

# Wildlife Times



## Contents

Editorial	2
Army in Nepal's Protected Areas	3
The Scenario of Wildlife Trade in Asia	5
Climate Change Workshops	9
CIAA to Probe Rhino Horn, Musk, Tiger Bone Cases	11
End of Dispute in Gauri Shankar Conservation Area	13
Annual Bust of Illegal Traders in Kathmandu	14
Pangolin Scales on Demand	16
Wildlife News	18
Elephants' Attacks on Rise	20

# Editorial

The missing of Pangolin scale from storehouse of Sindhupalchowk District Forest has created stir in the field of wildlife. The mysterious disappearance of the scales that were captured a year ago by the police while being smuggled to China has raised doubts and suspicions on the forest officials and authorities.

There has been increasing news on smuggling and illegal trade of pangolin scales and skulls. In this regard, the disappearance of pangolin from the storehouse has posed question mark on the transparency and credibility of police as well as forest department. The arrest of three employees of the office has also questioned the honesty of the district forest officials.

While government has been working to prevent illegal trade and poaching, the corruption at local level has been neglected. The involvement of staffs and local people is the proof that illegal trading of wildlife has a vast influence. It is necessary that stern measures be taken to control illegal trade at local level.

- 

The release of infamous Dinesh Adhikary aka 'Chari' due to fake rhino horns have become a burning topic. There is much news where the accused have been captured with fake rhino horns due to which they easily escape the charges. This is a concerning issue. The increasing use of fake horns have become a route for traders as there is no law for possession of fake horns; thus the poachers can be easily released from their charges. The main concern is the necessity of the fake horns. It is necessary to probe why these fake horns are being made and their significance in the market, as it seems unlikely that these fake horns are produced for tourism purpose or serve any other functions and what measures can be taken to stop the occurrence of the fake horns.

The National Park and Wildlife Conservation Act 1973 does not specify any clause on possession of fake horns. It is necessary that the lawmakers and the departments make amendment for including charges or fines for fake horns as well.

# Army in Nepal's Protected Areas

*Bishwanath Uprety*

Nepalese have known to earn profit from rhino horns from a long time. Rhinos were considered of importance since the era of Jung Bahadur Rana (former Prime Minister of Nepal 1817-1877,) with provision of watchers. Rhino patrol unit (*Gaida gasti*) was formulated in Rana period (1846-1950). It continued after the establishment of democracy in 1950 in the country. The armed guards even used to fight with the poachers to save rhinos. The name of rhino patrol unit was changed to Wildlife management Division in 1958. Its headquarter was situated in Tikauli. The army were recruited from headquarter to Chitwan, Bardia and Shuklaphanta.

With the establishment of national parks and wildlife reserve, the operation and management shifted to the national parks. Rhino patrolling unit was there before the parks were established. The patrolling unit was also included as its component.

The official establishment of national parks led to provision of their own security staff. One hundred twenty five armed guards were approved for Royal



Chitwan National Park. The main challenge that arose was provision for position, training, availability of weapons, food supply and uniforms and maintaining the discipline of the army, as there was possibility of undisciplined army personnel to affect the internal security of the country. With these limitations, the security of the protected areas was handed over to Royal Nepal Army.

Many of the poachers and illegal wildlife traders formed alliance and came armed which risked the lives of unarmed

civilian guards. Thus, Nepal Army plays important role. The operation, discipline and rights of the Army have given great contribution in conservation of protected areas. The criminals are frightened of entering the national parks, as there is no escape if caught.

However, not everyone who enters the park is armed and not all crimes need the use of power to control. For example, the collection of grasses, fodders and woods can be stopped with the use of stick. The public criticized that stealing



of vegetables is considered as serious crime and given strict punishment.

The involvement of Royal Nepal Army has been included in National Park and Wildlife Conservation Project implementation final report in 1980. Before the establishment of Chitwan National Park, rhino patrol unit looked upon the security of the area. With the extension of national parks, there was lack of skilled personnel to implement rules, regulations, control and management; hence, the responsibility of security was given to army in 1974. These security guards had trainings with arms. This provision helped in the control of burglary and armed robbery as well. The army has thus received the duty of maintaining peace and security of the protected areas. In Forest Master plan (1988), it has been mentioned that army is necessary to control hunting and to implement rules.

Even though Royal Nepal Army has done great work in controlling the illegal poaching and hunting, 80% of the budget

of the protected areas has been set aside for the expenses of Royal Nepal Army, which has led to fewer budgets for development, and management of the parks. Other few issues have also arisen.

Dr. Uday Raj Sharma, Senior Officer of Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation had written in an article in 1996 that the army are posted to one place for 2-3 years and that they do not have enough training for conservation. They do not even have to report to the park management.

There has always been conflict between the army and park officials. One of the reasons for it is considered differences between the senior army officer and park authorities. Other differences have arisen due to the issues like formation of mobile units; contact with the local people without being armed, availability of non-armed security personnel and accessibility of armed guards in case of emergency only in the settlement areas, which are some of the opinions, put forward.

It has been seen that armed force alone is not sufficient for the security of the protected areas. This has been the reason for the negative opinion of local people towards the parks. The objective of buffer zone is directed towards the involvement of local people in the conservation areas for conservation.

It is necessary to involve local people by awareness that park has positive impact on livelihood of the people. For this, participation of people is required. If this is well implemented, the involvement of Royal Army can be reduced. Nevertheless, unless this is achieved, the involvement of the army for security of protected areas will remain. According to the yearly report of National Park and Wildlife Conservation Department 2054/55, there are 4020 army personnel involved in conservation of national parks and bio diversity. The Royal Nepal Army is involved in control of poaching, hunting, illegal trading, rescue of wounded animals and rehabilitation of escaped animals to the conservation areas.

*Mr. Uprety was the first Director General of Department of National Park and Wildlife Conservation. He held that designation till his retirement in 1990. This was the first article by an expert on the subject on Nepal Army's involvement in protecting national parks and wildlife reserve. This article was published in April 1999 in Nepali in 'Jaibik Bibidhata'.*

# The Scenario of Wildlife Trade in Asia

Southeast Asia, with its linkages into the larger Asian market that includes China, Indonesia, and India, is one of the world's biodiversity hotspots as well as one of the world's hotspots for the illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife parts. Although demand markets for wildlife, including illegally traded wildlife are present throughout the world, China ranks as the world's largest market for illegal trade in wildlife, and wildlife products, followed by the United States.

Globally, the volume and diversity of traded and consumed species have increased to phenomenal and unprecedented levels, contributing to very intense species loss. In Southeast Asia alone, where the illegal trade in wildlife is estimated to be worth \$8-10 billion per year, wildlife is harvested at many times the sustainable level, decimating ecosystems and driving species to extinction.

Other environmental threats such as climate change, deforestation and other habitat destruction, industrial pollution, and the competition between indigenous species and invasive



species often affect ecosystems on a large scale. However, the unsustainable, and often illegal, trade in wildlife has the capacity to drive species into extirpation in large areas and often into worldwide extinction—especially species that are already vulnerable as a result of other environmental threats.

The threats posed by illegal trade in wildlife are serious and multiple. They include irrevocable loss of species and biodiversity; extensive disturbances to larger ecosystems; economic losses due to the collapse of sustainable legal trade of a species and its

medicinal and other derivative products, or of ecotourism linked to the species; severe threats to the food-supply and income of forest-dependent peoples; spread of viruses and diseases; and the strengthening of organized crime and militant groups who use the illegal trade in wildlife for provisions and financing. If current trends in Southeast Asia continue, scientists believe that 13 to 42 percent of Southeast Asian animal and plant species will be wiped out this century. At least half of those losses are species endemic to Southeast Asia and likely represent global extinctions.

At the core of the illegal trade in wildlife is a strong and rapidly expanding demand. This includes demand for bush meat—by marginalized communities for whom wildlife meat is often the primary source of protein, and for the affluent who consume exotic meat as a luxury good. Other demand for wildlife is for curios, trophies, collections, and accessories, furs, and pets. Much of demand arises out of the practice of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), which uses natural plant, animal, and mineral-based materials to treat a variety of illnesses, maintain good health and longevity, enhance sexual potency, and are practiced by hundreds of millions of people. Although effective medicinal alternatives are now available—many of these TCM potions fail to cure anything, and the supply of ingredients for TCM frequently comes through illegal channels and crisis-level poaching,—demand for TCM continues to expand greatly.

The expansion of supply of illegally sourced and traded wildlife has been facilitated by the opening up of economies in Southeast and East Asia and the strengthening of their international legal and illegal trade connections; infrastructure development linking previously inaccessible wilderness areas; and commercial logging.

The illegal trade in wildlife involves a complex and diverse set of actors. These include illegal hunters—ranging from

traditional and poor ones to professional hunters, layers of middlemen, top-level traders and organized-crime groups, launderers of wildlife products (such as corrupt captive-breeding farms and private zoos), militant groups, as well as local and far-away consumers, both affluent and some of the world's poorest. Other stakeholders in the regulation of wildlife trade and conservation include logging companies, agribusinesses, the fishing industry, local police and enforcement forces, and governments. Policies and enforcement strategies, for curbing the illegal trade in wildlife to ensure wildlife conservation and preserve biodiversity, need to address the complex and actor-specific drivers of the illegal behavior.

In Southeast and East Asia, government policies to prevent illegal trade in wildlife continue to be generally characterized by weak laws governing wildlife trade, limited enforcement, and low penalties. Government efforts to inform publics largely unaware of (and often indifferent to) how their consumer behavior contributes to the devastation of ecosystems in the region and worldwide also continue to be inadequate.

Monitoring of captive-breeding facilities in Asia is often poor, thus facilitating the laundering of illegally sourced wildlife and undermining the capacity of the legal trade in wildlife to curb illegal and unsustainable practices.

Nonetheless, there has been intensification and improvement of government response to the illegal trade in wildlife in Asia, with many governments in the region toughening laws and increasing law enforcement, the Southeast Asian countries establishing the ASEAN-Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN) to facilitate law enforcement, and even China undertaking more extensive labeling of legal wildlife products.

The extent of unsustainable, environmentally damaging, and illegal practices that still characterize the wildlife trade in Asia and in many parts of the world cries out for better forms of regulation and more effective law enforcement.

Unfortunately, there are no easy solutions to the problem; and almost every particular regulatory policy is either difficult to implement or entails difficult trade-offs and dilemmas.

## **Structure of the Wildlife Smuggling Industry**

### **Consumers**

Although, as noted above, China's consumers dominate the wildlife market in the region (and in the world), demand for wild plants and animals is increasing throughout Southeast and East Asia, exacerbated by the region's growing population and its increasing affluence. In Asia at least, experience has shown that as income increases,



so does demand for wildlife, as evidenced by wildlife markets from Hanoi, to Bangkok, to Jakarta and Shanghai. What were previously mainly source and transshipments locales, such as Thailand and Vietnam, are rapidly becoming important consuming countries. The Thais are now among the principal consumers of wildlife products from Laos, Burma, and Cambodia.

The primary motivating factor for wildlife hunters and traders is economic: from small-scale subsistence for some, to major high-profit business for others. At the beginning of the smuggling chain are the hunters of animals and collectors of plants and minerals. This group consists of both poor (at times subsistence-level) hunters, and professional hunters.

The *poor hunters* include communities for whom hunting, forest exploitation, and fishing has a long and deeply established tradition, such as the Nagas in Northeast India and the Pardhi tribe in

Gujarat and Maharashtra. The Nagas have lived and exploited the forests of Northeast India for centuries, and animal hunting was both a matter of subsistence and prestige (though eliciting lesser admiration than human head hunting, which they used to practice).

### Suppliers

Increased law enforcement does reduce poaching, especially if the original level of enforcement was very low. However, since detection is difficult, areas to be patrolled are extensive, and enforcement of wildlife regulation tends to be a low-priority, badly-resourced undertaking for law enforcement, there are limits to how much law enforcement can reduce wildlife trafficking.

Bans can simplify law enforcement and minimize the possibility of wildlife laundering through legal sources. Under some circumstances, they can reduce supply and potentially even reduce demand. However, these desired outcomes are

not automatic. Often demand persists despite a ban while rents for poachers increase. Bans can prevent local stakeholders, such as ranchers or rural communities, from deriving any economic benefits from wildlife and ecosystem preservation, thus reducing their commitment to conservation. Bans can displace harvesting to other areas, even increasing the extent of environmental damage.

Bans have resulted in very mixed conservation outcomes. At times, they have helped in increasing populations of targeted wildlife and reduced the illegal wildlife trade like in the parrot trade for the U.S. market; other times, as in rhinoceros conservation, they appeared to fail spectacularly. Overall, the effectiveness of bans depends on many factors, including law enforcement capacity, the elasticity of demand, the strength of non-price driven effects on consumer preferences (such as seeing the natural world as intrinsically valuable or oneself as environmentally-responsible), the property-rights regimes in place, the timing of the ban, and the value of non-consumptive uses (such as ecotourism). For bans to be effective, they must be coupled with reductions in demand (whether because of the ban or otherwise), and they must not undermine incentives for conservation.

Legal Supply from Captivity or Certified Sources, such as Managed Legal Hunting Legal supply, such as farming,

can reduce pressure on wild resources. It gives hunters, ranchers, and farmers an economic stake in conservation of the species as well as the overall ecosystem. It can provide resources for law enforcement and other conservation practices. But these desired outcomes do not uniformly occur and other difficulties arise. Profit seeking often drives a species to collapse, instead of enhancing conservation. Captive-breeding programs or legal hunting may serve as laundering mechanisms for illegally sourced wildlife and be more expensive than undesirable illegal practices. Legal certificates are often issued without sustainable practices being in place. Permitting a legal supply may fail to satisfy overall demand, and worse yet, may increase demand while whitewashing consumer consciousness.

As in the case of bans, the results of licensed trade have been mixed: At times they have been effective in promoting conservation, such as in the case of crocodilians. Other times, such as in the case of tiger farms in China, they have failed to reverse the illegal trade and precipitous decline in the species.

The factors determining the level of effectiveness of licensing wildlife trade include: the level and quality of law enforcement; the elasticity of demand; the ability to supply licensed products cheaply and on a large scale; the strength of non-price driven effects on consumer preferences, such as caring that

one is preserving biodiversity through his or her consumer choices; the property-rights regimes in place; the timing of the licensing scheme; and the value of non-consumptive uses (such as ecotourism).

By reducing the economic dependence on wildlife as a source of protein intake and income generation, alternative livelihoods programs can be important mechanisms for conservation. They can simplify and focus law enforcement as well as enhance the political sustainability of prohibitions on wildlife trade and reduce political conflict. But such programs are very resource and time intensive and difficult to design effectively. Isolated successes have been achieved. But by and large, efforts to increase income, reduce poverty, and diversify livelihoods among rural communities often have had relatively low impact on illegal wildlife trade and have not reduced even the target community's participation in wildlife harvesting and trade.

Tackling the demand for wildlife is critical, since supply-side measures are rarely effective on their own. Reducing demand facilitates law enforcement, licensing, and alternative livelihoods efforts. Several campaigns to reduce consumptive use of particular wildlife species have been effective, especially in the West.

Reducing demand, especially in entrenched markets in Asia, tends to be very difficult. Simply spreading awareness

about the illegality of trade has proven insufficient, and improved awareness has not resulted in a substantial decline of illegal wildlife consumption in many Asian and other markets—especially in the absence of legal and sustainable protein alternatives for the poor, and among affluent consumers for whom wildlife consumption is a symbol of status.

Instead, the most effective campaigns to alter demand often have been those inducing people to perceive the behavior as a threat to their health, survival, or dating prospects—a psychological reversal not easy to achieve in areas where wildlife consumption is deeply culturally entrenched. Local

NGOs and lobbying groups tend to be more powerful messengers than foreign ones, whose efforts can be dismissed as culturally insensitive and hypocritical imperialism.

*Based on the paper 'The Disappearing Act: the Illicit Trade in Wildlife in Asia' by Vanda Felbab-Brown. She is an expert on international and internal conflict issues and their management, including counter insurgency. She focuses on the interaction between illicit economies and military conflict. She is a fellow in Foreign Policy and in the 21st Century Defense Initiative at the Brookings Institution where she focuses on South Asia, Burma, the Andean region, Mexico and Somalia. The Brookings Institution is a nonprofit public policy organization based in Washington, DC.*



# Climate Change Workshops

On 18 August 2011, Thursday, IUCN (World Conservation Union), ICIMOD (International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development) and WOCAN (Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and NRM) organized a Workshop on 'Gender and Climate Change' at Himalaya Hotel, Kathmandu. The program aimed at bringing different INGOs/NGOs and government bodies together into the mainstream of Conservation issues focusing on Gender and Climate Change.

The discussion aimed to learn how women and men might be affected differently by climate change. What do they do to respond to those stresses? How can we tap on women and men's knowledge and capacities to support adaptation strategies to climate change?

In brief, most participants agreed that both women and men are affected by climate change impacts but are vulnerable in different ways. Women are more susceptible to climate change than men are.

Minister of Environment  
Mr. Sunil Kumar Manandhar,

Dr. Ritu Verma of ICIMOD and Dr. Arzu Deuba of IUCN were some of the noted speakers during the program.

On the same day, Women in Environment (WE) organized an interaction program on "Climate Change, Churia Conservation and Livelihood: linkages, Challenges and Opportunities" at Everest Hotel. The objective of the program was to identify the overlap and gap in addressing the Churia conservation with the possibilities to establish links with climate change for conservation.

The interaction program included two major papers and two dedicated commentaries followed by open discussion and interactions. The program was chaired by the Secretary of the Ministry of Environment Mr. Krishna Gyawali with Member of Parliament Ang Dawa Sherpa as the chief guest. The program was inaugurated by Vice chairman of National Planning Commission Dr. Dinesh Chandra Devkota. He said that the development reality is disappointing as opposed to the expectation. The connectivity between climate

change, livelihood and wildlife is important to understand the challenges and opportunities.

Dr. Prem Paudel of Department of Soil Conservation and Watershed Management (DSCWM) presented the first thematic paper, which is one of the leading implementing agencies of President's priority project on environmental study and conservation of Churia region. It has already completed preliminary study and policy formulation exercises. The budget for the study for fiscal year 2067/068 was 210 million rupees. The budget for next year is 260 million rupees.

Dr. Binod Bhatta, Board member for Social Mobilization, presented second paper on Building Synergetic Effects in Conservation of Resource Constrained and Fragile Churia Region. He focused on the lack of coordination among different institutions for the resource management.

The discussion was based on the necessity for planning and management of the plans and policies between the different institutes for sustainability.



# Wildlife Watch Group Publication

Wildlife Watch Group has been publishing books on the issues of wildlife and conservation. Following books can be bought from WWG office at Pulchowk or Saraswoti Book Centre at Harihar Bhawan, Lalitpur.

## The lists of books available at Wildlife Watch Group are:

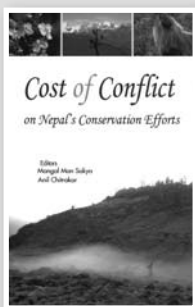
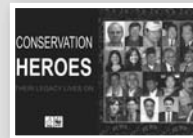


### **There's some monkey business going on here**

Mangal Man Shakya and Lucia de Vries:  
Price Nrs. 100, US\$ 2, Euro 1,5  
ISBN: PHONIXSTUDIOS SN 0045-1

### **Conservation heroes: Their legacy lives on**

WWG and WWF Nepal:  
Price Nrs. 1500, US\$ 25, Euro 15  
ISBN: 978-99946-820-6-5

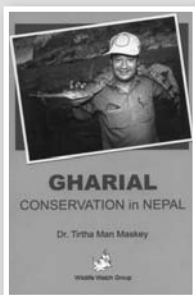
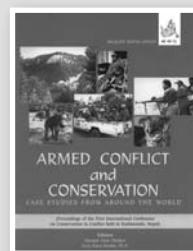


### **Cost of Conflict on Nepal's Conservation Efforts**

Editors: Mangal Man Shakya and Anil Chitrakar:  
Price Nrs. 700, US\$ 10, Euro 9,  
ISBN: 978-99946-820-1-6

### **Armed Conflict and Conservation: Case studies from around the world**

Editors: Mangal Man Shakya and Arzu R Deuba:  
Price: Nrs.1500 US\$ 25, Euro 20,  
ISBN: 978-99946-820-7-2

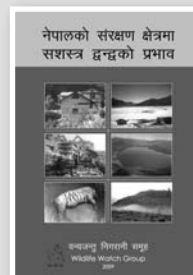


### **Gharial Conservation in Nepal**

Dr. Tirtha Man Maskey:  
Price Nrs.1000, US\$ 16, Euro 12,  
ISBN: 978-99946-820-4-1

### **नेपालको संरक्षण क्षेत्रमा सशस्त्र द्वन्द्वको प्रभाव**

वन्धजन्तु निगरानी समूह  
ISBN: 978-999-46-820-8-9

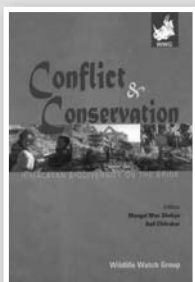
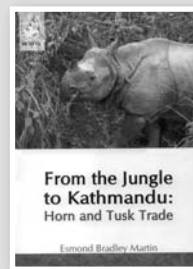


### **Tiger Warden**

Laxmi Badan Maskey:  
Price 400,  
ISBN: 978-99946-820-2-7

### **From the jungle to Kathmandu: Horn and Tusk Trade**

Esmond Bradley Martin:  
Price Nrs: 1000, US\$ 30, Euro 20,  
ISBN: 978-999-46-820-9-6



### **Conflict and Conservation: Himalayan Biodiversity on the brink**

Mangal Man Shakya and Anil Chitrakar:  
Price: Nrs. 400,  
ISBN: 978-99946-820-0-8

### **Trading for Extinction: An expose of illegal wildlife Trade in Nepal**

Mangal Man Shakya:  
Price: 450, US\$ 7, Euro 6  
ISBN: 999933-885-6-4



# CIAA to Probe Rhino Horn, Musk, Tiger Bone Cases



**11** August, Kathmandu. The Office of the Attorney General and the Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority (CIAA) have agreed to seriously probe into seven disreputable cases involving rhino horn, musk and tiger bone smuggling.

A meeting held at the chamber of Attorney General Dr Yubaraj Sangraula and participated by CIAA Secretary Mr. Bhagawati Kafle and other officials decided to investigate the cases.

At the meeting, Dr. Sangraula formally requested CIAA

officials to probe the cases, saying smugglers have long been able to get out of detention centers one after another despite the gravity of the crimes involved.

"Smugglers have long been able to free themselves from



detention and shake off charges filed in courts," Dr Sangraula said, adding, "In my personal judgment, the quality of forensic lab reports and lack of proper coordination among police and government officials, especially those at the Ministry of Forest, are contributing factors in smugglers getting clean chits and so there is an urgent need to probe the cases seriously."

According to Dr. Sangraula, they are handing over seven cases to the CIAA within a few days for necessary investigations. "I became skeptical when the cases involving notorious culprits charged with smuggling rhino horn, musk and tiger bones were given clean chits by one court after another," he added, "It is obvious that there must be some hidden element behind the trend of smugglers getting clean chits and so we requested the national anti-graft body to

investigate the cases seriously and find out the facts."

Dr. Sangraula added that they have requested the CIAA to find out those who are watering down the charge sheets and assisting smugglers to get out of detention. "The CIAA will probe the cases seriously and we will file review applications based on the CIAA's findings," he informed.

According to him, the country's only forensic laboratory is very weak and its reports are always questionable. "I noticed that the forensic laboratory gave us a report saying tiger bones were dog bones," he said, adding, "This can happen rarely but not always".

Smuggling cases involving Ompukar Bhagat, Rajeshwar Shah, Gautam Kumar Gupta, Sunil Kumar Gupta, Man

Bahadur Kunwar and Rabindra Audi will be turned over to the CIAA by the AG's Office.

Makawanpur District Attorneys Office, acting on an application filed by Assistant Sub-Inspector Hom Bahadur Chauhan, had sent musk to the forensic lab for verification. The forensic report said it was not genuine musk. Based on the lab report, the District Attorney's Office decided not to file case against Bhagat and Shah on charges of musk smuggling.

However, AG Dr. Sangraula on April 26 this year decided to ask the District Attorneys Office to investigate the case further and furnish the report.

Similarly, the AG's Office on May 11 also decided to ask Dhanusha District Attorneys Office to further probe a musk smuggling case involving Gautam Kumar Gupta and Sunil Kumar Gupta.

The AG's Office also asked Kanchanpur District Attorneys Office to further investigate a case of rhino horn smuggling involving Man Bahadur Kunwar and Rabindra Audi.

Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve had initially slapped 10 years imprisonment against Kunwar and Audi. Later, citing the forensic lab report, Mahendranagar Appellate Court acquitted both Kunwar and Audi of the charges.

Following the recent agreement, CIAA will probe more cases including Dinesh Adhikary (Chari).

# End of Dispute in Gauri Shankar Conservation Area

**21** August, Dolkha. The conflict that had been going on between the government and community forest users have ended in Gauri Shankar Conservation Area (GSCA). The dispute had risen on this world's highest conservation area about the ownership issues.

The strike was put to an end after National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC), the managing body of GSCA agreed to formulate bylaws to maintain the ownership and rights of the community forest users' groups. The decision to run GSCA by NTNC was taken in Kalapathar by the cabinet meeting. Then, Federation of Community User's Group (FECOFUN) started campaign against it. General Secretary of the federation Ganesh Karki said that as the regulation formulated is an improved one with advantages to local people that is why we agreed upon it. However, he added that the protest would continue for the amendment of National Park and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1973 that was prepared during Royal regime. The draft for the regulation will be effective after the decision of the cabinet according to clause 33 of the Act.

The federation had initiated village level awareness against the conservation area which came to an end. The federation was seen to prevent any work of the conservation area. In the public hearing, the federation endorsed the draft with critical observation. Phanindra Raj Khanal of DNPWC, who drafted the regulation, said All the issues raised in the public hearing will be accommodated and presented for the decision.

Gauri Shankar Conservation Area covering area of 2175 sq. km. falls between Sagarmatha and Langtang National Park. It constitutes 14 vdc of Dolkha, 2 vdc of Ramechhap and 6 vdc of Sindhupalchowk. The political parties insist that of six protected areas, 10 national parks, 1 hunting reserve and 3 wildlife reserves, Gauri Shankar is more progressive and people-oriented. The political parties seemed united in this issue. Conservation area regulation has been cited by Congress, UML, and Maoists as one of the most progressive regulation.

The government proposed for declaration of Gauri Shankar Conservation Area after increasing poaching and hunting of endangered species



like musk deer and illegal trade of orchids and valuable herbs. NTNC has been given 20 years of agreement for conservation of this area.

The regulation affecting the community forest used by 62000 people is beneficial to the people. The profits from different income generating activities are given to the community forest users as well. The work of district forest has been given to head office of conservation area.

The recommendations have been made to keep the hydropower development and livelihood of people intact without disturbing them. It was demanded in the public hearing to cancel the National Park and Wildlife Conservation Act 1973.

# Annual Bust of Illegal Traders in Kathmandu



**2** August, Kathmandu. This year, approximately sixty people were captured for illegal wildlife trading in Kathmandu alone.

For this fiscal year, the forest department along with the police captured 58 people and the charges have been registered. Twenty-eight people have been accused for illegal logging and trading of woods and valuable herbs. The plant and animal parts' are transported to China via Kathmandu. China is the biggest market for wildlife trading.



In the latest scenario, Chari aka Dinesh Adhikari along with his eight accomplices were captured with the rhino horns but six of them were released after bailing for Rs. 28,000.

According to Mana Bahadur Khadka, DFO of Kathmandu, twenty-six of the captured were accused of illegal trading of animals' skins. The maximum skins and bones were of tigers and leopards.

## Illegal Trader Arrested for FY 2010/011

Month (2010+2011)	No of people captured	Parts captured in quantity
2nd week of July 2010		two leopard's skin and 500 gm of its bone
3rd week of July	4	one skin of Red Panda
1st week of August	4	rhino horns
2nd week of August	4+1	sixty kgs orchids + two kgs orchid
4th week of August	2	one rhino horns, bear's bile and one and half kg pangolin's scales
2nd week of September	3+8	owl + skins of tigers and leopards
2nd week of November	1	three skins of red panda
3rd week of November	2	one skin of leopard and bear's bile
1st week of December	1	ten Royal hawk
2nd week of December	1	one leopards' skins
2nd week of January 2011	2	seven pouches of bears' bile
4th week of January	1	one owl
2nd week of February	5+1	113 kg red sandalwood + 4871 kgs orchids
1st week of March	3	12085 kgs Rhododendron
2nd week of March	1	four tigers' skin
4th week of March	4	one leopards' skin and two kgs bones
2nd week of April	4+4+1	two owls + two live pangolins + 317.8 kgs peacocks' feathers

The forest department also captured many illegal traders from trucks, bus and jeep. It rescued 30 live and dead animals this year.

# Pangolin Scales on Demand



**17** August, Sindhupalchowk. The 46 kilogram of pangolin scales captured by police a year ago while being smuggled to China has mysteriously disappeared from the storehouse of the District Forest Office.

Three forest officers, storekeeper Dilip Kumar Chaudhary and forest guards Ambika Ghimire and Muga Dulal have been arrested in connection with the reported theft of the endangered animal's scales.

The bag with the scales was

reported missing by the forest officials when they could not place it. According to storekeeper Chaudhary, the bag was in the storehouse. He claimed that the bag was stolen while he was in Kathmandu by breaking the window.

A police source involved in the investigation said that the storehouse seems to have been entered through the door and the window was broken later for impact.

Forest Officer Murari Prasad Pokharel said the keys to the storehouse were always with

Chaudhary while Ghimire and Dulal shared duty to keep guard on the storehouse 24 hours. It is yet to be determined when the bag of scales went missing.

Pokharel claimed that the bag must have been stolen when he was participating in a regional seminar and Chaudhary was on leave. The office's power supply was cut off seven days ago for not clearing the bill.

The bag of 46 kg of scales had been seized on May 22, 2010, from two Chinese, 2 Indian and 1 Nepali citizen who were trying to smuggle it.



In the past one year, it has come to notice that pangolin scales are being smuggled to China. According to the National Park and Wildlife Conservation Act 2029, pangolin has been enlisted among the protected species and buying and selling of its body parts is illegal. According to the Act, those caught buying or selling pangolin parts will be fined Rs 50,000 to Rs 100,000 or five to 15 years of imprisonment or both.

According to experts, pangolin scales are said to be beneficial for treating various skin diseases.

The investigation has been going on the matter but nothing has surfaced up yet said Investigation Officer

Beni Silwal. The forest and police department both have made separate committees to investigate the matter. The police has captured one of the employee Dilipkumar Chaudhary regarding the case. Birkha Bahadur Rana, Ambica Ghimire and Muga Dulal have been released from custody under surveillance.

On 14 August one person was captured with pangolin skull in Arniko Highway. According to police office in Barhabise, thirty-two years old Kancha Lama of Gumba-7 was found with pangolin skull in his bag.

According to Police Inspector, Kumar Pandit, 10 kgs of Pangolin scale was found with Lama. This year in May, 46 kgs

of Pangolin scales were captured with a Chinese citizen.

These stuffs were found in the local buses without paying taxes said Pandit.

On 10 August, rare pangolin was released in the jungle after it was found near Sabha khola, Kharang-8.

The male pangolin weighed 6 kgs and was found few days ago in Kharaag market which was released in the jungle by the police and district forest office.

Pangolin falls under conserved mammal in accordance to National Park and Wildlife Conservation Act 1973 and is highly poached animal.

---

*Wildlife News Cont...*

---

## **Study to Save Otter**

---

25 August, Kaski. With the increasing rate of decrease in endangered species 'otter', there has been start of nation wide study. The study has been initiated in Kaski, Gorkha,

Lamjung and other six districts. The otter found nearby lakes and wetlands is considered as an important part of ecosystem. Due to lack of awareness and destruction of habitat, it is in the verge of extinction. Thus, IUCN Otter specialist group has started the research with survey to study otter.

IUCN has placed otter as highly rare species. There are 13 species of otter in the world of which three species are found in Nepal. They are Eurasian, smooth-coated and Asian small.

Gandiv Kafle who has been studying otter since last two years said that if the conservation of the species is not done, they would extinct within 4 to 5 years. Therefore, the necessity for nation wide study has arisen. He added that there are only 150 otters in the

country. The study was firstly done in all the lakes of Kaski from which it was deduced that they have already extinct in Fewa Lake. Four years ago, there were 30 otters near Fewa Lake. Fifteen years ago, there were 150 otters in the lake but they have extinct due to poaching and illegal hunting for skin. The skins are traded to China and India. The price for one otter's skin is 50 to 70 thousands rupees.



---

### Leopard in Public Place

---



28 July, Baglung. The leopard that was found in Beni Bazaar of Myagdi was released in Raniban situated in Jyamurkot. The expert teams from Kathmandu made the leopard unconscious and released it to the jungle.

Puneshowr Subedi of District Forest office said that the timely control of leopard prevented any human injuries. Ten people had minor injury while trying to control the leopard.

---

### Entry opens for Elephants in National Park

---

31 July, Chitwan. The provision will be made for the hotels outside of Chitwan National Park (CNP) to take elephants inside the park. Till date, only the hotels inside the park and government offices were allowed to take the

elephants inside the park. The businessmen demanded for the entry of their elephants after which the advice was made by government officials.

The report will be submitted to the government within 15 days said the warden of CNP Jhamak Bahadur Karki. The discussion among the stakeholders has already been done. However, some people are criticizing the move. They argue that this will have negative impact on conservation process.

Buffer Zone Community Forests have started joint protest against the decision this move.

---

### Chari Released

---

1 August, Kathmandu. Dinesh Adhikari aka 'Chari', accused wildlife trader has been released on bail.

Chari was released with orders from DFO of Kathmandu. Chari is considered to have strong political and power influences.

Chari who had been captured for rhino horn trade is the vice chairman of UML party in Dhading-9.



Chari and his six accomplices were released after 25 days of their capture by Central Investigation Bureau in bail. DFO Mana Bahadur Khadka gave order for their release. Each paid Rs. 28000 as bail. Deepak Hamal and Dilbahadur Wik were not able to pay the bail and are still in custody.

Khadka said that they were released as per the National Park and Wildlife Conservation Act 1973 clause 26 (6).

National Forensic Laboratory proved it fake after which they were released.

---

### Fake Rhino Horns on the roll

---

3 August, Chitwan. In seven months, three fake rhino horns have surfaced according to Department of National Park and Wildlife Conservation.

The rhino horns captured along with the traders from the information available were proven to be fake after lab tests. Due to the fake horns, the accused are easily released.

According to Director General of DNPWC, Mr. Krishna Prasad Acharya, the three fake horns were captured with help of informer employed from Wildlife Conservation Nepal (WCN). The rhino horns captured along with Chari aka Dinesh Adhikari and his accomplices were proven to be fake.

According to Acharya, there has been increasing instances of fake rhino horns in Darchula, Dhangadi, Morang, Chitwan, Lalitpur and Kathmandu. Mr. Prasanna Yonjan of WCN said he had no idea the horns were fake.

Mr. Yonjan complains that the DNPWC has never been supportive of their works. Much information has been given to police and DNPWC, which helped in capturing the traders but the news, have never been flashed out.

According to Mr. Yonjan, last year, half dozen tigers' skin and this year, fifteen kgs of tiger bones were taken into custody with the help of information from WCN.

Last year fresh tigers' skin from Manohari area was found. According to DG Acharya, the statement of the accused was controversial as he stated that one of the employees

of WCN was also involved. Yonjan has challenged the department to take legal action if there is any evidence of the involvement of employee of WCN. He also accused the department that instead of appreciating help from WCN, negative information has been spreading.

Acharya said that the traders who sell genuine rhino horns are the one selling the fake horns. There is no law against the trading of fake horns. There is need of amending the National park and Conservation Act to apply similar law for the fake rhino horns as well. The traders use genuine rhino horns for display for initial agreement but give fake horns to the buyers later it is learnt.

---

### **Hunters arrested from different parts of the country**

---

On 7 August in Dang, Nanda Bahadur Buda of Bela-4 has been captured for shooting his friend. On 3 August, while hunting together, Nanda accidentally shot his rifle to his friend Yam Bahadur Buda of Bela-3. He died on the spot. Nanda said that they were hunting for wild boars together when the accident happened.

Three people were captured with wild animals' parts and guns on 17 August in Khadbaari Baglung. The confiscated items were displayed through a press conference.

Large quantities of wild animals' parts and gun were found with

the help of police and Makalu Barun National Park. The police also disclosed the three people involved. They are Ganga Bahadur Tamang, Kaji Tamang and Dil Kumar Rai. The park and police found 4 guns, metal wire, 4 bear's legs, 1 bear skin, 1 skin of red deer and 5 skins of blue sheep.

Similarly, one person was captured with six feet long tiger's skin on 17 August, in Khadbaari.

Tilak Bahadur Rana Magar of Rakathum-4, Ramechhap was captured at a temple in Krishnapur-5 in East-West Highway. The police captured Tilak when he was traveling from Krishnapur to Attariya in his motorbike. Sub police inspector Dilip Chaudhary said that he was captured at 10 in the night. He was captured in the check post. Chandra Bahadur Basnet, sitting behind Tilak on the motorbike escaped the area. It has been considered that the tiger skin and parts were brought from India.

---

### **Rhino Rescued**

---

10 August, Chitwan. The team of Chitwan National Park (CNP) rescued baby male rhino. The rhino aged four month was found in Kujauli village in Nawalparasi. The rhino is now kept in Kasara.

The park believes that the flooding of Om Narayani River caused separation of mother and son rhino. Three baby rhinos are under the care of CNP.

# Elephants' Attacks on Rise



**27** July, Gulriya. Bardia National Park has mobilized Nepal army after wild elephant destroyed five houses in Patavar-9.

The locals said that the wild elephants have destroyed seven houses in two days, which came from the park. The locals have sought help from the park, as they were unable to stop the elephants. The locals, army and police have united to stop the fifteen menacing elephants. Warden Tika Ram Adhikari said that army was mobilized after local people were disturbed by elephants.

The elephants eat the stored grains and food from the houses. According to local Mohan Tharu, the locals stay awake the whole night waiting for elephants. The elephants have started to enter the village after the electric wire was stolen said the park official.

The elephants that enter the villages from Bardia National Park destroy properties every year. Two years ago, the elephant killed Om Prakash Joshi, former chairman of buffer zone committee.

Similarly, in Surunga Sokedadi, Jhapa, wild elephants destroyed fifteen houses in the time span of ten days. The victims have been taking shelters with neighbors and relatives. The elephants come in the group of 5 to 7 and destroy houses and crops. The locals have asked for help from the authorities.

On 8 August, elephant attack killed one Bhutanese refugee in Beldangi, Damak. Thirty-seven years old, Chandra Lal Darji was killed in the morning when he was collecting bamboos.

The elephants in Bahundangi, Jhapa destroyed house of Bir Bahadur Wik on 16 August. He is being treated in Mechi Zone hospital.

The wild elephants destroyed two houses in Katari-7, Maruwa in Udaypur on 23 August. Elephants destroyed the houses of Beg Bahadur Raut and Tek Bahadur Magar.

## APPEAL

*Dear valued readers,*

The 36<sup>th</sup> issue of the Wildlife Times is in your hands. It is our small effort to raise various issues related with wildlife conservation. Please help us include the activities from your group or organizations of wildlife conservation by sending us the concerned information. We would love to find any suggestion and criticism. Please feel free to leave your feedback at [info@citesnepal.org](mailto:info@citesnepal.org). We also seek support from your organization to continue this Wildlife Times. We look forward to your queries, comments and support.

