

THE HARIYO BAN PROGRAM

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In the limelight : Sukbir Thami Get to know the people behind the Program

"I am young and motivated to work and there are millions of youths just like me in Nepal. We are drivers of development and prosperity and crucial players in conservation. We have great ability and energy to bring change in our communities but we often fail to see this. It is very important for youths to actually believe that they can become change agents. That's when we'll see wonders."

This month we talk to one of our young and dedicated field officers in the Hariyo Ban Program, Sukbir Thami. Born in 1984 in Dolakha and currently working in the same district, Sukbir works hard to bring positive change in his local community and is passionate about the environment.

Being the first-born in a family of eight members, Sukbir says, "My whole family is dependent on me. I supported my sister's marriage recently, and now I am taking care of my parents, and also my brothers who are studying. As well as my obligation towards my family, I feel great responsibility towards my community and society. The Hariyo Ban Program has given me an opportunity to fulfill both of these needs."

Sukbir won a scholarship from the Nepal Swiss Community Forestry Project (NSCFP) for his certificate-level education and has worked in several organizations including NSCFP, the Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal (FECOFUN), the Asia Network for Sustainable Agriculture and Bioresources (ANSAB) and the Gaurishankar Conservation Area Project (GCAP). "My past work experiences provided me with skills and knowledge in social inclusion, community development, community and leasehold forest management, climate change and REDD+, which is very useful for my current work in the Hariyo Ban Program."



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"Workwise, my present focus is to promote good governance in community forestry, provide information on the mandatory provision of community forestry public hearing and public auditing, and facilitate participatory well-being ranking. We have recently identified poor, vulnerable households based on the results of the well-being ranking in Kaski to initiate livelihood options in the near future," he adds.

At the end of the interview he concludes firmly: "While working for the Hariyo Ban Program provides me and my family with an opportunity to sustain our livelihood, it means more than just that. I know that through this program I can inspire others and transform my community. I work hard and at the end of the day, what matters more than my paycheck are the changes brought about from my work, from my project. That makes me sleep well at night."

Pallavi Dhakal
Communications officer,
Hariyo Ban Program, WWF Nepal

Photo Corner

Climate change poses one of the greatest threats to sustainable development as climate hazards are increasingly impacting vulnerable communities and ecosystems.

The Hariyo Ban Program's many activities include training at community level to build a common understanding of integrated climate vulnerability assessment and the tools and techniques for this process.

In the first year of the Program 274 individuals (117 male and 97 female), including 18 dalits, 79 janajatis and 9 madhesis were trained at various levels from government to community on different aspects of climate adaptation.



Villagers of Kamdi VDC, Banke explain the results of a participatory vulnerability assessment.

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Minimizing Human-Wildlife Conflict

Narad Mani Paudyal interview by Abdul Sahim Ansari, WWF Nepal



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Narad Mani Paudyal lives in Ayodhyapuri VDC, Ward Number 8 in Chitwan. For him human-wildlife conflict was a common occurrence in the past. "We used to live in fear of wild animals, particularly elephants. There were casualties in the past, our properties were destroyed and crops raided. There was a point when we even stopped growing crops such as rice, corn, wheat and millet. These crops were important for us to sustain livelihoods but we wanted to keep wild animals off our land."

Human-wildlife conflicts occur in one form or another in many parts of the world and Nepal is no exception. Particularly vulnerable are local communities who live along the fringes of protected areas. We often hear news of elephants and tigers killing people and livestock, and damaging crops and properties. This is reported particularly frequently in Bara, Rautahat, Jhapa, and Morang districts in eastern Nepal. In the Terai Arc Landscape, it mostly occurs on

the borders of Parsa and Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserves, and near Chitwan and Bardia National Parks. Damage by wildlife often has serious impacts on local people's lives and livelihoods. This understandably fosters a negative attitude to wild animals among local communities, and increases retaliatory killing of animals. Human-wildlife conflict is one of the major challenges in conservation of large mammals such as rhino, tiger, elephant and snow leopard in Nepal.

Electric fences have proven effective in minimizing human wildlife conflict in the Terai and there is a high demand for

fencing among the local communities where conflict is serious.

"Things are not like the way they were four years ago. After constructing electric fencing the damage is much reduced," says Narad. "The fencing has helped to keep wild animals away from our village. We grow crops without fear and since the crops are no longer destroyed our revenue has increased. We still sometimes encounter wild animals that come from the river corridor where there are no electric fences, but the damage doesn't happen as often as it did before," he adds.

Lately the Hariyo Ban Program helped support the construction of 9.2 km of electric fencing in Chitwan and Bardia, and 43.2 km of electric fence was repaired and upgraded in Bardia. These activities benefited 726 households. In addition, with WWF cost share funding, 8 km of solar electric fencing is being erected to stop wild elephants from entering farmland and settlements in Patabhar village, a hotspot for human-wildlife conflict in the buffer zone of Bardia National Park. The fence will be managed by the Patabhar Buffer Zone Users Committee. Solar fencing will also be maintained and extended for 6 km in the Karnali corridor.

Major updates from last month:

Blackbuck Translocation



In a joint effort with the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) and the National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC), the Hariyo Ban Program supported blackbuck translocation.

Find out the full story in our next newsletter.

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Gender and social inclusion trainings



Trainings were provided in Tanahu, Lamjung and Gorkha to strengthen the capacity of women and marginalized community members in decision making and to establish them as change agents in biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation.

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Livelihood Improvement Plan prepared



With the objective of improving livelihoods of poor and marginalized users and mobilizing community Forest Users Group funds for livelihood opportunities, Livelihood Improvement Plans were prepared. Different income generating activities such as raising livestock, poultry farming and establishing retail shops were identified in the planning. In Dharampani goats are handed over to a poor family as per the plan.

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Upcoming Events

- 25th November 2012: Opening of Kathmandu International Arts Festival
- 11th December 2012: International Mountain Day

Brain Teaser:

This month's question: Which countries were the first to propose the concept of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation?

Answer to last month's question:

Rhinoceros is on the back of the hundred rupee Nepali banknote. Find out more about this endangered species by visiting this website: http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/endangered_species/rhinoceros/



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