को रातो सुचिमा सामान्य अवस्थामा रहेको प्रजाति तथा नेपालमा संवेदनशील अवस्थामा राखिएको छ, तर नीलगाईलाई हालसम्म साइटिस सुचिमा सुचिकृत गरिएको छैन । नीलगाईलाई संरक्षित जनावरको सुचीमा नराखियता पनि राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्ज तथा वन्यजन्तु संरक्षण ऐन, वि.सं.२०२९ को दफा २६ उपदफा (३) र (६) अन्तर्गत संरक्षित क्षेत्र भित्र नीलगाईलाई शिकार गरी मारेमा वा घाइते बनाएमा क्षेत्र तथा कसूरको मात्रा हेरी बीस हजारदेखि पचास हजार रुपैयाँसम्म जरिवाना वा छ महिनादेखि १ वर्षसम्म कैद वा दुवै सजाय हुने व्यवस्था गरिएको छ ।

## Key Facts

मुख्य तथ्यहरू

Common Name नाम	Nilgai/Blue Bull नीलगाई/घोडगधा
Scientific Name वैज्ञानिक नाम	<i>Boselaphus tragocamelus</i>
Height उचाई	120 - 150 cm १२० - १५० से.मी.
Weight तौल	180 - 240 kg १८० - २४० के.जी.
Global Status विश्वव्यापी अवस्था	Least Concern सामान्य अवस्था
National Status राष्ट्रिय अवस्था	Vulnerable संवेदनशिल
Global Population विश्वव्यापी संख्या	70,000 - 100,000 ७०,००० - १००,०००
National Population राष्ट्रिय संख्या	289-324 (estimated) २८९-३२४ (आंकलन)
Global Distribution विश्वव्यापी फैलावट	India, Nepal and Pakistan भारत, नेपाल र पाकिस्तान
National Distribution राष्ट्रिय फैलावट	Inside Protected Areas: Shuklaphanta National Park, Bardia National Park, Chitwan National Park, Parsa National Park, Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve. Outside Protected Areas: Kanchanpur, Kailali, Bardia, Banke, Rupandehi (Lumbini forests) Kapilvastu, Parasi, Nawalpur, Parsa, Rautahat, Mahottari, Sarlahi and Dhanusha संरक्षण क्षेत्र भित्र: शुक्लाफाँटा राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्ज, बर्दिया राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्ज, चितवन राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्ज, पर्सा राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्ज, कोशीटप्पु वन्यजन्तु आरक्ष संरक्षण क्षेत्र बाहिर: कञ्चनपुर, कैलाली, बर्दिया, बाँके, रुपन्देही, कपिलवस्तु, परासी, नवलपुर, पर्सा, रौतहट, महोत्तरी, सर्लाही र धनुषा जिल्लाहरूमा
Threats खतरा	Habitat encroachment, over grazing, retaliatory killing, deforestation बासस्थान अतिक्रमण, अत्याधिक चरिचरण, खेतीबाली खाएको प्रतिशोधमा मार्ने, वन विनाश

USAID's Hariyo Ban Program finds its inspiration from the popular saying 'Hariyo Ban: Nepal Ko Dhan' (Healthy green forests are the wealth of Nepal). It is designed to benefit nature and people in Nepal and emphasizes the links between people and forests. The goal of the Program is to increase ecological and community resilience in Chitwan-Annapurna Landscape (CHAL) and Terai Arc Landscape (TAL), and is implemented by a consortium of four partners: World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Nepal as prime recipient, the Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere (CARE), the National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC), and the Federation of Community Forestry Users, Nepal (FECOFUN). The first phase was implemented from 2011 to 2016 and the second phase will run till 2021. The second phase will build on the foundations of first phase, applying lessons learned and scaling-up promising approaches. It works on two core interwoven components – Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Change Adaptation. Governance, and Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) are cross-cutting themes that are mainstreamed across the two core components, and Livelihood is nested under the Biodiversity Conservation component.



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