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Inside

- Save Rhino Campaign 2
- Climate Change and Freshwater 3
- Forests and Species 4
- Hot off the Press 4



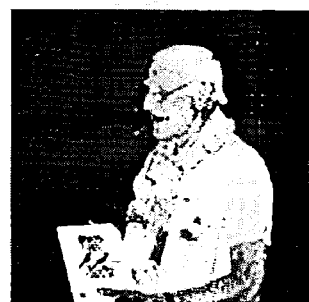
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WWF Nepal Program Newsletter

Kangchenjunga Golden Jubilee Celebration

On the occasion of Mt. Kangchenjunga Golden Jubilee celebration, a seminar on "Adventure Tourism, Conservation and Development in Kangchenjunga" was organized by Nepal Mountaineering Association on 25 May 2005 in partnership with ICIMOD, TMI, IUCN, TRAPAP and WWF NP. The program was participated by more than 50 participants representing different organizations and international delegates including the first summiteers of Mt. Kangchenjunga - George Band, Tony Streather and Norman Hardie. Representatives of TRAPAP, IUCN, ICIMOD and TMI Tibet Program made presentations on conservation and development work and sacredness of Kangchenjunga Region. Program Manager of Kangchenjunga Conservation Area Project (KCAP) Ang Phuri Sherpa made a presentation on Conserving Gift to the Earth, Kangchenjunga Conservation Area. The summiteers also made a slide presentation of their experiences of Mt. Kangchenjunga first summit. After the presentation, two new publications - Birds of Kangchenjunga Conservation Area and Kangchenjunga Conservation Area Project, A Retrospective (1998-2005) were released by Mr George Band and Dr Harka Gurung respectively. In the evening session, all known summiteers of Kangchenjunga were felicitated by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Paras Bir Bikram Shah Dev.

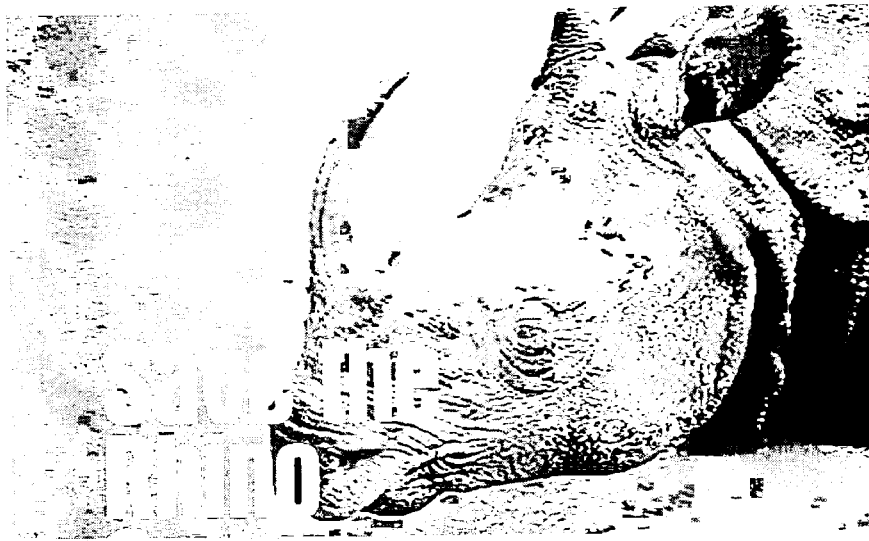


The first summiteers of Mt. Kangchenjunga Mr George Band releasing the book - Birds of Kangchenjunga Conservation Area.



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Realizing the need of awareness on rhino conservation among the people living around protected areas, WWF Nepal Program organized a week long 'Save the Rhino Campaign' in Royal Chitwan National Park (RCNP) from 22 to 28 May 2005. Started on the occasion of the International Biodiversity Day, the campaign had the theme "*Ustai Prani Ustai Pida, Milera Jogaun Ek Singe Gaiuda*" (Same creature, same agony, let's save the one-horned rhino). The campaign was successful

in involving people from diverse walks of life: from celebrities to farmers and journalists to school children and businesspersons. Lok Dohori (folk song), field visits for media persons within the park, interactions among various stakeholders including the media, speech competition among school children with the theme 'Rhino Conservation leads to secure future,' cultural program featuring songs and dances on rhino conservation theme, door to door awareness campaign targeting the local people and other activities were organized during the campaign. Large number of local people, school children, journalists and other stakeholders enthusiastically took part in the various campaign activities. Addressing the inaugural program, Chief Warden of RCNP Shiv Raj Bhatta stressed on the need of concerted efforts for rhino conservation. Dr Sarala Khaling of WWF Nepal Program, interacting with the media, highlighted on the immediate need for detailed research on various aspects of rhino conservation such as biological reasons behind the decreasing number of rhinos.

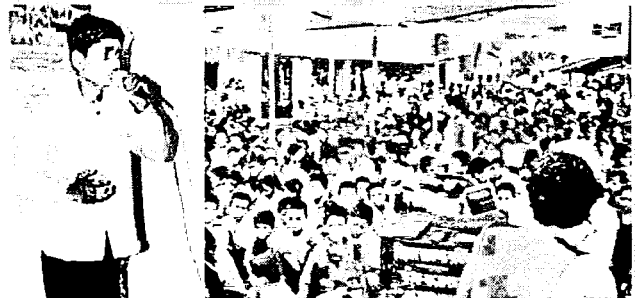
WWF Nepal Program's first Conservation Ambassador Miss Nepal 2004 Payal Shakya stressed on the importance of the youth and their role and responsibility towards the conservation of one horned rhinoceros.

Lok Dohari Competition



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

Inter School Speech Competition



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

Door to Door awareness program

The door to door awareness program reached above 300 community members including men, women and children of the Majhi, Bote, Mushahar communities and the flood victims in Amaltari area of RCNP. The main objective of the door to door campaign was to highlight on the stakes and contribution of these two ethnic groups in rhino conservation.

