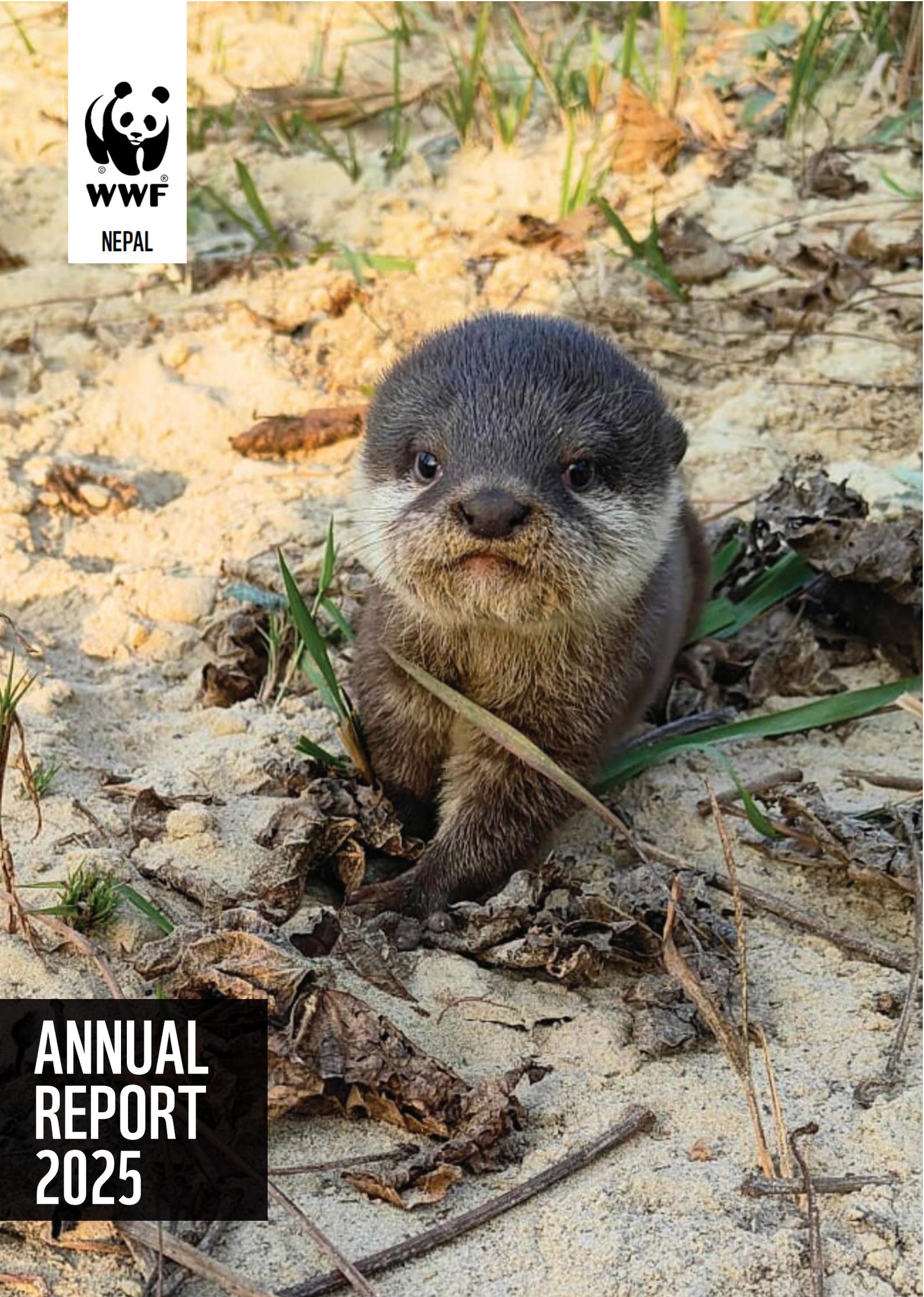




ANNUAL REPORT 2025





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Cover photo: A first in 185 years, this young Asian small-clawed otter was spotted in Nepal last year. © Padam Raj Badu

ABOUT WWF NEPAL

Starting as a small group of committed wildlife and conservation enthusiasts in 1961, WWF has grown into one of the world's largest conservation organizations with its work spanning over 100 countries. Over time, WWF has grown and gone beyond the initial localized efforts favoring single species and habitats and now works ambitiously to preserve biodiversity and achieve Sustainable Development all over the world.

WWF first made its presence in Nepal in 1967 when a Greater One-horned Rhinoceros conservation campaign was launched in Chitwan. However, the country office of WWF was established in Nepal over two decades later, on the 19th of May, 1993.

Over the past three decades, WWF Nepal has worked with over 4 million people, taking on an integrated conservation landscape approach that promotes community-based conservation as the cornerstone of a sustainable future. WWF Nepal unwaveringly believes in the inseparable bond between humans and nature.

The conservation of biodiversity is inextricably linked to the well-being of the planet and the people. We aim to create a future where people live in harmony with nature. We work closely with the government, mainly, the Ministry of Forests and Environment through the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation and the Department of Forests and Soil Conservation, using the government priorities as guidelines for our own. We also work with other Civil Society Organizations, conservation groups and conservation partners. Most importantly, we work with community members and are making an effort to be more inclusive towards marginalized and disadvantaged groups.

WWF Nepal envisions a flourishing Nepal with engaged, socially conscious citizens who show outstanding stewardship of the natural world.





“As we look ahead, we remain steadfast in our commitment to safeguarding the environment, preserving biodiversity, and creating a sustainable future for people and nature.”

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE



As we reflect on the past year, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the remarkable strides we have made in our shared conservation journey. WWF Nepal has continued to push the boundaries of what is possible, navigating challenges with dedication and achieving milestones that inspire hope for the future of our planet and the people that live on it.

This year marked several defining moments for Nepal's conservation story. The release of Nepal's first national snow leopard population estimate was a historic achievement, accomplished through collaborative efforts of organizations, communities and researchers under leadership of the government. It confirmed the country as a global stronghold for this elusive species, with an estimated 397 individuals.

Innovation remained at the heart of our work. For the first time, drones were deployed to monitor prey and habitats in Shey Phoksundo National Park, enhancing our ability to collect data and assess ecosystem health. Nepal also recorded major biodiversity breakthroughs, from the rediscovery of the Asian small-clawed otter after 185 years and the return of river dolphins to the Khageri River, to the first-ever records of the Tibetan woolly flying squirrel and photographic evidence of wild yak. Each discovery reaffirms the resilience of nature and the tangible impact of sustained conservation efforts.

This year also saw significant progress in fostering human-wildlife coexistence. By harnessing technology and community innovation, we strengthened prevention and response systems across landscapes. Innovative deterrents such as “light fences” and olfactory trials for big cats showed promising results, while over 18 km of mesh fencing now safeguards thousands of households. In mountain regions, the Livelihood Insurance Scheme continued to provide relief and livelihood support to conflict-affected families, complemented by predator-proof corrals, wildlife rescue training, and behavior change initiatives that promote coexistence and resilience.

In our pursuit of greater inclusivity, WWF Nepal also developed the Inclusive Conservation Mainstreaming Framework, which will guide our future initiatives to ensure that conservation aligns with the needs and aspirations of local communities.

Finally, the launch of the National Snow Leopard Conservation Plan (2024–2030) stands as a defining milestone – a comprehensive roadmap that unites partners across sectors to secure the future of this iconic species.

Together with our partners, donors, and the communities we serve, we will continue to build on the successes of this year and strive toward even greater impact by supporting the government of Nepal in the years to come.

Thank you for your continued partnership and dedication to our mission.

Ghana S Gurung, PhD
Country Representative, WWF Nepal
Snow Leopard Champion of WWF Network



WWF Nepal Highlights of the Year 2025

NEPAL CONFIRMED AS SNOW LEOPARD STRONGHOLD

First national snow leopard population estimate released — affirming Nepal as a stronghold for the species with 397 individuals.

Global guiding document on linear infrastructures in snow leopard habitats launched along with completion of linear infrastructure impact survey in snow leopard habitat in Dolpa.



INNOVATIVE DRONE MONITORING

Drone was used for the first time to monitor prey base and habitat in Shey Phoksundo National Park.



NATIONAL CLIMATE COMMITMENTS ADVANCED

NDC 3.0 and 1st Biennial Transparency Report submitted to the UNFCCC, strengthening Nepal's climate action framework.



INTERNAL RHINO TRANSLOCATION COMPLETED IN CHITWAN NP

Four rhinos translocated from the high density western sector of CNP to the low density eastern sector.



CLEAN ENERGY FOR CONSERVATION

23 KW of solar power installed, supporting national park management and community well being.



BIJAYSAL CONSERVATION ACTION PLAN (2082-2091) ENDORSED



KEY ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND PRACTICES ENDORSED

Waste management strategy for Dolpa district endorsed.
Waste management activities integrated in Bharatpur Metropolitan City annual development plan.

88,272 PEOPLE BENEFITED FROM IMPROVED WELLBEING

INCLUSIVE CONSERVATION MAINSTREAMING FRAMEWORK DEVELOPED FOR WWF NEPAL

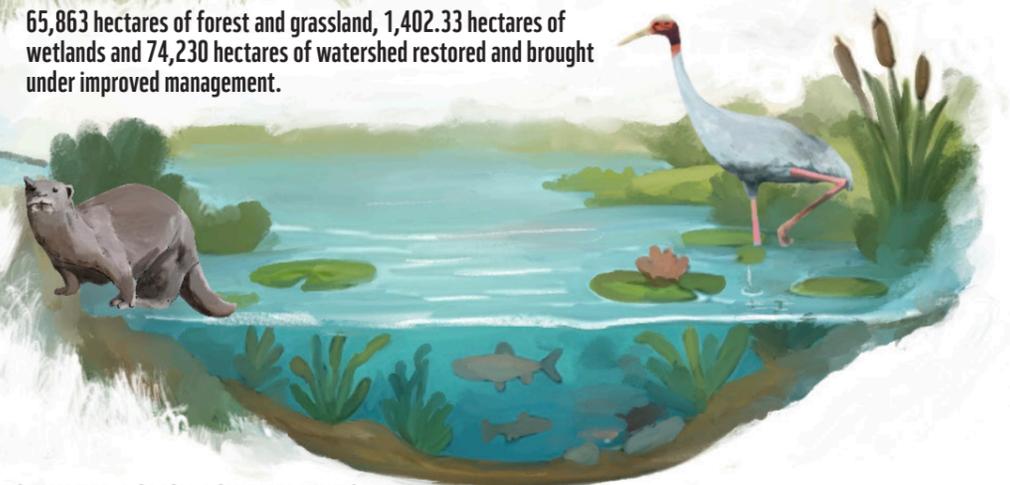


DISABILITY RIGHTS INTEGRATED INTO FORESTRY GUIDELINES

Rights of the Persons with Disability (PwD) officially integrated into Community Forestry Guidelines 2025.

VAST ECOSYSTEMS RESTORED

65,863 hectares of forest and grassland, 1,402.33 hectares of wetlands and 74,230 hectares of watershed restored and brought under improved management.



FRESHWATER POLICY ACHIEVEMENTS

The Aquatic Animal Conservation Bill passed in Rajapur Municipality and Geruwa Rural Municipality, while the Watershed Policy for Hupsekot Rural Municipality and Ratnanagar Municipality was also passed.

431 FAMILIES BENEFITED

431 families directly and indirectly benefited through climate change adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) interventions.



WILDLIFE



397 SNOW LEOPARDS ESTIMATED

First national snow leopard population estimate released affirming Nepal as a stronghold for the species.

4 RHINOS SAFELY TRANSLOCATED

Moved from high density western sector to the low density eastern sector of Chitwan National Park.

DRONES MONITOR HABITAT

Drone was used for the first time to monitor prey base and habitat in Shey Phoksundo National Park.

NEW CONSERVATION PLAN LAUNCHED

The National Snow Leopard Conservation Plan (2024-2030) guides future protection efforts.

JOINT EFFORTS ESTABLISH NEPAL AS A GLOBAL STRONGHOLD FOR SNOW LEOPARDS

Nepal's first national snow leopard survey supported by WWF Nepal, has confirmed a robust population of 397 mature individuals at a density of 1.56 per 100 km², representing 12–14% of the global population within just 1.6% of the species' range (when compared with IUCN Red List data). Using advanced survey methods under the GSLEP-PAWS standards, the assessment was led by the Government of Nepal with contributions from many conservation institutions and individual researchers. Furthermore, in Kangchenjunga Conservation Area (KCA), the analysis of data from a comprehensive snow leopard survey completed in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 confirmed a population of 13 adult snow leopards with a density of 1/100 km². Additionally, a prey base survey in KCA indicated a healthy population of 2332 blue sheep (density of 2.65 individuals/100 km²) to sustain the existing snow leopard population.



First female citizen scientist of KCA and the SLCC Chair of Ghunsa - Ms. Penjokla Sherpa, installing camera trap.
© Nupu Sherpa / DNPWC / WWF Nepal

RESEARCH TO INFORM GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AND CONFLICT MITIGATION

Two major studies advanced Nepal's conservation knowledge this year. In Upper Dolpa, a multi-season camera trap survey deploying 150 cameras across 50 road sites revealed snow leopards, himalayan wolves, and blue sheep using road areas, with additional settlement and acoustic vehicle data collected to inform future mitigation measures. The findings will guide updates to Nepal's Green Infrastructure guideline to better address mountain habitats. Furthermore, the global guiding document on linear infrastructures in snow leopard habitats, including learning from Nepal, was also launched in this period. Meanwhile, in the eastern TAL, a study on human–tiger conflict surveyed 932 households (HHs) and found that livestock were at greater risk when sheds lacked predator-proofing and when grazing occurred in open forests. The study underscores how ecological exposure, human practices, and perceptions interact, providing insights for conservation strategies that improve risk communication and strengthen community resilience.

ECOLOGICAL SURVEYS IDENTIFY NEW TIGER FRONTIERS IN TAL

The completion of the final phase of a multi-year ecological survey (2023–2025) in Nepal's central Terai Arc Landscape (TAL), documented at least 10 adult tigers, 33 leopards and a species richness of 37, with small and medium prey species dominating the landscape. The survey also highlighted conservation challenges, recording 94 hunting incidents, mostly involving birds. In the eastern TAL, surveys across Makwanpur, Parsa, Bara, and Rautahat revealed three adult tigers moving through collaborative forests, confirming corridor connectivity between Nepal's Parsa National Park (PNP) and India's Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR). Meanwhile, annual monitoring in the Khata Corridor recorded 14 individual tigers and a strong prey base, with notable documentation of the world's smallest wild cat, the rusty-spotted cat, for the second consecutive year. Collectively, these findings reaffirm TAL's critical role in supporting tiger dispersal, species diversity, and cross-border wildlife connectivity.

BLUE SHEEP MONITORING TAKES TO THE SKIES

For the first time in Nepal's snow leopard landscape, a pioneering project piloted drone-based prey species monitoring in Shey Phoksundo National Park (SPNP) and its buffer zone. Conducted in the remote Saldang area of Dolpa, the initiative successfully completed 16 drone flights across 8 transect plots, capturing both visual and thermal imagery of the rugged Himalayan terrain. Several groups of blue sheep were detected, providing valuable insights into habitat use and distribution, with detailed data analysis planned for the coming year.



WWF Staff flying drone as a part of blue sheep monitoring in Dolpa. © Geovation Nepal / WWF Nepal

BALANCING RHINO POPULATIONS ACROSS CHITWAN NATIONAL PARK

WWF Nepal supported the Government of Nepal in the successful internal translocation of four greater one-horned rhinoceroses within Chitwan National Park (CNP). The rhinos were translocated from high-density areas in the park's west to the eastern regions, where populations are sparse, to reduce intraspecific competition in crowded habitats and promote population expansion in ecologically suitable but underutilized areas. This strategic intervention, guided by a prior feasibility study, contributes to the long-term conservation and balanced distribution of the species.



Rhino being translocated from the western sector of CNP to the eastern sector. © WWF Nepal

A YEAR OF REDISCOVERIES AND FIRST RECORDS FOR NEPAL'S WILDLIFE

Nepal recorded major biodiversity milestones this year, with both new discoveries and species recovery in their ranges. The first photographic evidence of wild yak in SPNP and the first-ever record of Tibetan woolly flying squirrel in Kangchenjunga highlight the country's rich high-altitude biodiversity. After 185 years, the Asian small-clawed otter was rediscovered at the confluence of the Rangun and Puntara River in the Parashuram Municipality of Dadeldhura District. River dolphins returned to the Khageri River after four decades, and Sarus Cranes and other wetland birds were sighted in newly restored Narayani wetlands. These findings underscore the success of habitat restoration and conservation efforts in reconnecting species with their landscapes.

SAFEGUARDING MIGRATORY BIRDS IN NARAYANI FLOODPLAINS

This year, WWF Nepal launched a two-year project in the Narayani River floodplains, the first in the Central Asian Flyway, to restore wetlands through community-led efforts and safeguard migratory birds. 34 Indigenous youths were trained and equipped for bird monitoring, strengthening local conservation capacity. Surveys across 13,500 hectares recorded 145 species and over 14,600 individuals in February and 133 species with nearly 12,900 individuals in March, including large flocks of Ruddy Shelducks, Bar-headed Geese, and several globally threatened species. The findings highlight the ecological importance of wetlands in the Lower Narayani Basin and the urgency of sustained restoration to secure flyway connectivity.

STRENGTHENING RESILIENCE OF COMMUNITIES AGAINST HWC

To safeguard rural livelihoods dependent on livestock and agriculture, WWF Nepal supported vulnerable HHs across TAL and mountain landscapes with predator-proof corrals, improved cattle sheds, and mesh wire fencing. A total of 814 families in TAL installed predator-proof corrals, while 5,193 HHs were protected with 18.5 km of mesh wire and 1.5 km of light fencing, resulting in reduced livestock losses and crop depredation. Improved cattle sheds with cemented troughs and fodder tree plantations were provided to 691 HHs to promote stall feeding and minimize negative human-wildlife interactions. Five communal improved corrals were constructed in Dolpa, safeguarding around 1,800 livestock and benefiting 290 HHs, effectively eliminating surplus killings by predators since installation.



A predator proof pen in Madi, Chitwan.
© Sneha Tamrakar / WWF Nepal

TECHNOLOGY, BARRIERS, AND INNOVATION FACILITATES HWC PREVENTION

This year, several innovative measures were introduced to reduce human-wildlife conflict (HWC). A telecom subscription service facilitated over one million SMS alerts to 700 HHs in Chitwan and Bardia, enhancing real-time communication and warning communities of potential human-wildlife conflict events. In Khata Corridor, trials of olfactory deterrents for big cats showed promising early results through camera trap monitoring. Furthermore, a digitized information management system was produced to help streamline documentation and relief processing in the mountains. Physical barriers were also expanded, including a 1.5 km “light fence” in Sundevi buffer zone and 18.5 km of mesh wire fencing across buffer zones (BZs) of Bardia National Park (BNP), Banke National Park (BaNP), CNP, and key corridors, benefitting over 4,300 HHs. Additionally, the Khata school bus service continued, safeguarding students from wildlife encounters, with a new endowment fund established to secure its long-term operation in collaboration with local governments.

INNOVATIVE SYSTEMS AND INSURANCE STRENGTHEN HWC RELIEF

Private insurance mechanisms provided NPR 5.1 million in claim reimbursement to 216 HHs in the Terai, while supporting 4,185 HHs for property damage and 1,845 HHs for 3,734 livestock. In the mountains, the Livelihood Insurance Scheme (LIS), integrated with endowment funds in KCA and SPNP (NPR 10.38 million and 21.3 million), continued to support relief and community projects, and a new LIS was established in Dolpa with government contributions, ensuring sustained assistance to conflict-affected HHs.

COMMUNITY-BASED CONFLICT PREVENTION

This year, multiple community-based measures were implemented to prevent and respond to human-wildlife conflicts. Ten new sirens and 127 torchlights were installed in Kanchanpur and Bardia to strengthen early warning systems. Capacity building was also prioritized, with 27 training sessions on wildlife rescue and handling conducted for 898 frontline staff and community members, alongside the provision of rescue equipment. Additionally, behavior change communication initiatives were promoted to help communities adopt practices that reduce conflict risks while fostering coexistence with wildlife.

BUILDING CAPACITY TO COMBAT WILDLIFE CRIME

Recognizing park rangers as vital frontline professionals, WWF Nepal supported two capacity-building trainings for 51 rangers and one training for 23 newly recruited game-scouts this FY. Likewise, four trainings benefited 120 Armed Police Force personnel across southern and northern checkpoints, covering Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) dynamics, species identification, legal provisions, and human rights protection. In addition, six training events in Kathmandu and surrounding districts trained 180 Nepal Police personnel on wildlife crime scene management, cybercrime, and IWT product identification, while eight orientation events sensitized 160 senior officers on wildlife crime dynamics in border and transit areas. To review progress, a reflection workshop was organized with 31 officials from the Department of National Park and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) and Nepal Police, who assessed training effectiveness and identified strategies for improvement and sustainability.



Capacity building training to frontline staff in Lalmati, Bardia. © Nishan KC / WWF Nepal

ENHANCING INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND CROSS-BORDER WILDLIFE CRIME RESPONSE

In FY 2025, WWF Nepal supported the establishment of three new provincial Wildlife Crime Control Bureaus (WCCBs) in Karnali, Lumbini, and Sudurpashchim to strengthen intergovernmental collaboration. Equipment support was provided to enhance database management and documentation, along with institutional support to the WCCB Secretariat and WCCBs in Kathmandu and Solukhumbu. WWF Nepal also facilitated a federal-provincial-districts coordination meeting and a province-level workshop in Madhesh, engaging 79 officials to discuss conservation challenges, wildlife crime trends, and the need for stronger collaboration. Judicial engagement was advanced through a high-level meeting with 86 judges, including the Chief Justice of Nepal, while cross-border cooperation was reinforced through two Nepal-India bilateral WCCB meetings involving 86 participants from both countries.



Community Police Partnership program for wildlife crime control in Kathmandu. © Dilip Subedi / WWF Nepal

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY-POLICE PARTNERSHIPS

WWF Nepal continued the Community Police Partnership (CPP) program aimed at enhancing collaboration between Nepal Police and the public to build trust, and prevent crime by organizing two workshops at KCA and SPNP to train 109 officials, including police personnel, Protected Area (PA) staff, and local communities. Ten sensitization events reached 500 transportation workers across Bagmati Province, highlighting their role in combating IWT. A CPP Sustainability Workshop in Kathmandu with 32 stakeholders reviewed progress and outlined strategies to integrate the CPP model into long-term enforcement efforts.



FORESTS AND LANDSCAPES



65,863 HECTARES OF HABITAT IMPROVED

Forests and grassland area now under better management.

NEW MANAGEMENT PLANS PREPARED

Management plans prepared for Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve, Khata and Laljhadi-Mohana Forest Conservation Areas.

FOREST HEALTH CRITERIA DEVELOPED

National criteria and indicators for forest health assessment drafted in partnership with Department of Forests and Soil Conservation and Institute of Forestry.

FLORAL SPECIES CONSERVATION ACTION PLAN DEVELOPED

Bijaysal Conservation Action Plan (2082-2091) endorsed.

STRENGTHENING SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

In FY25, 65,863 ha of forest and grasslands were restored and brought under improved management. WWF Nepal supported 15 Division Forest Offices (DFOs), six PAs, two Provincial Forest Directorates to conduct 241 monitoring events with 1,992 officials.

WWF Nepal has been providing continuous support to Community Based Forest Management (CBFM) groups to improve the management of forests through revision of Forest Operational Plans (FOPs) and strengthening capacity of Community Forest User Groups (CFUG). A total of 24 FOPs were revised, bringing 2,716 ha of forests under improved management, benefiting 8,942 HHs. Additionally, 1,353 CFUG and Buffer Zone User Group (BZUC) members were trained on sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation, while 180 forest watchers and CFUG members were mobilized, equipped with field gear, and insured to strengthen protection and reporting of illegal activities. During FY25, a total of 257.13 ha of forests were brought under improved management through different silvicultural operations in community forests and BZs of CNP, PNP, and Laljhadi Mohana, Barandabhar, Kamdi, Karnali and Khata corridors.

Furthermore, integrated livestock and grazing management also helped reduce forest pressure and negative human-wildlife interactions, with 691 HHs across TAL supported with installation of improved cattle sheds, shifting from open grazing practices to stall feeding practices.

ADVANCING NATIONAL AND SUB-NATIONAL CONSERVATION PLANNING

The draft national plan for achieving GBF Target 3 and the national guideline for recognizing Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs) were formally submitted for endorsement this year. With the current strategic plan ending in 2025, work has begun on the 10-year TAL Strategic Plan (2026–2036). WWF Nepal also supported the preparation of management plans for Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve (DHR), Khata Forest Conservation Areas (FCAs), and Laljhadi-Mohana FCAs, and extended technical and financial support to the Government of Nepal in organizing national-level forest and conservation events. Likewise, DoFSC endorsed the Bijaysal Conservation Action Plan (2082-2091), which will serve as a guiding document for conserving Bijaysal in Nepal.



Grassland restoration at Syaulibasti, Parsa. © Prem Poudel / WWF Nepal

RESTORING FORESTS AND CRITICAL HABITATS

WWF Nepal supports measures for restoring forest and critical habitats in the corridors and BZs through bioengineering, plantation and protection of natural regeneration. During FY25, 605 meters of riverbank have been stabilized through construction of check dams and bioengineering practices resulting in 159 ha of forests under restoration. Furthermore, 18,478 seedlings of various species were planted and 12,803 meters of fencing were constructed to protect plantation and support natural regeneration, bringing 845.5 ha of forest under restoration.

In addition, WWF Nepal restored and managed 770.47 ha of grasslands across PNP, CNP, ShNP, BNP, BaNP, Krishnasaar Conservation Area (KrCA), and Barandabhar corridors to support prey populations. Complementing this, rangeland monitoring in SPNP's Bhijer and Saldang blocks covered 173 km² across 10 sites, integrating scientific assessments with local knowledge to evaluate livestock numbers and rangeland conditions. These initiatives collectively promote ecological health, sustainable forest and rangeland management, and community stewardship, with findings informing strategies such as the draft Rangeland Co-Management Strategy.

PREVENTING AND CONTROLLING FOREST FIRES

During the year, WWF Nepal implemented both preventive and remedial measures to mitigate the risks associated with forest fires. As a preventive measure, 35.6 km fire lines were constructed and maintained in the BZs and corridors across Bardia, Parsa, Chitwan, and Nawalpur, which improved fire control and monitoring access. This year, 731 forest officials and community members were trained in fire prevention and control through 20 events, while 793 personnel including Community Bases Anti-Poaching Units (CBAPUs), forest watchers, and youth were mobilized for prevention and response. Additionally, a four-member forest fire squad was deployed in Laljhadi-Mohana corridor, and firefighting equipment was provided to three DFOs, one Community Forest Coordination Committee (CFCC), 14 CFUGs, and 18 Buffer Zone Community Forest User Groups (BZCFUGs) in BaNP to strengthen forest fire preparedness.

TREES OUTSIDE FORESTS AND PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS

WWF Nepal developed a partnership with Global IME Bank in bringing Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) for plantation and restoration.

Moreover, as a strategy to enhance trees outside forests, private forestry and agroforestry practices was promoted with plantation of 8,063 seedlings covering 7 ha of private land, benefiting 101 HHs in BZs and corridors of Kailali and Kanchanpur districts.



Fuel load management through controlled burning during pre-fire season for management of grassland in Sukhivar phanta of CNP. © Prem Poudel / WWF Nepal



FRESHWATER



1402 HECTARES OF CRITICAL FRESHWATER HABITAT RESTORED

NEW CONSERVATION BILL PASSED

Aquatic Animal Conservation Bill passed by Rajapur Municipality and Geruwa Rural Municipality.

NATURE BASED WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

74,230 ha of watershed under improved management through nature based solutions.

NEW WATERSHED POLICY PASSED

Watershed Policy for Hupsekot RM and Ratnanagar Municipality passed.

NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS FOR RESILIENT WATERSHED

In FY25, WWF Nepal implemented nature-based solutions across 74,230 ha in Gindri and Khageri watersheds, engaging government agencies, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), indigenous groups, and local communities. Key interventions included 329 meters of low-cost soil and water conservation measures to stabilize stream banks, treat landslides, and control gully erosion, protecting 49 ha of land and safeguarding 1,731 households. Restoration of three spring sources benefitted 390 HHs, while 1.8 km of riverbank greenbelts and 18 wetlands (7.19 ha) enhanced water storage, flood regulation, and ecosystem resilience. Water-efficient

technologies like drip irrigation and rainwater harvesting were introduced to 40 farmers. CBOs and CSOs across two watersheds were capacitated on NbS, supported by exchange visits and three training events. Likewise, two multistakeholder platforms in Gindri and Khageri were formed, capacitated and institutionalized. Beyond these two watersheds, WWF Nepal supported in stabilizing 605 meters of riverbank, safeguarding 159 ha of forest, across TAL. Furthermore, NbS was integrated into FY26 annual plans of Hupsekot and Kalika municipalities and the Operation Plans of three forest user groups.



Effective use of biodykes for reducing riverbank erosion in Gairibari, Chitwan. © Karun Dewan / WWF Nepal

COMMUNITY-LED RIVER CONSERVATION IN KARNALI

WWF Nepal continued efforts to bring 35 km of the lower Karnali River under improved management condition, mobilizing 15 Community River Stretch Management Groups (CRSMGs) in Kailali and Bardia. These groups recorded 206 cases of unsustainable fishing practices, counseled offenders, and helped reduce destructive fishing by 50% in one year.

Furthermore, 44 Otter Champions received refresher trainings and were mobilized for awareness campaigns, while six leadership trainings benefitted 162 CRSMG members, strengthening decision-making and sustainable fishing practices.



Otter Champions undergoing sustainable fishing and monitoring training. © Aashish Kapali / WWF Nepal

WETLAND RESTORATION FOR WILDLIFE AND MIGRATORY BIRDS

In FY25, WWF Nepal advanced wetland conservation through targeted restoration and construction efforts. Consultations and field assessments in Lamichaur and Kalabajar BZs of CNP identified 27 degraded wetlands critical for migratory birds, with baseline data revealing high species diversity and strong potential for sustaining species like bar-headed geese and ruddy shelducks. Restoration was completed in five sites (12.37 ha), including invasive species removal, sediment clearance, and canal maintenance, alongside 3 km of traditional irrigation canal in Kalabajar to enhance soil moisture. Beyond migratory bird habitats, 71 wetlands covering 198.24 ha were restored or constructed across BaNP, BNP, CNP, PNP, ShNP, and outside PAs, supporting wildlife such as tigers, rhinos, elephants, and deer while also improving groundwater recharge, soil moisture, and ecosystem resilience against climate impacts. Furthermore, camera traps in newly restored wetlands of PNP recorded elephants, wild boar, spotted deer, sambar, nilgai, Terai grey langur, and rhesus macaque, highlighting the effectiveness of wetlands in providing essential drinking water for wildlife.

STRENGTHENING RIVER GOVERNANCE

In the Lower Karnali Basin, WWF Nepal advanced riverine ecosystem conservation by supporting local governments in preparing Aquatic Biodiversity Conservation Act of Rajapur Municipality and Geruwa Rural Municipality. Based on the provision in the act, WWF Nepal also supported in identifying potential fish sanctuary sites in Lower Karnali and developing a draft Fish Sanctuary Management Plan. Extending the collaboration with local governments, WWF Nepal further supported the drafting of sustainable river aggregate extraction protocols in Lamki Chuha, Tikapur, and Janaki municipalities. Additionally, 27 government officials were trained on otter and prey-base conservation and 67 government officials visited proposed fish sanctuary sites to strengthen collaborative river governance. Similarly in Narayani Basin, WWF Nepal also supported the preparation of Watershed Management Policies in Hupsekot and Ratnanagar Municipality.



CLIMATE AND ENERGY



105 FAMILIES AND
2 PROTECTED AREAS

supported with solar photovoltaic system with a total capacity of 23 KW.

432 FAMILIES BENEFITED
FROM CLIMATE ACTION

Provided support through disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation interventions.

**BASELINE ON AGROBIODIVERSITY OF
MANANG AND MUSTANG DISTRICTS**

Baseline assessment completed to collect the socio-cultural significance and climate change impacts on the targeted 9 crops, 3 livestock and 3 medicinal plants.

IMPROVING GAUR RESILIENCE

Resilience of Gaur (*Bos Gaurus*) improved against climate hazards, mainly forest fire and dry spell, focusing in Parsa National Park in Terai Arc Landscape.



Solar arrays component of solar powered backup systems for homestay in Magar Village in Dang district.
© Tilak Ram Chaudhary / WWF Nepal

SOLAR MINI-GRIDS POWER MOUNTAIN COMMUNITIES

This fiscal year, WWF Nepal partnered with Shey Phoksundo RM in Dolpa to operate two solar mini-grids of 4 kW each, benefiting 45 families in Musi and Phot Village, and lighting two community buildings. In addition, through a tripartite collaboration between WWF, Shey Phoksundo RM, and a private donor, an 8-kW solar mini-grid was installed in Rigmo village, providing clean and reliable electricity to 55 families. These systems have improved community well-being, supported local livelihoods, and strengthened stewardship toward snow leopard conservation.

SOLAR POWER SUPPORTING CONSERVATION

In Meghauli BZ of CNP, a 2 kW solar-powered pump was installed to support grassland management. Likewise, in Churepokhari wetland inside ShNP, a 1 kW solar pump was set up to maintain wetland health. In addition, 1 kW solar systems were installed at two park guard posts to provide lighting for officials, enhancing their monitoring activities. Together, these initiatives demonstrate how renewable energy solutions directly contribute to conservation and park management goals.

CLEAN ENERGY FOR SUSTAINABLE HOMESTAYS

In midwestern TAL, WWF Nepal supported a Magar village by installing 600 W solar backup systems in each of the five homestays, along with electric cookstoves to replace LPG and fuelwood. These systems provide reliable electricity for cooking, water pumping, and irrigation, reducing dependence on unsustainable energy sources while enhancing the homestay business. By promoting renewable energy, the initiative supports climate-friendly tourism and strengthens rural livelihoods.

DRIVING NEPAL'S CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION

This fiscal year, WWF Nepal partnered with government and non-government organizations to promote renewable energy (RE) mainstreaming in Nepal. Marking Nepal's first celebration of International Day of Clean Energy, WWF Nepal supported Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC) and the Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation in organizing the Energy Transition for Resilience and Low Carbon Economy Summit 2025 which served as a platform to share experiences, explore investment opportunities, and develop strategies to accelerate Nepal's clean energy transition. WWF Nepal also supported and participated in the EV Rally 2025, an awareness campaign promoting electric vehicles and highlighting the private sector's role in achieving Nepal's net-zero emissions target.



Construction of artificial wetland in Bhata Area in Parsa National Park. © Prem Poudel / WWF Nepal

ADAPTATION INTERVENTIONS FOR SPECIES, ECOSYSTEM AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

In response to growing climate threats such as floods, forest fires, and escalating human-wildlife conflict, WWF Nepal advanced ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) measures across multiple landscapes in FY25. In Parsa National Park, where over 70% of the area faces seasonal water scarcity, three wetlands (3 ha) were restored and one cemented wetland (0.5 ha) was constructed to ensure year-round water availability for gaur, elephants, and tigers. Furthermore, a fireline of 6.6 km was also constructed to improve the habitat condition and support the movement of Gaur. In Banke's Rapti Sonari RM, a 120-meter check dam along the Balchhaiya River, supported by 10,000 vetiver saplings and 100 bamboo shoots, was built to protect downstream settlements from inundation. Similarly, 215 meters of bioengineered embankment stabilized the Syali River in Shuklaphanta National Park, safeguarding 42 ha of forest. To enhance

community resilience, a 2,700 sq.m. multipurpose pond in the Magar village in midwestern TAL, now supports irrigation for 3.14 ha of land, fish farming, and homestay-based livelihoods benefiting 46 HHs. Additionally, 390 meters of gabion structures in Shuklaphanta's buffer zone protect 112 ha of riparian land, indirectly benefitting 666 HHs by reducing flood risk and maintaining watershed integrity.

Further, to enhance climate resilience of indigenous people and local communities in the Marin watershed, adaptation interventions such as construction of fishery ponds, sub-surface water harvesting systems, restoration of sub-surface harvesting systems and plantation activities were carried out. These interventions also benefit the local communities by promoting sustainable livelihoods in the Marin watershed.

PROMOTION OF REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

Manang and Mustang districts which are rich in agrobiodiversity and indigenous practices are also highly vulnerable to climate change. This FY, native agrobiodiversity including crops like barley, livestock such as yak and Lulu cow, and medicinal plants like sea buckthorn, were documented and assessed- underscoring their role in strengthening agroecological resilience in high-altitude communities.



POLICY AND GOVERNANCE



INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE COMMITMENTS MET

National documents - third Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0) and Biennial Transparency Report submitted to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

GBF TARGET 3 & NATIONAL OECM DOCUMENT PREPARED

Draft national plan for achieving Global Biodiversity Framework Target 3 and guideline for recognizing OECMs in Nepal are under endorsement process.

LOCAL WASTE STRATEGY ENDORSED

Waste management strategy for Dolpa district endorsed.

BUILDING GOVERNANCE CAPACITY IN PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

Recognizing the importance of strong governance for effective conservation program delivery, WWF Nepal organized a capacity-building session for staff and executive members of SAHAMATI, a partner organization. The training focused on good governance practices, equipping participants with knowledge and tools to enhance organizational transparency, accountability, and overall effectiveness.



Participants in a policy dialogue in Chitwan. © WWF Nepal

ACCELERATING NEPAL'S RENEWABLE ENERGY AND CLIMATE GOALS

WWF Nepal has been working closely with the Government of Nepal to support climate ambitions outlined in the second Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and other energy targets. This FY, WWF Nepal provided technical support for the preparation of NDC 3.0, particularly on setting targets for cooking, heating, and transport subsectors, aligned with the Policy Roadmap for Nepal to Transition to 100% RE by 2050, developed in collaboration with AEPC.

CHAMPIONING INCLUSIVE CONSERVATION

WWF Nepal supported DNPWC in drafting the National Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Action Plan for PAs, engaging 211 officials, army personnel, and BZUC/BZCFUG representatives to ensure gender-responsive and socially inclusive conservation practices. Management plans for DHR, Laljhadi-Mohana, and Khata FCAs were completed, while the plan for Barandabhar FCA is under preparation. These initiatives are critical for institutionalizing inclusive approaches and ensuring effective conservation governance.

BRIDGING POLICY AND PRACTICE FOR CONSERVATION

To mainstream conservation into national policies, WWF Nepal prepared a policy brief on Aquatic Biodiversity Conservation, reviewed the Bijaysal Conservation Action Plan (2082-2091), and organized four policy dialogue workshops on the National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act, Buffer Zone Management Regulations, and Local Governance Operation Act, engaging 202 stakeholders. Additionally, WWF Nepal supported the development of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) sub-portal with MoFE, with Asian Development Bank (ADB) exploring enhanced integration features for official launch.



Multistakeholder consultation workshop on developing a legal and institutional framework for Nepal's MRV system. © Pradeep Bhattarai / WWF Nepal

SHAPING NEPAL'S BIODIVERSITY FUTURE

This year, WWF Nepal has continued to provide technical support to Ministry of Forests and Environment (MoFE) in preparing the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAP), with the draft vision document now open for public feedback. Furthermore, the draft National Plan for GBF Target 3 and the draft guideline for recognizing OECMs in Nepal for endorsement, now slated for integration into the NBSAP, have been submitted and the draft guideline has been proposed for review by a task force. WWF Nepal has also supported the preparation of a training manual to enhance the capacity of stakeholders. The Snow Leopard Conservation and Action Plan (2024-2030) was launched, providing strategies to address urgent conservation needs of the iconic species.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND MRV FRAMEWORK DEVELOPMENT

To strengthen technical capacity on national climate reporting and to fulfill the requirement of the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF), WWF Nepal facilitated webinars, trainings, and international exposure for government officials and sectoral experts. Notably, 30 officials participated in the "AFOLU- MRV Advanced Estimation Roadmaps of Nepal" training, and others attended COP29 and SB62 meetings. Through these efforts, a draft National MRV framework has been prepared, outlining roles, duties, and institutional arrangements for transparent reporting and communication of climate change data, including greenhouse gas (GHG) emission inventory, progress tracking of NDC implementation, support received and mobilized, and adaptation communication. In this process, nine consultation workshops including seven provincial workshops were organized, engaging 451 participants from different government and non-government institutions.

STRENGTHENING GOVERNANCE AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT IN NRM INSTITUTIONS

This year, WWF Nepal capacitated representatives from 17 sub-grantee partners on finance and compliance, and conducted 40 governance and financial management training events in the Banke-Bardiya complex, engaging 871 executive members from 200 Forest User Groups (FUGs). In Gindri and Khageri watersheds, 35 FUG executive members from 15 FUGs were trained to enhance leadership, decision-making, financial management, and good governance practices, supplemented by learning visits to other FUGs to exchange best practices. Follow-up visits to 22 Natural Resource Management (NRM) institutions in TAL and SPNP sensitized members on governance assessment results from 2022 and guided efforts to improve transparency, accountability, and participatory management. These initiatives are strengthening institutional capacity and fostering inclusive governance in natural resource management.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL CLIMATE REPORTING AND NDC 3.0 SUBMISSION

WWF Nepal played a key role in providing technical support to the MoFE in drafting and submitting Nepal's first Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) and NDC 3.0 to the UNFCCC. While finalizing the NDC 3.0, WWF Nepal facilitated the organization of two thematic consultation workshops and technical support in other thematic consultations and workshops in all seven Provinces. For the BTR, technical inputs were provided, and a writeshop was also hosted to finalize the document. In total, 158 stakeholders from ministries, CSOs, academia, the private sectors, and development partners were engaged in this process. As a result, the NDC3.0 included a target to operationalize the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) by 2030, and Nepal's first BTR was endorsed, serving as a foundation for greenhouse gas inventory, projections, and NDC implementation.

SAFEGUARDING NATURE IN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

WWF Nepal has been actively promoting Natural Resource Safeguarding in Linear Infrastructure (NRSI) through policy input, knowledge-building events, academic collaboration, and stakeholder engagement. Technical inputs were provided to integrate the Wildlife Friendly Infrastructure Construction Directives, 2078 (WFICD), into the Environmental Protection Regulation and to advance the existing WFICD with additional provisions for railways, irrigation canals, and power lines. Three major training events enhanced the skills of 76 participants from the government agencies, private sector, and CSOs, while a knowledge-building event in Dolpa engaged 36 stakeholders on the NRSI and WFICD rollout. WWF Nepal partnered with the Institute of Engineering (IoE) and the Institute of Forestry (IoF) to integrate NRSI into academic curricula, with 27 students enrolled this year. Faculty capacity-building sessions and coordination with Pokhara University, and Far Western University supported wider academic integration. Students also gained experiential learning through a Chitwan field visit, and 24 research grants were awarded to IoE undergraduates to promote applied research and innovation. At the national and international level, WWF Nepal collaborated with the Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI) at the Nepal Infrastructure Summit 2024 and facilitated the FIDIC Asia-Pacific Conference 2024 in Kathmandu, engaging representatives from 20 countries. WWF Nepal presented Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA), showcasing nature-based solutions for climate-resilient infrastructure.



LIVELIHOODS



88,272 PEOPLE BENEFITED,
ENHANCING OVERALL
WELLBEING

12 PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
(PWD) SUPPORTED
with income generating activities.

STRENGTHENING SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS IN TAL AND BEYOND

During this FY, WWF Nepal supported 2,140 HHs through diverse livelihood interventions, including group-based enterprises such as turmeric processing, broom making, mustard oil extraction, wool spinning, dairy, and eco-friendly woodenware production, alongside household-level income-generating activities like beekeeping, tailoring, vegetable farming, livestock rearing, aquaculture, handicrafts, and homestays. In TAL, 1,027 people further benefited from skill development trainings and input support to establish or strengthen micro-enterprises and self-employment ventures. To promote eco-tourism, 11 homestays across seven districts were strengthened, while four fishery ponds in the Marin watershed provided families with alternative income opportunities through fish farming. These initiatives collectively enhanced community resilience, diversified incomes, and promoted sustainable resource use.

INNOVATIVE WATER SOLUTIONS FOR RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

This year, WWF Nepal implemented innovative water management interventions, including sub-surface water harvesting in Marin watersheds benefiting 45 indigenous HHs and enabling year-round irrigation for 10.26 ha. Irrigation canals in Chitwan and Nawalpur supported 265 farmers over 255 ha, while ten restored water sources across Sindhuli, Nawalpur, Dadeldhura, and Kanchanpur provided safe water and surplus irrigation for 1,097 families.

DIVERSIFIED LIVELIHOODS IN DOLPA

In the Mountain Landscape, WWF Nepal supported women's groups and conflict-affected families in SPNP BZs to diversify livelihoods. A total of 133 families in Bhijer and Dho benefited from training in vegetable farming, nursery establishment, and greenhouse support, including one greenhouse for Samling Monastery, improving food security, green vegetable intake, and income from surplus sales. To ease workloads in the harsh terrain, 14 threshers, 10 separators, and one grinder were provided to 900 HHs, while a mill operation house was maintained. Additionally, eight individuals received training in bakkhu sewing to promote traditional clothing production.



Beneficiaries receiving training on sewing in Kailali. © Gayatri Pradhan / WWF Nepal



Participants during the Bakkhu sewing training in Dolpa. © Dawa Gyampo Bajee / WWF Nepal



Pond constructed in Marin watershed, Sindhuli for fish farming with safeguard measures. © Nabin Bhattarai / WWF Nepal

EMPOWERING ENTREPRENEURS THROUGH SKILLS AND FINANCE

In addition to skill-based training, 132 entrepreneurs were capacitated with soft skills in entrepreneurship development, branding and marketing, financial, and group management across WWF Nepal working landscapes. Market linkages were further strengthened through two exposure visits for 74 entrepreneurs, improving agricultural practices and market access. To expand financial opportunities, three local cooperatives in the Lower Karnali Basin received seed funding of USD 15,318, enabling 172 individuals to access loans worth USD 8,000. With this increased access to finance, 167 entrepreneurs collectively generated USD 48,924, reflecting a shift from traditional livelihoods such as fishing and gold panning toward more sustainable alternatives. Similarly, in the Gindri and Khageri watersheds, 201 families engaged in income-generating activities such as fish farming, vegetable cultivation, mushroom farming, and beekeeping, collectively earning USD 50,406 this year.



A beneficiary during training for grass based handicrafts in Kailali, Bardia. © Aashish Kapali / WWF Nepal

PROTECTING COMMUNITIES, SUPPORTING WILDLIFE

WWF Nepal provided education and livelihood support to communities affected by HWC. In the Chitwan-Parsa complex, a scholarship endowment fund of NPR 7,260,000 supported 205 students (83 boys, 122 girls) across 10 buffer zone user committees, covering school fees, stationery, and clothing, while 10 students in SPNP received higher education scholarships. In addition, vulnerable HWC-affected families received livelihood support to diversify income and reduce dependence on forests, serving both as a curative and preventive measure against potential conflicts.

DIGNIFIED LIVELIHOODS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

To promote inclusive livelihoods, 12 persons with disabilities were supported in establishing small businesses such as grocery stores, snack shops, sewing, and cycle repair shops, helping diversify income sources and improve dignity. In parallel, ecosystem-based interventions were promoted through agroforestry and private plantations, with 8,073 seedlings of high-value species like red sandalwood, fodder, and fruit trees planted by 101 farmers.



Bee Keeper checking his bee hive in Thangkhola, Kalika, Chitwan. © WWF Nepal



WWF supported mushroom farmer in Nawalpur, Chitwan. © Karun Dewan / WWF Nepal



Beneficiaries making grass-based handicrafts in Rajapur-3, Bardia. © Gayatri Pradhan / WWF Nepal

VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR EMPLOYMENT AND CONSERVATION

This year, 100 youths from the BZs of CNP and PNP completed CTEVT-certified vocational training in areas such as barista (Coffee), nature guiding, cooking, bakery, and repair mechanics. Designed in consultation with the hospitality and tourism sector, these trainings ensured employment-oriented skills, with participants also receiving start-up toolkits. Already, 17 graduates have secured jobs in the hospitality industry. Additionally, two youths from Gindri and Khageri watersheds enrolled in an 18-month CTEVT-certified Plant Science course, expanding career opportunities within their communities.



Youth champions showcasing their skills after receiving 3 months of training in Chitwan. © Sneha Tamrakar / WWF Nepal



Vegetable farmer from Simaldhap, Ichhakamana, Chitwan. © Karun Dewan / WWF Nepal



CONSERVATION EDUCATION



138,655 PEOPLE REACHED
through WWF Nepal conservation education programs.

33,123 INDIVIDUALS ENGAGED
through 437 local events led by 386 behavior change communication champions.

WASTE MANAGEMENT ACTION INTEGRATED

in Bharatpur Metropolitan City annual development plan through river champions and CSOs led advocacy.

MESSAGE LIBRARY LAUNCHED

Message library operationalized in the dominant local language, providing public access to human-wildlife conflict messages via a toll-free number (1810-50-00085).

PROMOTING COEXISTENCE THROUGH BEHAVIOR CHANGE CHAMPIONS

To foster coexistence between people and wildlife, 386 Behavior Change Communication (BCC) Champions were trained in Dolpa, KCA, and TAL this year. They led 437 localized campaigns, engaging 33,123 individuals including herders, forest-edge communities, and women's groups vulnerable to HWC. A toll-free message library (1810-50-00085) was also launched to provide information on wildlife behavior, conflict prevention, and relief services. Furthermore, WWF Nepal conducted an assessment in five BZUCs across CNP and PNP which showed that increased awareness, reduced fear, and improved responses during wildlife encounters.

CHAMPIONS FOR WETLANDS AND RIVER CONSERVATION

To strengthen community capacity and long-term stewardship, 20 youth conservation champions from Lamichaur and Kalabajar BZUCs from CNP organized 30 awareness events under the theme "Wetland Conservation: Ensuring the Safety of Humans, Aquatic Life, and Birds." These efforts engaged 921 community members, including 514 women, deepening understanding of wetlands, migratory birds, and conservation laws, while shifting local attitudes from concern to commitment. In parallel, 44 Otter Champions residing along the Karnali River of Kailali and Bardia districts in Far western TAL, received refresher trainings on otter monitoring and sustainable fishing. Through storytelling, workshops, and direct engagement, they carried out 66 local actions reaching 2,816 individuals, mainly schoolchildren and forest user groups, along the Karnali River. Furthermore, Complementary outreach through hoarding boards, PSAs, and radio jingles further expanded awareness across key municipalities across Kailali.

COMING TOGETHER FOR A HEALTHY NARAYANI RIVER

The "Nadi Sangai Hami / We for Rivers" campaign, led by 12 River Champions in collaboration with 14 CSOs, advanced efforts to protect Nepal's river ecosystems. In the Lower Narayani, the coalition organized 10 advocacy actions with 766 participants, including waste audits, plastic-free zone declarations, and policy dialogues with local governments. These efforts not only raised public awareness but also influenced local governance, leading Bharatpur Metropolitan City to integrate waste management activities into its annual development plan based on the coalition's waste audit report.



BCC training in Parsa. © WWF Nepal



BCC training in Kangchenjunga. © WWF Nepal



BCC training in Dolpo. © Shambhavi Poudel / WWF Nepal



Youth Champions during a showcase event in Chitwan. © Sneha Tamrakar / WWF Nepal

INSPIRING CHANGE THROUGH GREEN SCHOOLS

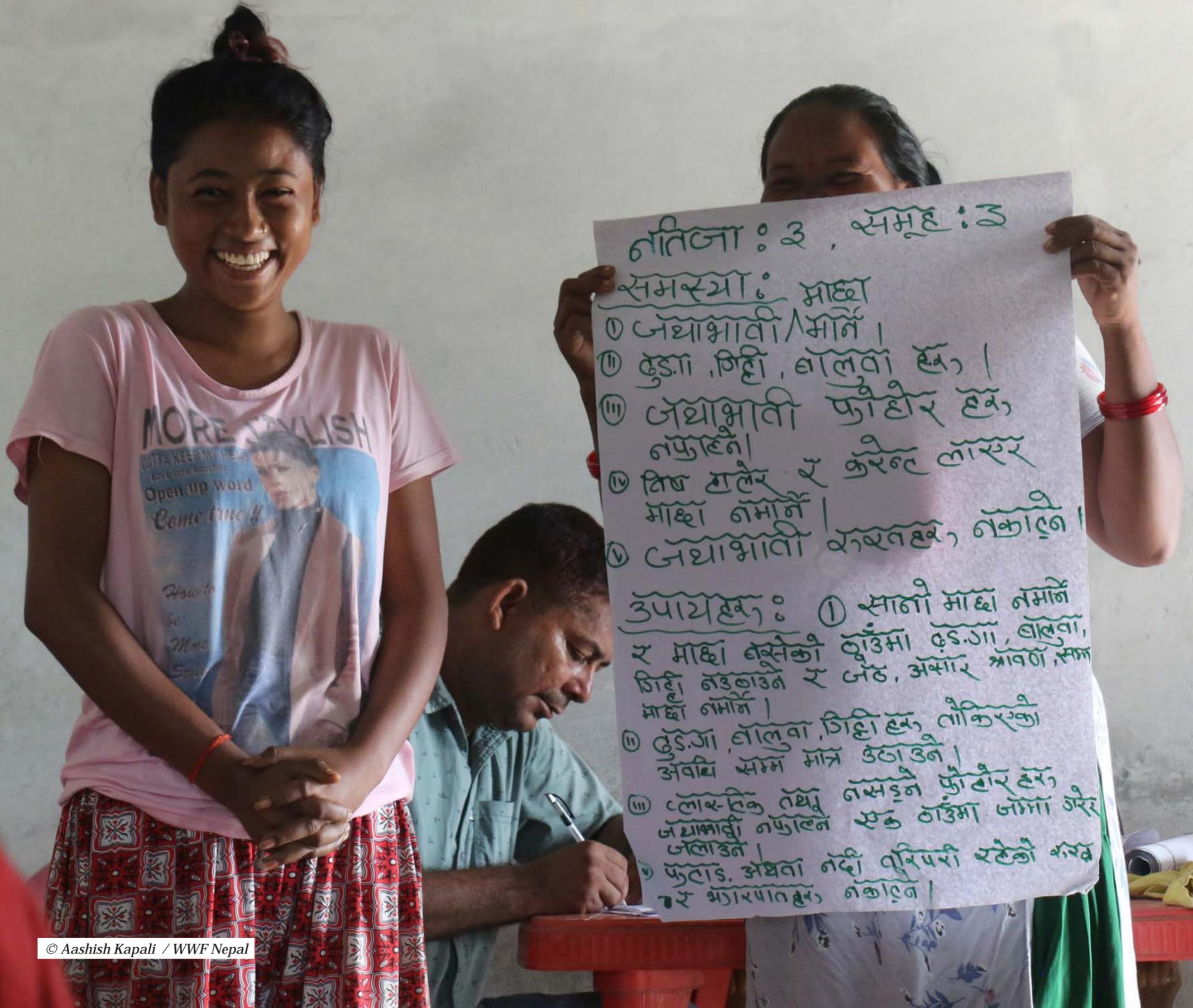
To institutionalize environmental education, WWF Nepal continued its advocacy for the adoption of the Green School Guidelines at the municipal level. In Lumbini Province, orientation and capacity-building workshops were organized at both provincial and local levels. A provincial workshop in Bardia engaged 66 officials (51 men, 15 women) in aligning education policies with green school standards in the Lumbini Province, while local workshops in Bardia, Dang, and Parsa involved 90 municipal leaders and school stakeholders (76 men, 14 women). These efforts strengthened institutional awareness and resulted in commitments to implement green schools and integrate sustainability into local plans, budgets, and school curricula.

BUILDING THE NEXT GENERATION OF CONSERVATION CHAMPIONS

In FY25, WWF Nepal's conservation education programs reached 138,655 individuals and supported 146 eco clubs across priority landscapes, promoting environmental stewardship through experiential learning. In Dolpa and TAL, 431 educators (289 men, 142 women) received training on human-wildlife conflict mitigation, biodiversity conservation, and wildlife damage relief guidelines, who then mobilized students to lead local actions. A new Eco Club Handbook, aligned with Green School Guidelines, guided student-led initiatives such as cleanliness drives, awareness campaigns, and conservation events. Across mountain and Terai landscapes, mentoring and educational materials further strengthened engagement, with a total of 139,086 students and teachers oriented on leadership and environmental literacy. A snow leopard-themed comic book was also published to creatively engage young readers in wildlife conservation.

YOUTH CHAMPIONS AGAINST WILDLIFE CRIME

In the Chitwan-Parsa Complex, 105 youth champions from marginalized and Indigenous communities conducted street dramas and door-to-door outreach, reaching 1562 people to enhance conservation literacy and strengthen community participation, with a particular focus on raising awareness about IWT. Furthermore, two CBAPU interaction programs in Bardia (96 youths) and five sector-level workshops at CNP and PNP with 332 stakeholders were conducted this year. These efforts not only increased awareness but also fostered leadership skills and built trust among local stakeholders.



© Aashish Kapali / WWF Nepal

INCLUSIVE CONSERVATION



INCLUSIVE CONSERVATION FRAMEWORK DEVELOPED

A new framework was created for WWF Nepal to mainstream inclusive practices.

GESI PLAN SUPPORTED

An action plan is being developed to integrate and advance Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) principles across protected areas.

DISABILITY RIGHTS INTEGRATED

The rights of the Persons with Disability (PwD) are now part of Community Forestry Guidelines 2025.

WOMEN-LED COMMUNITY ACTION

WWF Nepal supported the formation, reformation, and mobilization of 58 women's groups in the BZs of SPNP to enhance their participation in community decision-making and improve economic wellbeing through income-generating activities (IGAs). This year, 15 members from five women's groups in Dolphu, Mugu, received training on prioritization, goal-setting, and leading conservation and IGA initiatives, resulting in five-year action plans and the nomination of "change agents." Learning and field-sharing workshops engaged 377 women from 49 groups across Upper and Lower Dolpa to strengthen institutional governance, planning, proposal writing, and reporting skills. Additionally, 42 groups received grant support to implement local actions, such as waste disposal, cleaning campaigns, tree planting, and skill-based training, laying the foundation for a network of women's groups promoting leadership and equitable governance.

PRESERVING SOWA-RIGPA AND INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE

WWF Nepal partnered with the Sowa Rigpa Association of Nepal (SRAN) to promote the well-being of indigenous communities and nature by preserving Sowa-Rigpa (traditional medicinal healing practices) and phasing out wildlife parts. Six representatives from Department of Ayurveda and Alternative Medicines, Nepal Health Professional Council, Lumbini Buddhist University, and SRAN visited the Central Institute of Tibetan Higher Studies in Varanasi, India, to learn about legal recognition, substitute medicines, and education systems for Sowa-Rigpa. Additionally, a workshop on "Sowa-Rigpa's Legal Status and Institutional Development in Nepal" engaged 53 participants, including local government officials and Amchis, highlighting the role of Sowa-Rigpa in rural healthcare and advocating its integration into national development frameworks.

FAITH-BASED ACTIONS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

This year, WWF Nepal, IOF, and Nepal Buddhist Federation developed scientific tree plantation guidelines for high-altitude monasteries, beginning in Manang, to establish resilient sacred forests. Faith leaders also celebrated the 67th Shey Festival in SPNP, promoting environmental conservation and inspiring over 5,000 attendees to engage in waste management and ecosystem protection.



Participants of learning visit to Varanasi, India. © Doma Tsering Sherpa / WWF Nepal

STRENGTHENING INDIGENOUS PARTNERSHIPS

Under WWF Nepal's Inclusive Conservation Framework, partnerships with Indigenous Peoples' Organizations (IPOs) were strengthened through targeted engagement and capacity-building. An interaction program with 12 representatives from 4 national IPOs introduced the Inclusive Conservation Mainstreaming Framework and explored collaboration opportunities. Additionally, a conservation dialogue involving 98 participants from government agencies, local governments, IPOs, and communities in Gindri and Khageri watersheds facilitated the sharing of traditional knowledge, skills, and nature-based solutions. Three further capacity-building events engaged 65 participants to enhance understanding of constitutional provisions for social inclusion and the role of indigenous practices in biodiversity conservation.



GESI training organized for partner organization SAHAMATI in Chitwan. © Karun Dewan / WWF Nepal

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES FOR EQUITABLE GOVERNANCE

This FY, WWF Nepal strengthened the capacity of local partners, NRM groups, and communities promoting GESI and Human Right Based Approach (HRBA) in conservation efforts for inclusive and equitable outcomes. 27 board members and staff from partner organization SAHAMATI were trained to enhance GESI commitments. Additionally, 11 trainings on GESI and HRBA were conducted in Kanchanpur, capacitating 343 representatives from community forests, CFCCs, and local governments on inclusion of marginalized and vulnerable groups. In Nawalpur, 22 duty bearers received HRBA training to integrate human rights into natural resource management and governance. Furthermore, three capacity-building sessions for Water User Committees in Gindri and Khageri watersheds engaged 48 participants on equitable water management, WASH Act compliance, and integrating GESI principles into local planning and organizational policies.



COMMUNICATION



1.5 million+ PEOPLE REACHED

Extensive outreach was achieved through various social media channels.

3000+ PARTICIPANTS AT EARTH HOUR

Earth Hour 2025 was celebrated in Chitwan, engaging a large public audience.

500+ VOLUNTEERS FOR EARTH HOUR

Earth Hour 2025 celebrated across WWF working landscapes with 500+ volunteers.

80 JOURNALISTS ENGAGED

Journalists participated in media field visits and press meetings to amplify conservation stories.

EARTH HOUR 2025

Nepal's Earth Hour 2025 was marked by nationwide celebrations and actions for the planet, with the main event held in Bharatpur near Chitwan National Park, drawing around 3,000 participants for a star-studded concert featuring Trishna Gurung, the Collab Band, and other local artists, alongside showcases of WWF-supported homestay delicacies and community handicrafts. Leading up to the event, communities across Nepal mobilized in large-scale river cleanups in Chitwan, Kailali, and Dang, with almost 500 volunteers removing over a ton of waste, while creative activities such as treasure hunts, art competitions, and meditation sessions promoted conservation awareness. In Kathmandu, Roadhouse café and Hard Rock Cafe joined the global "switch-off" campaign with candle lit dinners, and through a partnership with Ncell, Earth Hour's message reached 4 million people via mass SMS. Altogether, Earth Hour 2025 united music, culture, and grassroots action, reinforcing Nepal's commitment to climate awareness and sustainable living.



Volunteers after participating in the river clean up campaign as part of Earth Hour in Chitwan. © WWF Nepal

STRENGTHENING MEDIA PARTNERSHIPS FOR CONSERVATION

WWF Nepal strengthened media engagement by organizing four in-house press meets for 45 journalists, two field trips to Chitwan and Kailali for nine national-level reporters, and a specialized media workshop in Chitwan for 26 journalists on wildlife-friendly infrastructure. Complementing these efforts, WWF Nepal also used radio platforms to broaden conservation messaging, disseminating three PSAs on illegal wildlife trade in Bagmati Province that reached approximately 1.5 million people, and airing a four-episode radio show on natural resource safeguards in linear infrastructure development, which reached around 5.5 million listeners nationwide. Together, these initiatives enhanced understanding of WWF's work and amplified its conservation messaging, resulting in improved media coverage with 92 WWF-related articles published in mainstream outlets this fiscal year.



Meditation session organized in Tikapur, Kailali on the occasion of Earth Hour. © Aashish Kapali / WWF Nepal



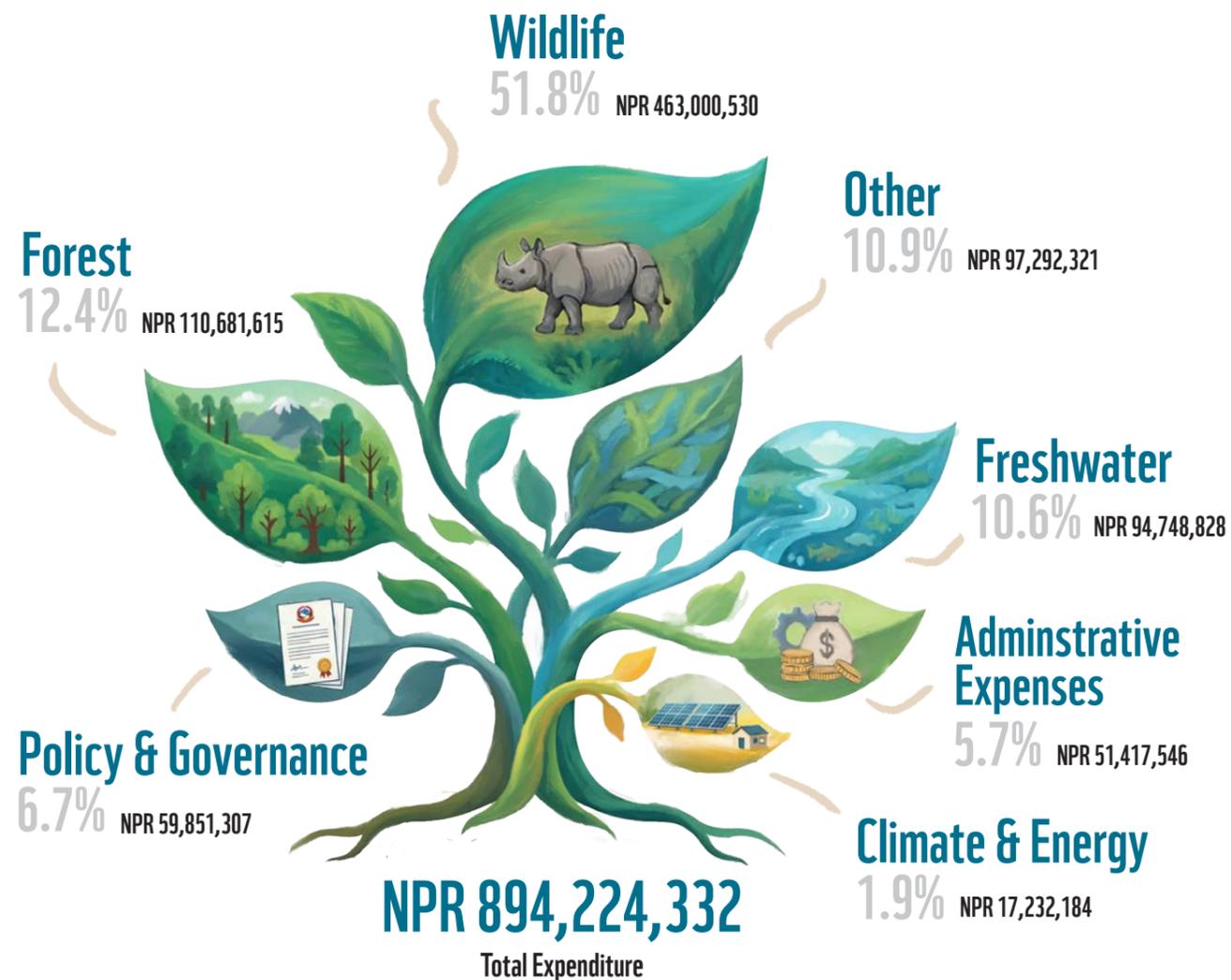
Celebration of Earth Hour in Bharatpur, Chitwan © Sneha Tamrakar / WWF Nepal



Journalists being oriented on WWF Nepal's work in TAL during field visit to Chitwan and Parsa. © Sneha Tamrakar / WWF Nepal

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

FY 2025



Financial overview from Fiscal Year 2021- 2025

SN	Themes	FY 20-21	FY 21-22	FY 22-23	FY 23-24	FY 24-25
1	Wildlife	517,335,101	313,919,053	319,999,705	422,525,809	463,000,530
2	Forest	129,233,629	80,004,895	99,001,842	127,735,818	110,681,615
3	Climate & Energy	28,119,130	42,920,152	56,721,576	33,267,653	17,232,184
4	Freshwater	16,672,360	37,093,787	39,178,230	99,332,722	94,748,828
5	Policy & Governance	15,700,562	47,550,888	75,234,769	99,665,911	59,851,307
6	Others	11,190,754	27,587,880	15,995,696	48,761,762	97,292,321
7	Administrative Expenses	26,964,488	37,568,644	45,264,486	30,997,147	51,417,546
	Total Expenditure	745,216,024	586,645,299	651,396,304	862,286,821	894,224,332

WWF Nepal's fiscal year ends on 30th June

All figures are in NPR

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

WWF Nepal acknowledges with gratitude for the collaboration and the support received from the following partners, donors and supporters:

- Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture, Cooperative and Natural Resources; National Planning Commission; National Human Rights Commission; Ministry of Forests and Environment; Ministry of Finance; Ministry of Physical Planning and Transportation; Ministry of Agricultural and Livestock Development; Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizen; Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation; Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration; Ministry of Youth and Sports; Provincial Ministries of Gandaki, Lumbini, Bagmati, Sudurpaschim, Koshi, Madesh, and Karnali; Office of Attorney General; Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation; Department of Forests and Soil Conservation; Department of Plant Resources; Water and Energy Commission Secretariat; Department of Environment; Department of Hydrology and Meteorology; Department of Roads; Department of Electricity Development; Department of Water Resources and Irrigation; National Lake Conservation Development Committee; Nepal Tourism Board; Social Welfare Council; Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC), National Association of Rural Municipalities in Nepal; Municipal Association of Nepal; Alternative Energy Promotion Center; Offices of Protected Areas; Divisional Forest Offices; Nepal Army; Nepal Police; Central Investigation Bureau (CIB) and Armed Police Force.
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID); Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland (MFA); Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Denmark (DANIDA); Foreign, Common Wealth and Development Office (FCDO); Department of Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) - Darwin Initiative; Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL); United States, Department of States (DOS), Department of Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) - Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund; German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), US Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS); United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN); KfW Germany; Global Environment Facility (GEF); NDC Partnership, World Bank; The Coca Cola Foundation; Carlsberg Breweries; Sall Family Foundation; The Rockefeller Foundation; International Crane Foundation; Margaret A. Cargill Foundation; The Gordon And Betty Moore Foundation; Center for Large Landscape Conservation; South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN); Cornell University; Thomas L. Kempner, Jr., Foundation
- WWF US; WWF UK; WWF Finland; WWF Germany; WWF Netherlands; WWF Singapore; WWF Cambodia, WWF Belgium; WWF Canada; WWF Hongkong/Asia Pacific Growth Strategy (APGS); WWF Denmark; WWF Australia; WWF India; WWF International; WWF Switzerland; Tigers Alive Initiative (TAI); River Dolphin Initiative.
- Save the Children in Nepal; International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies; Zoological Society of London – Nepal Office ; National Trust for Nature Conservation; Kanchenjunga Conservation Area Management Council; Federation of Community Forestry Users, Nepal; Lumbini Development Trust; International Water Management Institute; International Center for Integrated Mountain Development; Society of Hydrology and Meteorology-Nepal; Nepal Buddhist Federation; Sowa Rigpa Association Nepal; Judges Society; Institute for International Development; Center for Research and Sustainable Development Nepal; Nepal Forum for Environmental Journalists; Forum for Protection of Consumer Right Nepal; Clean Energy Nepal; Nepal Academy of Science and Technology; Kathmandu University; Tribhuvan University; Lumbini Buddhist University; Conservation Development Foundation; Institute for Social and Environment Transition; Nepal; Institute of Forestry; Institute of Engineering; Institute of Forestry (IOF), Office of the Dean; Kathmandu Forestry College; Bird Conservation Nepal; Ethnobotanical Society of Nepal; Building and Wood Workers' International Nepal Affiliate Committee; SENSE Nepal; Wildlife Conservation Association Nepal, Nepal Foresters Association; National Foundation for the Development of Indigenous Nationalities; Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities; Himalayan Grassroots Women's Natural Resource Management Association Nepal; Nepal Mountaineering Association; Sathsathai Foundation; Prakriti Resources Center; Community-Based Forestry Supporters' Network, Nepal; Nepal Red Cross Society; Abilis Foundation; National Indigenous Women Forum Nepal, National Youth Council, Rotary Club of Kathmandu, National Environment & Equity Development Society Nepal (NEEDS Nepal), Power Shift Nepal, People, Energy and Environmental Development Association, NGO Federation of Nepal and various other CSO partners; SAHAMATI, Sonaha Bikash Samaj; Freed Kamaiya Women Development Forum; Dolphin Conservation Center; Small Mammals Conservation and Research Foundation; World Wide Nature Conservation Nepal (WWN).

WWF Nepal also expressly acknowledges the support and role of local governments, buffer zones, communities, and community-based organizations.



Wild Yak sighted at an altitude of 4,825 m above sea level, following reports from the local community. © Sonam Wangdu / DNPWC / WWF Nepal



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