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FONAREM NEWSLETTER

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(FONAREM), Kathmandu, Nepal
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Editorial Board

Mr. Santosh Rayamajhi
Ms. Rita Arjel Koirala
Mr. Juddha B. Gurung
Ms. Lipika Karmacharya

Editor's note:

We wish all our members and readers a very happy Nepali New Year 2058. We feel very proud to bring forth the first issue of FONAREM newsletter from the beginning of the New Year. The members of FONAREM had been thinking of having a newsletter from the beginning of its formation in 1998 as a main network activity. With the starting of this issue our dream has come true, but this is just the beginning and we need active support of all our members and readers to make it better and useful. At present we are circulating this newsletter digitally, with the experience gained and popularity received we will bring it in printed form as well. Please keep us informed about what you think of this newsletter and what should be done to make it more useful, your suggestions are most welcome.

- **Regional Participatory Biodiversity Conservation Networking Seminar Held**
A regional biodiversity conservation-networking seminar was organized by FONAREM in Kathmandu on 10-11 February 2001. Financial support for the networking seminar was provided by NORAD through the NORAGRIC. A total of 48 participants attended the seminar representing Nepal, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Norway.

State **Mr. Santosh Rayamajhi**, President of FONAREM chaired the seminar, **H. E. Ingrid Olfstad**, Norwegian Ambassador to Nepal was the Chief Guest, Secretary of Forest **Mr. Rabi Bahadur Bista** was the keynote speaker and present among others were the Natural Resource Managers, Scientists, Researchers, etc.

- **Rhino Translocation**

Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) with collaboration with King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation (KMTNC) and World Wildlife Fund (WWF) – Nepal Programme have translocated 5 more rhinoceros to Royal Bardia National Park (RBNP) from Royal Chitwan National Park (RCNP) on March 2001. The main objective of this translocation is to strengthen the second viable population in RBNP. FONAREM members were involved in this project. A total of 63 numbers of rhinos have been translocated so far from RCNP to RBNP in an effort to build an alternate viable population of this endangered species. In addition, 4 rhinos have been translocated to Royal Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve (RSWR) next to RBNP. FONAREM advisor *Dr. Shant Raj Gyawali*, and executive member *Mr. Narendra Pradhan* are the key professionals involved in the successful translocation initiatives.

(Note: If you are further interested about *Rhinoceros unicornis*, the unique one horned Rhino please drop a line to *Mr. Narendra M. B. Pradhan* at narendrapradhan@hotmail.com)

- **GEF's Overall Performance Study**

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is conducting its second overall performance study (OPS2) to obtain regional, country and project specific information as a feedback for its second general assembly being held in Beijing in October 2002. The study is focussed on GEF focal area of biodiversity, climate change, international waters and ozone depletion together with the cross cutting issues of land degradation. An eight-member independent study team headed by *Mr. Leif Christofersen* of NORAGRIC is conducting this global study. FONAREM president *Mr. S. Rayamajhi* has been appointed as local consultant to support the study team in Nepal during April-May 2001. The team will study the completed and ongoing Biodiversity Conservation Projects in Nepal.

- **Relocation of FONAREM/Nepal Office**

FONAREM has relocated its office at Putali Sadak, Dhabidhara (on the way to Kumari Cinema Hall). It is close to Kathmandu branch of Reiyukai Nepal, centrally located with easy access to every one for transportation. FONAREM has assigned Mr. Juddha Bahadur Gurung for office administration and a new office assistant/contact person is Mr. Ram Kaji Karki recruited to attend office between 10 am-5 pm. Please note additional contact address:

Email: fonarem@hotmail.com

Tel/Fax: 977-1-431024

- **Networking Meeting and Regional Workshop Attended**

Mr. Santosh Rayamajhi, President of FONAREM attended a networking meeting hosted by Natural Resource Management Society of Ethiopia (NARMASET) and supported through NORAD during 4-6 June 2001 at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He also participated in a follow-up workshop on 7-9 June organized by AUN/NORAGRIC at Addis Ababa to design proposal and work plan for regional network development and linking the networking initiative with NVS. The out comes of meeting was very satisfactory and